

**EVENT:** Summer 2022 commencement

**DATE:** Aug. 13

**PRESIDENT'S ROLE:** Remarks, conferral of degrees

Thank you, Elizabeth, for sharing those inspiring words with our soon-to-be newest Maverick alumni. Guests and graduates, let's give our honored guest another round of applause.

Now, graduates, please stand for the conferral of your degrees. Though I won't be the first or the last person you hear it from today, let me start by saying: Congratulations, Mavericks! It is my honor to be here today as each of you embraces the goal you've been striving for as you officially join the ranks of our more than 250,000 esteemed Maverick alumni.

Mavericks, by definition, are strongly independent people. And it's true: the hundreds of you standing before me today represent hundreds of different paths to this moment. Each of you came to UTA from different places and points in your lives. And while you faced varied obstacles and learned your own individual lessons, you share a vital commonality: You're Mavericks who've demonstrated you have what it takes to earn a UTA degree.

You may not know the graduates sitting on either side of you, but because they're here with you, you know they're hardworking and resilient. You may have earned different degrees or are pursuing different career paths, but your potential for making an impact is the same – because that's what Mavericks do.

Our campus welcomes people from all corners of the world with different experiences and perspectives, and we're bonded by our commitment to dreaming big for the betterment of our communities and our people. It's my sincerest hope that each of you will carry forward this commitment to being a difference-maker with pride in your next chapter.

I've just celebrated 100 days as president of this wonderful university, and the spirit and passion of the Maverick community I've experienced in that time has me dreaming bigger than ever. UTA is already a world-class university, but our collective future is brimming with possibilities that can take us to new heights – much like each of you. You are magnificent for what you've already achieved, and there is no shortage of possibilities on your horizon. The same persistence and resilience that brought you to this moment – now fortified by your UTA degree – make you more than capable of taking each possibility and turning it into reality.

Though I came in on what may be the tail end of your journey here at UTA *as students*, I'm excited to follow your futures as UTA *alumni* and see what the future of our University, state, nation, and beyond looks like with you leading the way. As you embark on this new chapter, please stay in

touch. Come back and see us sometime, and connect with our Office of Alumni Relations. An active and engaged community of dedicated alumni opens doors for all of us.

What I'm about to say may sound like complicated legalese, but they're the words that make the degree you've been working for officially yours and open up the path you're eager to embark upon. Let's make you proud members of the Maverick alumni family, shall we?

By virtue of the authority vested by law in the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System, and delegated to The University of Texas at Arlington, I hereby confer upon each of you the respective academic degree for which you have been recommended, with all rights, privileges, responsibilities, and obligations pertaining thereto.

Honored guests and members of the faculty...please join me in congratulating our newest graduates. Congratulations and well done!

Now, it's your turn to be up on this stage as we begin the awarding of degrees.