



**Chancellor's Remarks
Spring Commencement
May 7, 2022**

“Good morning, and welcome to Texas Christian University’s SPRING commencement.

This is a wonderful day of celebration:

- for you, our graduates,
- for your families and friends,
- and for this University, as we close out our 149th academic year.

To the extraordinary Class of 2022, I offer my heart-felt congratulations.

Some of you are the first in your family to graduate from college, and a number of you hail from a long line of Horned Frogs.

But I think I can safely say that none of you are the same person you were since the days of Frog Camp, Orientation, Frogs First, and the Chancellor’s Assembly.

Just like many areas on campus, you have also undergone an amazing transformation these past few years.

A transformation designed for the future. Your future.

You have proven to everyone that you are resilient by finishing strong.

Despite the trials and tribulations you faced, you reached your degree goal during a period of time that is unprecedented in the history of TCU...as well as the history of our nation and the world, for that matter.

If there is a silver lining to living through the pandemic, we have learned more about ourselves and creative ways to not only survive, but to thrive. There is no doubt in my mind that you are ready to handle any adversity that you may confront in the future.

As members of the TCU Class of 2022, you hold the distinction of having the ability to find light when there was darkness, to find joy in times of sadness, and to find virtual fellowship. I will always marvel at your perseverance.

I hope you have taken a little time to reflect on your college days... and nights... to remember your TCU experience and the connections you've made with other students and faculty.

Remember those special days when you walked across campus and heard the bells ring from Robert Carr Chapel.

Remember the excitement and anticipation of game day at Amon G. Carter Stadium.

Remember the Tree Lighting event when the entire campus community came together for fun, fellowship, and fireworks.

These are just a few things that will forever distinguish TCU in your hearts and minds. It's been a remarkable journey worth looking back on.

Your college career likely began on a hot August day when you met your first professor in that very first class.

That was the start of many more classes, labs and projects that challenged you to reach your full potential, finally leading to this moment.

Many of you wasted no time getting involved here on campus. You:

- Tried new things.
- Held internships.
- Joined an organization.
- Started an organization.

- Became part of a team.
- Performed onstage.
- Took the field or court for the Horned Frogs.
- Created something on your own.
- Created something with a lasting legacy.

You met people who were not just like you, and engaged in conversations that shed light on a different perspective.

You cheered for the Frogs. And you cheered for each other. You supported your fellow students.

We hope you found your TCU family, and that our campus became like home.

Maybe you fell in love--with a person, or a new major, maybe even with yourself and that's not all bad - or a cause that became important to you.

You started "adulting" and learned to juggle multiple priorities and manage your time. And what a time it was.

During your time here...

Our campus was visited by notable entertainers, comedians, and politicians. Not that they are one in the same...

The Commons was turned into an outdoor living space with furniture and games, providing desirable spaces to gather with friends and take mental health breaks.

During your time here, great strides were made in the areas of diversity, equity and inclusion. TCU launched the Race and Reconciliation Initiative to examine the university's relationship with slavery, racism and the Confederacy. We also opened a Multicultural Center at the Brown-Lupton University Union, a space both requested and designed by students that you very quickly made your own.

On the athletics scene...The Horned Frogs won some and lost some. For those who attended watch parties or traveled to games, you know firsthand that a loyal TCU fan will never change the channel or leave a game early.

In addition to campus culture and athletics, you keep us up to date with the newest businesses and technologies that change how we interact with the world.

When I was in college, we could call a cab. You use Uber and Lyft to get around Fort Worth.

I remember writing checks to pay my bills – you've made it a social experience with Venmo and CashApp.

Pizza delivery was popular in my college days. Now we have Doordash, Grubhub and Uber Eats that offers us the ultimate convenience to order the food we love. And get it immediately.

Then there is social media. I have to admit that you are into so many things I don't even fully understand. While you are into YourTube and Instant Grammy's, I am still trying to learn how to answer a FaceTime call without deleting the caller on my iPhone.

You are all such big sharers and if you would trust me on this one thing, I promise you that less is more. The harsh truth is most people don't really want to see a picture of the food on your lunch plate...unless maybe you are in culinary school...which none of you are.

Please, please, please, again, trust me on this – less is almost always better. I worry sometimes that you all feel your every waking thought needs to be shared with everyone else on Spacebook or whatever you call it. I worry that you “give out” so much about yourself that you actually end up losing yourself.

Graduates, we all know the journey to this day was not made alone. It is appropriate on this special occasion to thank those who have sacrificed so your highest academic aspirations and goals could be reached.

Therefore, I congratulate the family members and friends who have stood by these graduates, supported them, maybe nagged them just a little, and today celebrate

with them. I know you are so proud . . . and relieved. Thank you for being part of the extended TCU family.

So allow me to close with this...

- Be bold and seize opportunities.
- Whatever you commit to, see it through.
- Keep it positive. There is a lot of anger out there. Have grace, and move on.
- Remember there is no substitute EVER for hard work.
- Send a handwritten note.
- Wear purple often.
- Do more listening than talking.
- Don't overshare.
- Most importantly, be kind and treat others with civility and respect. Create space in your life for people who have a different perspective from you. Be open to new ideas and new views.

TCU grads, you have been on quite a journey.

I believe that sometime in the future, you will be asked by the youngsters in your family what it was like to go to college during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I hope you will respond that during a time of uncertainty, TCU served as your North Star--and the faculty, staff, and your peers provided the support you needed in our quest toward a purposeful destination. As members of the TCU family, we will always share a sense of connection because of what we have experienced—**TOGETHER.**

Thank you for choosing Texas Christian University. We will continue to work hard to make you proud and increase the value of your TCU diploma.

Good luck on your journey of life. All of us left behind here on campus look forward to watching your success from afar.