



**Chancellor's Remarks
Commencement
May 7, 2016**

“Good morning/Good afternoon and welcome to Texas Christian University’s spring commencement.

You are making TCU history today as graduates and participants of the FIRST spring 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 includes TCU becoming a football force in the Big 12 and making national Bowl appearances.

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 during the past four years, so was the TCU campus.

Marion, Clark and Hays Halls were opened in the Worth Hills area, providing more on-campus living options to students.

We developed the Intellectual Commons on the east side of campus and opened the new Rees-Jones Hall, featuring cutting edge approaches within an innovative learning setting. It has become a new favorite place for students to study and gather for team meetings.

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

During your time at TCU, 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 2016 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.

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.

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.
- Whatever you commit to, see it through.
- Send a handwritten note once in a while. It will amaze and please the recipient.
- 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."