

2026

COMMENCEMENT

THURSDAY THE FOURTEENTH OF MAY

Texas Wesleyan
UNIVERSITY

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

PRELUDE ..... Texas Wesleyan University Wind Ensemble & Ram Band

PROCESSIONAL

NATIONAL ANTHEM ..... Bradley Naylor, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Music

ALMA MATER - WORDS BY J.C. DENNEY
Hail to thee dear Texas Wesleyan, from the heart I give my praise.
In the paths of high endeavor, fame and fortune crown your days.
Streaming forth a line of splendor, sons and daughters all declare,
Living testimony render, to the worthy name you bear.

INVOCATION ..... Stephanie Sloan, Ph.D.
University Chaplain and Director of Spiritual Life

INTRODUCTIONS ..... Vickie Stevens '80
Vice-Chairwoman of the Board

Emily Messer, Ed.D.
President

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS ..... The Honorable Glenn Lewis '81

UNITED METHODIST EXEMPLARY TEACHER AWARD ..... Jenny Dean, Ph.D.
Associate Professor and Faculty Chair

CONFERRING OF ACADEMIC DEGREES ..... Emily Messer

Hector Quintanilla, Ph.D.
Provost & Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs
Interim Dean, School of Health Profession

AWARDING OF ACADEMIC DEGREES ..... Ricardo Rodriguez, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Arts and Sciences

Sameer Vaidya, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Business Administration and Professional Programs

Carlos Martinez, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Education

Misty Sparks, Ph.D.
Professor of Graduate Counceling

WELCOME FROM ALUMNI ..... Vernon Wright '93
President of the Alumni Association

LITANY AND BENEDICTION ..... Stephanie Sloan, Ph.D.

RECESSIONAL

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS



THE HONORABLE GLENN O. LEWIS '81
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

The Honorable Glenn O. Lewis '81 is a Fort Worth native and lifelong public servant whose upbringing in the historic Stop Six community in Fort Worth shaped his commitment to education, access and service. A graduate of Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, he earned degrees from Tarrant County College and Texas Wesleyan University before completing his law degree at the University of Texas School of Law.

Lewis has dedicated nearly two decades to leadership at Texas Wesleyan University, serving on the Board of Trustees since 2006. In 2021, he was appointed as Chairman of the Board; making history as the first person of color to serve in this role.

His commitment to the university reflects a multigenerational family legacy. Several members of the Lewis family are Texas Wesleyan alumni, and together they established the Lewis Family Endowed Scholarship to expand access to higher education and support future generations of students.

Lewis served five consecutive terms in the Texas House of Representatives representing Tarrant County. During his tenure, he was named outstanding freshman legislator, chaired the Committee on County Affairs and became the first African American appointed to the Texas Sunset Review Commission. He authored more than 70 pieces of legislation and received numerous statewide honors for leadership and service.

In addition to public service, Lewis is an attorney, civic leader and judge whose career reflects a long-standing commitment to justice and community engagement.

ORDER OF THE PROCESSIONAL

Cross Bearer

Bible Bearer

Banners are emblazoned with the seals of the six Texas institutions of higher education affiliated with the United Methodist Church.

Huston-Tillotson University

McMurry University

Southern Methodist University

Southwestern University

Texas Wesleyan University

Wiley College

Banner Bearers are represented by various student organizations at Texas Wesleyan University.

Academic Marshals

May 2026 Graduating Class

Faculty Marshal

Faculty

Grand Marshal

Platform Party

Vice Presidents

Provost

President

ACADEMIC REGALIA AND SYMBOLS

American academic regalia originated at European medieval universities, particularly Oxford University, about seven centuries ago. At that time, the teachers were clergymen, the students were studying to become clerics, and the cassock was their usual costume. The tradition has continued through the ages at colleges and universities in the wearing of the academic gown, hood and cap.

The cap, or mortarboard, is the same for all degree. The tassel is worn on the right side of the cap until the bachelor's degree is conferred, at which time it is switched to the left side.

According to the American Council on Education, the gown for the bachelor's degree has pointed sleeves and is designed to be worn closed. The gown for the master's degree has an oblong sleeve base that hangs down and opens at the wrist. The gown for the doctor's degree has bell-shaped sleeves. The doctor's gown is faced with velvet and has three velvet bands on each sleeve. These distinguishing marks may be either black or in the appropriate color of the academic degree earned. Though black is a traditional color for gowns, the degree-granting institution may, however, select unique colors for the gown and trim.

The most colorful and significant item of the academic regalia is the hood. The length indicates the degree; the color of the border denotes the academic area of the degree; the colors of the hood lining identify the college or university, which granted the degree. The doctor's hood is four feet long with a five-inch border. The master's hood is three and one-half feet long with a three-inch border and a long, large pocket at the bottom. The bachelor's hood is three-feet long with a two-inch border.

The academic colors most frequently associated with the Texas Wesleyan University academic community are:

Arts and Letters	White
Business	Light Brown
Counseling	White
Criminal Justice	Purple
Education	Light Blue
Exercise Science	Sage Green
History	White
Language	White
Library Science	Lemon
Mass Communication	Crimson
Music	Pink
Nursing	Apricot
Paralegal Studies	Purple
Science	Golden Yellow
Sociology	Citron
Theatre	Brown
Theology	Scarlet

The green and blue tassels identify members of the Alpha Chi National Honor Society. These graduates are at or near the top two percent of their class.

The gold cord symbolizes membership in an honor society. The purple and teal tassels identify members of Kappa Delta Pi, an international honor society in education.

The mace is a common symbol of the authority and power of a corporate body. Its use as such originated in medieval times in legislative bodies and university faculties. It is carried by the presiding officer of the Faculty Assembly.

The presidential medallion is a symbol of the Office of the President of a chartered institution. It bears the seal of the college and is placed around the neck of the president at investiture to represent the yoke of responsibility for the welfare of the institution.

A TEXAS-SIZED HISTORY

Originally called Polytechnic College — which literally means "many arts and sciences" — the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, founded Texas Wesleyan University in 1890. The school held its first classes in September 1891, with 111 students.

In 1902, H.A. Boaz assumed the presidency and led the university's first period of substantive growth. During his tenure, new residence halls, a fine arts conservatory, a science hall and a gym were built. Enrollment increased each year at the new university, which was located a few miles from the growing city of Fort Worth.

When Dallas was selected by the church leaders as the site for Southern Methodist University, the Polytechnic campus was designated the Woman's College for Southern Methodism, eventually becoming Texas Woman's College in 1914.



During the 1920s, the tradition of robing, which commemorates the relationship between faculty and students through a ceremonial vesting of cap and gown, became a university tradition. The tradition remains to this day. It is an example of Texas Wesleyan's dedication to a small, personal educational atmosphere.

The college was renamed Texas Wesleyan College in 1935 and has remained a co-educational liberal arts institution with an increasingly comprehensive academic and student life program. Law Sone became the President of Texas Wesleyan in 1935, which kicked off a 33-year period of growth and expansion.

Under Sone, athletics thrived, with dominant teams in golf and basketball; new facilities were built on campus, including a new library and residence halls; and new academic programs in business and education became points of pride for the university.

In addition to strong undergraduate programs, the university added graduate programs in education in the 1970s and in nurse anesthesia in the 1980s. Recognizing the growth in programs, Trustees changed the name of the institution to Texas Wesleyan University, effective in January 1989. The Graduate Programs of Nurse Anesthesia has grown into the largest in the nation, delivering courses to students throughout the United States.

President Dr. Emily W. Messer became the 21st president of Texas Wesleyan in July 2023. She has an extensive background in higher education, from helping colleges break historic enrollment numbers and securing funding for new programming and expansions of colleges, to putting a focus on the importance of student life. She has goals to continue making the university a higher education leader in the community.

CANDIDATES FOR DOCTORAL DEGREES

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

Syed Misbah Akbar
In-depth Study of the Benefits and Limitations of Single Gender Schools for Females

Jakiya Monique Ezell-Brumfield
Educating Against The Odds: Teen Mothers and the Influence of School and Family

Maria Berenice Garcia
Perceptions of Teachers and Higher Education Faculty on Educators' Preparation to Support Autistic Students in Mainstream Classrooms

Melonie Nicole German
Early Childhood Education Factors That Deter Enrollment and Promote Benefits of Early Childhood Programs

Tamika Ann Johnson
Investigating the Experiences of First-Year Students in a Freshman Seminar Course: Perspectives on Motivation and Engagement

Stephanie Pittman
High School Administrators' Understanding and Application of Special Education Policies and Procedures

Belinda Vega
A Qualitative Study of Bilingual Teachers and Their Challenge to Find Appropriate Instructional Materials for Emergent Bilinguals

Kendyl Joi Watson
Take Three: An Examination of How EC-3 Teachers Understand Arts Integration, Culturally Responsive Teaching, and Their Students Cognitively and Affectively Within the Context of Learning

SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPY

Paige Talley Ellison
The Role of a Structured Self-Assessment in Supporting Model Selection and Perceived Practicum Readiness in Marriage and Family Therapy Programs: A Quasi-Experimental Study

CANDIDATES FOR MASTER'S DEGREES

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

MASTER OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

Israel E. Sanchez

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Earl Bowman
Adella Margaret Dunn
Kevin Andres Gonzalez Montijo
Tamishany Harrison
Erica Mosquera Jaramillo
Heather Denise Kilmer
Corita Lambert
Rhonda Renee Lax
Vivian A McEwen
Ken Minoguchi
Josué Preza II
Jaysen Alexander Price
Jeanette Sanchez
Hunter McKall Wilson
Frank Leon Wynn III

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

Charlotte Denise Hall

MASTER OF EDUCATION

Robert Damone Allen
Samantha Bagley
Hailey Bell
Alvin Alphonso Collins
Darius Raymond Conner
Natika Monique Dangerfield
Zavier Fields
Raven Harbin
Somer Hughes
David Kaldenbach
Lisa Hunt Lehman
Yakedriez Norvel Magee
Leslie Shea McLean
Jacqueline Kathleen Netsch
Lori Ann Peikert
Laura Poole
Andrea Nicole Pugh
Martina Snyder
Jaelynn S. Williams

CANDIDATES FOR MASTER'S DEGREES (CONT.)

SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

MASTER OF ARTS IN PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING

Katherine Marie Downey
Sarah Katherine Graber
Madeline Celia Johnson
Jessica Ortiz
Ayleen Andrea Quintero Esparza
Andrianna Dariella Rivas
Kathryn Thompson Hobbs

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPY

Grace Caroline Boggs
Ashley Crump-Smith
Patricia Orduño
Salome Sotomayor

CANDIDATES FOR BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Vrutti Sanjaybhai Ahir
Abbie Michelle Bird
Deanna Brown
Danna Elizabeth Cabral
Idelfonso Garcia Diaz
Landry Paige Hardee
Noah Huerta
Yahaira Jimenez
Cassidy Lynn Kranzer
Madelein Maldonado
Alba Nohemi Martinez
Melissa McCue
Madison Delynn McKinzie
Arianna Medina
Samuel Mendez De Lo Santo
Oscar Enrique Miguel
Guiselle Munoz
Raelynn Elizabeth Samsill
Ravion E. Shephard
Samantha Elizabeth Trujillo
Jeffrey Winfield Waldrop Jr.
Jeremy Allen Webster
Evelyn Zapata

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

Nathalie S. Beyna
Trinity Celeste Chenault
Makailyn Jade Felder
Elliot Ryan Holmes
Pella Brooke LeFever
Peri Elyse Zachmeyer

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Kesha Jayeshkumar Agrawal
Sheyla Jasmin Aguilar Castro
Diego Armando Aguirre
Nijah N. Akpan
Taylor J. Allen
Reagan Avants
Abigail Balleza
Kathy Jenneh Baxter
Mark Anthony Benjamin III
Kaja Anna Brunzlow
Janexci L. Camilo-Jacinto
Erica A'Chan Cano
Yasmine Iliana Cervantes
Angelina Coates
Myles Reese Curry
Austin Allen Davis
Ashika Dhimal
Perla Diosdado
BreAuna Dobbins
Madison E. Dryden
Haley R.Ellis
Nya Imani Ermitanio
Christopher Augustine Escamilla
Olamilekan Ridwan Fashanu
Christine Figiel
Bammer Flippo
Kayla Janaé Fuller
Fatima Garcia
Caitlin Taylor Ginn
Hamilton Wallace Goncalves de Souza
Jackie Marie Gonzales
Nataly Gonzales
Fabiola Gonzalez
Heitor Grava Buscariolo
Brianna Marie Guerra
Dashanti Dearhha Hall
Emmerie Tatiana Harris
Shannyn Alisabeth Hedgecoth
Andrea Hernandez
Cristobal Hernandez
Anisha Sharyse Hinton
Gavin Micheal Holland
Aiden Bradley Howerton
Desiree Karina Ibarra
Caleb Dejuan Ivory
Ahmad Jahed
Dereck Jenny
Raykala Marie Johnson
Emily Elizabeth Jumper
Dalila Labrada Ortiz
Valerie Joyce Lara
Lucía Larruscain Navarro
Ashley Lekas
Savannah Angelica Loya
Micaelli Kate Albao Magday
Yaswitha Mannava
Jonatan Marcus McDonald
Cassidy McGinnis
McKenzie Anne McIntyre
Benjamin Medina

CANDIDATES FOR BACCALAUREATE DEGREES (CONT.)

Andrea Medrano
Citlali Melchor
Anthony Angel Mendez
Natalie Miksovska
Cooper Lewis Morse
Edgar L. Munoz
Paxton Lee Murry
William Connor Nelson
Trong Phuc Nguyen
Brooklynn Machelle Novads
Cephas Adelayo Olufade
Jonathan Robert Peña
Lizbeth Pozos
Kenitra Vonshun Price
Jonathan Luis Quinonez
Jade Rangel
Noah Alexander Richardson
Diego Armando Rodriguez
Hector Isaiah Rodriguez
Samantha Isabel Rodriguez
Kaitlyn A. Rodriguez-Oyervides
Guillermo San Juan
Dominique Jordan Sanders
Melina Santander Cervantes
Adia Janese Savage
Morgan L. Senior
Gracie Spradley
Michaela Tate
Migleanette Torres-Santiago
Cody Wayne Tucker
Isabella Jace Valenzuela
Haley Deeann Via
Miabreanna Zoey Vidal
Brooke Helen Walker
Trinity Washington
Natalie Elizabeth White
Jayden Angerlee Williams

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS

BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Alyssa Ann Acosta
Gabriel Acosta
Lizeth Aleman
Sydney G. Alexander
Carla Arce Fernandez
Lorenzo Leonel Arias
Erika Avila
Jaelynn Sharee Ballard
Pablo Bances Lorenzo
Sincere Pharrell Blackmon
Jadon Joseph Brown
Mayra Castillo-Ferman
Elena Elise Chavez
Hector Daniel Chico Torres
Stacey Leniah Conner
Eric Adrian Cordero
Lauren Corkran
Saira Covarrubias
Conner Joel DeLeon
Sheick Mahjeed Diakite
Caleb Douglas
Derron Tyreke Douglas
Elizabeth Alexandra Duvall
Bryce A. Edwards
Kyra Ellis
Yarnia T. Evans
Peyton Foster
Alondra Garcia
Gissel Garcia
Karen Garcia
Ashton S. Garner
Josie Christine Glaze
Gabriela Andrea Gómez Meléndez
Lasharia Desharia Sarah Gordon
Daniel Govea
Tyrece Grant
Alexis Rene Greenidge
Alvaro Jose Gutierrez
Xavier James Hall
Aidan M Hartis
Nicholas Yuji Hato Yamane
Sir Chromium Hill
Jacob Hollis
Amy Rose Kitka
Alberto Lazalde
Antonio Servando Lopez Sanchez
Enrique Loredo
Aaron Mannings
Joshua H. Manry
Joel Marin
Camden Jamar Martin
Alfredo Martinez
Britney Martinez
Jack W. McKenzie
Gabriela Alejandra Morales
Jackson McDonald Morelan
Giovana Moro Pinto
Ronald Ogden Morrison
Anh Ngoc Quynh Nguyen
Thanh Nguyen Nguyen
Camryn Nottingham
Isabel Payan
Alaina Pink
Cole Quigley
Jamarrion Jaquez Reed
Robert Rocco Reyes III
Yesenia Rios
Jeline Rivera
Charisma Joelle Rodriguez
Anayli Rodríguez Pérez
Cason Rogers
Eddiemar Rosa-Lopez
London VerNa' Shannon
Logan Scott Silvertooth
Thuong Tran
Tiffany A. Valdez
Sarai Victoria
Matias Villalobos
Noah Lane Williams

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Leslie Ruby Bugarin
Antonia Alejandra Casillas
Vanessa Janett Flores
Britney Gonzales
Cynthia Paramo
Jacqueline Karla Varela

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Daniel Aigbogun
Rachael Akintade
Analicia Alonzo
Asja Rehanna Bennett
Lyric Cristian Biggiers
Hayden C. Boydston

CANDIDATES FOR BACCALAUREATE DEGREES (CONT.)

Kathryn L. Cameron
Marcos Carrion
Jose Miguel Casado Guzman
Rachael Beth Cochran
Alyssa Eichele
Zeb Tanner Fulmer
Ashton Rae Guevara
Daniel Gutierrez
Sophia Elizabeth Hurtado
Leo Mireles
Kayannah D Moore
Kierstyn Shayne Moore
Logan James Rogers
Aeryana Vida Romero
Amber Randi Smart
Mayara Antonieta Swillens
Brendon J. Vela
Johnathon Ward
Camden L. Whitehead
Brinkley Faye Williams

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John Maddux '59, Fort Worth
Norma Roby, North Richland Hills
Dr. Lamar E. Smith '50, HON '65, Fort Worth
Claudia Stepp '72, Fort Worth

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Dean, School of Education

Dr. Ricardo Rodriguez
Dean, School of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Sameer Vaidya
Dean, School of Business Administration and Professional Programs

LITANY – "WISDOM"

Leader: Happy is the one who finds wisdom,
People: And the one who gets understanding.

Leader: For the gain from it is better than the gain from silver,
People: And its profit better than gold.

Leader: Wisdom is more precious than jewels,
People: And nothing you desire can compare with it.

Leader: Long life is in wisdom's right hand,
People: And in its left hand are riches and honor.

Leader: The ways of wisdom are ways of pleasantness,
People: And all its paths are peace.

Leader: Wisdom is a tree of life to those who lay hold of it,
People: Those who hold fast to wisdom are called happy.

Leader: The Lord by wisdom founded the earth,
People: And the Lord by understanding established the heavens.

WELCOME

TO THE TEXAS WESLEYAN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION!

You are a vital part of the Texas Wesleyan community.
Here's how you can stay involved as a TXWES alumni.

ATTEND EVENTS WITH CLASSMATES

There's always something going on at Texas Wesleyan. Check out our monthly e-newsletter, The Ram's Horn, to find out about events like the Wesleyan Wine Walk, Alumni Reunion and the Wesleyan 5K.

KEEP IN TOUCH

Change of address? Different email? New job? Email us at **alumni@txwes.edu** so we can keep you connected.

JOIN SOCIAL RAMS

Want to support your alma mater but don't have much time? Share university news and events with just a click of a button to win prizes. Sign up at **txwes.edu/socialrams** today!

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Texas Wesleyan
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