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Salus University Hosts Fall 2023 White Coat Ceremony

A rite of passage for aspiring healthcare professionals, the White Coat Ceremony welcomes first-year students to Salus University.

Elkins Park, Pa. – Salus University will host its 2023 White Coat Ceremonies on Aug. 18, 2023 where more than 350 first-year students will receive their white coats for the start of the new semester and their healthcare journey.

In the medical and healthcare professions, the White Coat Ceremony represents the transition from student to professional in training as first-year students receive their white coat – a symbol of the profession. All students in the University's clinical programs, including optometry, audiology, physician assistant studies, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, and orthotics and prosthetics degree programs, receive a white coat.

Founded as the Pennsylvania College of Optometry, Salus University has expanded to offer degree programs in the professions of Optometry, Audiology, Physician Assistant Studies, Blindness and Low Vision Studies, Biomedicine, Occupational Therapy, Speech-Language Pathology, and Orthotics and Prosthetics. Salus University formalized a merger agreement with Drexel University, pending approval by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and specialized accreditors. Dr. Michael H. Mittelman, former Deputy Surgeon General of the Navy, currently serves as the Salus University president.

WHO: Special remarks will be given by Dr. Michael H. Mittelman, president, Salus University. The presentation of coats will be announced by James M. Caldwell, OD, EdD, dean of Student Affairs and associate provost, with assistance provided by deans, directors and faculty from each program. The University tradition of inviting immediate family members who are Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO) or Salus University alumni to participate in the presentation of the white coat will also take place during the ceremonies.

First-year students at Salus University

WHAT: Salus University hosts a White Coat Ceremony for students to mark the start of the school year and the transition from student to professional in training.

WHERE: Hafter Student Center at Salus University (rear of campus, near Breyer Drive)

8360 Old York Road, Elkins Park, Pennsylvania, 19027

WHEN: Friday, Aug. 18, 2023; the White Coat Ceremonies will be divided into three sessions:

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. (Occupational Therapy, Physician Assistant and Orthotics & Prosthetics programs)

11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. (Speech-Language Pathology, Optometry Traditional and Master of Science in Clinical Optometry programs)

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. (On-campus Audiology program, Optometry Traditional, Optometry Accelerated Scholars programs and Advanced Placement Optometry programs)

About Salus University

Salus University, founded as the Pennsylvania College of Optometry in 1919, today is a diversified, globally recognized professional academic center of learning that offers a wide range of degree programs in the professions of Optometry, Audiology, Physician Assistant, Blindness and Low Vision Studies, Biomedicine, Occupational Therapy, Speech-Language Pathology and Orthotics and Prosthetics. Salus operates three clinical facilities in Philadelphia and Montgomery counties that provide highly specialized vision, hearing and balance, and speech-language pathology. The University has more than 1,200 students, and more than 14,000 alumni worldwide. For more information, please visit www.salus.edu.