



**Chancellor's Remarks
Commencement
December 19, 2015**

"Good afternoon and welcome to Texas Christian University's fall commencement.

You are making TCU history today as graduates and participants of the FIRST commencement held in the new Ed and Rae Schollmaier Arena.

This is a glorious day of celebration

- for you, our graduates,
- for your families and friends,
- and for this University.

To each graduate, I offer my heart-felt congratulations. This is your day.

Your achievement was earned through hard work, perseverance, and, undoubtedly, a little bit of luck.

These past few weeks, you have looked back on your college days . . . and nights . . . recalling good friends, and favorite classes.

You have reflected on the many changes in your lives and your world since Frog Camp and Chancellor's Assembly.

It has been a remarkable journey, one that deserves pause for retrospection.

Think about it..

Your college career began when you met your first professor in that first class on a hot August day. It was the start of many more great classes with professors who challenged you to reach your full potential over the course of several semesters leading up to today.

Your journey also includes TCU becoming a football force in the Big 12 and making several national Bowl appearances.

TCU baseball competed in the College World Series and our rifle team won the national championship.

Some of you attended the Hunter Hayes concert in the commons and enjoyed the performances of Saturday Night Live comedians.

Some here today have traveled abroad to study – what a global educational experience.

Many of you held internships.

Worked on campus.

Played on a team.

Started a student organization.

Made a video.

Wrote a poem.

Learned to dance.

Who knew "learning to change the world" could be so much fun!

It has been a good time to be a Horned Frog.

We hope you found your TCU family and the campus felt like home.

There were plenty of distractions along the way.

Since you began your TCU career...

House of Cards, Walking Dead, and How to Get Away with Murder debuted as popular TV series.

Jimmy Fallon became the late night talk show sensation.

Justin Bieber made a comeback.

Speaking of comebacks, Adele returned after a four year hiatus with her soulful song, "Hello."

Pope Benedict was replaced by Pope Francis.

Prince George of Cambridge and Princess Charlotte arrived on the scene as third and fourth in line for the crown in Britain.

Apple introduced new devices—including iPad Air 2 and iPhone 6--with several innovations along the way.

Ride sharing grew with Uber and Lyft applications on our mobile devices.

While the landscape of popular culture was changing, so was the campus during the past four years.

Sadler Hall was renovated as was Erma Lowe Hall – the Dance Building.

In the past two years we opened Marion, Clark and Hays Halls in the Worth Hills area.

Simultaneously, efforts have been directed on the development of the Intellectual Commons.

Last fall, we opened the new Rees-Jones Hall which features cutting edge educational tools and approaches within an innovative learning setting. It has become a new favorite place for students to study and gather for team meetings.

This fall we completed the makeover project of the Mary Couets Burnett Library which connects to the Rees Jones Building.

During your college career, you have witnessed Big 12 excitement at the Amon G. Carter Stadium and watched the transformation of the Daniel-Meyer Coliseum into our newest state-of-the-art facility –the Ed and Rae Schollmaier Arena.

I am sure a number of you will be taking pictures today

at special places all around your beautiful campus.

As the campus has grown, so too has the reputation of the university.

- TCU has been recognized as ‘One of the Best Colleges in the West’ by the Princeton Review.
- We were rated as a “Great place to work” for the past five years by the Chronicle of Higher Education.
- Our position has been solidified among the top 100 colleges and universities—some 3,500-- in America.

A recent alumni survey confirmed that the TCU diploma is well respected and valued, with nearly 92% of graduates responding that the Horned Frog experience was worth it.

TCU has grown in numbers, opportunities, and impact.

Our faculty members continue to earn distinction in their fields.

We are raising the academic profile and reputation of TCU – and you are helping us.

The members of the Class of 2015 have added to the stature of TCU.

- From Fulbright Scholars to our nationally recognized athletes
- to those who have given thousands of hours of community service –
- all bring honor to TCU.

Your legacy is...

- one of great spirit, creativity, contributions to knowledge,
- a commitment to what defines TCU: a values-centered student experience.

Your participation in the student-led development of the Student Creed has resulted in a statement that is both an inspiration and a challenge to future generations of students.

The Student Creed calls upon students to "commit to excellence by serving with respect, learning with passion, and leading with integrity."

I maintain that these principles will serve you well throughout life.

- I ask you to serve with respect.
- Continue learning with passion.
- Lead with integrity.

If you keep these touchstones with you, we will have met our goal "to educate ethical leaders and responsible citizens in the global community."

I can't wait to see what you accomplish.

- Some of you are continuing your education in graduate or professional school.
- Some are joining Teach for America and other service programs before launching into a career or another degree.
- I know that some of you are still in the job search.

No matter your current status, you are equipped with knowledge and experiences that will serve you well as you embark on the next chapter in your life.

I am confident that TCU graduates will perform well.

Just as the graduates have spent time this week looking back on their college experience, so, too, have families marked this milestone by recalling the journey that brought you here.

- To them, it started that first day of school when they sent you off to kindergarten with an Elmo lunch box and new crayons.
- They recall your driver's test, prom, choosing a college, bringing you to campus and moving you into your room.
- And now, helping you move out.

The journey to this day was not made alone.

I congratulate the family members and friends who have stood by these graduates, supported them, maybe nagged them a little, and today celebrate with them. I know you are proud . . . and relieved. Thank you for being part of the extended TCU family.

As befits this occasion, I feel it is important to share some candid advice with the graduates.

My advice to you: Try something new. Keep learning. Take a chance.

- Be bold.
- Be on time.
- Remember the Neon Trees song "Everybody Talks"? Talk more, face to face, with real people. Don't do all your communicating through texting with your thumbs.

- Whatever you commit to, see it through.
- Send a handwritten note once in a while. It will amaze and please the recipient.
- Think before hitting the "send" button.
- Be kind and treat others with civility and respect.
- Stay close to TCU. Attend one of the national networking nights for alumni held in cities coast to coast. Check the website. Friend us on Facebook. Follow us on Twitter. Come visit. I think you will like what you see.
- And always keep a purple shirt handy to show your Frog Pride.

I will not say "goodbye."

I offer you "best wishes" and "sincere congratulations."

And I say with great seriousness: "see you later" and "don't be a stranger."" I hope to be here for many years, and I hope to see you, and your children, often.

I am so proud of each of you.

Thank you for choosing Texas Christian University.

It has been our privilege to have you on our campus.

We will continue to work hard to make you proud, and increase the value of your TCU diploma.

Godspeed on your way."