

2026



NORTHEAST TEXAS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COMMENCEMENT



Whatley Center for the Performing Arts
Saturday, May 16, 2026



Eagles Soaring On

*Minds are in the making here
Hearts are in the waking here
Mighty undertaking here
Eagles soaring on*

*We are arming for the fight
Pressing on with all our might
Pluming wings for higher flight
Eagles soaring on*

*Northeast we hail to thee
In our hearts you'll always be
Thank you for the memories
Eagles soaring on*

Music: Dr. Ron Clinton, 2006

Lyrics: John Oxenham

Adapted by Brooke Oden

Student Welcome & Student Response Speakers



Stephanie Hernandez (Student Welcome Speaker at 9:00)

Stephanie Hernandez of Mount Pleasant is graduating from Northeast Texas Community College with an Associate of Science degree in Biology. She has been actively involved on campus through the Honors Program and as a member of Phi Theta Kappa, Psi Beta, STEM Club, and Raices y Alas. Stephanie is both a Presidential Scholar and a Texas Heritage National Bank Scholar. During her time at Northeast, Stephanie recently received a 2026 New Century Transfer Scholarship and 2026 All-USA Academic Team Scholarship. She also served as a student representative for the Great Plains Honors Council and earned numerous honors including the PTK Texas Regional Star Scholarship, Red River Symposium Oral and Presentation Award, first-place Webb Society Caldwell Award, Britt Award, Portia Gordon Award, Valaquez Award, two Eckman Awards, McGraw-Hill Poster Award, and more. In addition, she contributed to two research publications during her studies at Northeast. Her plans are to continue her education by pursuing a Bachelor's of Science degree and ultimately a career in Forensic Science.



LaDarrius Patterson (Student Response Speaker at 9:00)

A native of Mount Pleasant, Texas, LaDarrius Patterson graduated from Mount Pleasant High School in 2016 before dedicating five years of honorable service to the United States Air Force. In 2022, he returned home to follow his true passion: the theatre.

Since enrolling at Northeast Texas Community College in 2024 to pursue an Associate of Arts in Theatre, LaDarrius has become a cornerstone of campus life. He has balanced his studies with significant leadership roles, serving as an officer for the Alpha Mu Chi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, Parliamentarian of the Student Government Association, and President of Theatre Northeast. His academic and service-led achievements have earned him prestigious recognitions, including the Distinguished Theme and Project awards for Honors in Action. Furthermore, his dedication has been recognized through the Coca-Cola Military Leaders of Promise Scholarship, alongside the Elaine Hoppock and Cody-Proctor Theatre Scholarships.

Following graduation, LaDarrius plans to pursue a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Education. Driven by a vision for his community, his long-term goal is to cultivate new opportunities within the film industry right here in Mount Pleasant, expanding access and representation for actors across Northeast Texas.



Myriam Zambrano (Student Welcome Speaker at 11:00)

Myriam Zambrano is graduating from Northeast Texas Community College with an Associate Degree in Nursing. She began her healthcare career as a pharmacy cashier and expanded her experience by working as a phlebotomist and later as a Licensed Vocational Nurse in urgent care. Through these roles, she has developed strong clinical skills and a passion for providing compassionate, patient-centered care.

During her time in the nursing program, Myriam demonstrated dedication and perseverance while balancing the demands of school, work, and motherhood. She is a member of the Alpha Delta Nu Honor Society and the Student Nurses Association, reflecting her commitment to academic excellence and professional involvement in nursing. She is especially passionate about building meaningful connections with her patients and advocating for their well-being.

As a mother to four boys, Myriam considers this achievement especially meaningful, as she hopes to inspire them by showing the value of hard work, resilience, and pursuing one's goals. This perspective has also shaped her interest in providing nurturing and compassionate care. She plans to begin her career as a Registered Nurse, with the goal of working in the nursery. Myriam is grateful for the unwavering support of her family, friends, and her fiancé, Esteban, who have encouraged her throughout her journey.



Jorge Perdomo (Student Response Speaker 11:00)

Jorge Jareth Perdomo Murillo is an international student from Gracias, Lempira, Honduras, graduating from Northeast Texas Community College with an Associate of Science in Human Performance. He previously attended Abundant Life Christian School, a bilingual Christian institution that helped shape both his academic foundation and his faith.

At NTCC, Jorge has been actively involved across campus, serving as a Resident Assistant and participating in the Work4College program. Known for his joyful spirit and positive, approachable nature, he has demonstrated leadership, responsibility, and a strong work ethic while contributing to a supportive campus community.

Jorge is also a dedicated athlete and member of the NTCC soccer team. His passion for the sport extends beyond college, as he has competed at a semi-professional level in Honduras. Through soccer, he has developed discipline, resilience, and teamwork that continue to shape his character.

Beyond athletics, Jorge has a heart for service. In Honduras, he served his community through local churches and ministries, often working alongside mission groups as a translator, helping bridge communication and create meaningful connections. Currently, Jorge continues his ministry involvement as a youth intern at First Baptist Church Omaha, where he invests in the lives of younger students with care and encouragement while growing in leadership and faith.

Looking ahead, Jorge plans to continue his education, pursuing opportunities that align with his passion for service, leadership, and making a lasting impact, carrying with him a joyful heart and a desire to serve others wherever he goes.



Sheka Harper (Student Welcome Speaker 1:00)

Sheka Harper grew up in Clarksville, where she developed a deep appreciation for food and diverse culinary cultures. She later pursued a Certificate of Competency in Culinary Arts at Northeast Texas Community College, graduating in 2024. Today, she celebrates another significant milestone as she earns her Associate of Applied Science in Culinary Arts.

During her time at Northeast, Sheka has been an active member of the Business Club and was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa in 2025. She is currently continuing her studies in Business Administration at Northeast and plans to transfer to East Texas A&M University to pursue her bachelor's degree in Business Management. There, she hopes to further develop her leadership abilities and entrepreneurial skills as she prepares for her future career.



Pablo Badillo-Navarro (Student Response Speaker 1:00)

Pablo Badillo-Navarro is a first-generation college student from Rockwall, TX. Being the oldest child born to immigrant parents was not easy. However, it has motivated and inspired him to seek the best out of every situation. As he got older, Pablo began to truly comprehend the sacrifice his parents made. They came to this country with the hope of giving him and his siblings a better life and more opportunities.

This sacrifice not only motivates Pablo but also allows him to set an example for his younger siblings.

Pablo enrolled at Northeast Texas Community College in the fall of 2024 as a freshman. He is graduating with Carroll Shelby Automotive Technician Specialist Certificates. Pablo got involved very early. He has been a member of the NTCC Men's Soccer team, the Work4College Program, and has served as a student RA for his two years. As a result, Pablo learned many things that he can now put into practice moving forward. As Pablo graduates from NTCC he plans to continue his studies, continue playing soccer and have a better relationship with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Northeast Texas Community College
Commencement Program • Saturday, May 16, 2026



Processional

Introductions..... Dr. Kevin P Rose
President

Invocation..... Board of Trustees
(9:00) Mr. Kerry Wootten
(11:00) Mr. Chad Elledge
(1:00) Mr. Russell East

Student Welcome (9:00) Ms. Stephanie Hernandez
(11:00) Ms. Myriam Zambrano
(1:00) Ms. Sheka Harper

School Song "Eagles Soaring On"Mr. John Oxenham
Lyrics

Presentation of Class of 2026..... Dr. Anna Ingram
Vice President for Instruction

Conferring of Degrees and Certificates Dr. Kevin P Rose

Introduction of Student Response Speaker (9:00) Dr. Page Petrucka
(11:00) Mr. Mason May
(1:00) Mr. Zachary Strawbridge

Student Response (9:00) Mr. LaDarrius Patterson
(11:00) Mr. Jorge Perdomo
(1:00) Mr. Pablo Badillo-Navarro

Closing AnnouncementsMs. Kim Irvin
Vice President for Student Services

9:00 AM COMMENCEMENT - ARTS & SCIENCE

Associate of Arts



Zhamarian L. Akanji-Carlock
Brissia Alvarez
Larissa Danielle Banda
Ryan Caperton
Mariana Iris Cardenas
Madeline Guadalupe Contreras
Skylor Craddock
Φ Marcy Lorraine Enns
Ruby Estrada
Angela Irene Freeman
Φ Ψ H Jose A Fuentes
Marisol Garcia Gallegos
Φ Ψ H Estefani Garcia

Lillie Golden
Crystal Gonzalez
Boston Hamblin
Φ E Sarah Hamlin
Amber Sheedy Harmon
Evelyn Hernandez
Φ Kylar Johnson
Harmony Pari Lawhon
Ψ Tabatha Lyon-Drennan
Φ Erika Mickens
Kaila Milan Mitike
Zaylie Moreno
Φ LaDarius Patterson

Φ Cecilia Phan
Jose Posadas
Madelain Salazar
Halie Leann Shirley
Φ E Claire Ann Still
Nicholas Styles
Allison Tinney
Madelyn Alexis Todd
Φ E Addi Wheeler
Avilyn Wilson
Φ Avery Woods

Associate of Arts in Teaching



Lindsey Kate Anschutz
Kadence Brooke Blythe
Savanna Anayelie Cardenas
Billie Jadanne Contreras
Perla Ferretiz Dominguez

Lakendra Fluellen
Φ Diana Foster
LaKayla Clifton
Φ Ψ H Araceli Aguilar-Landaverde
Lizeth Navarro

Selena Netro
Augustina Reyes
Allianna Russell
Michelle Sandoval

Associate of Science



Jahnavi C Amin
Travis James Amox
Joseph Bell
Preslielyn Bell
Emanuel Bernardino
Austin Lo Bond
Cynthia Cabrera
Lainee Cameron
Peyton Ann Cameron
Charles Carlisle
Jared Jahdai Castanon
Rosselyn Chavez
Kaylee Clay
Gabriella Clifton
Lemuel Cobb
Sarai Cruz-Camacho
Hesly De Jesus
Darbi DeMoss
Amanda June Duncan
Kamen Dunn
Khloe Elizabeth Dunn
Daisy Equihua
Ψ Melany Idali Gallardo
Φ Ψ H Estefani Garcia
Alexis Grace Gonzalez
Isabel Gonzalez
Eufemia Isabel Guerrero
Nora Hardwick
Bianca Nicole Haynes
Lucy Hernandez

Φ Ψ H Stephanie Hernandez
Φ H Andrew Higgins
Giselle Ibarra
Jakeline Ibarra
Karmisha Marquette Jernigan
Casey Jones
Johnathan David Kent
Φ Kaithlin Le
Kaira Abelina Leija
Katrina Lewis
Janelle Lozano
Lesley Lozano
Lacey Brooklyn Lucas
Hannah Luebbert
Jocelyn Marroquin
Kaden Martin
Kayleigh Faith Martin
Φ Ψ H Rebeca Martinez
Kayden Mason
Misty McKinney
Arturo Mendoza Jr
Jaden Menjivar
Φ Shelby Morris
Madelyn Grace N Munoz
Luiz Fernando Olvera
Ethan Isaiah Ortega
Rafael Ortiz
Ψ Tisha J Patel
Riley Patterson
Bianca Antionette Peoples

Ψ H Andrew Perez
Esmeralda Perez
Φ Cecilia Phan
Saray Prado
Yolet Ramirez
Φ Joana Rangel
Φ Yoseline Rangel
Danika Rolison
Sareth Rosales
Hailey Sanchez
Yaretzi Anny Sanchez
Mariana Elizabeth Sandoval
Cooper Schwank
Boston Tate Seahorn
Heather Rene Shaw
Dylan M Shipp
Φ Sawyer Mabry Strange
Keelani Thompson
Abigail Jackson Thrapp
Alma Ulayyet
Mirka Valente
Φ Jessica Villegas
Kason Viramontes
Daniel Webb
Ebony Williams
Φ E Addison Wilson
Jacob Anthony Worthen
Conlee Zachry
Michelle Del Carmen Zelaya

11:00 AM COMMENCEMENT - HEALTH SCIENCES

Associate of Science



Logan Walker Campbell
Noah A Dumlao

Jorge Perdomo Murillo
Savannah Ann Soto

Associate of Applied Science



A Aniah Michelle Allen
Oscar Arellanos
A Brittany LeSha Austin
A Tobi Lee Beckham
Dreyson Henry Kaufman Beguin
Danyl Black-Whitaker
A Erica Lynn Blalock
A Jordan Blue
A Jettia Carleisha-Sade Bradley
Rachel Janeen Brantley
A Courtney Charray Burns
Jazmin Buzani
A Shawna Marie Cobbins
A Heide Vianey Contreras Ruiz
Φ Rebekah Contreras
A Kayla Cuellar
A Kenna Elise Czaplá
Britanica Sharday Darty
Alexandria Michelle Dawson
Niklaus DeShun Dawson
Layla Rose De Luca
A Nuvia Karina Delacruz
A Heba Amanda Dmairi
A Shatozia Dotson
Katera Y Duffey
Bliss Alexia Fields
Φ A Quatashila Keiontria Godlock
Shirley Lynn Grimes

Jarryd Laynn Hall
Natalie Hathaway
Φ Dena Rachele Hayes
Φ A Embriana Yatay Hendricks
Φ A Jennifer Lynn Henley
Kathryn Logan Hewell
A DaMeaka Hoyle
A Ariana Huff
Jamecia Hurd
A Chasity Danielle Jackson
A Audrie Johns
A LaKesha Roshae Jones
A Kati Lancaster
Kimberly Yvonne Land
A Jason LaRue
A Carlie Suzanne Marquez
Celeste Martinez
A Janette Martinez
A Kyra Mason
A Detricia Nicole McKinley
A Cicely Moore
Ayelet Moreno
A Valeria Moreno
A Maci Morgan
Victoria Michelle Murphy
A Sandra Netro
Φ A Yesenia Perez
A Rebecca R Potter

Connor L Prince
Akira Raynor
A Collin Redfearn
A Trinity Ridenour
A Lissette Rodriguez
A Christopher Rosbrough
Jessica Rose
Shayley Sams
Kaylee Schotts
A Heather Alicia Shipley
Nikole Louise Sidener
A Allie Jean Smith
Φ Steven D Spruiells
A Lizbeth Tavares
Destinee Thomas
A ShaMaurie Thomas
A Gracie Thompson
Victoria Paige Vallejo
Jaylen Walker
A Brandi Ward
Rhonda Wilkerson
Deborah Jene Wisdom
A Meggan Sharrmaine Wofford
Ashtyn Womack
A Kelly Jo Worley
A Anna Zachary
A Myriam Zambrano

Certificates of Competency



Health Sciences - Administrative Medical Assistant

Jahnavi C Amin

Health Sciences - EMT Basic

Jose Escobar

Health Sciences - Funeral Service

Tony Arline
Dreyson Henry Kaufman Beguin
Diana Bongfeldt
Jazmin Buzani
Alexandria Michelle Dawson
Sarah "Sid" Day
Layla Rose De Luca
Hannah Douglas
Denette R Everett
Blanca Marisol Gomez-Cornejo
William Louis Griffis Jr
Shirley Lynn Grimes
Selene Guardado

Φ Shiloah M Hale
Kathryn Logan Hewell
Audrey Jones
Brandi N Larmon
Joshua Lucio
Denise Tayoung Melchor
Haleigh Catherine Mitchell
Monica Yvette Napier
Emili Catherine Oliver
Φ Kristi Lynn Powers
Kolleen Faith Alexandria Primm
Connor L Prince
Carrie Lynn Pruitt

Terry John Qualls
Akira Raynor
Randall M Reaves
LaTarsha Kenyetta Reed
Jamie Sabrina Rivas
Melissa Noelle Robinson
Nikole Louise Sidener
Brian Smith
Chanelle Lynette Smith
Loreal Aralia Spears

Health Sciences - Funeral Service - Embalming

Dreyson Henry Kaufman Beguin
Jazmin Buzani
Alexandria Michelle Dawson
Niklaus DeShun Dawson
Layla Rose De Luca
Shirley Lynn Grimes
Jarryd Laynn Hall
Kathryn Logan Hewell
Φ Shannon Himes Suber
Melanie M Trimble
Victoria Paige Vallejo
Faith Alexandria Vickery
Martin
Brandon Michael Vittitow
Cheryl Warren-Brumsey
Kacee Williams
Deborah Jene Wisdom
Connor L Prince
Akira Raynor
Kaylee Schotts
Nikole Louise Sidener
Φ Steven D Spruiells
Victoria Paige Vallejo
Deborah Jene Wisdom

1:00 PM COMMENCEMENT - WORKFORCE EDUCATION

Associate of Science



Adriana Aguilar-Barrientos
Sabrina Avril
Desailly Bastien-Cowan
Φ Bryson Bentley
Carrie Nicole Browning
Katelyn Leigh Burgess
Lupita Cabrera
Taylor Collins
Vanessa Coronado
Jason Ezekiel Crane
Φ Renee Crum
Hector De La Cruz
Aidan Egizio
Jake Farris
Kiersten Lea Fincannon
Troy Gallardo

Cameron Hayden Garrett
Pilar Gonzalez
Koltan Hensley
Cameron Sarah Jo Hood
John Huls
Amy Alexcis Jaimes Perez
Jaden Da'Kwon Kelly
Kaleb Clemens Kuhn
Brandon Lumkins Jr
William Hayden Luker
Zackery McCollum
Emily Mendez-Gregory
Lindsey Yamileth Mendoza
Gary L Morrow
Bryanna L Nava
Luke Nohinek

Aldo Ramirez
Viviana Reyes
David Rios
Φ Jayden Carlos Rockwell
Esmeralda Servin
Φ Megan Simmons
Φ Miriam Rose Simmons
David Sorg
Joshua Staten
Angela Stokes
Odessa Wayne Taylor
Reed Colt Thornburgh
Juan De Jesus Villarroel
Jenyka Pylant White
Brennen L Wilson
Shpat Zeqaj

Associate of Applied Science



Andrew Marc Aymond
Pablo Badillo-Navarro
Scott Crum Jr
Dylan Fox
Montana G Gaskin
Elena Gibbens

Whitley James Hamilton
Shekashamon Deontia Harper
Landon Huggins
Benjamin Thomas Jennett
Chandler Lillian-Renea Jennett
Φ Coy Turner Jetton

Madison McNeil
Maddox Thomas Moore
Jaylen Walker
Nico Waltman Payne
Mayson Smith
Madyson Diane Sterling

Certificates of Competency



Agriculture - Farm and Ranch Management

Payton Barnes
Φ Alex Strickland
Φ Megan Simmons
Jaylen Walker

Agriculture - Regenerative Agriculture Level 1

Ariana Kaylee McClain

Agriculture - Regenerative Agriculture Level 2

Ariana Kaylee McClain

Agriculture - Sustainable Agriculture Level 1

Jaylen Walker

Agriculture - Sustainable Agriculture Level 2

Jaylen Walker

Automotive/Auto Body - Shelby Automotive Technician Level 1

Arnoldo Amador
Pablo Badillo-Navarro
Gavin Bennett
Marisol Camacho
Scott Crum Jr
Roger De La Cruz
Jakavian Xavier Flemming
Sara Gilmore
Cristian Herrera
Cameron Jefferson
Kadarian LaKeith Jones
Enrique Marrufo
Benito Mata Jr
Nico Waltman Payne
Robin Clayton Price
Erick Uziel Sanchez-Velazquez
Jared Santiago
Yahir Torres

Automotive/Auto Body - Shelby Automotive Technician Level 2

Pablo Badillo-Navarro
Scott Crum Jr
Johnathan Auston Franklin
Cameron Jefferson

Imanol Lopez

Maddox Thomas Moore

Automotive/Auto Body - Shelby Electric Vehicle Technician Level 1

Scott Crum Jr
Maddox Thomas Moore
Nico Waltman Payne

Automotive/Auto Body - Shelby Performance Academy

Scott Crum Jr
Nico Waltman Payne

Automotive/Auto Body - Shelby Restoration and Fabrication

Marvin Cisneros
Trevor J Melton
Cheyenne Turner

Business Management - Business Administration Level 1

Levi Buller
Mariana Iris Cardenas
Callie Clark
Alexa Copeland
Sarai Cruz-Camacho
Caden Cash Decker
Andres Diaz
Michael George
Chesney Sara Golden
Aubrie Brianna Litchenburg
Φ Ψ Jace McKamey
Hector Mendez Jr
Anna Stephanie Perez
Craig Abram Ross
Φ Olivia Scott
Esmeralda Servin
Son Tran
Dawson G Witherspoon

Business Management - Business Management

Carrie Nicole Browning
Φ Allison Lynne Devlin
Priscilla Garcia
Chesney Sara Golden
Benjamin Thomas Jennett
Chandler Lillian-Renea Jennett
Pablo Mendoza Jr
David Rios
Esmeralda Servin
Mayson Smith

Certificates of Competency



Business Management - Criminal Justice Specialization

Madysen Diane Sterling

Business Management - Financial Accounting

Adriana Aguilar-Barrientos

Sabrina Avril

Desailly Bastien-Cowan

Φ Bryson Bentley

Carrie Nicole Browning

Katelyn Leigh Burgess

Lupita Cabrera

Vanessa Coronado

Jason Ezekiel Crane

Hector De La Cruz

Aidan Egizio

Jake Farris

Kiersten Lea Fincannon

Troy Gallardo

Priscilla Garcia

Pilar Gonzalez

Kolton Hensley

Cameron Sarah Jo Hood

John Huls

Benjamin Thomas Jennett

Chandler Lillian-Renea Jennett

Kaleb Clemens Kuhn

Brandon Lumkins Jr

Zackery McCollum

Emily Mendez-Gregory

Lindsey Yamileth Mendoza

Gary L Morrow

Annie Munoz Jimenez

Luke Nohinek

Anna Stephanie Perez

Aldo Ramirez

Viviana Reyes

David Rios

Φ Jayden Carlos Rockwell

Jessica Rose

Boston Tate Seahorn

Esmeralda Servin

Φ Miriam Rose Simmons

Mayson Smith

David Sorg

Joshua Staten

Angela Stokes

Odessa Wayne Taylor

Kaylee Tompkins

Juan De Jesus Villarreal

Jenyka Pylant White

Shpat Zeqaj

Daniel Ray Gomez

Armando Gonzales

Austin Gonzalez

Alegandro Guerrero

Colsen Hammons

Yahir Hernandez-Garcia

Trenten Hill

Andres Jaimes

Parker D Lackey

Diego Martinez

Colt McLeckie

Zuleymi Nava

Cesar A Netro

Benjamin A Perez

Austin James Porter

Damien Porter

William Price

Eyan Roberts

Cesar Enrique Sanchez

Samuel D Sapp

Kase Reed Saucier

Braydon Louis Spakes

Jalen Stephens

Ricardo Antonio Torres

Conner Underwood

Yair Vega

Noah Weems

Leithen Wilkerson

Francisco Zapata

Industrial Technology - Industrial Technician

Φ Joel Ryne Friddle

Lane Kerns

Tucker Lamar LeCroy

Erickson C Minter

Industrial Technology - Industrial Electro-Mechanical Tech

Montana G Gaskin

Landon Huggins

Antwain Minter

Industrial Technology - Robotics/Automation Operations Emphasis

Aaron S Coyote

Brandon Douglas Fain

Keegan Shayne Gregory

Antwain Minter

Welding Technology - Basic Welding

Elena Gibbens

Kadarian LaKeith Jones

Welding Technology - Basic Structural (Plate) Welding

Elena Gibbens

Welding Technology - Pipe Welding Fabrication

Elena Gibbens

Computer & Info Science - Computer Applications

Φ Joselin Abrego

Computer & Info Science - Computer Programming

Φ Joselin Abrego

Gabriella Clifton

Φ Ψ H Rebeca Martinez

Dylan M Shipp

Computer & Info Science - Cyber Security

Φ Ψ H Rebeca Martinez

Computer & Info Science - Advanced Cyber Security

Whitley James Hamilton

Cosmetology - Manicurist Level 1

Maria Elizabeth Arreola

Laura Castro

Alissia Snow Crum

Ocean Crum

Φ Renee Crum

Priscilla Garcia

Karen Guerrero

Marie Elizabeth Hernandez

Dori Jaslyn Macedo

Liliana Rocha

Culinary Arts - Culinary Arts Level 1

Gabriel Gonzalez

Industrial Technology - CNC Operator

Aaron S Coyote

Dawson Hicks

Industrial Technology - Electrical Technology

Gema Amaro

Osbaldo Barboza

David Bautista Navarrete

Jacob Botello

Rudy Calderon

Ethan Manuel Carrillo

Daniel Castillo Jr

Aidyn Keoni Chavez

Kevin Cigarroa

Samuel Lee Cotton

Aaron Nathan Crews

Luis Armando Oseguera Cruz

Joshua Desbiens

Angel Jahir Flores

Christopher Garcia

Christopher Ali Garcia

Northeast Texas Community College

Board of Trustees

Brian Applegate

Mr. Applegate is the president and owner of A&A Masonry, Inc., a construction company based in Pittsburg, Texas. With A&A Masonry in business since 1980, he has built a strong reputation for managing large-scale commercial construction projects across the United States. A graduate of Pittsburg High School, he began his higher education at Northeast Texas Community College before earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Agribusiness from Stephen F. Austin State University. His educational and professional journey reflects a deep-rooted connection to the region and a commitment to its growth and development. In addition to his construction work, he also co-owns and operates a small-scale land and cattle company. Mr. Applegate currently serves on the Board of Directors for Texas Heritage National Bank and participates in several of its committees.

Russell East

Mr. East holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania and an MBA from New York University. He retired after 40 years from ExxonMobil in 2017, where he served in numerous roles in process engineering, finance and human resources/compensation. In addition, he helped found Corporate HANDS, the nation's largest locally managed business collaboration established to enhance quality and availability of childcare in Greater Houston. He was subsequently elected to the Board of Directors for Houston's Initiatives for Children (1994-2001) serving as President for 1996-2001. Since moving to Morris County, he has been involved with Longview Regional Medical Center and CHRISTUS Good Shepherd Hospitals and is a member of the Lions Club and South Union Baptist Church.

Chad Elledge

Mr. Elledge graduated from Mt. Pleasant High School and was a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society while attending Northeast Texas Community College. He continued his education at Texas A & M University in College Station earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science. He also holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Texas A&M University in Commerce. Mr. Elledge is also a graduate of the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at Southern Methodist University. He has 25 years of banking experience. He is currently the Chief Risk Officer at Texas Heritage National Bank, where he is responsible for the oversight of the bank's Enterprise Risk Management System, the bank's Compliance Department, the Information Technology Department, and several other special projects for the bank.

Sondra A. Fowler

Ms. Fowler has a Bachelor of Science degree from Texas A&M University-Commerce, attended the London Business School, and continued her education at the University of St. Thomas. She is a communications manager with 30 years of headquarters experience in four major multinational corporations including petroleum, chemicals, food and insurance industries in the United States and Great Britain. Ms. Fowler retired from Conoco in 2002 as head of the company's global external communications, and is actively involved in numerous volunteer endeavors.

Robin Sharp

Mr. Sharp is Executive Vice President of Guaranty Bond Bank and is an advisory member of the Bank's Board of Directors. In addition to commercial lending responsibilities, he has administrative oversight of the Titus County bank locations and he supervises the bank's Regulatory Compliance, Risk Management, and Loan Operations divisions. Mr. Sharp has over 30 years of experience in banking. He earned his Bachelor's degree from Texas Tech University, attended the American British College in Barcelona, Spain, and continued his education at the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking in Dallas where he graduated with Honors in 2007.

Kerry Wootten

Mr. Wootten is a native of Mount Pleasant, Texas, graduating from Mount Pleasant High School. He is a graduate of Baylor University, with a BBA in Accounting and a law degree from the Baylor University School of Law. He is also a certified public accountant. Prior to moving back to Mount Pleasant, he practiced with Touche Ross & Company CPAs in Dallas, now known as Deloitte. He has practiced law for the past 42 years in Mount Pleasant, primarily handling probate and estate matters, real estate, banking, and municipal law. He has also served as City Attorney for the City of Mount Pleasant.

THE ACADEMIC PROCESSION

In colleges and universities, academic degrees are conferred at commencement exercises. Originally, the term meant the inception of the student graduate as a teacher and his recognition as such by his master and other members of the profession. Thus, the term once marked an actual beginning.

The processional and recessional of students and faculty dressed in academic regalia is a traditional part of these commencement exercises. The history of academic dress goes back to the medieval universities. In the 12th and 13th centuries, when universities were taking form, they were under the jurisdiction of the church. Those studying wore a habit or cloak to which was attached a cowl or hood which could be pulled up over the head or thrown back, according to weather conditions. Later, the gown served the dual purpose of providing warmth in the unheated halls as well as uniformity of dress.

The hood seems to have had three uses: a covering, a shoulder cape, and a bag for collecting alms. It is believed that when large wigs were worn, the cape part of the hood was cut open in front and the entire garment, cape and hood proper, was allowed to fall back, producing approximately the effect seen today. After wigs went out of fashion, the original shape was not restored. The master's hood is longer than the bachelor's, and the doctor's longer than the master's.

Gowns commonly worn in the colleges and universities of this country have pointed sleeves for the bachelor's degree, long closed sleeves (with a slit for the arm) for the master's degree, and bell-shaped, open sleeves for the doctor's degree. The master's and bachelor's gowns have no trimming. The gown for the doctor's degree is faced down the front with black velvet with three pairs of the same across the sleeves; or these facing and cross bars may be of velvet of the color distinctive of the faculty or subject to which the degree pertains.

The cap is an essential part of the academic dress and it is to be retained on the head throughout all academic exercises except during prayer. In particular, the cap is not to be removed at any point in the conferment of a degree.

All hoods are lined with silk showing the official colors of the institution which conferred the degree, and all are trimmed in specific widths with velvet signifying the degree as follows:

AGRICULTURE-maize	MEDICINE-green
ARTS AND LETTERS-white	MUSIC-pink
COMMERCE & ACCOUNTANCY-drab	NURSING-apricot
DENTISTRY-lilac	ORATORY-silver gray
ECONOMICS-copper	PHARMACY-olive green
EDUCATION-light blue	PHILOSOPHY-dark blue
ENGINEERING-orange	PHYSICAL EDUCATION-sage green
FINE ARTS (incl. Architecture)-brown	PUBLIC HEALTH-salmon pink
FORESTRY-russet	SCIENCE-golden yellow
HUMANITIES-crimson	SOCIAL SCIENCE-citron
LAW-purple	THEOLOGY-scarlet
LIBRARY SCIENCE-lemon	VETERINARY SCIENCE-gray

LEGEND: Φ Phi Theta Kappa Ψ Psi Beta E Sigma Kappa Delta A Alpha Delta Nu H NTCC Honors, Presidential Scholar
Σ The Society for Collegiate Journalists

Phi Theta Kappa, International Honor Society of the Two-Year College

Psi Beta, National Honor Society in Psychology for Community and Junior Colleges

Sigma Kappa Delta, National English Honor Society for Two-Year Colleges

The Society for Collegiate Journalist is the nation's oldest honorary society for collegiate journalism

The listing of graduates is based upon information provided prior to printing of the program. The appearance or absence of any name in the program does not constitute recognition or denial of completion of degree or certificate requirements. The awarding of degrees and certificates will be based on the outcome of final examinations and final grades. The College apologizes for any errors or omissions.



NORTHEAST TEXAS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE