

PARK UNIVERSITY

C O M M E N C E M E N T P R O G R A M





AUSTIN CAMPUS CENTER COMMENCEMENT 2023

Friday, August 4th 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. The Austin Stone Church 9001 N. FM 620 | Austin, TX 78726



Founded in 1875 in Parkville, Mo., a suburb of Kansas City, Park University is a nonprofit, private institution that is a national leader in higher education. In 2000, Park achieved university status and currently serves more than 11,700 students at 41 campuses in 22 states and online, including Parkville, Independence and Kansas City, Mo.; Lenexa, Kan.; Gilbert, Ariz.; Barstow and Victorville, Calif.; Columbus, Ohio; Austin and El Paso, Texas; and 31 military installations across the country.

Serving an ethnically diverse student population and non-traditional adult learners has, for many years, been central to Park's educational mission. Even in its first year, Park University enrolled women students as well as men, something that was unusual at the time; and two of the original 17 students were Native Americans. Park was also an early integrator when it welcomed African-American students to live in Park's residence halls in the 1950s.

Park continues to increase access to higher education by offering the quality undergraduate and graduate degrees students desire at locations, times and delivery formats that best serve their needs. The University has been ranked among the top private colleges/universities in the country for adult learners as well as for annual return on investment, and it is consistently ranked among the top least expensive private schools in the country.

Providing such access has developed considerable diversity among the student population, with 543 international students from 70 countries and a 58 percent student representation from racial, ethnic and cultural groups typically underrepresented in colleges and universities. In addition, extracurricular activities and championship-caliber athletic programs (NAIA) complement Park's outstanding scholastic programs.

Park University offers numerous degree programs online, and it maintains a long-standing relationship with the U.S. military for which it has been recognized as one of the largest providers of online undergraduate education to military learners worldwide. Park has received international recognition by various military-related publications as a top military friendly college/university. In addition, Park is among the top-ranked "best for vets" private colleges/universities in the country.

MISSION STATEMENT

Park University transforms lives through accessible, student-centered, quality higher education.

VISION STATEMENT

Park University will meet learners' needs for a lifetime.

CORE VALUES

We expect **ACCOUNTABILITY** for our actions at all levels, to each other and to Park University.

We treat all with **CIVILITY** and **RESPECT** while being open and honest in our communications.

We seek **EXCELLENCE** in all we do, with passionate learning as our highest priority.

We celebrate **GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP** through our connected learning and working environment, liberal arts education and community stewardship.

We embrace **INCLUSIVITY** that fosters diversity, teamwork and collaboration.

We act with **INTEGRITY** through honesty, efficiency and reliability.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear 2023 Graduates:

Commencement marks the beginning of a new phase of your life. As we join you today in celebrating your academic accomplishments, we proudly acknowledge your standing as lifetime members of the Park University Alumni Association, a community of more than 80,000 outstanding graduates worldwide. You join generations of Park alumni who have made a meaningful difference in their places of work and communities in which they live.

As Park approaches its milestone 150th anniversary in 2025, we recognize that you are graduating in a historic era. The critical knowledge and skills you have developed at Park will serve you well regardless of where your life's journey takes you next. I remain confident that the Class of 2023 will distinguish itself as discoverers, teachers, servant-leaders and dreamers.

Since Park's earliest days, the motto *Fides et Labor* (Latin for "faith and work") has inspired students to believe in themselves and work hard to achieve their goals. May you remember this motto, the faculty who guided you, the staff who served you and our beloved University for years to come.

Congratulations!

Shane B. Smeed President

Park University

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

PRELUDE Candidates for Graduates, Faculty, Staff

and Guest Speaker

Invocation Cynthia Tafoya

WELCOME Cynthia Tafoya, Campus Center Director

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER Opal Berry

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES Karen Evans

RECOGNITION OF STUDENT HONORS Karen Evans

CONFERRING OF DEGREES Christopher Schaefer & Henry Welles

OUTSTANDING GRADUATE RECOGNITION Darrick Nicholas

BENEDICTION Cynthia Tafoya

PARK UNIVERSITY ALMA MATER Cynthia Tafoya

RECESSIONAL† Cynthia Tafoya

- * The audience will please stand.
- † The audience is requested to please remain in place until the academic procession has departed the Auditorium.

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices. Thank you.

We invite you to join the **#ParkGraduation** celebration on Twitter (@ParkUniversity) and Instagram (@ParkUniversity).

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



Opal Berry Business Services Manager Workforce Solution rural Capital Area

With a background in business, Opal has expertise in many facets of business. Her background includes ownership of a McDonald's franchise, marketing and contract management for Target Corporation, and Contract Manager for a \$900,000,000 contract with Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

As Business Services Manager, she manages a team of 10 Business Consultants, who cover the nine-county area of Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area, working with employers to offer solutions that help build and maintain their staff.

As a Business Consultant, she built a network of partners and created the Metro Area Job Fair, a monthly job fair which has gained notice and requests to participate from employers all over the Austin Metro Area. Opal worked as an Executive Coach with Workforce Solutions Capital Area, where she developed and managed an executive discussion and networking group for executives Director and above. That group, in the first year, saw its members garner over \$3,000,000 in new jobs.

Opal's business experience and work with executives affords her a unique understanding of the challenges of building and advancing a career. It also affords the skills of building the confidence that allows people to present themselves in the most effective way. She has the understanding with which to listen to the needs of people and translate them into solutions that bring success to all involved parties.

GRADUATE CANDIDATES

COLLEGE OF MANAGEMENT

Masters of Business Administration

Colvin, Esther Garza, Nicole McAdams, Jamaika Mingo, Logan Tate, Tarnisha Masters of Business Administration/Human Resources
Master of Business Administration/General
Master of Business Administration /Human Resources
Master of Business Administration/Business Analytics
Master of Business Administration /Human Resources



UNDERGRADUATE CANDIDATES

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

Bachelor of Science & Bachelor of Arts

Adeyemi, Esther o BS Cybersecurity & BS Information Computer Science/Computer Science, Information Technology and Networking Security BS Social Psychology Faber, Mikayla + Flores, Kaelyn o BS Social Psychology Gomez, Marie BS Interdisciplinary Studies Green, Ive o BS Social Psychology Henninger, Savannah BS Social Psychology Le, Hieu BA Psychology McKaskle, MiCara o BS Criminal Justice Administration/Security Miller, Ashley BS Criminal Justice Administration/Law Enforcement Mokry, Christine BS Social Psychology Patrick, Staci BS Social Psychology Rivero, Miriam * BS Social Psychology Rogers, Michael BS Information Computer Science/Networking & Security Vasquez, Laura BS Social Psychology Wells, Samuel BS Criminal Justice Administration/Security Williams, Bryan * BS Information Computer Science/Software Development

Honors Designation Key:

- * = Summa Cum Laude 3.9 4.0 with 30 Park credit hours
- o = Magna Cum Laude 3.7 3.899 with 30 Park credit hours
- + = Cum Laude 3.5 3.699 with 30 Park credit hours
- Alpha Chi Coeducational Academic Honor Society
- > = Psi Chi International Honor Society for Psychology
- # = Phi Alpha National Social Work Honor Society
- = Honors Academy Students complete academically challenging courses and a self-designed research project while participating in service learning; internships; prestigious off-campus summer programs; study abroad; and preparation for graduate study and careers. (The Honors listed are as of the program print deadline.)
- { = Mu Chi/Delta Mu Delta International Honor Society for Business
- } = Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society
- = Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society

COLLEGE OF MANAGEMENT

Bachelor of Science

Antuono, Siraio
Benitez, Edwin o
Boren, Alexandra o
Desir, Mandy
Gordon, Cornelia
Kuebitz, Edward
Normann, Meredith
Parker, Jonashia
Perez, Michael o
Rivera, Miguel +
Robichaux, Samantha
Sanabria, Joseph +
Williams, Ladori +

Winters, Micah

BS Management
BS Business Administration/Marketing
BS Management/Human Resources
BS Management/Health Care
BS Business Administration/Logistics
BS Business Administration/Management
BS Business Administration/Accounting
BS Business Administration/Accounting
BS Business Administration/Management
BS Business Administration/Management
BS Business Administration/Management
BS Accounting
BS Management/Computer Information Systems
BS Management/Human Resources

BS Management/Human Resources

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Congrats, Ceraduates

MESSAGE FROM THE Cynthia Tafoya, Campus Center Director



Dear Class of 2023, Congratulations on your graduation from Park University! I do hope that this milestone that you celebrate today is a self-reflection of the hard work and dedication that you have invested in yourself and are proud of. I wanted to leave you with some thoughts as

Today your commitments do not go unnoticed! You were able to complete this education journey with an open heart, an open mind and genuine effort to prepare yourself for the professional journey ahead during extraordinary times. Your commitment has allowed you to build life-long relationships, broaden your view of the world and increased your awareness of the gift of an education. You have earned your degree! Earning a degree is not for everyonel

you continue on your way.

Today the value of your intelligence will change lives! You were able to grow in wisdom, trust in each other's point of view as a team and lead courageously with the best-calculated learning outcome of your constructed work. When in doubt, draw near to this mindset, it is a skillset well earned and it will differentiate from your peers. Lead with confidence for all the work you have put in over the years!

May the diploma you walk away with today lead you to generosity for the good of humanity and drive you to discover encounters in ways that you can serve others. May it empower you to lead others through your academic example and integrity. May it capture the joys of the day that you can finally say, "I did it!" May it remind you to stop and take a moment to express sincere gratitude of all of those who have inspired and supported you along the way. Let us not forget those who couldn't be with us here today.

Be proud of who you are today Class of 2023 a Park University Alumni!!! Be steadfast for the extraordinary opportunities to come. It has been a great honor in serving you!

-Cynthia Tafoya Campus Center Director Park University Austin Campus Center

THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WELCOMES YOU

On behalf of the Park University Alumni Council, I am thrilled to congratulate each and every graduate on a job well done! Completing a degree program is one of life's most challenging and rewarding accomplishments. Your investment of time and effort was worth it. The best is yet to come.

Today, a new journey begins: we are excited to welcome you into the Park University Alumni Association! The Park University Alumni Association exists to inspire passion and pride, and to promote continued participation with the University. We are here to help you maintain meaningful lifelong connections with other alumni.

As a member of the Alumni Association, you will have many opportunities to get involved in alumni activities and events. And while we'll reach out often to keep you updated, we also invite you to contact us. You can reach the Office of Alumni Relations by phone (816) 584-6200, through social media (LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter and more), via e-mail at alumnioffice@park.edu or online at advancing.park.edu when you want to get involved or need our assistance. We are always here to offer support.

Again, congratulations on this milestone. We are very proud of you!

Best wishes,
Phillip Reeder, '12

WE HAVE THE ANSWER TO YOUR NEXT EDUCATIONAL STEP

Accessible

Park University meets the growing demand for career-enhancing education by offering a variety of master's degrees and certificate programs with a practical focus, high academic standards and flexible course scheduling to meet the challenges faced by today's professionals.

Affordable

Graduate students enrolling at Park University can complete their degrees in traditional face-to-face classes, online or in a combination that suits their needs and enhances their educational experience. Our goal is to keep your advanced degree journey as convenient as possible for you. Regardless of your daily demands, Park's variety of classes and flexibility of schedules will meet your needs. Park's tuition rates are especially competitive, providing a superb private educational experience at a public price.

Accredited

Park University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. Its graduate degree programs in professional fields are accredited by their respective accreditation agencies or in the process of securing program accreditation.

Please contact the Park University at *graduateadmissions@park.edu* or (816) 741-2000 for questions about Park's graduate degree and certificate programs.

PARK. YOU. park.edu/grad

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Decanso, CA

PARK UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES

More than 11,700 Park University students attend classes at one of 41 locations in 22 states and online from national or international settings.

Parkville (Flagship Campus) Downtown Kansas City

Independence

Lenexa

Little Rock Air Force Base Davis-Monthan Air Force Base

Gilbert

Luke Air Force Base Barstow Community College

Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base

Victor Valley College Moody Air Force Base

Mountain Home Air Force Base Scott Air Force Base

Hanscom Air Force Base Fort Leonard Wood Whiteman Air Force Base Malmstrom Air Force Base Holloman Air Force Base

Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station

Grand Forks Air Force Base Minot Air Force Base Defense Supply Center Columbus Wright-Patterson Air Force Base

Tinker Air Force Base

Beaufort Marine Corps Air Station

Charleston Air Force Base Naval Support Activity Mid-South Millington

Austin El Paso Fort Bliss

Goodfellow Air Force Base Joint Base San Antonio -Lackland Air Force Base

Laughlin Air Force Base
Joint Base San Antonio -

Randolph Air Force Base Hill Air Force Base

Fort Myer

Headquarters Marine Corps/Headquarters

Battalion Henderson Hall Marine Corps Base Quantico Fairchild Air Force Base Francis E. Warren Air Force Base Parkville, MO

Kansas City, MO

Independence, MO

Lenexa, KS Little Rock, AK

Tucson, AZ

Gilbert, AZ

Glendale, AZ

Barstow, CA

Oceanside, CA

Victorville, CA Valdosta, GA

Mountain Home, ID

Belleville, IL

Bedford, MA

Waynesville, MO

Knob Noster, MO

Great Falls, MT

Alamogordo, NM

Cherry Point, NC

Grand Forks, ND

Minot, ND

Columbus, OH

Dayton, OH

Midwest City, OK

Beaufort, SC

North Charleston, SC

Millington, TN

Austin, TX El Paso, TX

El Paso, TX

San Angelo, TX

San Antonio, TX Del Rio, TX

Universal City, TX Ogden, UT

Arlington, VA

Arlington, VA

Quantico, VA

Spokane, WA Cheyenne, WY

ACADEMIC ROBES AND REGALIA

The pageantry and color of an academic convocation come from medieval Europe where academic robes and regalia were adapted from Ecclesiastical garb. Most robes are black to symbolize the democracy of scholarship, since they cover any dress indicating social standing worn beneath. Bachelors' gowns are cut with long, pointed sleeves, while masters' gowns feature closed, slit sleeves. Doctoral gowns are full-cut with double-belled sleeves and bars of velvet trim.

The hood, originally a simple cowl attached to the gown, bears the heaviest symbolism of the academic costume. The bordering color indicates the field of learning in which the degree is earned. The square cap, or mortarboard, originated in the 13th century at the University of Paris and came to England in Tudor times. Round caps originally were reserved for doctoral degree holders. Doctoral tassels are usually gold, with other degrees represented by black. However, in recent years, tassels have come to match the lining of the hood to indicate the field of learning. The Honors Medallion symbolizes completion of the Honors Academy which involves independent development of projects with the assistance of faculty mentors. Alpha Chi is the highest honor society at Park University and encompasses all academic areas. The stole is worn as an indication of this recognition.

Art, Letters, Humanities	White
Business and Administration	Drab
Economics	Copper
Education	Light Blue
Fine Arts	Brown
Healthcare Administration	Kelly Green
Law	Purple
Library Science	Lemon Yellow
Music	Pink
Nursing	Apricot
	Dark Blue
Physical Education	Sage Green
Public Affairs	Aqua
Science	Golden Yellow
Social Work	Citron
Speech/Theatre	Silver Gray
Theology	Scarlet

ALMA MATER

David Lueker, '47, arr. Dr. Roger Kugler





