



WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY  
San Antonio Campus

*Eighty-fifth Commencement Exercises*

Friday, February 6, 2026 | 10:30 a.m.  
Trinity Baptist Church

## *Our Mission*

Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning-focused, and distinctively Christian environment for professional success and service to God and humankind.

## *Our History*

At the turn of the 20th century, pioneer physician Dr. James Henry Wayland understood the importance of education and was driven to offer an education grounded in faith to the people of West Texas. In an agreement with the Staked Plains Baptist Association and the people of Plainview, Texas, Dr. and Mrs. Wayland donated \$10,000 and 25 acres of prime real estate to establish the Wayland Literary and Technical Institute, officially chartered in 1908.

In the 1940s, Wayland began to expand its reach by initiating an international student program. Wayland soon had a higher percentage of international students than any other American college or university. In 1951, Wayland continued its pioneering effort by becoming the first four-year liberal arts college in the former Confederate states to voluntarily admit minorities. This decision came three years before the Supreme Court's decision that banned racial segregation in schools.

Wayland opened its first official external campus in Wichita Falls, Texas in 1974. Ten years later, in 1984, it opened the San Antonio campus. By 2003, Wayland Baptist University had become the fourth-largest Southern Baptist university in the United States. Currently, the San Antonio campus operates six teaching sites, including two in the Rio Grande Valley.

Wayland Baptist University is dedicated to providing an innovative education informed by a Christian worldview. Our commitment to a transformative environment of faith and learning is affirmed in our University's mission and core values.

## *Our Core Values*

- Commitment to Student Learning
- Christian Distinctiveness & Baptist Heritage
- Integrity, Diversity, Trust & Respect
- Excellence, Innovation & Adaptability
- Service to Our Communities
- Personal, Professional & Spiritual Development
- Stewardship of Our Resources
- Planning & Accountability
- Environmental Responsibility



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**Processional**

Dr. N. Seth Nelson  
*Organist, First Baptist Church - San Antonio*

**+ Reading of Scripture & Invocation**

Dr. Matthew Homeyer  
*Senior Pastor - Trinity Baptist Church*

**+ National Anthem**

Lauina Anderson

**Welcome and Introductions**

Dr. D. Glenn Simmons  
*Executive Director/Campus Dean*

**Introduction of Commencement Speaker**

Dr. Simmons

**Commencement Speaker**

Dr. Donna R. Hedgepath  
*President of Wayland Baptist University*

**Presentation of Candidates**

Dr. David Bishop  
*Vice President of External Campuses*

**Conferring of Degrees**

Dr. Hedgepath

**Presentation of Diplomas**

Dr. Hedgepath

**Changing the Tassels**

Dr. Hedgepath

**+ Benediction**

Dr. Ben Craver  
*Professor, School of Christian Studies*

**Closing**

Dr. Simmons

*+ Audience will please stand*

# *Candidates for Master's Degrees*

## **MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

Shelby Cash

Gina Kim Lavender

James L. Clerkley

Justin Duane Parker

Molyne Martinez Hacker

Tamarh L.Scott

Ismail Hakki Kaplan

David William Stout

Briana Lalone

## **MASTER OF ARTS IN MANAGEMENT**

Tomas Gabriel Fernandez Jaramillo

Joseph Richard Logue

Catalina Virginia Garibaldo

## **MASTER OF ARTS IN ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP**

Chosniel K. Jefferson

## **MASTER OF EDUCATION**

Richard Anderson Jr.

Van James Jerome Mayfield

Briana Lykole Garcia

William Christopher Richards

Edmon James

Audrey Tokarski

## **MASTER OF ARTS IN CLINICAL COUNSELING**

Britni Berry

Carlos Alexander Rengifo Casierra

Samantha Carrales-Trejo

Imani Rosser

## **MASTER OF ARTS IN HUMAN SERVICES**

Andrea Renee' Cormier-Baulch

Catrina Justine Slush

Deanna Michele Gamboa

## **MASTER OF LEGAL STUDIES**

Chona Luyahan Day

Ana R. Reyes

## **MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

Shelly Diane Leonard

Raychelle Delisa Sanders

## **MASTER OF SCIENCE**

Nagendra Babu Adapa

Jeevitha Krishnappa

Sumaiya Amreen

Yogtiha Nelluri

Venkateshchowdary Bandi

Jaswanth Premchand Rajoly

Sai Kiran Karnati

Manikanta Karthik Satuluri

Venkat Reddy Kethi Reddy

Malavika Tanneeru

Rohith Reddy Kethiri

Harshitha Reddy Yannam

*"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."*

- Isaiah 40:31

# *Candidates for Bachelor 's Degrees*

## **BACHELOR OF APPLIED SCIENCE**

Jamie Aguirre	Kevin S. Johnson*
Joelda Arredondo <sup>L</sup>	Jasper Jones
Brianna D. Baugh	Michael Dwayne Lewis <sup>A</sup>
Abraham Bejil*	Jason Sam Mackey
Cameron M. Bock	James Roy McAlister IV <sup>A*</sup>
Jessica Lenore Burr <sup>A*</sup>	Angela ReNee McKelvain
Taska L. Carter-Ware*	William Tyler Montague
Marcie Leeann Danahey	Aleasha V. Mooring*
Natalie Del Angel <sup>A</sup>	Beulah Victoria Mulcahy
Cody Shane Drywater Sr. <sup>A*</sup>	Nicholas Allen Narveson <sup>V</sup>
Jeffrey William Edwards II <sup>A</sup>	Madison Haleigh Owens
Melissa Joy Flores	LaShonda Perkins
Eric Galvan*	David James Ponder
Ana Luisa Garcia <sup>L</sup>	Cody A. Ramsey
Daniel E. Garcia	Benjamin M. Reder
Eduardo Garcia	Jennifer Liana Regan
Martin Arturo Garza Jr.	Stephanie Lynn Streitenberger
Francine Roxanna Gonzales <sup>V</sup>	Bria Ranette Taylor
Gloria Anabel Gonzalez <sup>A V</sup>	Patricia Maria Tomivino
Pierce D. Gorman	Sara Alexandra Valencia <sup>M</sup>
Carlos A. Granado	Nathan I. Valenzuela
Bryan Preston Green <sup>L</sup>	Claudia C. Vallejo <sup>L</sup>
Kristopher W. Hankal	Ursula S. Walker*
Dana Henderson	Jessica Ivett Welch
Kaylee Rae Hudecek	Joseph Zachary Ybarra*
Mark Allen Jackson	Anishka Young

## **BACHELOR OF ARTS**

Amanda Rae Jackson

## **BACHELOR OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRY**

Alfredo Maldonado

David Andrew Wittig

## **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES**

Kelsie Marie Byler<sup>L</sup>

Desiree Holmes

## **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING**

Desiree Alexis Baker

Reuben Hottel<sup>V</sup>

Sherie Marie Canady

Christy L. Luttrell<sup>L</sup>

Emorie Michelle Cobb<sup>M</sup>

Mitchell Dean Mielke<sup>V</sup>

Jennifer Lynn Fuentes<sup>L</sup>

Shirley Adele Nelson

Karah Danielle Grimes<sup>L</sup>

Elizabeth Santos

Erica Hansen

Kimberly A. Torres<sup>L</sup>

Valerie L. Hedenland

# Candidates for Associate Degrees

## ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE

Lucky C. Garcia Haisten

Adriana Y. Meza



### BACCALAUREATE HONORS


*Cumulative GPA with 60 or more resident hours:*

V	Summa Cum Laude (Highest Honors)	3.90 to 4.00
M	Magna Cum Laude (High Honors)	3.70 to 3.89
L	Cum Laude (Honors)	3.50 to 3.69

*Cumulative GPA with 31-59 resident hours:*

**	Certificate of Distinction	3.99 to 4.00
*	Certificate of Honor	3.50 to 3.98

<sup>A</sup> Also receiving the Associate of Applied Science Degree

 Outstanding Student Award Recipient

*This program is accurate with respect to the degree awarded and honors conferred based on available information at the time of print production. Neither a name listed herein nor participation in the ceremony guarantees the awarding of a degree or honors. The Office of the Registrar retains each student's permanent academic record, which indicates these official designations.*



*Congratulations  
Graduates!*

*“Go confidently in the direction of your dreams.  
Live the life you have imagined.”*

- Henry David Thoreau

**WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY**  
**SAN ANTONIO CAMPUS**

*Outstanding Student Awards*

Every year, Wayland Baptist University - San Antonio recognizes outstanding undergraduate and graduate students for their hard work and academic excellence as well as for making an impact on the community, and demonstrating potential for future leadership success.



**SAN ANTONIO PIONEER**  
**COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD**

*Presented by Dr. D. Glenn Simmons*

*Ana Luisa Garcia*

The San Antonio Pioneer Community Leadership Award acknowledges and celebrates the San Antonio outstanding student who has demonstrated exemplary leadership while making a significant and positive impact on the community. The award is given in recognition of the student's volunteerism, leadership, and service to the community while actively demonstrating respect for others, fairness, cooperation, spiritual reverence, and humility.



**JORDAN FORD**  
**OUTSTANDING MASTER'S STUDENT AWARD**

*Presented by Devon Shaw*

*Shelly Diane Leonard*

The Jordan Ford Outstanding Master's Student Award recognizes the outstanding graduate student who has displayed outstanding character, tremendous scholastic talent, effort, and ingenuity, as well as academic excellence, while actively demonstrating respect for others, spiritual reverence, and humility.



**BAPTIST HEALTH FOUNDATION OF**  
**SAN ANTONIO OUTSTANDING BACHELOR'S**  
**STUDENT AWARD**

*Presented by Cody Knowlton*

*Mitchell Dean Mielke*

The Baptist Health Foundation Outstanding Bachelor's Student Award recognizes the outstanding undergraduate student who has displayed outstanding character, tremendous scholastic talent, effort, and ingenuity, as well as academic excellence, while actively demonstrating respect for others, spiritual reverence, and humility.

# *Regalia & Symbols*

## **ACADEMIC REGALIA**

The processional and recessional of students and faculty dressed in academic regalia are traditional parts of special occasions on many college and university campuses.

The pageantry and color of an academic convocation such as today's commencement comes to us from medieval times when academic robes and regalia were adapted from ecclesiastical garb. Most robes are black to symbolize the democracy of scholarship, since they cover any dress or rank of social standing worn beneath. Some universities have authorized doctoral gowns in a single color representative of the institutions.

The hood, originally a simple cowl attached to the gown, bears the heaviest symbolism of the academic costume. Its lining displays the colors of the university that granted the degree, and the bordering color indicates the field of learning (or faculty) in which the degree was earned. The master's hood is longer than the bachelor's, and the doctor's hood is longer than the master's.

Gowns commonly worn in the academic ceremonies across the 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 sleeves for the doctor's degree. There is no trimming on the master's and bachelor's gowns. The doctor's gown has velvet trim down the front as well as three velvet bars across the sleeves. This velvet trim may be of the color distinctive of the faculty or subject to which the degree pertains.

The square cap, or mortarboard, originated in the 13th century at the University of Paris and came to England in Tudor times. The round velvet caps reserved for doctoral degree holders originated earlier. Doctoral tassels are usually gold, as are most of Wayland's baccalaureate tassels, although black baccalaureate tassels are common for many universities. Master's tassels usually represent the graduate's discipline.

## **COLORS**

**Anthropology** - Dark Blue

**Arts, Letters, Humanities** - White

**Business Administration** - Light Brown

**Communication** - Crimson

**Counseling and Guidance** - Light Blue

**Economics** - Copper

**Education** - Light Blue

**Exercise, Sports Science** - Sage Green

**Fine Arts** - Brown

**Government** - Peacock Blue

**Law** - Purple

**Library Science** - Lemon

**Mathematics** - Gold

**Medicine** - Green

**Music** - Pink

**Nursing** - Apricot

**Philosophy** - Dark Blue

**Political Science** - Dark Blue

**Psychology** - Gold

**Science** - Gold

**Social Work** - Citron

**Theology** - Scarlet

# *Administration & Faculty*

## **UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION**

Donna Hedgepath, Ph. D., *President*

David L. Bishop, Ph.D., *VP of External Campuses*

Cindy M. McClenagan, Ph.D., *VP of Academic Affairs*

Shawn Thomas, *Interim VP for Student Life and Operations*

Daniel Brown, D.M.A., *VP of Enrollment Management*

J. Mike Hammack, *VP of Institutional Advancement*

Paul S. Edwards, *Chief Financial Officer*

## **CAMPUS ADMINISTRATION**

D. Glenn Simmons, Th.D., Ph.D., *Executive Director/Campus Dean*

Orpha Linda Flores, Ed.D., *Assistant Dean*

Paul Rodriguez M.Ed., M.A., *Director of Operations*

Vic Kalata, *Director of Student Services*

James Antenen, Ed.D., *Executive Director/Campus Dean Emeritus*

## **SAN ANTONIO FACULTY**

Ben Craver, Ph.D., *Professor, School of Christian Studies*

Mee-Gaik Lim, Ph.D, LPC-S, LMFT-S, AAMFT-S, *Professor, School of Behavioral & Social Sciences*

Sylvia Phipps, Ph.D., *Professor, School of Education*

Keri James, Ed.D., *Professor, School of Education Emeritus*

## **BEN AND BERTHA MIETH SCHOOL OF NURSING**

Rebekah Grigsby, DNP, MSN, RN, *Dean*

Charlene Smith, JD, MSN, RN, *Professor of Nursing*

Cindy Griswold, MSN, RN, *Assistant Professor of Nursing*

Sarah Perez, MSN, RN, *Assistant Professor of Nursing*

Jesse Gutierrez IV, MSN, RN, *Assistant Professor of Nursing*



*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

- JEREMIAH 29:11-13

**WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY**  
**SAN ANTONIO CAMPUS**

*Commencement Speaker*

**Donna R. Hedgepath, Ph. D.**  
President of Wayland Baptist University



A West Kentucky native, Donna Hedgepath graduated from Fulton County High School in 1988 and received her Bachelor of Music in Music Education degree (vocal emphasis) from Campbellsville College in 1992. Dr. Hedgepath taught choral music and arts and humanities at Marion County High School and Lebanon Middle School from 1993-2001

while earning her Master of Music in Music Education degree from Campbellsville University in 1999. She also has training and experience with migrant education and is an endorsed gifted and talented educator.

Following her years in public schools, Dr. Hedgepath taught part-time for the School of Music at Campbellsville University. In 2004, she joined the School of Education faculty and completed her Ph.D. in Music Education at the University of Kentucky in 2006 with a research focus on teacher quality. Dr. Hedgepath served as education professor, associate dean, and dean of the SOE (2013-2015). She has earned numerous recognitions for teaching including Kentucky Music Educators Association College/University Teacher of the Year and Campbellsville University's Non-Tenured Faculty Award. She also served on the governor-appointed Education Professional Standards Board, where she served as chair for 2019-2020.

While at Campbellsville University she was Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Over the past seven years, she led CU through unprecedented growth, numerous new academic and technical programs, and three new doctoral programs.

She is interested in creating bridges for a more effective learning environment for all students and is committed to Wayland's mission to create servant leaders. Dr. Hedgepath is married to Wesley (Pete) Hedgepath and has three sons. She is also a proud "granny" to four granddaughters.



## ACCREDITATION

Wayland Baptist University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award associate, baccalaureate, masters and doctorate degrees. Degree-granting institutions also may offer credentials such as certificates and diplomas at approved degree levels.

Questions about the accreditation of Wayland Baptist University may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website ([www.sacscoc.org](http://www.sacscoc.org)).

