
2023-2024
UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTHWEST

Commencement

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2024



COMMENCEMENT

ORDER OF CEREMONY

10:00 AM

PROCESSIONAL

Pomp and Circumstance by Edward Elgar

INVOCATION

Chisum Rush

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Phillip Bruce Lopez

INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATION OF STUDENT AWARDS

Dr. Ryan Tipton, *President*

STUDENT ADDRESS

Josephine Crump, *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*

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández

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

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

JOSEPHINE CRUMP

Josie Crump is from Rio Rancho, New Mexico. Her mother and father are Lianne Crump and Robert Crump, and she has three siblings, Jackie, Julie, and Richard Crump. She is receiving her Bachelor's in Criminal Justice with a minor in Psychology. She played soccer here at USW for four years and will continue her education at Willamette Law School in the Fall of 2024.



COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

CONGRESSWOMAN TERESA LEGER

FERNÁNDEZ

Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández represents New Mexico's 3rd Congressional District. Teresa is a 17th generation Northern New Mexican. Born in Las Vegas, New Mexico, she was part of the state's first Head Start class. Teresa went on to graduate from Yale and Stanford Law School.

After law school, Teresa worked as an attorney and advocate and won important legal battles to advance voting rights, promote tribal sovereignty, and protect our environment and acequia waters. She also served as an acequia commissioner. As a public interest lawyer, she helped secure nearly a billion dollars for and then helped build schools, rural health clinics, broadband, businesses, affordable housing, and critical infrastructure for New Mexico. She has worked to protect voting rights and create a more inclusive democracy. She was also a Clinton and Obama presidential appointee and worked as a White House Fellow on housing issues and as Vice Chair of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

In Congress, Teresa serves on the House Rules Committee as Ranking Member of its Subcommittee on Legislative and Budget Process. Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries placed his trust in the congresswoman to represent the minority in this powerful committee. She also serves on the House Committee on Natural Resources as the Ranking Member of its Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs. As Ranking Member, her focus is to build on the momentum from last Congress. When Leger Fernández was chair of the subcommittee, they made historic investments and passed the STOP Act to crack down on the trafficking of tribal cultural items.

Congresswoman Leger Fernández also serves on the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. As a member of the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development, she is committed to making the paths to higher education and workforce development equitably available.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

CONGRESSWOMAN TERESA LEGER

FERNÁNDEZ

For her advocacy and work for women's rights, Teresa's colleagues voted her to be the Vice Chair of the Congressional Democratic Women's Caucus. Teresa also serves as a member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. Teresa is the Co-Chair of the National Labs Caucus and the Rural Broadband Caucus. She is also a proud member of the following: Congressional Progressive Caucus, Diabetes Caucus, Labor Caucus, LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus, Mental Health Caucus, National Heritage Area Caucus, Native American Caucus, PFAS Caucus, Pro-Choice Caucus, Rural Caucus, Ski Caucus, and the Assisting Caregivers Today (ACT) Caucus.

When the U.S. Forest Service started the biggest fire in New Mexico's history in April of 2022, people lost their homes, their ranches, and their livelihoods. Teresa knew the USFS must be held accountable and secured a pause on prescribed burns. She helped pass the Hermit's Peak Calf Canyon Fire Assistance Act securing \$3.95 billion to create an entirely new program to compensate victims of the fire and pay for the replacement of the damaged Las Vegas water treatment facility so that residents could have access to clean water.

Teresa believes everyone needs access to health care no matter their income, insurance, or zip code. Quality and affordable health care is essential for our communities to thrive. As a breast cancer survivor, she understands how important it is to protect individuals with pre-existing conditions. As someone who lost two brothers to addiction, she wants to make sure no family experiences the same pain that her family did. In Congress, she introduced the Campus Prevention and Recovery Services for Students Act to address alcohol and substance use on college campuses.

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David Patrick Amaya•••

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Mireya Karina Aranda•

General Studies

Sage Morgan Bonner•

General Studies

Luis Calvillo

General Studies

Angela Danner-Gamble

General Studies

Samantha Katrina Dreibelbis

General Studies

Felip Malik Malone

General Studies

Angel Marquez

General Studies

Kayla Rose Reynaud••

General Studies

Kaitlin Dawn Reynolds••

General Studies

Jorge Alan Sanchez

General Studies

Lisa Marie Snell

General Studies

Tavares Ceaser Tims

General Studies

Amaya Marie Vasquez

General Studies

Destiny Felicity Villanueva

General Studies

Tyler Juwann Watkins

General Studies

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Halie Michelle Cruz••

Healthcare Management

Dakota Cummings

Sports Management

William Kessler

Energy Management

Phillip Bruce Lopez

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Sports Management

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Sports Management

Saydie Rayanna Miles

Healthcare Management

Mason Tyler Musgrave•

Management

Abigail Lauren Olivas••

Management

Jonathan Damian Olivas

Management

Bojana Pejovic•

Marketing

Aaron Matthew Peters•

Management

Brandon Anthony Portocarrero

Energy Management

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Management

Angel Gabriel Rios

Management

Jesus Enrique Rivas

Energy Management

Chisum Rush••

Management

Samuel Temesghen Yohannes

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Tarren Rey Burrola

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Jose Chavez

Criminology and Criminal Justice—

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Criminology and Criminal Justice

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Marley Mariah Moralez••

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Psychology

Armando Pando

Criminology and Criminal Justice

Amanda E. Perez

Exercise Science

Iaan Justice Rodriguez

Exercise Science

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Biology

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Elementary Education—Science

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Early Childhood Education

Melissa Glover•••

Elementary Education—Language Arts

Dora Maria Lopez

Early Childhood Education

Olivia Diane Morelli••

Elementary Education—Language Arts

Joshua Reginaldo Olivas

Kinesiology and Exercise Science

Maya Anahi Sanchez

Kinesiology and Exercise Science

Valeria Cristal Rodriguez Sanchez•••

Kinesiology and Exercise Science

Latarryus Jahdai Smith

Kinesiology and Exercise Science

Kyleigh Danielle Williams

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Early Childhood Education

Elizabeth Zuniga•

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Christian Studies

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Self—Design

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Self—Design

Ne-Miah Praise Gentry

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Marketing

Anely Marcilla**

Accounting

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Finance

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Biology—Genetics

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Caitlin Blount**

Biology-Genetics

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Clinical Mental Health Counseling

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Biology - Forensic

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Clinical Mental Health Counseling

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Clinical Mental Health Counseling

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Clinical Mental Health Counseling

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Biology - Forensic

Elsa Lopez

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Kinesiology

Felicia Kay Luffman

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Special Education

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Teaching and Learning

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Rachel Frye Joseph

School Counseling

Natasha Kirkendoll**

School Counseling

Melinda Luthman

School Counseling

Ashley Breanne Lyon**

School Counseling

Jody Martinez**

Educational Diagnostics

Marteena Martinez*

Educational Leadership

Patricia Marcus**

School Counseling

Joseph Benton Maxie**

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Amberley McClean**

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Megan McQueen**

School Counseling

Shelby Meo

School Counseling

Joshua Dennis Messer**

School Counseling

Kimberly Mitts**

School Counseling

Mary Monahan**

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Jana Montgomery**

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Educational Diagnostics

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Lucelia Rodriguez

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Donna Carol Romero**

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Amy Rzepecki**

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Lacie Sanders**

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Kaitlyn Nicole Schanhals*

Educational Diagnostics

Jason Shelton

School Counseling

Kristen Sidor**

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Erika Irene Solano**

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Diana Elizabeth Soto

School Counseling

CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION

Michealene Spencer*

School Counseling

Kymerly Spicer-Gonzalez**

Educational Diagnostics

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Educational Diagnostics

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Teaching and Learning

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Teaching and Learning

Andres Valentine Villa**

Teaching and Learning

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Educational Diagnostics

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School Counseling

Juana Iris Landaverde-Voight

School Counseling

Araceli Young**

Educational Diagnostics

Maria Fabiana Zreibi*

Educational Diagnostics

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Dr. Christelle Magali Gigant**

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Dr. Charles William Haynes**

Strategy and Innovation

Dr. Frankie Lindsey Hedrick**

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Dr. Belinda Johnson-Cornett**

Leadership and Organizational Development

Dr. Zoya Kidd

Strategy and Innovation

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Leadership and Organizational Development

Dr. Bizuayehu Ambaye Lema**

Data Analytics

Dr. Manjit Kaur Sooch**

Strategy and Innovation

Dr. Wendy McCormick Stewart*

Self-Design

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

Dr. Marrieta K Appling*

Self-Design

Dr. Godswill Barrah*

Self-Design

Dr. Kamil C Cooper**

Self-Design

Dr. Tiffany T. Grimes

PK-12 Administration

Dr. Lauren Anna Irwin**

Educational Psychology

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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Professor of Education
*Joan M. Tucker
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Robert Woodmansee
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* Emeriti who are deceased.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

USW sincerely appreciates the following community partners for their role in making the 2024 Commencement a memorable event!

Be the LIGHT Photobooth & Co.
Carbonlily
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Winners World

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