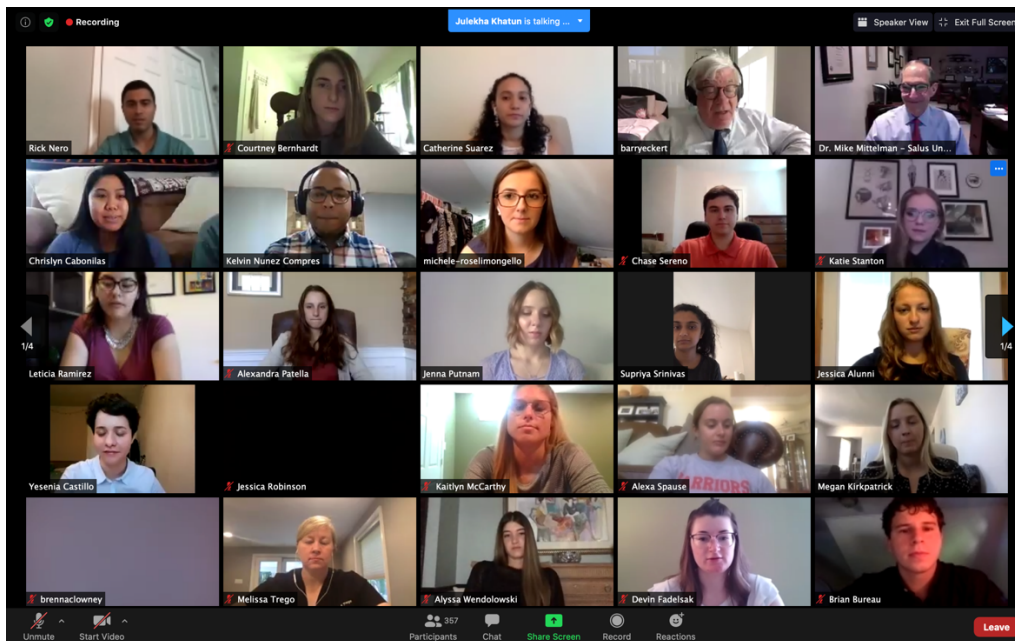




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Salus University White Coat Ceremony Welcomes New Healthcare Students



Incoming Salus University students recited the oath to professionalism during the school's virtual White Coat Ceremony.

Elkins Park, Pa. — Physicians must be adaptable. This quality echoed as a live stream of incoming Salus University students took the oath to professionalism during a recent virtual White Coat Ceremony, welcoming the first official new class of future healthcare workers to enter the school during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Normally, Salus students receive their white coats on a stage in front of family, friends, faculty and classmates at the Kimmel Center for Performing Arts. However, due to the coronavirus, the

traditional ceremony was hosted virtually and streamed live to mark the beginning of the students' healthcare careers. Barry Eckert, PhD, provost and vice president of Academic Affairs, talked about the meaning of the ceremony in his opening remarks.

"This ceremony recognizes your hard work and dedication, leading up to today as you begin your professional careers at Salus," Dr. Eckert said. "You were selected from a highly competitive group of applicants through a very rigorous applications and admissions process. You should all start off very proud of your accomplishments of being accepted into your programs at Salus. It's a tribute to the success you've had in academics thus far."

The class of more than 350 new students earned their bachelor's degrees from institutions across the country. Salus President **Michael Mittelman, OD '80, MPH, MBA, FAAO, FACHE**, addressed the virtual audience of graduate students preparing to enter the healthcare field.

"We are going to teach you to cure. But you also have to care. And, I think that's the crux of what we do as healthcare professionals. You're all going to have to keep in mind that becoming a healthcare professional is truly a privilege," Dr. Mittelman said. "From this point forward, you're going to be held to a higher standard, both in the way you live and the way you perform your respective jobs. Please don't lose sight of that. You've worked really hard for the opportunity to positively impact the lives of others. You've got to keep at it. Continue to give 110 percent as you progress through your programs at Salus."

As new students commenced their healthcare education journeys at Salus, the University also prepared to graduate current students, beginning their healthcare careers. The virtual commencement ceremony will be streamed online Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 2 p.m. During the event, Dr. Mittelman will confer an honorary Doctor of Laws degree to keynote speaker State Senator Art Haywood. To watch the ceremony, visit salus.edu/commencement.

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 and Speech-Language Pathology. Salus operates four clinical facilities in Philadelphia and Montgomery counties that provide highly specialized vision, hearing and balance, and speech-language pathology services. The University has more than 1,200 students, and more than 14,000 alumni worldwide. For more information, please visit www.salus.edu.