

2025



NORTHEAST TEXAS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Whatley Center for the Performing Arts
Saturday, May 17, 2025

Eagles Soaring On

*Minds are in the making here
Hearts are in the waking here
Mighty undertaking here
Eagles soaring on*

*We are arming for the fight
Pressing on with all our might
Pluming wings for higher flight
Eagles soaring on*

*Northeast we hail to thee
In our hearts you'll always be
Thank you for the memories
Eagles soaring on*

*Music: Dr. Ron Clinton, 2006
Lyrics: John Oxenham
(adapted by Brooke Oden)*

Student Welcome & Student Response Speakers



Monserrat Rivero Sánchez (Student Welcome at 9:00)

Born and raised in Acapulco, Mexico, Monserrat Rivero Sánchez moved to Mount Pleasant, Texas, to pursue higher education. Despite arriving with limited English, she graduated high school with honors and earned awards in academic and leadership competitions. Her achievements led to a full scholarship and acceptance into the honors program at Northeast Texas Community College (NTCC). At NTCC, Monserrat became an active leader, joining organizations such as Active Minds, Sigma Kappa Delta, Student Academic Success, and Phi Theta Kappa (PTK). She served as PTK Chapter President, Texas Regional Officer, and ultimately International Vice President, where she advocated for over 4.2 million students from diverse backgrounds and inspired others through her resilience. Now holding two associate degrees, Monserrat is preparing to attend Mississippi State University to pursue a bachelor's in Early Childhood Education. Her goal is to earn a master's in Curriculum and Instruction with a focus on Bilingual Education, aiming to foster inclusive and culturally responsive learning environments.



Mary-Faith Wilson (Student Response Speaker at 9:00)

Mary-Faith Wilson lives in Gilmer, Texas and comes from a family of ten. She began her journey at Northeast Texas Community College as a dual credit student in 2022 and finished out her last year of home schooling with college courses. In 2023, she took on the role of President for Sigma Kappa Delta. Additionally, Mary-Faith worked as a writing and English tutor for Northeast Texas Community College from fall 2023 to spring of 2025. In the fall of 2024, she also took on the role of Secretary for the Alpha Mu Chi chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. She is also the recipient of the Gladys Winkle Memorial Honors Scholarship as well as the Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholarship. Apart from her duties at NTCC, Mary-Faith also serves as the worship leader for her church, Piney Grove Baptist Church. After graduation, Mary-Faith will be attending a missionary program known as Youth with a Mission (YWAM) where she will gain experience doing mission work.



Brenda Rodarte (Student Welcome at 11:00)

Born and raised in the small town of Mount Pleasant, Texas, Brenda Rodarte is a proud first-generation college student pursuing a career in nursing. Inspired by the loss of her grandfather to prostate cancer, she felt a deep calling to make a difference in healthcare. Brenda's mission is to educate and advocate for underserved Hispanic communities—particularly those in lower socioeconomic areas—on the importance of regular checkups and early detection. Brenda is graduating as a member of the Alpha Delta Nu Honor Society and the National Student Nurses' Association. She has accepted a Nurse Residency at Baylor Scott and White in the Oncology Department. Brenda is deeply grateful to her family for their unwavering love, support, and sacrifices, which have been the foundation of her journey and success.



Jack Currey (Student Response Speaker at 11:00)

Born in Pasadena, Texas, Jack Currey moved to East Texas at age 12, where he was adopted by his aunt and uncle. A 2016 graduate of Paul H. Pewitt High School, Jack went on to serve in the U.S. Army before working as a restaurant manager during the COVID-19 pandemic. Although he initially planned to study engineering, Jack felt a strong calling to nursing because of its emphasis on human connection. Throughout nursing school, he worked full time, including nurse intern roles at CHRISTUS Good Shepherd and UT Health East Texas, and is graduating as a member of the Alpha Delta Nu Honor Society. Jack has accepted a position in the Cardiovascular ICU at UT Health and plans to pursue a career in anesthesia.



Mea Banda (Student Welcome Speaker at 1:00)

Mea Banda was born and raised in Mount Pleasant, Texas. After graduating from Mount Pleasant High School in the spring of 2024, she immediately began her college journey at Northeast Texas Community College. During her time at NTCC, Mea was involved in several organizations, including Summer Success, Work4College, Women's Soccer, Phi Theta Kappa, Sigma Kappa Delta, and the Business Club. Mea will be graduating with an associate degree in Business Administration and plans to transfer to the University of North Texas to pursue a bachelor's degree in political science. After that she plans to earn her law degree from Texas A&M School of Law and become an immigration lawyer.



Emily Hamlin (Student Response Speaker at 1:00)

Emily Hamlin began her journey at NTCC as a home-schooled dual credit student with a passion for learning. By the time she graduated high school, Emily was a full-time business major using her classes to help her successfully run her own company, Clarity Photography, which she actively partners with the college. She serves as the VP of Honors in Action for Phi Theta Kappa, is the president of the NTCC Business Club, and loves working on staff at the Eagle newspaper. Emily recently directed a mini-documentary in association with PTK and also assistant directed the 2024 feature-length honors film project. In addition, she is a two-time recipient of the Faculty Senate Eagle Excellence Award and 8 different NTCC scholarships. She is graduating as an honors student and plans to expand her business overseas. Emily credits her incredible experience at NTCC to its extraordinary faculty and talented students, and to the Lord for His continuous provision.

Northeast Texas Community College

Commencement Program • Saturday, May 17, 2025



Introductions.....Dr. Ron Clinton
President

Invocation.....Mr. Russell East
Board of Trustees

Student Welcome (9:00) Ms. Monserrat Rivero Sánchez
(11:00) Ms. Brenda Rodarte
(1:00) Ms. Mea Banda

Presentation of Class of 2025.....Dr. Kevin P Rose
Senior Vice President for Student Success

Conferring of Degrees and CertificatesDr. Ron Clinton

Introduction of Student Response Speaker..... (9:00) Ms. Jennifer Sparks
(11:00) Ms. Amanda Shaw
(1:00) Dr. Melissa Fulgham

Student Response (9:00) Ms. Mary-Faith Wilson
(11:00) Mr. Jack Currey
(1:00) Ms. Emily Hamlin

Closing Announcements Dr. Anna Ingram
Associate Vice President for Instruction

9:00 AM COMMENCEMENT - ARTS & SCIENCE

Associate of Arts



Ro'Shaun Allen
Presley Anne Brown
Vanessa Buendia
Φ Peter Donnan
Jonathan Gonzales
Hope M Grant
Allen Thomas Herald

Φ Ψ H Skylar Linnie Faye Hodson
Kamden Scott Holcomb
Jenna Lee Kirk
Gracelyn Avonlea McClendon
Φ Stephaney McIntosh
Jasmine L Moon
Dominic Michael Mowrer

Audrina Landin
Yasenia Paloblanco
Eve Perez
Φ Crystal E.N Rutledge
Dayana Salazar
Kaitlin Mackenzie Sellers
Colton Russell Tippit

Alyssa Turner
Jordan Vickers
Meagan Lynn Wardrup
Andrew Watson
Φ H Mary-Faith Wilson

Associate of Arts in Teaching



Caryn A Chrietzberg
Marlyn Estrada
Mariana O Gonzalez

Cadie LeeAnn Gray
Ruth Araceli Martinez
Kimberly Mejia

Laura Muniz
Jillian Nicole Norfleet
Φ H E Monserrat Rivero Sanchez

Associate of Science



Hannah Elyse Abernathy
Ismael Aguilar
Alexa Belen Arzate
Natalia Aspeitia
Φ Ian Bamburg
Φ H Vanessajane Bayna
Juan Miguel Benzor Jr
Abel G Bernardi
Veronica Bernardino
Lilyan Grace Birthright
Mya Bradshaw
Dallas Jordan Bryan
Kaylin Elizabeth Burt
Φ Harvey Butcher
Fabianna Candelari
Jaci Rae Caplinger
Avryn Carrington
Allen Suarez Casas
Juan Armando Castanon Parra
Calan Ty Cobb
Ally Jo Cook
Amaunni Mykhala Craver
Johnattan Diaz

Terrylynn A Diaz
Φ Ψ H E Sarah Elizabeth Dierflinger
Chelsea Dowden
Lara Deon Evans
Ian Jacob Foulkes
Φ Ψ Jose Angel Fuentes
Kimberly Gallegos
Jesus Sebastian Garrett
Taylor Marie Gouge
Hunter Green
Lucy Green
Courtney Hall
Ryker Hamblin
Ulyces Hernandez
Angel Herrera
Φ Ψ H Skylar Linnie Faye Hodson
Amy Amara Jimenez
Ryder Easton LeClair
Φ Jennifer Leonard
Erik Liera
Lana Marie Martinez
Allie McCall Mayfield
Robin Lynn James McDermott

Savannah Pressgrove
Tyler Miles
Dylan Riley Miller
Celia Sophia Miranda
Selene Moreno
Isabella Marie Morrow
Annie Munoz Jimenez
Nayla Navarro
Ilse Ojendis
Araceli Olvera
Tristan Olvera
Φ Audrey P Ordonez Marquez
Thomas A Orona
Adriana Orona
Φ Emma Grace Peebles
Φ Yadeline Daly Perez Valentin
Kimberly Guadalupe Pina
Brock Poe
Deanna Police
Brittany Powell
Lizzette Ramirez
Jonathan A Ramirez-Torres
Jaxson Ramsey

Abigail Grace Retana
Xitlali Rivas
Φ H E Monserrat Rivero Sanchez
Armando Rojas
Matthew Rowland
Briana Sanchez
Mauricio Sandoval Jr
Φ Lochlan Patrick John Scott
Paula Rae Sens
Davvi Laurel Swain
Perla Michelle Solorio
Φ Ψ Shea Taylor
Jonathan Lee Tepetate
Madison Marie Thompson
Jose Trejo
Alexandro Valadez
Emily Valle
Christian Vargas
Erika Vargas
Ethan Drake Wagner
Silvia Priscilla Zaldivar

Certificate of Competency



Industrial Technology - Industrial Technician

Jaycob Calixto
Jeffery Crumbley

Bryan Hernandez
Alex Perez

Fabritzio Sanchez

11:00 AM COMMENCEMENT - HEALTH SCIENCES

Associate of Science



Jada Renee Douglas
Jorge Alberto Fernandez

Kaycie Michelle Flores
Peyton Cheyenne Holland

Riley Vincent Marshall
Kyndal Denise Yaross

Associate of Applied Science



Tiffany Marie Abramczuk
A Jennifer Ann Adcock
Alondra Arce
Amber M Baker
TaMeshia L Beasley
Edgar Emmanuel Bello
Tachrisa M Boyd
Ψ A Tiffany Bechelli
A Vincent Bellatti
A Hanna Sage Brown
A Kayla Burns
Caitlin Busby
A Paige Mckenzie Calame
A Savannah Nicole Dawn Carroll
Abigail Araceli Chavez
A Kayla Danielle Clayton
A Brandon Lamonte Cobbins
Brianna Coker
Φ A Caroline Joy Cornelius
Amber Coronado
Ψ A Jack S Currey
Caryn Elizabeth Dawson
Alexandra Patrice Day
A Veronica Delgado

A Brittney Monique Dennis
A Andrea N Easley
Taylor Leeann Eastridge
Φ A Briana Nicole Edwards
A Mary Diane Foster
Maritza Gonzalez
Sarahi Gonzalez
A Lashundrea Gordon
Φ A Jennifer L Greener
DaTanya Haggerty
Lawanda Hall
A Elizabeth Hamrick
A Octavia Sharock Hayes
A Katia Hernandez
Φ A Dawson Hill
A Rylee McClain Hutchings
Ψ A Keondra Jackson
A Kaila Kendria Duniya Jobe
Elizabeth Rose Johnston
A Candace Jones
Φ Laney Kate Jones
A Carmen Velasco Landaverde
A Raquel Landaverde
A Jennifer Ann Lee

Kiea Leffall
Heather Danielle Leverett
A Ashley Danielle Lockey
A Angel Logan
Kayla K Lynn
Φ Stephanie Marino
Margaret Anne Martin
Diana Marie Martinez
A Javier Martinez Jr
Amber Nichole McCoy
Sandra Patricia Ramirez Medina
A Katie Jo Milhorn
A Brandi Mims
A Agatha L Moore
A Jason Morrow
Brenda Nava
Kimberly Fernanda Ornelas
A Cody Nicholas Ortega
Ashley Paxton
A Alta Marie Pepple
Kierra Pogue
A Christine Nicole Pruitt
Φ A Maria Anayeli Pulgarin
A Stephanie Ramirez

Brenda Regalado
A Shawnic Richardson
A Whitney Rockmore
A Brenda Magdalena Rodarte
Ψ Raeleigh Rulison
Andy Salas
A Julie Joyner Saldana
A Ericka Baileigh Savage
Asia Denae Shumate
Φ Ψ A Melody Silverstein
Katarina Ryanna Simpson
A Candie Rachele Smith
Φ Cedric B Smith
Ryan Mark Sparkman
A KeAndrea MarSha Steger
Shiloh Stephanie Stephenson
Gwendolyn Stewart
A LaTosha Williams
Φ Ψ Helen Wittig
A Gloria Maria Vargas
Rosemary L Vien-Rollins

Certificates of Competency



Health Sciences - EMT Basic

Jasmine Arthur

Health Sciences - Funeral Service

Φ Carl W Allen
Gisselle Alvidrez
Φ Ψ Sarah R Bodey
Richard Thomas Clouch
Amber Coronado
Davarius Crowder
Φ Ψ Mindy Davis-Hirschi
Caryn Elizabeth Dawson
Mimi Isabella De Leon
Robert Jacob Dingle
Cierra Racquel Jefferson
KaNieshia V Jefferson
Elizabeth Rose Johnston

Φ Laney Kate Jones
Maranda Nicole Judd
Φ Elizabeth Ann Kai
Heather Danielle Leverett
Christian Lopez
Φ Stephanie Marino
Margaret Anne Martin
Φ LaTaViana McCoy
Tammy Lynn McLaren
Esmeralda Moya
Tara LeAnne Nunes
Nichole Orozco
Aaron J Putnam

Zoey Scholz
Φ Katherine Christina Shockey
Katarina Ryanna Simpson
Candisha M Smith-Brown
Jeff B Taylor
Christie Charmaine Thomas

Monica Renee Turner
Rosemary L Vien-Rollins
David Wayne Werth
Timeka Uvette Wiltz
Ashlee N Winstead-Sherman
Φ Ψ Helen Wittig

Health Sciences - Funeral Service - Embalming

Amber Coronado
Caryn Elizabeth Dawson
Elizabeth Rose Johnston
Φ Laney Kate Jones
Heather Danielle Leverett
Φ Stephanie Marino

Margaret Anne Martin
Katarina Ryanna Simpson
Ryan Mark Sparkman
Rosemary L Vien-Rollins
Φ Ψ Helen Wittig

Health Sciences - Patient Care Technology

Kaitlyn Danielle Blake
Buendy Judit Fraire
Φ Crystal Guzman

Jaysa Stiver
Zoie Kate Wetzel
Elizabeth White

1:00 PM COMMENCEMENT - WORKFORCE EDUCATION

Associate of Science



Joseline Almazan
Kelon James Andrews
Φ E Mea Banda
Φ Jordon W Berkley
Bryson Berry
Maddy Carty-Mauk
Connor Cobern

Φ Ψ Lauren Nicole Crooks
Jennifer Decker
Φ E Gabin Desplats
Φ E Tristan Do Nascimento
E Braden Duff
Ana Catalina Garrett
Andy Gomez

Briana Karina Gonzales
Sandy Alle Guerrero
Φ H Emily Claire Hamlin
Jesus Angel Hernandez
Rhett A Knox
Matthew Lacombe
Aiden Leonard

Cameron Leslie
Erica Ariana Martinez
Bryson May
Makenzie Mayes
Mack McMullan
Katlynn Miller
Φ Jennifer Aaron Moore

Associate of Science (Continued)



Kennedy Obanda Odero
Kenia Ortiz
Ana Claire Pearson
A'Lexus Peppers
E Alexandria Porter

Nicole Priddy
Moises Ramirez
Ruth Ramirez
Racheal Reynolds
Jason Scot Rickert Jr

Cole Roberts
Audrey Brittnae Roy
Brooke Nicole Rozell
Clark Scallon
Joshua Stephenson

David Tagg
Ayden Terry
Mia Renee Wallace

Associate of Applied Science



Roan Adair
Jordan W Berkley
Terrylynn A Diaz

Φ Keli Therese Dickerson
Justiss Cobbins Evans
Φ Franco Guerrero Gutierrez

James Russell Hedges
Lauren Martin
Garrett McQueen

Jacob Pelkey
Kaedon Self
Φ Georgia R Williams

Certificates of Competency



Agriculture - Farm and Ranch Management

Jessica Arnold	Cole Roberts
Φ Tyler Edwards	Hayden Stump
Lauren Martin	Mia Renee Wallace
Mack McMullan	

Agriculture - Regenerative Agriculture Level 1

Φ Keli Therese Dickerson

Agriculture - Regenerative Agriculture Level 2

Φ Keli Therese Dickerson

Agriculture - Sustainable Agriculture Level 1

Kenard Anderson
Lauren Martin

Agriculture - Sustainable Agriculture Level 2

Lauren Martin

Automotive/Auto Body - Auto Body Repair

Juan Pablo Mata	Brent E Titus
Rylan McDaniel	

Automotive/Auto Body - Auto Body Repair Technician

Juan Pablo Mata
Rylan McDaniel

Automotive/Auto Body -

Automotive Maintenance Specialist Level 1

Jean Diego Campos	Jolene Skye Nail
Carey Tristan Escobar	Rickkey L Ray II
Cesar R Garcia Jr	Christian Sanchez
Giovanni Lopez Garcia	Kaedon Self
Emmanuel Jaime	Mason Shields
Jordan Kennedy	Maxim Terry
Imanol Lopez	Aiden Van Meter
Samuel Mendez-Lopez	Matthew Zamarripa

Automotive/Auto Body -

Automotive Maintenance & Light Repair Level 1

Jordan Kennedy	Kaedon Self
Imanol Lopez	Mason Shields
Samuel Mendez-Lopez	Maxim Terry

Automotive/Auto Body - Shelby Automotive Technician Level 1

Johnathan Franklin	Daniel Mojica
Ian Lively	Maddox Moore

Automotive/Auto Body - Shelby Automotive Technician Level 2

Jordan Kennedy	Mason Shields
Samuel Mendez-Lopez	Maxim Terry
Kaedon Self	

Automotive/Auto Body - Shelby Performance Academy

Jordan Kennedy
Kaedon Self

Automotive/Auto Body - Shelby Restoration and Fabrication

Jason Arcibar

Business Management - Business Management

Chloe Bahhur	Selene Moreno
Caryn A. Chrietzberg	Araceli Olvera
Terrylynn A Diaz	Jacob Pelkey
Sandy Alle Guerrero	Hayden Sanders
Kayce Hawkins	Joshua Stephenson
Matthew Lacombe	Landon Lance Tucker
Armando Andres Lara	Megan Tenae Wall
Erica Ariana Martinez	Kyndal Denise Yaross

Business Management - Criminal Justice Specialization

Briana Karina Gonzales

Business Management - Financial Accounting

Joseline Almazan	Andy Gomez
Φ E Mea Banda	Briana Karina Gonzales
Connor Cobern	Sandy Alle Guerrero
Φ Ψ Lauren Nicole Crooks	Φ H Emily Claire Hamlin
Haley Danielson	Jesus Angel Hernandez
Φ E Gabin Desplats	Matthew Lacombe
Terrylynn A Diaz	Aiden Leonard
E Braden Duff	Cameron Leslie
Emily Finney	Hillary G Lyon
Ana Catalina Garrett	Bryson May
Amare Garrett	Makenzie Mayes

Certificates of Competency (Continued)



Business Management - Financial Accounting (Continued)

Katilynne Miller
Alea Marie Minter
Φ Jennifer Aaron Moore
Selene Moreno
Araceli Olvera
Kenia Ortiz
Ana Claire Pearson
Jacob Pelkey
E Alexandria Porter
Nicole Priddy

Moises Ramirez
Ruth Ramirez
Racheal Reynolds
Jason Scot Rickert Jr
Brooke Nicole Rozell
Clark Scallon
Joshua Stephenson
David Tagg
Savanna Jo Taylor
Ayden Terry

Industrial Technology - CNC Operator

Xavier Antonio Cavazos
Montana Grady Gaskin

Industrial Technology - Electrical Technology

Kevin Ayala
Angel Barboza Jr
Sidney Bonilla
Cade Bynum
Carlos Castillo
Angel Guillermo Chavez
Mark Cisneros
Seth Wayne Estoll
Angel Garcia
Jaime Joel Garcia
Juan Manuel Gonzalez
John Lawrence Grider
Ruston Hargett
Angel Herrera
Anthony Herrera
Cadin Johnson
Jonathan Lopez
Cristhofer Marquez

Sergio Marrufo Hernandez
Josue Martinez
Antwain Minter
Jose Leonel Padilla Jr
Mario Eduardo Patino
Alfredo Pineda
Christian Portillo
Gerardo Ramirez Barrientos
Damian Richardson
Luis Jovanny Rojo Jr
Jace Rutledge
Hector Salazar
Angel Gael Sanchez
Jesus Sanchez-Silva
Justin Bryan Thrapp
Peyton Gauge Thurman
Annie Torres
Arturo Yanez Jr

Computer & Info Science - Computer Programming

Allen Suarez Casas
Angel Herrera

Tyeriske Hervey

Computer & Info Science - Cyber Security

Allen Suarez Casas
Whitley James Hamilton

Tyeriske Hervey

Computer & Info Science - Advanced Cyber Security

Allen Suarez Casas

Computer & Info Science - Maintenance & Repair

Φ Franco Guerrero Gutierrez

Cosmetology - Cosmetology Operator

Shelby Allen
Ruth Ann Anderson
Maddison D Barnard
Savannah Jazmine Becerra
Melanie Blanchard
Morgan Blanchard
Kristen Elaine Brown
Patricia Cardenas
Jasmin Cervantes Cardone
Caleigh Cate
Erica Hopper Clubb
Jayla Breann Crouch
Kenia M Cuellar
Grace Abigail Dailey
Cindy Sarai De Leon
Chelsea Derrick
Diana Guadalupe Diaz
Shelbi Laine Duck
Emily Rose Gabel
Isari Alessandra Gonzalez-Rios
Haylee Hammonds
Tyann Harris
Branna Haskins

Madison Michelle Heller
Jessica Henderson
Briana Hernandez
Krystal Hipolito
Carolina Juarez
Payton Jo Kelley
Daira Arlet Lopez
Jennalee McCollum
Gracie Lou McCoy
Trinity Faith Osborne
Aubrey Pilgrim
Lori Piña
Ashley Nicole Ramos
Cheyenne Brianna Rensch
Caydance Jo Leigh Reynolds
Mackayla Rogers
Whitney Shaffer
Haley Brooke Smith
Brenli Kate-Macie Temison
Savannah Raye Ulmer
Shyann Rebecca Wisdom
Izabelle Zavala
Jocelyn Zuniga

Industrial Technology - Industrial Technician

Jacob Boyd
Amelin Erendira Cardenas
Jake Corley
Aaron Coyote
Caelan Michael Benjamin DeLisi
Jorge Alberto Guerrero Jr
Samuel Jimenez-Vallejo

Mosely Johnson
Jayden Lee Madison
Antwain Minter
Skylar Camille North
Isaac Ponce
Angel Ramirez
Morgan Leigh Wolfenberger

Industrial Technology - Industrial Electro-Mechanical Tech

Roan Adair
Octavio Garcia

James Russell Hedges
Skylar Camille North

Welding Technology - Basic Welding

Howard Green
Diego A Renteria

Jack Smith

Welding Technology - Basic Structural (Plate) Welding

Diego A Renteria

Welding Technology - Pipe Welding Fabrication

Diego A Renteria

Culinary Arts - Culinary Arts Level 1

Emily Bivens
Jeff Bivens
Madison McNeil

Garrett McQueen
Marvin Clay Potter

Northeast Texas Community College

Board of Trustees

Brian Applegate

Mr. Applegate is the president and owner of A&A Masonry, Inc., a construction company based in Pittsburg, Texas. With A&A Masonry in business since 1980, he has built a strong reputation for managing large-scale commercial construction projects across the United States. A graduate of Pittsburg High School, he began his higher education at Northeast Texas Community College before earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Agribusiness from Stephen F. Austin State University. His educational and professional journey reflects a deep-rooted connection to the region and a commitment to its growth and development. In addition to his construction work, he also co-owns and operates a small-scale land and cattle company. Mr. Applegate currently serves on the Board of Directors for Texas Heritage National Bank and participates in several of its committees.

Russell East

Mr. East holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania and an MBA from New York University. He retired after 40 years from ExxonMobil in 2017, where he served in numerous roles in process engineering, finance and human resources/compensation. In addition, he helped found Corporate HANDS, the nation's largest locally managed business collaboration established to enhance quality and availability of childcare in Greater Houston. He was subsequently elected to the Board of Directors for Houston's Initiatives for Children (1994-2001) serving as President for 1996-2001. Since moving to Morris County, he has been involved with Longview Regional Medical Center and CHRISTUS Good Shepherd Hospitals and is a member of the Lions Club and South Union Baptist Church.

Chad Elledge

Mr. Elledge graduated from Mt. Pleasant High School and was a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society while attending Northeast Texas Community College. He continued his education at Texas A & M University in College Station earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science. He also holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Texas A&M University in Commerce. Mr. Elledge is also a graduate of the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at Southern Methodist University. He has 25 years of banking experience. He is currently the Chief Risk Officer at Texas Heritage National Bank, where he is responsible for the oversight of the bank's Enterprise Risk Management System, the bank's Compliance Department, the Information Technology Department, and several other special projects for the bank.

Sondra A. Fowler

Ms. Fowler has a Bachelor of Science degree from Texas A&M University-Commerce, attended the London Business School, and continued her education at the University of St. Thomas. She is a communications manager with 30 years of headquarters experience in four major multinational corporations including petroleum, chemicals, food and insurance industries in the United States and Great Britain. Ms. Fowler retired from Conoco in 2002 as head of the company's global external communications, and is actively involved in numerous volunteer endeavors.

Robin Sharp

Mr. Sharp is Executive Vice President of Guaranty Bond Bank and is an advisory member of the Bank's Board of Directors. In addition to commercial lending responsibilities, he has administrative oversight of the Titus County bank locations and he supervises the bank's Regulatory Compliance, Risk Management, and Loan Operations divisions. Mr. Sharp has over 30 years of experience in banking. He earned his Bachelor's degree from Texas Tech University, attended the American British College in Barcelona, Spain, and continued his education at the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking in Dallas where he graduated with Honors in 2007.

Stephanie Thurman

Stephanie Thurman is a pharmacist and co-owns Thurman's Pro-Med Pharmacy in downtown Mount Pleasant with her husband, Tris Thurman. She attended Southern Nazarene University and earned a Bachelor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy. She has worked in the pharmacy industry for 25 years. Thurman also received the Community Independent Preceptor of the Year for 2015-2016 while serving as a learning site for the UT Tyler College of Pharmacy.

Kerry Wootten

Mr. Wootten is a native of Mount Pleasant, Texas, graduating from Mount Pleasant High School. He is a graduate of Baylor University, with a BBA in Accounting and a law degree from the Baylor University School of Law. He is also a certified public accountant. Prior to moving back to Mount Pleasant, he practiced with Touche Ross & Company CPAs in Dallas, now known as Deloitte. He has practiced law for the past 42 years in Mount Pleasant, primarily handling probate and estate matters, real estate, banking, and municipal law. He has also served as City Attorney for the City of Mount Pleasant.

THE ACADEMIC PROCESSION

In colleges and universities, academic degrees are conferred at commencement exercises. Originally, the term meant the inception of the student graduate as a teacher and his recognition as such by his master and other members of the profession. Thus, the term once marked an actual beginning.

The processional and reccessional of students and faculty dressed in academic regalia is a traditional part of these commencement exercises. The history of academic dress goes back to the medieval universities. In the 12th and 13th centuries, when universities were taking form, they were under the jurisdiction of the church. Those studying wore a habit or cloak to which was attached a cowl or hood which could be pulled up over the head or thrown back, according to weather conditions. Later, the gown served the dual purpose of providing warmth in the unheated halls as well as uniformity of dress.

The hood seems to have had three uses: a covering, a shoulder cape, and a bag for collecting alms. It is believed that when large wigs were worn, the cape part of the hood was cut open in front and the entire garment, cape and hood proper, was allowed to fall back, producing approximately the effect seen today. After wigs went out of fashion, the original shape was not restored. The master's hood is longer than the bachelor's, and the doctor's longer than the master's.

Gowns commonly worn in the colleges and universities of this country have pointed sleeves for the bachelor's degree, long closed sleeves (with a slit for the arm) for the master's degree, and bell-shaped, open sleeves for the doctor's degree. The master's and bachelor's gowns have no trimming. The gown for the doctor's degree is faced down the front with black velvet with three pairs of the same across the sleeves; or these facing and cross bars may be of velvet of the color distinctive of the faculty or subject to which the degree pertains.

The cap is an essential part of the academic dress and it is to be retained on the head throughout all academic exercises except during prayer. In particular, the cap is not to be removed at any point in the conferment of a degree.

All hoods are lined with silk showing the official colors of the institution which conferred the degree, and all are trimmed in specific widths with velvet signifying the degree as follows:

AGRICULTURE-maize	MEDICINE-green
ARTS AND LETTERS-white	MUSIC-pink
COMMERCE & ACCOUNTANCY-drab	NURSING-apricot
DENTISTRY-lilac	ORATORY-silver gray
ECONOMICS-copper	PHARMACY-olive green
EDUCATION-light blue	PHILOSOPHY-dark blue
ENGINEERING-orange	PHYSICAL EDUCATION-sage green
FINE ARTS (incl. Architecture)-brown	PUBLIC HEALTH-salmon pink
FORESTRY-russet	SCIENCE-golden yellow
HUMANITIES-crimson	SOCIAL SCIENCE-citron
LAW-purple	THEOLOGY-scarlet
LIBRARY SCIENCE-lemon	VETERINARY SCIENCE-gray

LEGEND: Φ Phi Theta Kappa Ψ Psi Beta Σ The Society for Collegiate Journalists A Alpha Delta Nu E Sigma Kappa Delta
H Honors Northeast, Presidential Scholar
Phi Theta Kappa, International Honor Society of the Two-Year College
Psi Beta, National Honor Society in Psychology for Community and Junior Colleges
The Society for Collegiate Journalist is the nation's oldest honorary society for collegiate journalism
Sigma Kappa Delta, National Honor Society in English for Community and Junior Colleges
Alpha Delta Nu, Nursing Honor Society

The listing of graduates is based upon information provided prior to printing of the program. The appearance or absence of any name in the program does not constitute recognition or denial of completion of degree or certificate requirements. The awarding of degrees and certificates will be based on the outcome of final examinations and final grades. The College apologizes for any errors or omissions.

