

FIRST INSTITUTE

Career Training For Success



2026

Spring Graduation



Thursday May 21, 2026
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

OUR MISSION

First Institute meets the educational needs of students, employers, and the community by designing quality, occupational specific training programs utilizing relevant methodology practices.

PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIP

The First Institute Performance Scholarship is dedicated to the promotion of professionalism and academic performance. The \$2,000 scholarship is awarded to a graduate who has met the criteria during their academic year at First Institute.

The recipient selection is based both on exemplary academic performance and a profound understanding of how professionalism helps facilitate success in their career.

CRITERIA REQUIREMENTS:

- 3.75 GPA (OUT OF 4.0 SCALE)
- 95% OR GREATER ATTENDANCE (EXCLUDING MAKE-UP WORK)
- 500 WORD ESSAY ON PROFESSIONALISM

RECIPIENT WILL BE ANNOUNCED DURING THE CEREMONY

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARDS

The Distinguished Alumni Award is presented to graduates who exemplify professional excellence in healthcare, dedication to their communities, and a strong commitment to the values of First Institute.

This year, we proudly recognize a special group of alumni who have come full circle—returning as valued members of the First Institute team. Once students themselves, they now serve as educators and leaders, bringing their experience, passion, and dedication back to the classrooms where their journey began. We are proud to celebrate their continued impact on the First Institute community.

Shannon Burns

Alexandria Gradishar

Natalie Mosteller

Bobbi Sandoval

Jeannie Christofalos

Haley Lange

James Nemecek

CONGRATULATIONS ALL ON THE MUCH DESERVED HONOR!

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

PROCESSIONAL*Pomp & Circumstance*

WELCOME.*Victoria Patterson, Director of Educational Programming*
Eric Beier, CEO

PROGRAM REMARKS

Massage Therapy*Coralee Watkin*
Dental Assisting *Haley Lange*
Medical Assisting *Bobbi Sandoval*

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR AWARD

Presentation of Awards.*Tricia Maxim, Director of Career Services*
Victoria Patterson, Director of Educational Programming
Acceptance Remarks. *Distinguished Alumnus*

FIRST INSTITUTE PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Presentation of Award.*Tricia Maxim, Director of Career Services*

CLASS OF 2026 GRADUATION VIDEO TRIBUTE

PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES

Graduates will be invited to the stage by program, with each individual recognized as they cross
Massage Therapy Graduates
Dental Assisting Graduates
Medical Assisting Graduates

CLOSING REMARKS*Eric Beier, CEO*



2026 GRADUATES

MASSAGE THERAPY GRADUATES

Megan Anderson
Ember Bentley ○
Jonathan Escamilla
Lavandis Judd

Brianne Mandziara
Juan Nunez
Miranda Rincon Martinez
Alexis Young

DENTAL ASSISTING GRADUATES

Yadira Gonzalez
Nayzhet Gutierrez
Rachel Maloney

Corinne Wiggins
Madison Woods ○

MEDICAL ASSISTING GRADUATES

Bernice Acheampong Ω
Julia Barrick Ω★
Che'Nyeah Bates Ω
Jessica Bernabe-Camilo
Ashley Collier
Erica Cruz Mendoza
Aubrianna Duncan
Leslie Estrada

Litzy Estrada Ω
Gabriela Farias
Jennifer Feige Ω★
Michelle Fellows
Carmen Galvan
Mariana Garcia
Anahi Gonzalez Ω
Paradise Gregory



Ω Honors

○ Academic Excellence

★ Perfect Attendance

MEDICAL ASSISTING GRADUATES CONT'D

Akela Hayes

Zuleika Hernandez

Ashley List Ω

Camryn Litka

Thania Lopez

Maithe Martinez

Jaqueline Mendez Angeles

Daisy Mendez

Mariana Mercado Ortiz

Kayla Mojica

Jade Ortiz

Sasha Ortiz Ω

Marlon Padilla

Maritza Pastor

Kelly Perez

Anni Phetmeuangmay

Stephany Pina ○

Nicole Rees ○

Kimberly Reyes Diaz

Jeisa Rodriguez ○

Lesly Salazar Gumecindo

Jackelyn Santoyo

Katelyn Seiler Ω

Deona Strobe

Christine Thompson

Makaylah Thompson

Yanelli Vazquez

Alyna Villa

Kaitlin Wall Ω

Amanda Woods Ω



Congratulations!

Ω Honors

○ Academic Excellence

★ Perfect Attendance

FIRST INSTITUTE STAFF & FACULTY

ADMINISTRATIVE

Eric Beier	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Jody Fields	Senior Accountant
Tricia Maxim	Director of Career Services
Natalie Mosteller	Career Services Coordinator
Darrell Russell	Director of Financial Aid
Victoria Patterson	Director of Educational Programming
Scott LeRette	Director of Admissions
Abby Dowell	Admissions Advisor
Katie Postelnick	Director of Compliance
Sandi Anderson	Student Services Administrator
Sumana Banerjee	Student Services Admin Assistant
Kimberly Petersen	Massage Clinic Manager
James Nemecek	Massage Clinic Coordinator

MEDICAL FACULTY

Sumana Banerjee	Shameela Othman
Shannon Burns	Lynette Reedy
Alexandria Gradishar	Emily Rojas
Karen Grube	Bobbi Sandoval
Ashley Orona	

DENTAL FACULTY

Haley Lange	Hajira Syeda
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MASSAGE THERAPY FACULTY

Candi Bax	James Nemecek
Jeannie Christofalos	Coralee Watkin
Andrew Luna	

CAREER PROGRAMS

MEDICAL ASSISTING

Graduates of the Medical Assisting program play a vital role in the smooth functioning of healthcare facilities, contributing to the delivery of quality patient care while supporting healthcare providers in various administrative and clinical tasks. Graduates will be prepared to work in physicians' offices, hospitals, outpatient clinics, and other healthcare facilities.

DENTAL ASSISTING

Graduates of the Dental Assisting program are prepared to provide a variety of clinical and administrative functions in a dental office. They assist the dentist during the examination and treatment of patients by handing required instruments to the dentist, using suction or other instruments, prepare instrument trays, and assist patients with dental health care.

MASSAGE THERAPY

Graduates of the Massage Therapy Program learn how to assess the musculoskeletal system and present massage treatment methods and techniques that address disorders of the neck, back, elbow, knee, and shoulder. Massage Therapy students develop strong business acumen and customer service skills while completing their internship at First Institute's Massage Clinic.

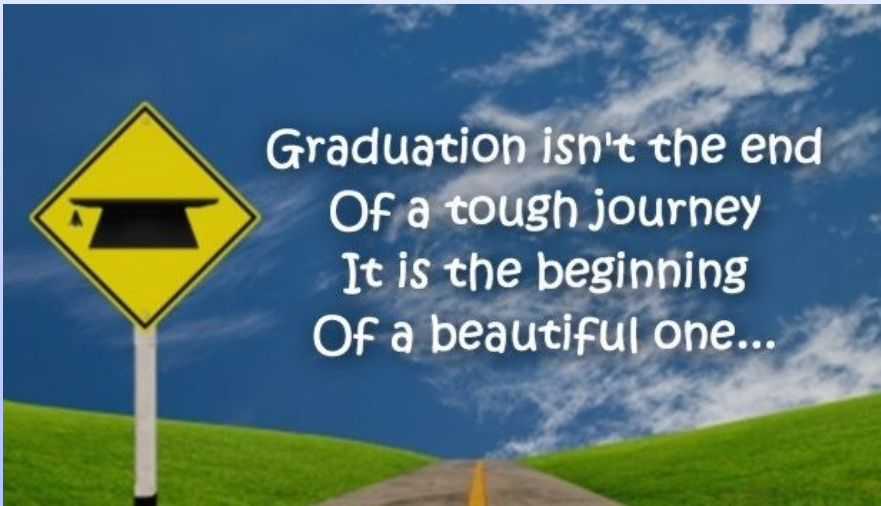
FIRST INSTITUTE MASSAGE CLINIC

At First Institute's Massage Clinic, we provide therapeutic massage to the general public. Our students offer many of the same services found at high-end salons and spas, but at more affordable rates. Massage Therapy is beneficial and can relieve the stress of daily life, promote peace of mind, relax muscle tension, increase circulation, and help foster a healthier lifestyle. Set up an appointment today with one of our students and let the relaxation begin!!!

First Institute Massage Clinic
790 McHenry Ave. Crystal Lake, IL 60014
(815) 788-1057



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



**First Institute
Crystal Lake Campus
790 McHenry Ave
Crystal Lake, IL 60014
(815) 459-3500**

**First Institute
Libertyville Campus
1139 S. Milwaukee Ave
Libertyville, IL 60048
(847) 220-4000**

**First Institute
Aurora Campus
405 N. Eola Rd. Suite C
Aurora, IL 60502
(331) 688-3931**