

PNWU ANNOUNCES COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

News Release from **Pacific NW Univ. of Health Sciences**

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Contact: Ryan Rodruck

Tel: 509-249-7861

Email: rrodruck@pnwu.edu

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences Announces Commencement Ceremonies

YAKIMA, WA - Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences, College of Osteopathic Medicine has announced their commencement exercises for the Class of 2015. The graduation ceremony will take place at the Capitol Theatre in Yakima, Washington on Saturday, May 9.

"These doctors have put in an extraordinary amount of work leading up to this ceremony," said Dr. Thomas Scandalis, Dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine. "There's a huge amount of pride to be able to call yourself Doctor for the first time in front of family and friends and we know this ceremony will showcase that," Dr. Scandalis continued.

72 students admitted to the osteopathic medical program will graduate as the Class of 2015. Many have expressed a desire to return to the Northwest to practice.

"I'm very pleased with the medical education I received at PNWU and I'm looking forward to practicing in the Northwest after completing my residency," said Steve Pinther, Class of 2015 student. Pinther plans on returning to his home state of Idaho to practice as an Ear, Nose, Throat and Facial Plastics surgeon.

The University also announced its commencement speaker. Rear Admiral Joyce Johnson, DO (retired), is a physician with senior leadership experience in the public health, military and civilian sectors.

"We are very grateful to have Rear Admiral Johnson address the commencement exercises for the class of 2015. Her depth of knowledge in public health and understanding of a broad range of health care issues make her an excellent fit to send these new doctors into their residencies," said University President Dr. Keith Watson.

Rear Admiral Johnson earned a bachelor's degree from Luther College, a master's degree in

Hospital and Health Administration from the University of Iowa and her osteopathic medical degree from Michigan State University.

For six years, Rear Admiral Johnson served as Chief Medical Officer and Surgeon General for the United States Coast Guard. In this position, she managed the Coast Guard health care system, including 150 sickbays and clinics. She also administered the Coast Guard's safety and work-life programs. She was the first woman to hold this post and the first woman to achieve flag rank while on active duty with the Coast Guard. She also served as Assistant Surgeon General of the U.S. Public Health Service.

Activities will begin at 10:30 a.m. with a Military Commissioning. The Commencement Ceremony will begin at 2:00 p.m. All events will take place at the Capitol Theatre in Yakima and are open to the public. More information is available by calling the University at (509) 452-5100 or visiting pnwu.edu.

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About PNWU: In 2004, physicians and community leaders raised the awareness and resources to build a health sciences university where the next generation of physicians would train. Located in Yakima, Washington, Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences welcomed its first class of 70 medical school students into the College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2008 and graduated them in 2012. Today the University houses 300 medical students who are training under the careful instruction of highly-qualified faculty. In addition to the Yakima campus, PNWU has established 18 core rotation sites in communities around the Pacific Northwest. Hospitals and clinics around the region have welcomed PNWU students, training them in the clinical settings where they will eventually practice