



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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**COMMERCE**

**Spring 2021**

Wednesday, May 5, 2021

5:00 p.m.

**COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES**

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Navarro Partnership

# The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents

Elaine Mendoza, Chairman  
Tim Leach, Vice Chairman  
Phil Adams  
Robert L. Albritton  
Jay Graham

Michael A. "Mike" Hernandez III  
Bill Mahomes  
Michael J. Plank  
Cliff Thomas  
Cahlen Cheatham, Student Regent

## System Administrative Officers

John Sharp, Chancellor  
Billy Hamilton, Deputy Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer  
Jon Mogford, Vice Chancellor for Research  
Ray Bonilla, General Counsel  
James Hallmark, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs  
Maria L. Robinson, Chief Investment Officer and Treasurer  
Phillip Ray, Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs  
Charlie Hrnrcir, Chief Auditor  
Mark Stone, Chief Information Officer  
Jenny Jones, Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations

Laylan Copelin, Vice Chancellor for Marketing & Communications  
M. Katherine Banks, Vice Chancellor & Dean of Engineering and National Laboratories  
Patrick Stover, Vice Chancellor & Dean of Agriculture and Life Sciences  
Nim Kidd, Vice Chancellor for Disaster & Emergency Services  
Greg Hartman, Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives and Senior Vice President, Health Science Center  
Stanton Calvert, Vice Chancellor Emeritus  
Frank Ashley, Vice Chancellor Emeritus



## Campus Administrative Officers

Mark Rudin, President  
John Humphreys, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Tina Livingston, Vice President for Finance and Administration  
Cece Gassner, Vice President for Research and Economic Development  
Keturi DeLong, Vice President for Philanthropy and Engagement  
Nechell Bonds, Vice President for Enrollment Management & Retention  
Judy Sackfield, Vice President, Student Success & Dean of Students  
Ricky Dobbs, Associate Provost  
Linda King, Chief of Staff

Jennifer Schroeder, Dean of Graduate School  
Randy Harp, Dean, College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources  
Mario Hayek, Dean, College of Business  
Kimberly McLeod, Dean, College of Education & Human Services  
William Kuracina, Dean, College of Humanities, Social Sciences & Arts  
Yvonne Villanueva-Russell, Dean, College of Innovation & Design  
Brent Donham, Dean, College of Science and Engineering  
Ray Green, Dean, Honors College  
Lanee Dunlap, Dean of Libraries  
Julia Ballenger, Professor, Educational Leadership and President, Faculty Senate

### *Texas A&M University-Commerce Regents Professors:*

Augustine Arize, Professor of Economics & Finance  
Julia Ballenger, Professor of Educational Leadership  
Betty Block, Professor of Health & Human Performance  
Ben Jang, Professor of Chemistry  
Bao-An Li, Professor of Physics & Astronomy  
Srinivas Nippani, Professor of Economics & Finance  
Mildred Golden Pryor, Professor of Management  
Sang Suh, Professor of Computer Science

### *Texas A&M University-Commerce Mayo Professors:*

David Brown, Professor of Early Childhood Education  
Allan Headley, Professor of Chemistry  
Mildred Golden Pryor, Professor of Management

### *Name Announcers:*

*Photography:* Lifetouch

### *Commencement Committee:*

Paige Bussell, Chair; Gary Coe, Ray Dittrich, Rhonda Ferguson, Robert Goodwin, Kimberly Green, Raymond Green, Russ Gregg, Mason Little, Robert McWhorter, Derryle Peace, Eddie Pinkcard, Amy Sims, Sharod Williams

# **Navarro College Board of Trustees**

Phil Judson, Chairman, Corsicana, Texas

Billy Todd McGraw, Vice Chairman, Blooming Grove, Texas

Richard L. Aldama, Secretary/Treasurer, Corsicana, Texas

A.L. Atkeisson, Kerens, Texas

Faith D. Holt, Corsicana, Texas

Loran Seely, Corsicana, Texas

K.C. Wyatt, Corsicana, Texas

# **Navarro College District President**

Kevin G. Fegan, Ed.D.

# **Navarro College President's Executive Leadership Team**

Carol Hanes, Ed. D., Vice President of Academic Affairs

Sina Ruiz, Vice President of Enrollment Management and Institutional Effectiveness

Teresa Thomas, CPA Vice President of Finance and Administration

Marcy Ballew, Vice President of Human Resources

Harold Housley, Ph.D., Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Operations

Maryann Hailey, Vice President of Student Services

Stacie Sipes, Director of Marketing and Public Information

Barry Sullivan, Director of Information Technology

Michael Landers, Athletic Director

Leslie Smith, Executive Assistant to the District President

Guy Featherston, Dean of Waxahachie Campus and Health Professions

Jeanette Underwood, Dean of Midlothian Campus and Dual Credit

Christina Mims, Dean of Mexia Campus

Susan Womack, Senior Research Analyst

## **Dr. Mark Rudin, President, Texas A&M University-Commerce**

Dr. Mark Rudin was appointed President of Texas A&M University-Commerce by The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents on August 16, 2018.

Dr. Rudin has a Bachelor of General Health Science (1983), Master of Science in Health Physics (1985), and Doctor of Philosophy in Medicinal Chemistry with a Concentration in Health Physics (1989) from Purdue University.

Student success, expanded research, and economic development are among Dr. Rudin's top priorities as President. His vision for A&M-Commerce includes adapting traditional models to meet the needs of all students and providing skills development in preparation for post-graduation employment.

Prior to assuming the presidency at A&M-Commerce, Dr. Rudin served as the Vice President for Research and Economic Development at Boise State University. During his eleven-year tenure at Boise State, he played a central role in expanding research activity and developing collaborative partnerships with both public and private entities.

Dr. Rudin previously served at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in a variety of administrative roles before being named Interim Vice President for Research and Graduate Dean. He also served as a Technical/Administrative Assistant with the U.S. Department of Energy and as a Senior Program Specialist/Project Engineer with EG&G Idaho, Inc. Dr. Rudin's career in education began in Idaho where he served as an instructor in the Department of Health Physics at Idaho State University.



## **Dr. Kevin G. Fegan District President for Navarro College**

Dr. Kevin G. Fegan became Navarro College's 8th District President on September 1, 2018. Prior to that, Dr. Fegan served as the President of Northwood University Texas Operations and Vice President of Executive Education and Corporate Programming.

In three decades of serving in higher education at every level, Dr. Fegan has been responsible for creating undergraduate and graduate, campus and in-house degree and certification opportunities for specialty and technical career areas. Some of these opportunities include programs in multiple automotive manufacturing facilities (Toyota, Ford, GM), degree programs for emergency service providers (Fire Science and Police Academy graduates), continuing education opportunities for accounting and financial services (Chrysler Financial and CPA professionals), degree completion options for military personnel and military providers (NASJRB, Lockheed, AAFES) and the health care services industry (Methodist).

A sought after speaker on Leadership, Communication, Culture, and Vision, Dr. Fegan is also recognized for his leadership and management style, and ability to implement transformational change in organizations. Dr. Fegan's leadership opportunities have extended to chairing and serving on a number of civic, government, and not-for-profit boards which have provided him with leadership experience in relation to regional economic development, advocacy, collaboration and partnerships with policy makers comprising a varied constituent base. These board experiences have developed astute political and diplomatic skills that Dr. Fegan utilizes to maximize select resources from defined program, organization, city, and state resource budgets.

Dr. Fegan holds a B.B.A. in Marketing and Management from Northwood University, an M.A. in Educational Administration from Central Michigan University, and an Ed.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from Wayne State University.





## Candidates for Master Degrees

Deborah Marie Grigsby

Jessica Lauren Marrs

Lois Ann Mims



## Candidates for Baccalaureate Degrees

### College of Business

Mariana Judith Dunn

Matthew B. McQueen

### College of Humanities, Social Sciences, & Arts

Syreeta Latrece Jefferson

Levi Gordon Kaldahl

Amy Orelia Lewis

### College of Innovation & Design

Penny Lori Bennett  
Anthony Drew Burnett  
Kaylee B. Davis  
Donnette M. East  
William S. Grigsby

Leonard Ray Hunt  
Kendrick Dejuan Johnson  
Caleb Len Loftis  
Anetress Rochelle Mathews  
Monica Lea McCollum

Michael Munoz  
Cynthia Ann Pope  
Tyler Allen Sapp  
Shamica R. Thomas

### College of Science & Engineering

Adam Loveday

### College of Education & Human Services

Deanna Lin Allen  
Brandi Jenee Bailey  
Shelbie Mae Browning  
Kari Launa Lynn Burks  
Destiny E. Collard  
Trista Allie Eaton  
Vanissa Jean Elkins  
Carolina Espinoza Rivera  
Savannah Angeline Galicia  
Anadely Galvan  
Shelsy Marie Gonzalez

Karin Elizabeth Hall  
Sarah J. Hasse  
Selena Montoya Hernandez  
Mackenzie Grace Hill  
Jenna Hyles Holden  
Shanna Leann Horton  
Meghan L. Jacinto  
Heather Celeste Jarvis  
Karli Janae Kirkpatrick  
Heidi L. Larsen  
Christina L. Martin

LaTasha Lynn Martin  
Angie G. McClendon  
Andrea Michelle Mullins  
Juanita Piper  
Crystal Reno  
Dalia Lizeth Rodriguez  
Katy Sanchez  
Shelly Marie Smith  
Karla Mariana Torres

# Academic Distinction

Summa Cum Laude—3.90-4.00 Magna Cum Laude—3.70-3.89 Cum Laude—3.50-3.69

The level of distinction is based on all hours attempted (including transfer work) and the native grade point average.

The lower of the two grade point averages determines the level of distinction.

## College of Innovation & Design

### Magna Cum Laude

Penny Lori Bennett

Kaylee B. Davis

Mariana Judith Dunn

Cynthia Ann Pope

Caleb Len Loftis

Shamica R. Thomas

### Cum Laude

Donnette M. East

Anetress Rochelle Mathews

## College of Education & Human Services

### Summa Cum Laude

Kari Launa Lynn Burks

Karin Elizabeth Hall

Selena Montoya Hernandez

Shanna Leann Horton

Heather Celeste Jarvis

Andrea Michelle Mullins

Juanita Piper

Dalia Lizeth Rodriguez

Shelly Marie Smith

Karla Mariana Torres

### Magna Cum Laude

Deanna Lin Allen

Brandi Jenee Bailey

Shelbie Mae Browning

Vanissa Jean Elkins

Savannah Angeline Galicia

Mackenzie Grace Hill

Jenna Hyles Holden

Angie G. McClendon

Crystal Reno

Katy Sanchez

### Cum Laude

Destiny E. Collard

Carolina Espinoza Rivera

Anadely Galvan

Shelsy Marie Gonzalez

Karli Janae Kirkpatrick

# The Academic Costume

## Origins

The origins of academic dress date back to the 12th and 13th centuries when universities were taking form. The ordinary dress of the scholar, whether student or teacher was the dress of the cleric. Long gowns were worn and may have been necessary for warmth in unheated buildings. Hoods seem to have served to cover the tonsured (shaved) head until superseded for that purpose by the skull cap.

In 14th century England, certain colleges prescribed the wearing of a long gown and forbade “excess” in apparel. In the days of Henry VIII, Oxford and Cambridge first began prescribing a definite academic dress and made it a matter of university control.

The assignment of colors to signify certain faculties was a later development, standardized in the United States in the 19th century. White, taken from the fur trimming of Oxford and Cambridge, was assigned to arts and letters. Red, one of the traditional colors of the church, went to theology. Green, the color of medieval herbs, was adopted for medicine. Golden yellow, symbolizing the wealth produced by scientific research, was assigned to the sciences.

Unlike European institutions, American colleges and universities opted for a definite system that all might follow. A commission from leading universities was established in 1893 to devise a suitable system of academic apparel. Meeting at Columbia University in 1895, the commission adopted a code of academic dress regulating the cut and style of the gowns and prescribing the colors which were to represent the different fields of learning.

## Gowns

Academic gowns or robes in the U.S. usually have similar characteristics. The gown for the bachelor’s degree has pointed sleeves and is designed to be worn closed. The master’s degree gown has a short, oblong sleeve, open at the wrist and may be worn open or closed. The gown for the doctor’s degree has bell-shaped sleeves and is usually worn closed.

With some exceptions gowns are black and those for the bachelor’s and master’s degrees are untrimmed. For the doctor’s degree, the gown is paneled down the front with velvet and three bars of velvet are used across the sleeves. These panels are crossbars may be black or in velvet of the color distinctive of the discipline to which the degree pertains.

## Colors

For all academic purposes, including trimmings of doctors’ gowns, edging of hoods, and tassels of caps, colors of some of the different disciplines are as follows: Arts, Letters, Humanities—White; Commerce, Accountancy, Business—Brown; Dentistry—Lavender; Education—Light Blue; Law—Purple; Music—Pink; Philosophy—Dark Blue; Science—Golden Yellow. The dark blue of the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree is used to represent the mastery of the discipline of learning and scholarship in any field and is not intended to represent the field of philosophy.

## Hoods

All hoods are black and are rarely worn for the bachelor’s degree. Doctor’s degree hoods are slightly longer than those for master’s degrees and have panels at the sides. All hoods are lined with the official color or colors of the college or university conferring the degree. The binding or edging on hoods, wider on the doctor’s degree, is indicative of the subject to which the degree pertains.

## Caps

Most academic caps are black and of a material matching the gown. For the doctor’s degree only, velvet may be worn. Traditionally, mortarboards have been standard academic regalia, although a soft cap resembling a beret may be worn. The tassel of the doctor’s cap is usually gold in color, while the bachelor’s and master’s are black. The tassel is fastened to the middle point of the top of the cap and lies as it will thereon. At most institutions, including Texas A&M University-Commerce, the tassel is worn on the left side.