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Chadrad Communications, Inc.
226 Bordeaux St - Chadron, NE 69337
308-432-5545 fax 308-432-5601
E-mail: kcsr@chadrad.com

(Neb.)-CSC Graduates Urged To Learn From Adversity



By: Chris Fankhauser Posted at: 05/06/2013 01:19 PM

(Chadron)-Seventy-three graduate students from nine states and three foreign countries earned degrees in Chadron State College's 8 a.m. commencement service while 252 students from 15 states and Canada were honored during the 10 a.m. undergraduate service. Video of the events will be available online next week on the CSC YouTube channel at: youtube.com/chadronstatecollege.

Jonathan Ries, son of Dr. Tom and Lisa Ries, Rapid City S.D. received his commission as a 2nd Lt. in the U.S. Army. He will eventually be serving with the Rangers. He received his first salute from SFC Carl Dehling of Chadron, Neb.

Speakers for the events were entertaining and engaging. Brief profiles on both are available on the [CSC News website](#).

Dr. Charles Butterfield spoke at the graduate ceremony and included in his advice to those earning their master's degrees that they should thank the leaders, teachers and mentors who helped them arrive at this goal while also looking forward. "Make a difference. Touch lives. Not just your own. Help others realize their career goals. Leave things a little better than when you got there," Butterfield said.

He pointed out that being in a tough situation often provides the opportunity to develop and display courage. Examples he shared were the firefighting efforts near Chadron during the summer of 2012 and the many students who leave their home countries thousands of miles away and travel to CSC to further their education.

He shared a James Lehrer quote with the audience. "A college diploma does not mean that you are educated. Quite the contrary. It means that you have opened up to a perpetual state of ignorance and thus a lifelong hunger for more – more ideas, more knowledge, more good thoughts, more challenges, more of everything." Butterfield also encouraged the graduates to face and embrace change.

Later in the morning, CSC alumna and undergraduate commencement speaker, Susan Woeppel Salka echoed a similar theme. She said, "If you are scared when you stretch and take on challenges, that is great. That's when you grow the most."

The 1985 CSC graduate urged the audience to take accountability for their mistakes, sharing her own experience with a sizable accounting error early in her career. "I earned more trust from my supervisor because I came clean and owned the problem I had created. You can do the same," Salka said.

Amid asking the graduates for a show of hands to various questions, including why they came to CSC, Salka described her original personal and professional goals, explaining that things didn't always turn out how she had planned. In spite of that, she feels that the twists and turns in her life were all meant to be.

One example was the inability to have children, so she and her husband, Scott, adopted a boy and girl from Russia 15 years ago and about four years ago became guardians of one of their son's school friends.

She held up three of her journals: One, used for recording successes, is labeled "I did it!" The second is called "Stuff Happens" and holds stories of unfortunate experiences. The third is called "DNR" for Do Not Repeat. The acronym typically stands for Do Not Resuscitate in the medical field. She joked that either phrase is equally appropriate. The DNR journal chronicles poor decisions she's made. She emphasized that we learn more from adversity and challenges than from easy times.

[Friday night](#), during the college's 94-year-old tradition called Ivy Day, over 100 CSC graduates were recognized with certificates of merit as outstanding students in their primary fields of study, tutors, Admissions Ambassador and other campus leadership accomplishments.

In an interesting turn of events, Master of Science in Organization Management graduate Lindsey Glock received a surprise when she walked out of Memorial Hall into the bright sunshine about 9 a.m. Her fiance', Mike Boardman of Gordon, Neb. asked her to marry him and gave her an engagement ring. He graduated in the 10 a.m. CSC undergraduate ceremony.

Chadron area resident Gary Bieganski represented the Nebraska State College System as a board member of the group. He invested Dr. Randy Rhine, CSC president, with the authority to confer both the graduate and undergraduate degrees.

MASTER OF ARTS IN EDUCATION

Bonnie Jane Beckstrom, Chadron, Neb.

Lynette R. Belknap, Hemingford, Neb.

Bridger Chytka, Hemingford, Neb.

Lorrie Ann Hayes, Franklin, Ohio

Ruth Ann Holland, Benkelman, Neb.

Maria Eloisa Oporto Leiva, Ituzaingo, Argentina

Malinda Linegar, Chadron, Neb.

Jana Lynn Sickler, Kearney, Neb.

Patrick M. Waugh, Chadron, Neb.

ABSENTIA

Wendy L. Hageman, North Platte, Neb.

Amy Lewis, Newcastle, Calif.

Alisha Rebecca Reynolds, Fort Morgan, Colo.

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Michael K. Morrison, Omaha, Neb.

Raghavender Sagar Neradi, Minneapolis, Minn.

Gyanendra Rai, Kathmandu, Nepal

Sherri Clifford Uerling, McCook, Neb.

Ronald L. Weifenbach, Rapid City, S.D.

ABSENTIA

Joshua Michael Borowski, Grand Island, Neb.

Jonathan Clayton Hanger, Owensboro, Ky.

Eman B. Haroun, Burnsville, Minn.

Christopher Alan Himes, Scottsbluff, Neb.

Brady B. Johnson, Rushville, Neb.

Anthony Allen Lewis, Goodyear, Ariz.

Travis E. Ouderkirk, North Platte, Neb.

DECEMBER 2012 GRADUATE

Paul G. Spencer Moreno Valley, Calif.

MASTER OF EDUCATION

Julie Alcorn, Hay Springs, Neb.

Lauren Bauer, Douglas, Wyo.

Veronica Bryant, North Platte, Neb.

Kristen Lee Burnett, Cheyenne, Wyo.

Gina Louise Ferguson, Chadron, Neb.

Jordan D. Haas, Hemingford, Neb.

Nicholas Lamp, Kemmerer, Wyo.

Cortney Larsen, North Platte, Neb.

Colleen Clark Margetts, Chadron, Neb.

Jamie Martin, Morrill, Neb.

James Stephen Miller, Gering, Neb.

Megan L. Pieper, Scottsbluff, Neb.

Dawn D. Pinnt, Chadron, Neb.

Jenifer N. Reisner, Yulee, Fla.

Julie Ann Stephany, Gillette, Wyo.

Marc Wess, Chadron, Neb.

Dawn D. Wheeler, North Platte, Neb.

ABSENTIA

Brian D. Anderson, Rawlins, Wyo.

Derek Jeffrey Bantam, Curtis, Neb.

Justin J. Clark, Gering, Neb.

Shannon L. Corfield, Oshkosh, Neb.

Sean M. Cunningham, Grand Island, Neb.

Victoria Leslie Greet Davis, Kaycee, Wyo.

Pamela Marie Drake, Gothenburg, Neb.

Lance James Howitt, Stuart, Neb.

Loni Hughes Watson, Lincoln, Neb.

Holly L. O'Dell, Rapid City, S.D.

Casey Ryan Parry, Mt. Pleasant, Utah

Gene James Russel, Gering, Neb.

December 2012 graduate

Shireen Sheri Stafford, Casper, Wyo.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT

Fatima Noheli Balza Alvarado, Merida, Venezuela

Cassie Jo Drinkwalter, Chadron, Neb.

Lindsey N. Glock, Rising City, Neb.

Nicholas Ray Herrington, Holdrege, Neb.

Jessica Jean Horsley, Basin, Wyo.

Polina Kaniuka Cherkasy, Ukraine

Matthew Ryan Lucas, Arnold, Neb.

Jimmy Savala, Fresno, Calif.

Joe Schultz, Alliance, Neb.

Valerie Smith-Hibbert, Yuma, Colo.

Margaret (Peggy) Tanata-Manley, Mitchell, Neb.

Ipek Turkyilmaz, Scottsbluff, Neb.

Luke Wright, Hamlet, Neb.

ABSENTIA

Sandra G. Benson, Bassett, Neb.

Brittney M. Deadmond, Goodyear, Ariz.

Kacie K'Lynn Harris, Aurora, Colo.

Cory David Olson, Denver, Colo.

Adam William Orbell, North Huntington, Pa.

Lacie Ward, Lincoln, Neb.

Janell Willems, Hulett, Wyo.

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Hay Springs: * Brooke N. Housh

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Johnstown: Keanna Kay Gross

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Sutherland: Brandi J. Anderson

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Wood Lake: Shari E. Dubry

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Peetz, Colo.: James Patrick Carwin

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Newell, S.D.: Tyrel Lee Bonnet

Phillip, S.D.: Krista Monique Van Lint

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Casper, Wyo.: *Amy Christie

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Sheridan, Wyo.: *Chelsea Hackwell, *Mikah Kirkeby Kadera, Rebecca Krezelok, **Yvonne A. Osborne, **Mandy D. Smith

Torrington, Wyo.: Jeshua John Arnusch, ***Jessica Leigh Arnusch

—*Tena L. Cook, Interim Marketing Coordinator*