
2024-2025
UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTHWEST

Commencement

SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2025



COMMENCEMENT

ORDER OF CEREMONY

10:00 AM

PROCESSIONAL

Pomp and Circumstance by Edward Elgar

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mackenzie Kleinsteuber

INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATION OF STUDENT AWARDS

Dr. Ryan Tipton, *President*

RECOGNITION OF EMERITI FACULTY

Dr. Ryan Tipton, *President*

STUDENT ADDRESS

Hayden Woods, *Student Representative*

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Dr. Brianna Lopez, *CAO, Vice President of Academic Affairs*

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Lee Roberson, *Chairman of the Board of Trustees*

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

Steve Appel, *Vice President of Campus Facilities and Athletics*

INDUCTION INTO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Laura Castillo, *Board of Trustees*

RECESSIONAL

Rondeau by Jean-Joseph Mouret

COMMENCEMENT

ORDER OF CEREMONY

2:00 PM

PROCESSIONAL

Pomp and Circumstance by Edward Elgar

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. Kevin Waldrop

INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATION OF STUDENT AWARDS

Dr. Ryan Tipton, *President*

RECOGNITION OF EMERITI FACULTY

Dr. Ryan Tipton, *President*

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Dr. Mary Harris, *Professor Emerita*

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Dr. Brianna Lopez, *CAO, Vice President of Academic Affairs*

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Lee Roberson, *Chairman of the Board of Trustees*

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

Steve Appel, *Vice President of Campus Facilities and Athletics*

INDUCTION INTO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Laura Castillo, *Board of Trustees*

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Rondeau by Jean-Joseph Mouret

MISSION AND VALUES

MISSION

University of the Southwest is a Christ-centered educational community dedicated to developing men and women for a lifetime of servant leadership by emphasizing individual faith, responsibility, and initiative.

VALUES

Faith

Teaching at University of the Southwest adheres to belief in God, in the Bible as the inspired Word of God, in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and in the separation of church and state.

Excellence

University of the Southwest strives for excellence in academic curriculum, campus life programming, and student activities in a supportive educational community where freedom of thought and expression is honored and the demonstration of faith in acts of service is encouraged.

Diversity and Inclusion

At University of the Southwest, students are instructed and mentored by a faculty and staff who demonstrate Christ-centered values and maintain an environment where students can live and work cooperatively, valuing the multiple cultures from which they come.

Service

As a community of initiative, University of the Southwest challenges graduates to become enterprising members of our society, contributing to the common good by advocating and participating in the productive commerce of free enterprise, the constitutional privilege of self-government, and the practical contributions of community service.



CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

HAYDEN WOODS

Hayden Woods is a native of Chandler, Texas. He is the son of Shon Bowman and Demetric Woods and has three siblings: Devin, Jaylon, and Camille. Hayden is earning his Bachelor's degree in Education with a minor in Kinesiology. A dedicated student-athlete, he has played baseball at the University of the Southwest for four years, earning multiple All-Conference honors throughout his collegiate career.



COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

DR. MARY HARRIS

Dr. Mary Harris joined the faculty in the School of Education at the University of the Southwest in 1998. In 27 years of service at USW, she has served as a Professor, Director of the Office of Special Services, Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees, member of the Institutional Review Board, and for 11 years as the Dean of the College of Education.

She received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education from Southeastern Louisiana University in 1971, a Master of Arts Degree from Eastern New Mexico University in 1993, and a Doctor of Education Degree from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in 2004.

Born in Coral Gables, Florida, Mary and her husband Jim grew up in Dallas and moved to Hobbs, New Mexico, in 1974. In October of this year, they will have been married for 60 years. They have one son, Hunter Hawk Harris, who lives in Georgetown, Texas, with his wife, Leonor, and family.

Before coming to USW, Mary taught in public schools in Louisiana, Texas, and New Mexico for 28 years, with 24 years in Hobbs. In her years in education, she has received much recognition and many honors. Those honors include serving as a Past President and then as a Fellow of the Texas Folklore Society. In addition, she has received recognition from many organizations, including the National Education Association and Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, a Birdie Adams scholarship recipient, the Outstanding Special Education Student at ENMU-1993, and 25-year service awards from Hobbs Public Schools and the University of the Southwest. She has also given many presentations and has written for several educational publications

CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Marisa Giselle Alvarado

General Studies

Jayvin Leon Brown

General Studies

Nathaniel Eugene Butcher

General Studies

James Evans

General Studies

Santiago Garcia

General Studies

Phillip Joseph Guerrero

General Studies

Jacob Issaic Koontz

General Studies

Keanu Maldonado

General Studies

Jalen Isaiah McAfee Marion

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General Studies

McKenna Summer Mendoza

General Studies

Rahkeim R. Petterson

General Studies

Vivian Sanchez Alvarado

General Studies

Joshua Jaron Sasser

General Studies

Anthony Keishawn Scott

General Studies

Gavin Shawn Vangronigen

General Studies

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Management

Milinda Gabriella Arguellez

Management

Jordan Alizabeth Carrasco

Global Business Management

Ian Presley Clements

Management

Daniel Correa

Sports Management

Julissa Nichole Esparza

Accounting

Dante Ryan Gonzales

Global Business Management

Dolores V Gonzalez

Management

Renato Esteban Gonzalez

Marketing

Nikolay Nikolov Kirkov••

Management

Millalvy Josu Lopez

Sports Management

Joshua Daniel Loving

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Finance

Mojus Mojus

Sports Management

Jasmin Marie Morgan

Finance

Stratton Todd Potter•••

Management

Omar Andre Reyes

Accounting

Elizabeth Renee Rico

Management

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Energy Management

Thomas Isaiah Sanchez

Sports Management

Ian Alexander Sweringen

Sports Management

Alondra Ventura

Management

Caleb Gary Wilson

Sports Management

Richard Thomas Wohl

Management

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Ashley Lynn Alvarez

Biology

Mieya Maheanlani Andres

Biology—Pre Medicine

Alyssa Giselle Barrera

Psychology

Regan Burleson

Psychology

Taymon Burrola

Exercise Science

Allison Harley Cope

Psychology

Veronica Aiken Gentry

Psychology

Jerry J. Gutierrez

Kinesiology and Exercise Science

Lia Danielle Gutierrez

Exercise Science

Desiree Hermosillo

Psychology

Carlos Alberto Jaquez-Munoz•

Criminology and Criminal Justice

Mackenzie Kleinsteuber•

Biology—Pre Medicine

Joshua Calvin Martin••

Exercise Science

Jasmine Damaris Martinez•

Biology

Samantha J. Martinez••

Psychology

Jeffrey Mack Mathis•••

Exercise Science

Guadalupe Meza

Exercise Science

Brooke Nevarez•

Psychology

Kristina M. Simpson•

Exercise Science

Kaitlyn Lasean Stewart

Psychology

Kya Diane-Marie Taylor••

Exercise Science

Rylee Nichole Thatcher••

Psychology

Aneesa Thompson••

Biology—Pre Nursing

Danika Victoria Utajara

Biology—Pre Nursing

James Lumpmouth Webster•

Psychology

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Kinesiology and Health Education

Gabriel Isaac Campos

Secondary Education—Social Science

Noemi Crystal Carrillo

Early Childhood Education

Celina Estella Celaya

Kinesiology and Health Education

Rosa Gomez•••

Elementary Education—Mathematics

Amy Jones•••

Elementary Education—Mathematics

Tanner Mackenzie Lallmann•••

Special Education—Social Science

Jamie H. Lukens

Special Education—Social Science

Olynette Mares•

Special Education—Language Arts

Leandsy Jenette Mata

Early Childhood Education

Florydalma Ochoa•••

Early Childhood Education

Melissa Lynn Quiroga•••

Elementary Education—Language Arts

Beatriz Juarez Ramirez

Secondary Education—Social Science

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Early Childhood Education

Antonio Jevon Ruiz

Secondary Education—Social Science

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Early Childhood Education

Suzanna L. Silva

Early Childhood Education

Haylee Sanoe Walker•

Elementary Education—General Science

Hayden O'Brian Woods

Secondary Education—Social Science

CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Rima Alhusainat

Healthcare Administration

David Patrick Amaya

Sport Management and Recreation

Jonathan McKinley Bloodman*

Sport Management and Recreation

Sage Morgan Bonner

Sport Management and Recreation

Blessing Amaye Chiazor

Strategic Management

Deanna Dekeyser

Healthcare Administration

Jonathan Tyler Gamboa

Finance

Juan Carlos Guerrero

Executive Track

Pamela Lorenze**

Human Resource Management

Jeremy McComber

Project Management

Austin Tyler McDonnell

Sport Management and Recreation

Rocio Anahi Mino

Sport Management and Recreation

Mason Taylor Musgrave**

Sport Management and Recreation

Abigail Lauren Olivas**

Accounting

Debra Katherine Olivas**

Project Management

Tori Mykal Patterson

Public Administration

Ann Marie Ramsey

Human Resource Management

Kevin Stewart Rase**

Self—Design

Cedric Leo Reynaud

Sport Management and Recreation

Emma Jewel Rocco*

Healthcare Administration

Brian Rodriguez

Finance

Johnnessa L. Sion**

Executive Track

Julian Sosa

Self—Design

Nana Sylla

Healthcare Administration

Aimee R. Wells

Accounting

Priscilla Marie Zamora

Human Resource Management

CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Aya Abdullah**

Medical Sciences

Brittney Keshia Adams

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Giovanna Alaimo**

Kinesiology

Shane Alston**

Biology - Genetics

Kimberly Anderson**

Biology - Genetics

Aimelda Mariel Angel**

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Lon'ae Anwoju

Medical Sciences

Kathleen Arnold**

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Isaac Manuel Baeza

Psychology

Harmonson James Baker

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Gustavo Farrell Banks

Medical Sciences

Sydney Bash**

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Kassidy Bingel**

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

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Stephanie Dennis Blair**

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Christopher Adam Bosco**

Biology - Genetics

Charles Hunter Bradfield**

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Beverly B. Bradley

Kinesiology

Marcus Eugene Brown

Medical Sciences

Lillian Budhu**

Biology - Forensic

Tara Buffington**

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Shareesa Carisales Nusser**

Kinesiology

Taylor Nicole Ceballos**

Biology - Genetics

Serena Marie Cecere**

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Meghan Chase**

Biology - Genetics

Emmanuel Onuwa Chiazor

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Kyle Cleary

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Danielle Clymer

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Lytic Onyae Debro

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Tasha Delacour**

Biology - Genetics

Jayne Celeste Deutsch**

Biology - Forensic

Courtney Nicole Dillard

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Christian Ayres Drake**

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Summer Edwards

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Radwa Elsayed

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Alicia Chenoa de Faria E Castro

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Omid Farrokhi**

Kinesiology

CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Benjamin Patrick Fielding**

Kinesiology

Lauren Finn*

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Kelly Franco*

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Zaira L. Garcia

Psychology

Shelly Lynn Garncarz*

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Dajoina Garvin

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Leeanna Gilardoni

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Timothy Wayne Glass

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Anamile Idalia Guerra**

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Jace Rio Hall

Sports Psychology

Hyori Han**

Medical Sciences

Robert William Hartman

Biology - Forensic

David Herman*

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Jory Zayn Higgins

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Karen Elizabeth Hoffman*

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Cierra Keioash Hollis

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Kierra Brioash Hollis

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Lili Hurioglu**

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Aroona Hussain

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Brynna Irving**

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Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Ellie Ann Johnson**

Medical Sciences

Sonja Johnson**

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Samantha Jones

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Clinical Mental Health Counseling

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Clinical Mental Health Counseling

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Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Nathan Maroney

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

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Kinesiology

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Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Peter McArthur

Kinesiology

CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

MASTER OF SCIENCE

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Kathryn Miracle

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Romainska Wisterling Moise*

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Moses Mora

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Cristian Muratalla**

Sports Psychology

Edrian Edu Negrete

Kinesiology

Linh P Nguyen*

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Tarrah Nida**

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Guerin Nolen

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

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Josephine Obidigbo

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Jacqueline Oster

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Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Charolette Phillips**

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Nancy Ann Piazza**

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Samantha Polk**

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Donna Pongetti**

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Denise Portorreal**

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Tyson Quolas

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Aubrey Ramos

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Gina Michele Reed

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Michelle E. Rosales

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Natalie Salcedo*

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Maya Anahi Sanchez**

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Jessica Schreiner*

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Tiffany J. Self

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Antwan Simmons

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Evan Smith*

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Peter Warren Smith*

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Shante Smith**

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MASTER OF SCIENCE

Bradley Snipes

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Katelyn Snyder

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Liliana Solis**

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Elizabeth Joyce Sonneveld

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Shawna Steinmann**

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Tyler Tangedahl

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Jose Tarin-Valdez

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Brandon Thomas

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David Wayne Thomas

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Morgan Dionne Thorpe**

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Audrie Tierney

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Ezgi Todurge**

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Kendell Travis

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Michaela Ariel Trevino

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Valeria Elizabeth Trevino**

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Kaylah Wells*

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Erica D. Westbrook

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Eric Wheeler

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

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Sharnice M. Williams**

Biology - Genetics

Ellen Williams-Gonzales**

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Jennifer Zamorano**

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION

Lucero Acosta*

Self—Design

Narcisa Renee Adolpho**

Teaching and Learning

Christopher Aguon**

School Counseling

Marishawn Anderson**

School Counseling

Eliazar Andrade*

School Counseling

Alondra Jimenez Avelar

Educational Diagnostics

Kristie Bentley**

Educational Diagnostics

KaiLana Bloomfeldt

School Counseling

Sharonda Boggs*

School Counseling

Jennifer Bolaños**

Educational Diagnostics

Sierra Booth**

School Counseling

Tammara Deneen Bowers**

School Counseling

Amanda Marie Brown

School Counseling

Kacie Brown**

Teaching and Learning

Nennah A. R. Byle**

School Counseling

Brenda Caballero**

Educational Diagnostics

Veronica Castillo**

Educational Diagnostics

Ashley Cesna*

School Counseling

Timothy Aaron Coston*

School Counseling

Alyssa Cox*

School Counseling

Andrew Davis

School Counseling

Meaghan Christine Dean

Teaching and Learning

Hailey Michele DiFrancesca

Special Education

Karen Annette Dixon

School Counseling

Cassandra Embrey

Special Education

Fredrick Ford**

School Counseling

Mariposa Giovanna Garofalo

Special Education

Jonathan Godina

School Counseling

Jamie Halbert**

Teaching and Learning

Stephanie Hampton-Hill**

School Counseling

Zechariah Harkleroad

School Counseling

Emily Hill**

School Counseling

Krista Marie Hohman**

School Counseling

Amber Joseph

School Counseling

Kristen Kangas

School Counseling

Whitney Ann Kellough**

School Counseling

Katherine Jane Leonard**

School Counseling

Anthony Lewis

School Counseling

Brandi Monique Littlejohn

School Counseling

Jess Martin**

School Counseling

CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION

Sherry Raquel Martinez**

School Counseling

Kelly Mathis

School Counseling

Kyle R. McBride*

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Mindy Rose Mele**

School Counseling

Rachael Moon**

Teaching and Learning

Bernice Morales**

Teaching and Learning

Maria Alejandra Morris**

Teaching and Learning

Robyn Jean Morris

School Counseling

Scott Christopher Olsen**

School Counseling

Fernando Emeterio Pando

Special Education

Kaitlyn Antoinette Patea**

Teaching and Learning

Erin Amanda Peters**

School Counseling

Leah Peters-Valdez**

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Bailey Nicole Pilkington

Educational Leadership

Gabriel Pinon

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Nancy Ponce**

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Sarah Prather**

School Counseling

Dana Roberds**

Educational Leadership

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School Counseling

Jessie Robinson

School Counseling

Aime Rodriguez

School Counseling

Andrea Rodriguez

Educational Diagnostics

Angelique Rodriguez**

Teaching and Learning

Melissa Martinez Rodriguez

School Counseling

Peter Lee Sanderson

School Counseling

Kiticha Sapp

School Counseling

Ruben Araujo Saucedo

School Counseling

Adam Schroeder

School Counseling

Yesenia Esmeralda Segura

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Anita Siller*

School Counseling

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Erika Irene Solano**

Teaching and Learning

Talisa Gutierrez Sotelo

School Counseling

Lisa Stroud**

Educational Diagnostics

Shakera Tribble**

School Counseling

Catalina Valentine**

School Counseling

Yvonne A. Valenzuela

Educational Diagnostics

Brittany Nicole Valenzuela

Teaching and Learning

John Villanueva*

Educational Leadership

Brandy Lynn Villarreal**

Teaching and Learning

CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

DOCTOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Trenton Corchado

Strategy and Innovation

The Future of Financial Services: How Fintech is Reshaping the Industry

Dr. Jonathan Kirk Graff**

Strategy and Innovation

Relationship between Esports

Participation and Student Enrollment and Retention in Higher Education

Dr. Alexandria Desharee Howard

Leadership and Organizational Development

Exploring Hiring Managers Training Practices To Hire Veterans Transitioning from Military To Healthcare Employment in the Piedmont, Georgia Area

Dr. Randall Roy Hume**

Strategy and Innovation

Factors Influencing Small Non-Profit Executives Making Decisions About Performance Improvement Actions

Dr. Michael Pearson**

Strategy and Innovation

Exploring the Role of Design Thinking in Government Health and Human Services

Dr. Gus Siettas**

Strategy and Innovation

Department of Defense Strategies for Being Awarded Contracts

Dr. Monica Lynn Vazquez**

Leadership and Organizational Development

Change Management Strategies to Address Federal Supervisor Resistance to Telework in the Washington D.C. Metro Area

Dr. Crystal Wiggins**

Data Analytics

Employee Turnover Compared in Organizational Mergers in U.S. Based Higher Education Institutions

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

Dr. Johnna Bruhn**

Higher Education Administration

Analysis of Administrative Strategies to Increase Enrollment in Career Technical Education Programs in Eastern New Mexico

Dr. Julie Ann Dunn**

Self-Design

Empowering Student Voice in Rural New Mexico Schools: A Phenomenological Study Of Administrator Perceptions

Dr. James Forchtner**

Sport Education and Administration

Exploring the Value of the 40-yard Dash

Dr. Melinda Haggerty Basurto**

Educational Leadership

School Counselors' Needs in Northeast Texas To Serve Rural Emergent Bilingual Students

Dr. Amy Kathleen Jackson**

Educational Psychology

Structured Literacy Professional Learning And Motivation in New Mexico Early Childhood Educators

HONOR GRADUATES

Graduating seniors who have completed 30 semester hours at University of the Southwest with an exceptional cumulative grade point average (GPA) receive the following honors:

Summa Cum Laude; "with highest honors"- students with GPA of 4.00

Magna Cum Laude; "with high honors"- students with a GPA of 3.90

Cum Laude; "with honors"- students with a GPA of 3.80

Master's level and Doctoral level students who have completed a degree at University of the Southwest with an exceptional cumulative grade point average receive the following honors:

Graduate with High Distinction; students with GPA of 3.95 - 4.00

Graduate with Distinction; students with GPA of 3.90 - 3.94

AWARDS

Academic Excellence Award— Presented to the graduating senior with the highest cumulative grade point average.

Dean's Award- Presented to the graduating senior who best represents the ideals of the university in their community.

President's Award- Presented to the Master graduate who best represents the ideals of the university in their community.

Trustees' Award- Presented to Doctoral graduate who best represents the ideals of the university in their community.

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Mr. David Shaw
Mr. Brian Snider
Mr. Samuel S. Spencer, Jr.
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Professor of Education
Dr. Daniel Castillo
Professor of Business
*Dr. Gary A. Dill
President Emeritus
Dr. Sue Fox
Professor of Education
John Larry Goldman
Professor of History/Political Science
Dr. Mary Harris
Professor of Education

*Tyler James
Head Golf Coach Emeritus
Will Roan
Professor of Mathematics
*Kenneth Sagerty
Professor of Education
*Dr. Marilyn Smith
Professor of Education
*Joan M. Tucker
President Emerita
Robert Woodmansee
Professor of Biology

* Emeriti who are deceased.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

USW sincerely appreciates the following community partners for their role in making the 2025 Commencement a memorable event!

Be the LIGHT Photobooth & Co.
Gomez Pro Audio Visual
OMG Printing
Rockwind Community Links
Sam Johnson
Winners World

DISCLAIMER

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