



WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY  
San Antonio Campus

*Eighty-fourth Commencement Exercises*

Friday, June 13, 2025 | 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. Darrell Horn  
*Executive Director of San Antonio Baptist Association*

**+ National Anthem**

Marjorie Yandell  
*Business Office Manager*

**Welcome and Introductions**

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

**Presentation of Distinguished  
Alumni Award**

Dr. D. Glenn Simmons

**Introduction of Commencement Speaker**

Dr. D. Glenn Simmons

**Presentation of Candidates**

Dr. D. Glenn Simmons

**Conferring of Degrees**

Dr. David Bishop  
*VP of External Campuses*

**Presentation of Diplomas**

Dr. Donna Hedgepath  
*President of Wayland Baptist University*

**Changing the Tassels**

Dr. Donna Hedgepath

**+ Benediction**

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

**Closing**

Dr. D. Glenn Simmons

*+ Audience will please stand*

# *Candidates for Doctoral Degrees*

## **DOCTORATE OF MANAGEMENT**

Chanise Lanay Morgan

# *Candidates for Master's Degrees*

## **MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

Corell G. Bradford

Demetria J. Jimenez

Bobbie L. Clerkley

Juhi Nandwani

Milagros M. Collier

Jennifer Wes-Lynn Salem

Jade Franks

Holly Tegel

Edel Garza

Alicia Brianna Pond Trejo

## **MASTER OF ARTS IN MANAGEMENT**

Garvin Beach

Laci De'Vonne Greer

Tomas Gabriel Fernandez Jaramillo

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

Maria Rene Haynesworth

Kyle Steven Monroe

Jacob Gene Hetterley

Luke Alexander Welch

Chosniel K. Jefferson

## **MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY**

Christopher J. Moss

## **MASTER OF ARTS IN SPIRITUAL FORMATION**

Lacey Coleman Jr.

## **MASTER OF ARTS IN THEOLOGICAL STUDIES**

Mike Gonzales

## **MASTER OF DIVINITY**

Natasha Y. Love

## **MASTER OF EDUCATION**

Raymoundo Guevara

Nicholas Robert Morris

## **MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING**

Samantha Carrales-Trejo

Zachary Kyle Jewell

Dora M. Grantham

Kimberly Brittany Sullivan

Tamira Kishawn Gunter

Whitney Lee Trayhan

Miah Jalufka

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

Sheila M. Escamilla

Bridgett Warren Campbell

Bertha Patricia Hinojosa

CaLisha C. White

Catrina Justine Slush

## **MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

Shalim Misael Gómez Montes

Joktan A. Stickney

Etienne Peter Jeanjacques III

Dulce Carolina Teniente

Sean A. Saunders

Christopher Rae Walk

Kascie Smith

# Candidates for Bachelor's Degrees

## **BACHELOR OF APPLIED SCIENCE**

Kirra Jade Aguilar	Brian King
Joshua Roman Aguilera*	Nathan Joseph Lopez
Carlos Anthony Alvarado	Guillermo Magdaleno Jr.
Jessica Pamela Arroyo	Gabriella Erica Martin
Victoria Lynn Bogue <sup>L</sup>	Yvonne Matheny <sup>A</sup>
Munich Dominguez Bosquez	Linzy Palmer McComas <sup>L</sup>
Lance Corvell Boulware	Kathryn R. Mutchler <sup>L</sup>
Melanie Ann Bowser	Fabien L. Neeley <sup>L</sup>
Keshia Marie Burns	Teresa Nolden <sup>A</sup>
Cristilla Marie Castillo	Ebony Rene Oates
Joshua Jude Cavazos	Kayla LeAnn Patterson
Christian Mathew Coral	Andre B. Pereida*
James Edward Costello*	Breanna Katrice Phillips
Marshall Lee Davis Jr. <sup>MA</sup>	Martha Patricia Piñon
Cody Shane Drywater Sr. <sup>A</sup>	Luke Chambers Raulston
Donyell R. Elkins	William M. Rinehart <sup>**A</sup>
Elizabeth Escobar	Kevin A. Rios Rivera
Conchita Isabel Espinosa	Michael J. Roberts Jr. <sup>V</sup>
Lina Michelle Esselborn	Raymond Rosario
Melissa Dawn Fleck*	Natani Sakran Abodowa
Marc Garcia*	Patricia Ann Salazar*
Savannah E. Gay	Tara Lynn Schmidt
Dylan P. Gietz	Kimberly Diane Soto <sup>A</sup>
Bihanca Cymone-Alyss Gonzales <sup>A</sup>	Jesus M. Torres-Rosado*
Tiffany Elizabeth Hager	Cavelle Camille Tretheway <sup>A</sup>
Valencia Nicole Harrison	Ruby Vaccaro
Valerie A. Huerta	Ricky Valdez
Frank Edwin Irvin III	Christine Villarreal
Kwame M. Johnson <sup>A</sup>	Christina J. Winter*
Myles Alexander Johnson	Ryan J. Zimmerman <sup>L</sup>

## **BACHELOR OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRY**

James L. Turner Jr.

## **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING**

Lanz Murillo Benliro	Hafsa N. Mohamed <sup>L</sup>
Cruz Canales <sup>L</sup>	Allison Marie Owen <sup>M</sup>
Dari F. Del Rosario <sup>L</sup>	Linda Joyce Powell
Rheanna Louise Esqueda <sup>L</sup>	Christy Reasor
Chijioke D. Ezeigwe	Katelynn Rose Stanley <sup>L</sup>
Shayla Simone Green	Tiffany A. Taylor
Fan Guo <sup>M</sup>	Carolyn Vidal <sup>M</sup>
Monica C. Lerma	Chelsia Faye Young
Ashley Laine Machen <sup>M</sup>	

# Candidates for Associate Degrees

## ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE

Niurka Paulina Ellis

Eric Galvan

Daniel Erensto Garcia

Kaylee Rae Hudecek

William T. Montague

LaShonda Denise Perkins

Jennifer Liana Regan



### 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*

*Jesus M. Torres-Rosado*

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*

*Christopher Rae Walk*

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 Bobby Contreras*

*Dari F. Del Rosario*

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**

<b>Anthropology</b> - Dark Blue	<b>Library Science</b> - Lemon
<b>Arts, Letters, Humanities</b> - White	<b>Mathematics</b> - Gold
<b>Business Administration</b> - Light Brown	<b>Medicine</b> - Green
<b>Communication</b> - Crimson	<b>Music</b> - Pink
<b>Counseling and Guidance</b> - Light Blue	<b>Nursing</b> - Apricot
<b>Economics</b> - Copper	<b>Philosophy</b> - Dark Blue
<b>Education</b> - Light Blue	<b>Political Science</b> - Dark Blue
<b>Exercise, Sports Science</b> - Sage Green	<b>Psychology</b> - Gold
<b>Fine Arts</b> - Brown	<b>Science</b> - Gold
<b>Government</b> - Peacock Blue	<b>Social Work</b> - Citron
<b>Law</b> - Purple	<b>Theology</b> - 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*

Kristie Buchanan, DNP, MSN, RN, *Associate Dean*

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

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

Sarah Perez, 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.



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

*Distinguished Alumni*

**Ashley Sacriste, DHA**

Chief Executive Officer  
Laurel Ridge Treatment Center



Dr. Ashley Sacriste serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Laurel Ridge Treatment Center in San Antonio, Texas, where she has dedicated her career to advancing mental health and substance abuse services while promoting wellness within the community. With her Doctorate degree in Healthcare Administration, Dr. Sacriste combines extensive academic knowledge with

practice experience to drive innovative initiatives that address the evolving needs of patients and their families.

Under Dr. Sacriste's leadership, Laurel Ridge Treatment Center has implemented comprehensive programs aimed at improving patient outcomes and accessibility of care. She is passionate about creating an environment that prioritizes recovery and provides a safe space for individuals struggling with mental health challenges. Her visionary approach has not only transformed the hospital's operational framework but also reinforced its reputation as a cornerstone for mental health support in the community.

In addition to her professional achievements, Dr. Sacriste is a committed community servant. She actively engages in outreach efforts, collaborating with local organizations to raise awareness about mental health issues and reduce the stigma associated with mental health. Dr. Sacriste believes that community involvement is essential to fostering a holistic approach to health care, and she is dedicated to empowering individuals through education and support.

As a strong advocate for mental health policy reform, Dr. Sacriste serves on the Texas Hospital Association Behavioral Health Council and Texas Hospital Association Patient Safety and Quality Council where she works tirelessly to promote legislative changes that enhance care delivery and ensure equitable access to services. Her leadership style emphasizes collaboration and inclusivity, fostering a culture where staff, patients, and the community are valued partners in the journey towards a better mental health.

Dr. Sacriste obtained her Doctorate in Healthcare Administration from Oklahoma State University. She has her Master's Degree in Healthcare Administration from Bellevue University, and her Bachelor's Degree from Wayland Baptist University.

Through her unwavering commitment to excellence, Dr. Sacriste exemplifies what it means to be a leader in the field. Her passion for improving lives and advocating for mental health makes her a respected figure among peers and an invaluable asset to the community she serves.

## 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)).

