Utah State University Eastern Celebrates 2019 Graduating Class

USU Eastern

04/30/2019

Over 250 students received diplomas at Utah State University Eastern's commencement ceremony on Saturday, April 27, 2019.

- USU Eastern

Price, Utah - Utah State University (USU) Eastern’s 2019 commencement ceremony honored over 250 graduates on Saturday, April 27. Students were awarded certificates, as well as associate, bachelor’s, and master’s degrees. Dignitaries from USU, the state and local communities, along with families and friends attended to support the graduates.

Over 200 associate degrees were conferred at the commencement ceremony, remaining the most popular degree awarded by USU Eastern. This year, 37 bachelor’s and eight master’s degrees were awarded. Since the merger of CEU and USU in 2010, the availability of upper division degrees has increased at USU Eastern, with 25 bachelor and 23 master’s degrees offered.

This year’s commencement speaker, Justice Paige Petersen, Utah Supreme Court, has ties to the community and campus where her father served as president of CEU. Justice Peterson was appointed to the Utah Supreme Court in December 2017 by Governor Gary Herbert. Before joining the Supreme Court, she was a district court judge in the Third Judicial District, serving Salt Lake, Summit, and Tooele counties. Justice Petersen earned her associate degree from CEU, then graduated summa cum laude from the University of Utah in 1995. She received her law degree from Yale Law School in 1999. In her speech, she encouraged the graduating class to not give into fear as they progress in life, and that sometimes the things you fear are the things you need in your life the most.

Benjamin Warnick was honored as the class valedictorian. He graduated Maple Mountain High School in 2017 and studied welding at USU Eastern. He plans to continue his education at Weber State University with a bachelor’s in welding engineering and eventually a master’s. Warnick has competed in SkillsUSA’s national welding fabrication contest since high school, earning a bronze medal in 2016, and a gold medal in both 2017 and 2018. He is currently employed at Alloyd Solutions and is responsible for the full welding and assembly of aircraft ground support equipment.

Local businessman and former USU Trustee Frank Peczuh, Jr. was awarded the Community Champion Award for his many years of service to USU and USU Eastern, as well as his lifelong dedication to serving Price and the surrounding communities.

Student awards were presented to Rhiannon Bradley as class salutatorian, Alexandria Andres as student body president, and Madison Meyers was presented with the Val J. Halamandaris Caring Award.

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