



**Texas Christian University Fall Convocation
September 11, 2018**

What an exciting time for all of us as we launch our one hundred forty sixth academic year.

Convocation is a meaningful and significant event for our campus community. It provides us the opportunity to celebrate the beginning of another academic year, and to share our aspirations for Texas Christian University in the year ahead.

At Opening Luncheon a few weeks ago, we heard from three of our campus leaders – Dr. Greg Stephens, Associate Professor of Management and Leadership, Neeley School of Business, and chair of the Faculty Senate, Walter Betts, Systems Librarian, Mary Couets Burnett Library, and chair of the Staff Assembly, and Abbey Widick, President of the Student Government Association. All of them spoke about the importance of leadership as we work together to develop responsible world citizens and values-centered leaders.

Dr. Stephens emphasized the opportunity we all have to serve the many needs that are all around us and “to show our students through our own efforts” that we can make a difference.

Mr. Betts reminded us that we all have opportunity every day to “make TCU a special place” no matter where we work on campus. It’s who we are and what we do.

And Ms. Widick recognized “your small, intentional gestures...” that together form a “Community that Cares,” and she encouraged us to “continue to foster this spirit of caring among campus this year.”

Last year, we proudly shared our Lead On story – an expression of the heart and soul of this University.

Lead On is more than just a tagline, a color, a logo or a campaign. It’s about bringing the TCU essence to life from the inside out through the inspiring stories of our people, at all levels, taking the lead on making TCU a force for the greater good.

Leadership expert John C. Maxwell has focused a lot of his work on emphasizing the importance of leading from where you are.

In his book titled *The 360 Degree Leader*, he writes, “Leadership is a choice you make, not a place you sit. Anyone can choose to become a leader wherever he or she is. You can make a difference no matter where you are.”

I really believe that. And I know that each of you can lead wherever you are in our organization.

There are opportunities to lead up by influencing those above you, lead across by influencing those beside you and lead down by influencing those below you.

And for all of us at TCU, there are opportunities to lead on.

Today, as we stand on the cusp of another academic year, I want to encourage you to stop and really think about the opportunities you have to lead from wherever you are in our Horned Frog community. By intentionally pursuing your own personal leadership, you make us all better. Now I invite you to join me as we watch the story of one of our Horned Frog Family, Catelyn Hawkins, who leads from where she is. [Show video]

This video is one of six that recently have been developed, telling the individual TCU leadership stories that together make our community so powerful.

Going forward, we will focus on how individuals are taking the lead on making a difference in their respective areas.

As Catelyn said, it's important to learn how to be an individual in a group, one who works hard to make our community better and our collective impact extraordinary.

It's up to all of us to live our shared values and be the leaders the world needs.

I am so proud to be a part of this great university. Your support has made everything possible. Your expertise, your passion for and your commitment to TCU inspire me.

Thank you very much for your attention today and for your leadership and support always. Now let's all go forward and Lead On!