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Contact Information:

Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society

Julie Passo

(720) 859-4149

julie@alphaomegaalpha.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society Welcomes
California Northstate University College of Medicine as 139th Chapter

Elk Grove, Calif. — California Northstate University College of Medicine (CNUCOM) has been officially chartered as the 139th chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha (ΑΩΑ) Honor Medical Society, becoming the Theta Chapter of California. The chapter was formally chartered on January 30, 2026, marking a significant milestone for the institution and its medical students.

“This achievement reflects the remarkable progress of California Northstate University College of Medicine and the caliber of its students and faculty,” said Brad Barth, MD, MSLOD, Executive Director of ΑΩΑ. “ΑΩΑ chapters are established only at medical schools that demonstrate sustained excellence in scholarship, leadership, professionalism, and service. We are proud to welcome CNUCOM as the Theta Chapter of California.”

Founded in July 2015, California Northstate University College of Medicine is a private, for-profit medical school located in Elk Grove, a southern suburb of Sacramento. Since its inception, CNUCOM has focused on training future physicians through a curriculum emphasizing clinical excellence, service, and community engagement.

CNUCOM was granted full LCME accreditation in July 2025 and does not currently own or operate a university-affiliated hospital; instead, students complete clinical training through affiliated sites with regional health systems, including Kaiser Permanente, Dignity Health, and Sutter Health. The school is expected to break ground this year on its new \$1 billion medical school campus and teaching hospital on the site of the former Sacramento Kings arena. The project will include a 400-bed teaching hospital, college, dormitories, and other facilities.

“Achieving ΑΩΑ chapter status is a powerful affirmation of our mission and the hard work of our students, faculty, and staff,” said Richard S. Isaacs, MD, FACS, Dean of the California



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Northstate University College of Medicine. “This recognition underscores our commitment to academic excellence, ethical leadership, and service to our communities.”

CNUCOM’s four-year curriculum is organized into two distinct phases. Phase A (years one and two) emphasizes preclinical education through case- and problem-based learning, with team-based clinical cases integrated into systems-based courses. Phase B (years three and four) consists of required and elective clinical clerkships delivered through a distributed model across Northern and Central California. The medical educational program also includes longitudinal and additional requirements throughout, such as research projects and community service-based learning, reflecting the school’s emphasis on social accountability and community health. The Class of 2024 achieved a 95 percent residency placement rate across a wide range of specialties.

Selection for ΑΩΑ membership at CNUCOM follows a holistic review process that considers academic achievement, leadership, professionalism, service, and integrity. The Chapter’s selection process emphasizes diversity, transparency, and broad eligibility, with final decisions made through careful review and discussion by the selection committee.

“The establishment of our ΑΩΑ chapter is both an honor and a responsibility,” said Mark Sheffield (ΑΩΑ, Creighton University School of Medicine, 1983), Councilor of the CNUCOM ΑΩΑ Chapter. “We look forward to recognizing students who exemplify the highest ideals of medicine and to fostering a culture of scholarship, leadership, and service within our institution.”