



**Texas Christian University Fall Convocation and Chancellor's Assembly
August 20, 2022**

It is my honor and privilege to be with you tonight.

This evening is special because we begin a new and historic academic year – our 150th – here at Texas Christian University.

To mark this special occasion, we invited the entire campus community to gather and build excitement for our Sesquicentennial, which begins in January and will culminate in fall 2023.

TCU was founded in 1873 as one of the first universities to educate both men and women – groundbreaking in its day.

Today, TCU boasts students from diverse backgrounds from across the globe and of course, from our beloved city, Fort Worth.

It's affirming that we continue to grow and thrive as a University, within a rapidly changing environment.

But **MOST IMPORTANTLY** – we continue to achieve our mission.

Universities across the world, and TCU in particular, have a critical role to play in our global community.

For 150 years, TCU has been educating leaders to be a force for the greater good.

For our Sesquicentennial, we'll celebrate our achievements. And we want you to celebrate with us.

But more importantly, we will look into our future and celebrate the impact and values that make TCU timeless.

And now... it's time to begin the celebration of our 150th **ACADEMIC** year.

If you are new to the Horned Frog family, we are proud to welcome you to TCU.

For those returning, I am very happy to see you and thank you for all you've done to get us ready for a new academic year.

Our newest Horned Frogs – the Class of 2026 – here with us this evening, is a bright, talented, diverse and inspiring group.

Class of 2026: your average high school GPA of 3.70 is the highest in TCU history!

We are also pleased to welcome new leadership. Like everything at TCU, we WILL achieve our goals through the excellence of our people.

Key hires in our schools and colleges have elevated our academic profile and include deans, professors, faculty and staff, including:

- Amy Hardison Tully – inaugural Teresa Ann Carter King dean of the College of Fine Arts
- Reginald Wilburn – recently named associate provost of undergraduate affairs
- Ron Pitcock – longtime Frog and our newest dean hire as the Wassenich Family Endowed Chair of the John V. Roach Honors College

New senior administrators will have a big impact:

- Jonathan Benjamin-Alvarado (pronounced Alva-Rod-O), senior advisor to the chancellor and chief inclusion officer
- Fran Huckaby, associate provost of faculty affairs
- Bill Nunez, vice chancellor for finance and administration
- Jason Safran, chief investment officer

We are excited to have you all on board.

I want to take a few minutes to update you on the University's plans and progress, because I am VERY PROUD of what we have achieved together for the future of our University.

We remain focused on the four goals of the University's strategic plan, *Vision in Action: Lead On* –

- Strengthening TCU's academic profile and reputation,
- The endowment,
- The TCU experience and campus culture,
- And the workforce.

These mirror the priorities of Lead On: A Campaign for TCU, our most ambitious fundraising campaign in University history.

Our campaign is the fuel that powers our strategic plan.

- The campaign total now stands at \$843 million
- \$595 million for our people and programs, and...
- \$274 million for student scholarships.

This level of support was made possible by the generosity of our TCU community.

We look forward to celebrating a successful campaign in conjunction with the Sesquicentennial late next year.

In other exciting news, the University has also received some accolades worth sharing.

- TCU has been rated as a Top 100 National University by *U.S. News & World Report* for 12 consecutive years.
- From *The Princeton Review*, TCU is rated:
 - #4 Best College Dorms
 - Top 20 Best Schools for Internships (actually #4)
 - Top 20 Best Alumni Networks (actually #6).
- And for the fourth year in a row, TCU has received the INSIGHT into Diversity Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award, which recognizes outstanding and actionable commitment to diversity and inclusion.

Several key campus projects are underway to support our culture and campus experience. These include:

- The M.E. Sadler Hall Repurposing Project that will house our John V. Roach Honors College and select AddRan departments
- Planning for the East Campus Residence Halls and Dining project

- We're breaking ground on the newly named Anne Burnett Marion School of Medicine's five-acre campus in the heart of the medical district.

The TCU connection culture and campus experience is supported by a workforce of 2,395 faculty and staff.

I deeply appreciate our talented and dedicated faculty and staff who mean so much to TCU.

You exemplify what makes TCU truly extraordinary – our people.

This is a powerful academic community that is united by mission, vision and values.

As I begin my 20th year at TCU, I can honestly say it continues to be my honor to serve as Chancellor and work alongside you every day.

In closing, I want to share some advice that I usually give to our first-year students, which may be beneficial to all of us here tonight as we begin this historic academic year.

We believe at TCU that you will be able to develop academically, personally and professionally.

We believe you'll find your passion and define your values.

We believe you will leave here equipped and ready to change the world.

In the year ahead, I encourage you to meet someone different from you.

Ask questions. Join conversations that you might not otherwise.

Get to know one another and be curious about one another's stories.

Celebrate the differences that make each of you unique.

Students – take the initiative to meet your professors and staff.

These people care about your success at TCU and in life. Take advantage of their wisdom and expertise.

Remember that this is our community. YOU are our community.

TCU was built on the passion and commitment of those who've come before us.

We are ALL shaped by this wonderful place during our time here.

I'm proud of our past 150 years.

And as I look across this crowd, I'm confident about the next 150 years as well.

Good luck in the year ahead and thank you for all you do!

I look forward to seeing you on campus soon.

Lead On, Horned Frogs!