

**EVENT:** Spring 2022 commencement

**DATE:** May 12-14

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

Faculty and guests, please be seated. Graduates, please remain standing.

Congratulations, Mavericks! It is my honor to be here today as each of you wraps your arms around the goal you've been working and striving toward as you officially join the ranks of our 250,000 esteemed Maverick alumni.

Though it's been some time since I was in your shoes, eagerly awaiting the moment I'd get to throw my cap in the air as a new alumnus, we still have something in common: we're both stepping into a new chapter brimming with possibilities. For me, I'm navigating my new role as president of The University of Texas at Arlington. And you, you just received the UTA degree that will unlock a world of opportunity.

While I'm just starting my tenure here, UTA and the Maverick Family have been on my radar long before I sat in my office chair. I grew up in Arlington and attended summer camps and classes at UTA. I've worked at universities in North Texas and beyond. Through it all, I've come to know that Mavericks are innovative, hardworking and passionate about creating their impact on the world. Though I'm coming in at what may be the tail end of your journey here at UTA as *students*, I am excited to follow your futures as UTA *alumni*. I know – because you are Mavericks – that you're innovative, hardworking and passionate, and equipped with the skills you need to make a big impact.

I've said over the past few weeks that our state needs UTA to dream big for the betterment of our communities and our people. I want to charge you with the same task. Let us see what the future of our University, state, nation, and beyond looks like with you leading the way.

The path ahead of you now may at times seem daunting, the possibilities may feel overwhelming, but the same persistence and resilience that's brought you to this moment – now fortified by your UTA degree – makes you more than capable at taking those possibilities and turning them into realities.

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. A rich community of engaged alumni opens doors for all of us, and we want to hear all about what you're seeing, doing, and achieving.

Now, 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!