

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 21, 2024

## Clovis Medical School Celebrates Historic Inaugural Graduates

CLOVIS, Calif. – On Sunday, May 19, 2024, sixty-six graduates from California Health Sciences University College of Osteopathic Medicine (CHSU-COM) received their doctoral medical degrees at the inaugural Class of 2024 Commencement and Hooding Ceremony, held at the Save Mart Center in Fresno.

CHSU Founding President, Florence Dunn was recognized for her leadership, dedication and service to the University and presented with an honorary doctorate degree by Dr. John Welty, Founding Chair of the CHSU Board of Trustees.

College of Osteopathic Medicine graduates were draped with an academic hood to represent their initiation into the field of medicine and President Dunn conferred the degree of Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine upon the graduates, eight of which graduated with honors. Hayley Vietti, DO and Soheil Zorofchian, DO were named as the Class Valedictorians.

Dr. Teresa Hubka, President-Elect of the American Osteopathic Association delivered the keynote address. In her speech, she shared that there are more than 186,000 DOs in the United States and the profession has tripled over the past 30 years.

Osteopathic Medicine will celebrate 150 years of existence next month. "In 1874, Dr. Andrew Still developed the philosophy of osteopathic medicine to change health care delivery as it existed in that day, when he recognized that medicine needed to treat the cause and not the symptoms. He was famous for stating "to find health should be the objective of the doctor. Anyone can find disease" she said.

The class of 2024 boasted a 100% residency match rate and these new physicians will begin their residency training programs this summer. Thirty four percent of graduates are staying local in a Central Valley residency program; and 65% are pursuing a career in primary care, which is one of the medical specialties that has a significant physician shortage.

"We set out on a mission to improve access to healthcare by educating and training physicians to serve the Central Valley and beyond. Now, four years later, I'm filled with a sense of pride to see our first cohort of physicians graduate and serve as compassionate, knowledgeable and skilled health care providers," stated John Graneto, DO, Dean of the CHSU-COM.

## B-roll footage and photos are available for download here: <u>Dropbox link</u>

## **About California Health Sciences University**

California Health Sciences University (CHSU) is accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC). CHSU is the first university of its kind in the Central Valley and offers a local option for medical school and a master's in biomedical sciences to help remedy the shortage of health care services offered in the Valley.

The CHSU College of Osteopathic Medicine (CHSU-COM) is accredited by the American Osteopathic Association's Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA). CHSU-COM now has about 500 medical students in attendance and plans to grow to approximately 600 medical students in the next year.

The university also offers a one-year Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences (MSBS) program at its College of Biosciences and Health Professions. The first cohort of MSBS students graduated on May 18, 2024, with many graduates already receiving acceptance into the CHSU College of Osteopathic Medicine and other medical and dental schools.

For more information about California Health Sciences University, visit <u>chsu.edu</u> or find them on <u>Instagram</u>, <u>Facebook</u>, and <u>Linkedin</u>.

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