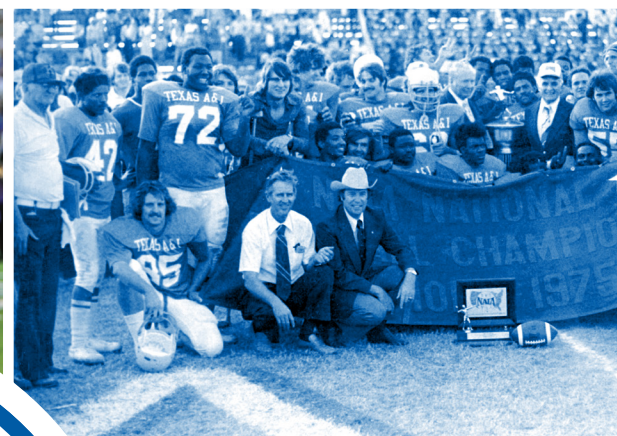
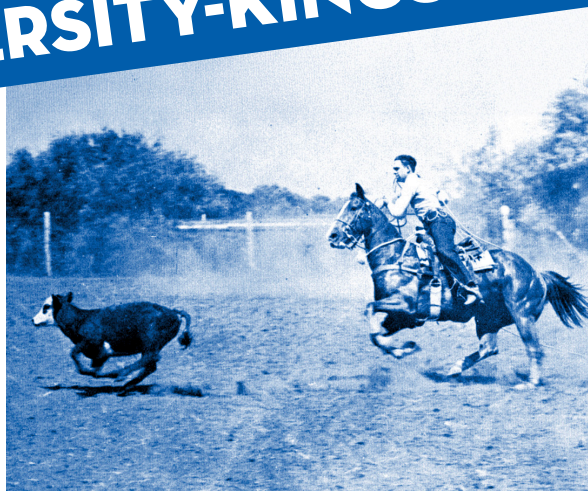


# TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-KINGSVILLE®



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-KINGSVILLE®

# Commencement

AUGUST 8, 2025





## PROGRAM

The Commencement of the One Hundredth Annual Session  
Friday, August 8, 2025 • 10:00 a.m. • Steinke Physical Education Center

PRESIDING .....Dr. James M. Palmer  
*Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs*

PRELUDE.....Pianist  
Dr. Joachim Reinhuber, *Professor of Music*

PROCESSIONAL *Pomp and Circumstance No. 1* by Edward Elgar .....Pianist

Audience stands for PROCESSIONAL and RECESSIONAL

### THE ACADEMIC PROCESSION

The President of the Faculty Senate, The Party of the President, The Party of the Deans, The Regents Professors, The Chancellor's Academy of Teacher Educators, The Faculty of the University, Candidates for Degrees

NATIONAL ANTHEM *Star Spangled Banner* by Francis Scott Key .....Deja Goodwin  
*Master of Music*  
*Vocal Performance*

WELCOME ..... Dr. Palmer

PRESENTATION OF DISTINGUISHED STUDENT AWARDS ..... College Deans

INTRODUCTIONS ..... Dr. Robert H. Vela Jr.  
*University President*

GREETINGS .....Robert L. "Bob" Albritton  
*Chairman, Board of Regents,*  
*The Texas A&M University System*

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS .....Mr. Erik Antonio Zamora

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES. .... Dr. Palmer

WELCOME GRADUATES TO THE JAVELINA ALUMNI NETWORK. ....Mr. Daniel Morales  
*Javelina Alumni Association President*

ALMA MATER *HAIL AMK*, arranged by Dr. Greg Sanders, Regents Professor.....Ms. Goodwin

RECESSIONAL *Trumpet Voluntary* by Jeremiah Clarke .....Pianist



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## UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Robert H. Vela Jr. ....	<i>University President</i>
Dr. James M. Palmer .....	<i>Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs</i>
Dr. Rosalind Alderman.....	<i>Vice President of Enrollment Management</i>
Henry Burgos .....	<i>Chief Administrative Officer</i>
Dr. Jose Espiritu .....	<i>Vice President for Research and Innovation</i>
Jacob Flournoy .....	<i>Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer</i>
Adriana Garza-Flores.....	<i>Chief Marketing and Communications Officer</i>
Jason Geiken .....	<i>Vice President of University Advancement and Chief Foundation Officer</i>
Michael Salinas .....	<i>Executive Director of Javelina Athletics</i>
Dr. Rito Silva .....	<i>Vice President of Student Affairs and Community Relations</i>
Dr. Kristina Ramirez Wilson.....	<i>Chief of Performance Excellence and Strategy</i>
Dr. Robert Ayala.....	<i>Associate Vice President of Academic Success</i>
Joanne Castro .....	<i>Associate Vice President of Financial Services</i>
Gabriel Cavazos .....	<i>Director of Information Technology Services</i>
Kirsten Company .....	<i>Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students</i>
Dr. Dolores Guerrero .....	<i>Dean, College of Arts and Sciences</i>
Dr. Darin Hoskisson.....	<i>Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Graduate Studies</i>
Dr. Brent Kinghorn .....	<i>Interim Dean, College of Business Administration</i>
Evangelina Lopez .....	<i>Associate Vice President of People and Culture</i>
Dr. Kathleen Lynch-Davis .....	<i>Dean, College of Education and Human Performance</i>
Dr. Maria E. Martinez .....	<i>Associate Vice President for Student Access</i>
Dr. Shad Nelson .....	<i>Dean, Dick and Mary Lewis Kleberg College of Agriculture and Natural Resources</i>
Mildred Slaughter .....	<i>University Registrar</i>
Dr. Heidi A. Taboada.....	<i>Dean, Frank H. Dotterweich College of Engineering</i>
Anne Thurwalker .....	<i>Associate Vice President for Development</i>
Dr. Maria E. Velez-Hernandez .....	<i>Interim Assistant Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Studies</i>
Christopher Vera .....	<i>Associate Vice President, Campus Operations</i>

## CAMPUS REPRESENTATIVES

Harley Davis.....	<i>President, Student Government Association</i>
Kim London .....	<i>President, Staff Council</i>
Dr. Jody Marin .....	<i>President, Faculty Senate</i>

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## SPEAKERS

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### Erik Antonio Zamora

Our student commencement speaker today is Erik A. Zamora from Brownsville. He will be receiving a master of science degree in plant and soil science. In 2022, Zamora earned his bachelor of science degree in range and wildlife management with a minor in biology, also, from Texas A&M-Kingsville. His research interests include soil health, agroecology and organic farming.

His master's degree work is funded by a National Science Foundation CREST grant and the Leading grant. He also wrote and was awarded the Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Graduate Student grant. He has been a graduate teaching assistant and a graduate research assistant, both for the department of agriculture, agribusiness and environmental sciences.

In 2024, Zamora received the Plant and Soil Science Graduate Student of the Year from the Dick and Mary Lewis Kleberg College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and in 2021 he was on the first-place team pit soil judging team at the regional competition.

Zamora has been assistant coach for the Texas A&M-Kingsville soil judging team since 2022 and in 2023, they won third place in team pit at the regional awards. He won Texas A&M-Kingsville's first three-minute thesis and was a finalist at the regional competition.

He also is a member of the Soil Science Society of America, American Society of Agronomy, and Crop Science Society of America.

Zamora will soon start work on his doctorate in soil chemistry at Texas A&M University.

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## DISTINGUISHED STUDENT AWARD WINNERS

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**Cristal Martinez \***

*Dick and Mary Lewis Kleberg College of  
Agriculture and Natural Resources*

**Erik Antonio Zamora**

*College of Graduate Studies*

**Sophia Nicole Hamm \*\*\***

*Undergraduate Studies*

**Alexandra Marcela Helmstetler \*\***

*Honors College*

\* Cum Laude

\*\* Magna Cum Laude

\*\*\* Summa Cum Laude

^ Presidential Medal

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## PRESIDENT, FACULTY SENATE

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### **Dr. Jody Marin**

*Professor in the Department of  
Language and Literature and  
Director of the Writing Center*

## MARSHALS

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### **Dr. Jason Apple**

*Associate Dean and Professor in the  
Dick and Mary Lewis Kleberg  
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Animal Science and Veterinary Technology*

### **Dr. Lorraine Killion**

*Professor in the Department of  
Health and Kinesiology*

### **Fulden Şara De Wissinger**

*Associate Professor in the Department of  
Art, Communication and Theatre*

### **Dr. Elda Sanchez**

*Professor in the Department of  
Chemistry*

### **Dr. David Cutton**

*Associate Professor in the Department of  
Health and Kinesiology*

## THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM REGENTS

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**Robert L. “Bob” Albritton**  
*Chairman*

**Jay Graham**  
*Vice Chairman*

**David C. Baggett**  
**John W. Bellinger**  
**James R. “Randy” Brooks**

**Michael A. “Mike” Hernandez III**  
**Bill Mahomes**  
**Kelley Sullivan Georgiades**

**Sam Torn**  
**Jaquavous S. Doucette**  
*Student Regent*

## TEXAS A&M-KINGSVILLE REGENTS PROFESSORS

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**Dr. Michael E. Tewes - 2007**  
*Professor in the Department of  
Rangeland and Wildlife Sciences*

**Dr. Nestor Sherman - 2013**  
*Professor in the Department of  
Health and Kinesiology*

**Dr. Bart Ballard - 2022**  
*Professor in the Department of  
Rangeland and Wildlife Sciences*

**Dr. Scott E. Henke - 2008**  
*Professor in the Department of  
Rangeland and Wildlife Sciences*

**Dr. Gregory Lynn Sanders - 2017**  
*Professor in the School of  
Music*

**Dr. Maribel Gonzalez-Garcia - 2023**  
*Professor in the Department of  
Chemistry*

**Dr. Mauro Castro - 2010**  
*Professor in the Department of  
Chemistry*

**Dr. Fidel Hernandez - 2021**  
*Professor in the Department of  
Rangeland and Wildlife Sciences*

**Dr. Jieming Chen - 2024**  
*Professor in the Department of  
Psychology and Sociology*

## CHANCELLOR’S ACADEMY OF TEACHER EDUCATORS

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**Dr. Greta Schuster 2014-2015**  
*Professor in the Department of  
Agriculture, Agribusiness and  
Environmental Sciences*

**Dr. Daniella Varela 2020-2021**  
*Assistant Professor in the Department of  
Educational Leadership and Counseling*

**Dr. Fernando Hernández 2024-2025**  
*Associate Professor in the Department of  
Agriculture, Agribusiness and  
Teacher and Bilingual Education*

**Dr. Lorraine E. Killion 2016-2017**  
*Associate Professor in the Department of  
Health and Kinesiology*

**Dr. Steven B. Chumbley 2021-2022**  
*Associate Professor in the Department of  
Agriculture, Agribusiness and  
Environmental Sciences*

**Dr. Olivia P. Modesto 2024-2025**  
*Assistant Professor in the Department of  
Teacher and Bilingual Education*

**Dr. Ming Tu 2019-2020**  
*Associate Professor in the School of  
Music*

**Dr. Cheryl McNair 2024-2025**  
*Associate Professor in the Department of  
Teacher and Bilingual Education*

**Dr. Monica Wong-Ratcliff 2024-2025**  
*Professor and Interim Department Chair  
in the Department of Teacher and Bilingual  
Education*

**Dr. Sonia Perez 2024-2025**  
*Adjunct in the Department of  
Educational Leadership and Counseling*

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## AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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### Doctor of Philosophy

Eccles, Georgina Roxanne  
Wildlife and Rangeland Sciences

### Master of Science

Babburu, Ajith  
Plant and Soil Science

Boehme, Tori Dawn  
Agriculture Science

Bostwick, Tyler Allissa  
Range and Wildlife Management

Cobarrubias, Miguel Angel  
Animal Science

Fay, Forrest Carlyle  
Range and Wildlife Management

Gonzalez, Ben Mario  
Agriculture Science

Harvey, Merideth Ann  
Animal Science

Hernandez Jr, Efren  
Animal Science

McGovern, Joseph Michael  
Range and Wildlife Management

Pearson, Micayla Emily  
Range and Wildlife Management

Rayala, Venkata Pavan Kumar  
Plant and Soil Science

Santana, Yulisa Nicole  
Animal Science

Schauer, Randi  
Agriculture Science

Singh, Nagendra Pratap  
Plant and Soil Science

Williams, Taylor Desiree  
Animal Science

Zamora, Erik Antonio  
Plant and Soil Science

### Bachelor of Science in Agriculture

Alejandro, Justin \*

Ball, Nathaniel J

Bustos, Julieta Esperanza

Compton, Eleecia Monique

Conrad, Shelby Colleen

Dhillon, Jasreen Kaur

Ferguson, Spencer

Garcia, Jasmine Alicia

Hernandez, Dominique Brianna

Hernandez, Emmanuel

Martinez, Cristal \*

McMahan, Caleb Quinton

Medellin, Daisy Abby

Mireles, Angelita Arian

Ohr, Tanner Brooks

Tijerina, Tristan Shane

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## ARTS AND SCIENCES

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### Master of Arts

Santana, Brittany L  
Counseling Psychology

### Master of Music

Bowers, Paige Maria  
Music

Gallegos, Jesus Omar  
Music

Padilla, Martin Ivan  
Music

Rodriguez, Deborah Kay  
Music

Woodson, Evan Ray  
Music

### Master of Science

Brown, Kwanae Imee Deshaun  
Criminology

Chavera, Clarissa  
Criminology

Guerra, Ryan Erin  
Criminology

Kamati, Priyank Teja  
Chemistry

Shivers, Christopher H  
Psychology

\* Cum Laude

\*\* Magna Cum Laude

\*\*\* Summa Cum Laude

^ Presidential Medal

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### **Master of Social Work**

Burnett, Alexis Rose  
Social Work  
Flores, Jessica Marie  
Social Work

Gomez, Jesse D  
Social Work  
Johnson, Diana R  
Social Work

Loose, Toni Danielle  
Social Work  
Mireles, Jesus Guadalupe  
Social Work

### **Bachelor of Arts**

Arredondo, Danielle  
Cisneros, Julie  
Davies, Taylor \*  
Guerra, Alejandro  
Helmstetler, Alexandra Maricela \*\*

Hernandez, Jessica  
Hill, James Robert \*  
Naranjo, Kamden Thomas  
Perez, Nicholas D  
Perez, Rolando

Saldana, David A  
Vasquez, Leannah Yolanda \*  
Villarreal, Bryan Joseph

### **Bachelor of Fine Arts**

Maldonado, Antonio Isai

Osuna, Alicia Renae

### **Bachelor of Music**

Aguirre Jr, Jose Gabriel

Rodriguez, Miguel

Ruiz, Daniela Victoria

### **Bachelor of Science**

Alvaro, Salma Mireya  
Delacruz, Jacobie Madison  
Madeira, Lehua Anuenue Marie

Nicklas, Simon Thomas  
Okunowo, Olumuyiwa  
Olarenwaju D

Parras, Alisa Cristelia  
Willingham, Edith Anne

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## **UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES**

### **Bachelor of General Studies**

Acosta, Alejandra Victoria  
Bars, Elissa Rose  
Boyd, Felicia Marie  
Campbell, Sophie C  
Castro, David Xander  
Cavazos, Dalia Garcia  
Covarrubias, Luis Angel \*\*  
Delgado, Linda Paola  
Edwards, Marcus Allen Jr.  
Garcia, Jessica Jaine

Gonzalez, Alicia Lola  
Gonzalez, Nikki Nicole \*\*  
Guerra, Mayra Luisa  
Hamm, Sophia Nicole \*\*\*  
Hernandez, Christopher Daylyn  
Hernandez, Diego A.  
Lopez, Albert E  
Lopez, Arianna Renee  
Martinez, Jo Marie  
O'Malley, Alyssa Jordyn \*\*\* ^

Olbera, Josclynn Denae \*  
Palizo, Santino  
Perez, Gabriella Lucinda  
Quezada, Juan Luis  
Rocha, Amanda Renee  
Salazar, Yazmine  
Sanchez, Josue Ramon  
Shaw, Trejuan Lamont  
Soto, Andres Gabriel  
Villalobos Serrano, Fatima \*

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## **BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

### **Master of Business Administration**

Aniol, Walter Julian  
Business Administration  
Arnold, Jacob Lee  
Business Administration

Baker, Kaeron B  
Business Administration  
Barrera, Ruben  
Business Administration

Barrientes, Nathan  
Business Administration  
Cantu, Andrea Raquel  
Business Administration

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\* Cum Laude  
\*\* Magna Cum Laude

\*\*\* Summa Cum Laude  
^ Presidential Medal



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### **Cont. Master of Business Administration**

Carmona, Kevin Business Administration	Gutierrez, Eliana Alexis Business Administration	McClendon, Jacqueline Marie Business Administration
Chapa, Claudia Marie Business Administration	Hernandez, Katryna Leeane Business Administration	Mendez, Melissa Lizett Business Administration
Dhadda, Gurvir Singh Business Administration	Jaramillo, Mia Nicole Business Administration	Pedraza, Hilda Orelia Business Administration
Evans, Lindsey LeAnn Business Administration	Jimenez, Andrea Daniella Business Administration	Perez, Adam Arnold Business Administration
Feagin, Cheyenne Dale Business Administration	Jimenez, Nahum Business Administration	Quintanilla, Maricruz Business Administration
Garza, Sarah Julissa Business Administration	King, John Eryk Business Administration	Rivera, Vielka Chabelli Business Administration
Gonzales, Nicki Rae Business Administration	Lacewell, Nathaniel Langston Business Administration	Russell, Azuri Business Administration
Gonzalez, Natasha Angie Business Administration	Limon, Alexis Lynn Business Administration	Solis Pena, Alexa Iliana Business Administration
Graveley-Rosado, Christopher A Business Administration	Lopez, Lorie Ann Business Administration	Wiederstein, Daylin James Business Administration
Gray, Luke Arrington Business Administration	Martin, Avery Lynn Business Administration	Willingham, Gabriela Therese Business Administration
Guevara, Javier A Business Administration	Martinez, Destiny Guadalupe Business Administration	

### **Master of Science**

Ali, Dave A Taxation	Cavazos Jr, Cecilio Taxation	Oliveira, Kevin Michael Taxation
Anzaldua Castro, Michel Daniel Taxation	Gutierrez, Adam Lyndon Taxation	Vargas, Clarissa Renee Taxation

### **Bachelor of Business Administration**

Garza, Devyn Jay	Gordon II, Brian Henry
Gonzalez, Alyssa Renee	Shaffer, Luke Allen

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## **EDUCATION AND HUMAN PERFORMANCE**

### **Doctor of Education**

Galvan, Kimberly Odette Educational Leadership	Izaguirre Martinez, Michelle Lee Educational Leadership	Smith, Bailey Reagan Educational Leadership
Garza, Jose Alberto Educational Leadership	Ramirez, Leonel Jesus Bilingual Education	Vela, Russen Ramon Educational Leadership
Gonzalez, Bobbie Sue Educational Leadership	Sandoval Villa, Oscar Eduardo Bilingual Education	Wiley, Gerry Matthew Educational Leadership

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\* Cum Laude  
\*\* Magna Cum Laude

\*\*\* Summa Cum Laude  
^ Presidential Medal

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### **Master of Education**

Dahlbeck, Kelsey  
Adult and Higher Education

Garza, Katelyn Opal  
Adult and Higher Education

Mireles, Araceli  
Early Childhood

### **Master of Science**

Acosta, Damian  
Kinesiology  
Andrade, Dylan M  
Kinesiology  
De Leon, Michelle Gomez  
Counseling and Guidance  
Flaherty, Victoria Mary  
Counseling and Guidance  
Gonzalez, Aaron Vai  
Educational Administration  
Joseph, Carl  
Education

Larraga, Tyler John  
Educational Administration  
Martinez, Kaleigh Lynn  
Educational Administration  
Martinez, Sonia Margarita  
Educational Administration  
Martinez, Sulema Rachel  
Education  
Morales, Karina  
Counseling and Guidance  
Ovalle, Andreina Esmeralda  
Bilingual Education

Payne, Cole Ryan  
Kinesiology  
Salazar, Wendy  
Bilingual Education  
Salinas, Kathleen Maria  
Educational Administration  
Swierc, Joseph Phillip  
Kinesiology

### **Bachelor of Science**

Garza III, Gilberto  
Gonzalez, Enrique

Isom, Anthony Tyrese  
Martinez, Lori Marie

Perez, Emerico

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## **ENGINEERING**

### **Doctor of Philosophy**

Kanumuri, Satya Viswas Varma  
Engineering

Madasani, Ravi Chandra  
Engineering

### **Master of Science**

Fuke, Shantanu Hemantrao  
Computer Science  
Garcia Ramirez, Olivia  
Environmental Engineering  
Gonzalez, Thomas Anthony  
Electrical Engineering  
Kodam, Varun  
Industrial Engineering  
Koduri, Sree Adarsh  
Computer Science  
Kotani, Hemanth  
Mechanical Engineering  
Kurukuri, Smitha Kiran  
Computer Science

Lnu, Afreen Sultana  
Computer Science  
Maddini, Manjula  
Electrical Engineering  
Maldonado, Fabian  
Chemical Engineering  
Mandadi, Bhargavamanikanta  
Civil Engineering  
Mohammed, Khaja Basheer Uddin  
Computer Science  
Mohammed, Shahzaib Ashher  
Electrical Engineering  
Nyambuka, Kelvin Ondiba  
Industrial Engineering

Polavarapu, Rathnesh  
Computer Science  
Seetala, Bala Rama Krishna  
Civil Engineering  
Soma, Kalyani  
Computer Science  
Talafta, Omar Hussein  
Environmental Engineering  
Vattikuti, Sai Gowtham  
Industrial Engineering  
Villanueva, Edgar Ivan  
Industrial Engineering

\* Cum Laude

\*\* Magna Cum Laude

\*\*\* Summa Cum Laude

^ Presidential Medal

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## **Bachelor of Science in Architectural Engineering**

Delgado, Eva Nikkita

Martinez, Jacob J

## **Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering**

Alazemi, Talal A R M

Benmanzel, Mohammad

Hampton, Devyn Charles

Alharan, Salem

Hagan Jr, Roger

Saenz, Ray Alan

Barbosa, Ricardo

## **Bachelor of Science in Computer Science**

Adebambo, Temitope Racheal

Madeira, Kekoa Alii Manuel \*

Perez, Marcus Patrick

## **Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering**

Alazmi, Abdullah F S F M

Aldahoum, Yousef R F N

## **Bachelor of Science in Industrial Management and Applied Engineering Technology**

Brice, Richard Jose

## **Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering**

Aleman, Jeremiah Dominic

Barrera, Oliver Orlando

Robinson, Autumn Renee

Araiza-Chavez, Kevin Justin

Loose, Nathan James \*

Vera III, Ramiro

## **Graduation with Honors**

### *For Undergraduate Degrees Only*

A grade point average of 3.8 is the minimum for graduation meriting *summa cum laude* (with highest honors); a grade point average of 3.6 or higher but less than 3.8 will merit *magna cum laude* (with high honors); an average of 3.4 or higher but less than 3.6 will merit graduation *cum laude* (with honors).

The names on this program include all students who have applied for graduation. Conferral of the official degree is based upon completion and certification of all degree requirements.

The honors presented during this ceremony are calculated on the student's cumulative grade point average for the semester prior. Official honors designation, which includes the calculation of the current semester's grades, will be indicated on the final transcript and diploma.

### **Presidential Medal**

Awarded to students who earn a GPA of 3.65 or higher on all coursework in at least 4 semesters while at the university, each with a minimum 13 credit hours.

\* Cum Laude  
\*\* Magna Cum Laude

\*\*\* Summa Cum Laude  
^ Presidential Medal

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## Dissertation Titles

### Doctor of Education

#### *Bilingual Education*

**Ramirez, Leonel Jesus, B.S., M.Ed.**

“Exploring Evaluator Self-Efficacy and Disproportionality of Emergent Bilingual Students in Special Education”

**Sandoval Villa, Oscar Eduardo, B.A., M.Ed.**

“Students’ and Teachers’ Perspectives on Translanguaging in Learning English as a Foreign Language in Mexico”

#### *Educational Leadership*

**Galvan, Kimberly Odette, B.S., M.S.**

“A Comprehensive Analysis of Third-Graders’ Lexile Literacy Levels and STAAR Reading Achievement”

**Garza, Jose Alberto, B.S., M.S.**

“From Data to Action: Predicting School Accountability Outcomes to Guide Targeted Interventions”

**Gonzalez, Bobbie Sue, B.S., M.Ed.**

“Perceptions of an Immersion Professional Development Program Among Rio Grande Valley Administrators, 2017–2024”

**Izaguirre Martinez, Michelle Lee, B.A., M.S.**

“The Impact of Mental Health Services on Community College Students’ Well-Being: A Quantitative Survey Study”

**Smith, Bailey Reagan, B.A., M.L.S., M.B.A.**

“Refocusing the Lens: Capturing Belonging of First-Gen Minority Students at an HSI”

**Vela, Russen Ramon, B.S., M.S.**

“Academic Transitions: Analyzing STAAR Performance of Emergent Bilingual Students From 4th to 6th Grade”

**Wiley, Gerry Matthew, B.S., M.S., M.B.A.**

“Early Academic Momentum: Predicting Completion of Part-Time Community College Students From First-Year College-Level Mathematics and English Grades”

### Doctor of Philosophy

#### *Engineering*

**Kanumuri, Satya Viswas Varma, B.Tech., M.S.**

“Securing and Optimizing Smart Grids: A Machine Learning Framework for Operational Resilience and Cybersecurity Threat Mitigation”

**Madasani, Ravi Chandra, B.Tech., M.S., M.Tech.**

“Improving the Long-Term Durability of Polymers Through Surface Modification”

#### *Wildlife Science*

**Eccles, Georgina Roxanne, B.S., M.S.**

“Non-Breeding Ecology of Northern Pintails (*Anas acuta*) and Links to Reproductive Performance”



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## ACADEMIC REGALIA

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The origin of academic gowns, caps and hoods is a matter of speculation. Unheated buildings may have necessitated the gowns. The remaining regalia might reflect the influence of the clergy during medieval times. The hoods, for example, might have served as head-coverings before skull caps were adopted. In any case, when American schools decided to adopt academic dress, they agreed, through a series of meetings and conferences, on some standard designs and colors. The gown design becomes more intricate with advanced degrees. Velvet trim, for instance, is reserved for doctors' gowns. The hoods, too, become longer as one proceeds from the bachelor's to the master's to the doctor's degree. The cap is plain for both bachelor's and master's. Velvet is reserved for the doctorate. The tassel on the cap may be black or the color appropriate for the major field of study. A doctor's tassel, however, may be made of gold thread.

The color of the facing of the hood denotes the type of degree, and doctors' gowns may also be trimmed in the same color. Examples are as follows: *Arts and Letters* - white, *Commerce and Accounting* - drab, *Economics* - copper, *Library Science* - lemon, *Music* - pink, *Education* - light blue, *Pharmacy* - olive, *Fine Arts and Architecture* - brown, *Humanities* - dark crimson, *Law* - purple, *Engineering* - orange, *Philosophy* - dark blue, *Physical Education* - sage green, *Science* - golden yellow. The color of the lining of the hood denotes the university or college granting the degree. Texas A&M University-Kingsville's colors are blue and gold. Students wearing the blue and green or gold honor cords are members of national honor societies. The honors presented during this ceremony are calculated on the student's cumulative grade point average for the semester prior. Official honors designation, which includes the calculation of the current semester's grades, will be indicated on the final transcript and diploma.

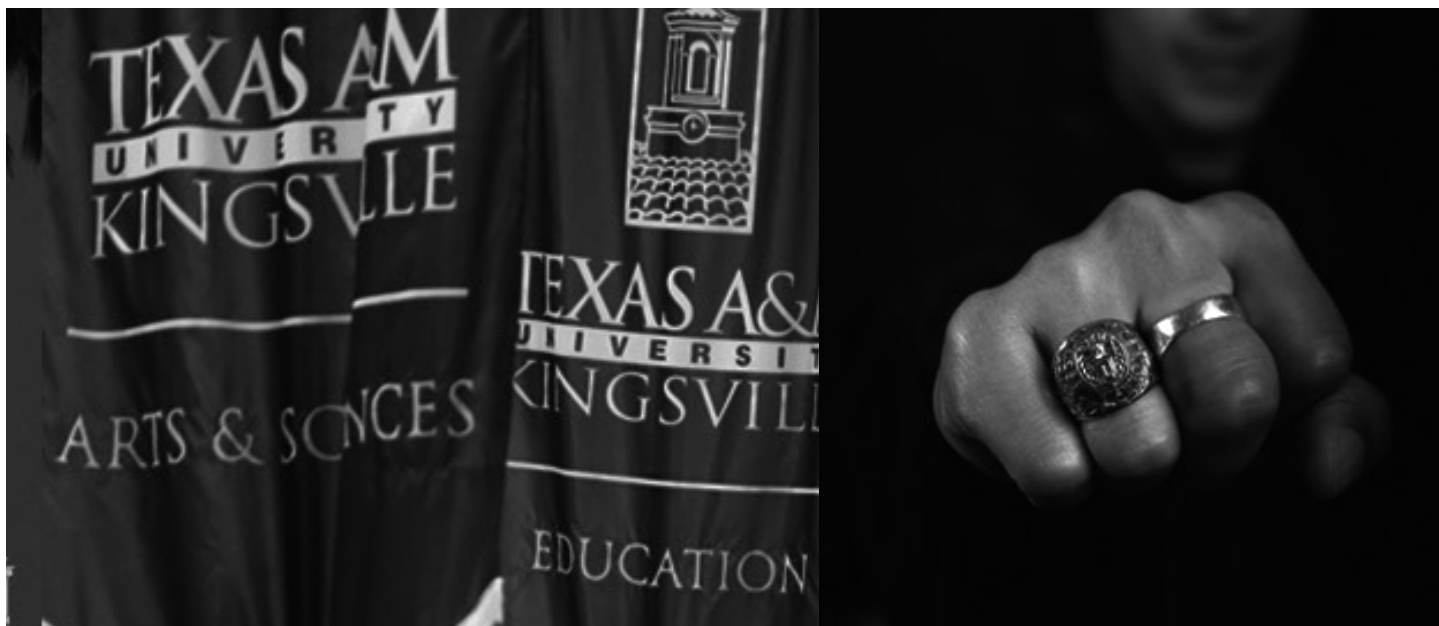
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## THE TOWER CHIMES

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Striking on the hour and every quarter hour, the "Westminster" chimes of the College Hall tower were played for the first time in March 1999 for the inauguration of President Marc Cisneros. The chimes celebrate Javelina pride throughout the day, ringing out "Hail AMK" and "Jalisco."





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## THE UNIVERSITY BANNERS

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Eight banners signify the university and its academic areas: Agriculture and Natural Resources; Arts and Sciences; Business Administration; Education and Human Performance; Engineering; Graduate Studies and Honors College. One banner represents the Student Government Association. Each banner displays the university logo, which includes the College Hall tower and the university name. The tower has stood as a symbol of the institution since 1949, reflecting the iconic architectural elements of the campus that draw upon the university's regional heritage. The blue and gold banners are five feet by three feet, trimmed with fringe at the bottom.

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## THE UNIVERSITY MACE

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A representation of authority, the mace is traced to an ancient weapon of war. William the Conqueror is seen flourishing a wooden mace in the eleventh-century Bayeux Tapestry. The military use of the object gradually gave way to its ceremonial function, and maces became jewel-encrusted symbols of high office. A newly crafted mace made from hand-crafted walnut featuring brass accents and topped with a replica of the University Seal debuted during the Fall 2023 commencement ceremonies. The president of the Faculty Senate leads the University's esteemed faculty and staff during each commencement ceremony procession, carrying the mace as a symbol of academic excellence and integrity.

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## THE UNIVERSITY RING

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In early 1998, a committee of students, alumni, faculty and staff began discussing the idea of an official ring for graduates of the university. The committee members wanted the ring to reflect symbols that represented the university's history and traditions. Working with a professional designer, they chose symbols including the school's mascot, the javelina, because of its tenacity; mesquite and cactus because they are found all over campus; the Lone Star because it symbolizes the State of Texas; and the College Hall tower because it is a recognized landmark on our campus. Graduates can choose a plain gold ring or opt for a gemstone in the ring. The ring design was unveiled February 16, 1999.





## ALMA MATER

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*Hail AMK! We pledge anew  
Aims that are high,  
Devotion deep and true.  
And though we may part,  
And though we're far away,  
Still loyal each heart  
To AMK.*

