

2023

ECU

*Fall
Commencement*



December 9, 2023
Kerr Activities Center
Ada, Oklahoma



Thank you for coming to East Central University's Fall 2022 Commencement Ceremony. Today, we celebrate the many accomplishments of these students as they receive their degrees. Despite the many global challenges they have faced, these students were resolute in completing their college education.

Graduates, your degree is well-earned and well-deserved. Your dedication, time and energy at ECU will help you achieve your goals. Carry your experience at ECU as you take on your new role in the

Tiger family – alumni. You are always welcome at ECU and we look forward to hearing about your success.

To the parents, spouses, family and friends, your support and investment in your graduates' lives is vital to their success.

Congratulations Tigers!

SYMBOLS OF AUTHORITY - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



In 1990, East Central University commissioned a mace and medallion bearing the University's seal. The symbols are traditional inaugural elements used for centuries in the pomp and circumstance of academic ceremonies. They have become part of the commencement exercises for graduating classes since their commission.

Originally a medieval weapon capable of breaking armor, the use of maces for ceremonial purposes began in the 13th century and has evolved through the ages to become a symbol of authority. The mace

is generally carried before the president and dignitaries, composing the platform party in commencement processions.

ECU's 3-foot, 3-inch mace is fashioned from walnut, somewhat resembling a torch, and crowned with a clear polymer flame reminiscent of the lamp of knowledge. A gold-finished medallion of the institution's seal, five inches across, is inset into five sides of the hexagon-shaped head of the mace. The sixth side bears a gold-finished plate inscribed with the names and tenures of each of ECU's nine presidents. It can be removed and new inscriptions added when the reins are passed to another president in the University's future.

The chain and seal of office is a medallion of ECU's official school crest on a chain which the president will wear over his robes as part of his academic regalia. University seals evolved historically from churches. In ancient times, seals were used to authenticate documents. One of the earliest English seals reportedly belonged to King Edward the Confessor. Since colonial days in the United States, seals have been used to attest to official papers, deeds and diplomas.

The ECU seal sculpted into the die used to make the medallion for the ceremonial seal and chain used in inaugurations is the same seal used to verify the authenticity of official ECU grade transcripts. Its crest-shaped face carries the Latin words, "Gratia scientiae fiunt homines," which roughly translated means, "by the grace of knowledge we become persons." Its design incorporates the front of ECU's first building, Science Hall, the lamp of knowledge and two tigers.



THE UNIVERSITY

East Central Normal School was established by legislative act in 1909 as one of three regional state normal schools founded that year in the eastern half of Oklahoma, the part which had been Indian Territory before the founding of the state in 1907. Three similar institutions had been established earlier in Oklahoma Territory, which became the western half of the new state. The six institutions for many years served virtually identical purposes in the state's program of higher education.

The normal school program consisted of four years of preparatory or high school work and two years at the college level. Graduates of the normal schools were awarded lifetime licenses for teaching in the public schools of the state. In 1919, the six state normal schools were authorized to increase their college programs to four years of teacher education and to confer bachelor's degrees. At that time, they were designated teachers' colleges. In 1939, they were authorized to expand their programs to include degree programs in arts and sciences as well as education, and the designation was changed to Oklahoma state colleges.

In 1954, East Central State College and the other Oklahoma state colleges were authorized to offer their first graduate work in a fifth-year program for teachers leading to the Master of Teaching degree. In 1969, the state colleges were authorized to change the name of this advanced degree from Master of Teaching to Master of Education. Other master's degrees have since been added.

In 1974, the Oklahoma State Legislature officially changed the name from East Central State College to East Central Oklahoma State University and in 1985 the official title became East Central University. The academic schools and colleges of the University are the following: the Harland C. Stonecipher School of Business, the College of Education and Psychology, the College of Health and Sciences, the School of Nursing, the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, the School of Fine Arts, and the School of Graduate Studies.

East Central University, as a unit in the state's system of higher education receiving principal support from public taxation, has sought to serve the needs of the people of the state in a democratically responsive manner. It recognizes responsibility for educational and general cultural leadership and service as an institution, for intellectual alertness and moral soundness of the members of its faculty and for maintaining an academic program adapted as effectively as possible to the capacities, needs and aims of its students.

OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Allison D. Garrett, Chancellor
Jack Sherry, Chair
Dennis Casey, Vice Chair
P. Mitchell "Mitch" Adwon
Ann Holloway
Jeffrey W. Hickman
Dustin J. Hilliary
Steven W. Taylor
Michael C. Turpen
Courtney Warmington

REGIONAL UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF OKLAHOMA

Jane McDermott, Chair
Chris Van Denhende, Vice Chair
Lake Carpenter
Eric Fisher
Amy Anne Ford
Gary Parker
Connie Reilly
Ryan Walters
Susan Winchester

Paula Kedy



Paula Kedy is a 1976 East Central University graduate and a 2023 Distinguished Alumna. She currently serves as the Statewide Aerospace STEM Education Manager for the Oklahoma Department of Aerospace and Aeronautics where she works with school districts, universities, and industry leaders in the development of aviation STEM programming designed to prepare students for careers in the aerospace industry.

In 1973 as a student at ECU, she served in student government and in leadership positions across campus. Kedy credits strong and

effective instruction skills to faculty members she was able to emulate in her career.

In 2004, Kedy was named the Oklahoma Supreme Court Teacher of the Year. Early in her career she was named the Moore West Mid-High Teacher of the Year, the Ada City School District Teacher of the Year Award and was named a semi-finalist for Oklahoma Teacher of the Year. She also served as the President of the Oklahoma Council of Teachers of English.

In 2019, she received the Oklahoma STEM Innovator Award from the Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance and Tulsa Flight Night Program for her work in advancing aviation STEM education in Oklahoma. She is particularly passionate about encouraging young women to enter STEM-related career fields.

Before joining the Oklahoma Department of Aerospace and Aeronautics in 2020, Kedy served as the Executive Director of Academics and Instruction for the Ada City School District where she helped to develop and implement a Pre-Kindergarten-Grade 12 aviation program.

Kedy serves on the National Steering Committee for the AOPA "You Can Fly" High School Curriculum as well as on advisory boards for the University of Oklahoma Sooner Flight Academy, the Southeastern University School of Aviation Sciences, and the Spartan College of Aeronautics.

Kedy and her husband, Mark, reside in Ada. Their son, Scott, and daughter-in-law, Audra, reside in Oklahoma City where Scott practices law and Audra serves as the Senior Associate Commissioner for the Great American Athletic Conference.

*Once a Tiger,
Always a Tiger*

As a new graduate of East Central University you will receive a free year of membership to the ECU Alumni

Association, as well as an ECU Alumni lapel pin. For more information on your year of membership please visit ecok.edu/alumni. Congratulations from the ECU Alumni Association!



Fall 2023

MASTER IN MANAGEMENT

Aayush Awasthi
Sujata Basnet

Srijana Ghimire
Mamata Panday

Rayegan Leigh Hope
Robertson
Saugat Singh Thakuri

MASTER OF ARTS

Payton La'Chelle Chandler

Tassa Jo Graham

John H Haning

MASTER OF EDUCATION

Riley Cheyenne Allen
Ashlan Mae Anderson
Ashley Danielle Azlin
Kaylea Ann Bailey
Jalen Maliek Baldwin
Shelbi Suzanne Bennett
Lindsey Louise Borcharding
Shawna Leah Cargill
Kayla Dawn Carlsward
Darci Kaytlin Chester
Ashley Michelle Crain
Marcus Patrick Daigle
Charis Ann Davenport
Emilio Isaiah Martin Davison
Stacy Marie Deskin
Kia Dene' Edwards
Ashley Nicole Erwin
Paden O'Neal Evans
Deshandra Renee Franklin-
Cherry
Elsa Naomi Fuller
Debbie Lynn George
Stacy L Glenn
Brittany Lynn Grady
Taylor Renae Greenameyer

Shannon V Dawn Grice
Ashley Ralynn Hamilton
Taia Jordyn Harris
Chelsea Rene' Herndon-
Hance
Rosa Laverne Hill
Jennifer Patricia Hollie
Taylor Renee Johnson
Darcie K Kaiser
Kali Shay Kenny
Jenny Marie Kirchner
Angelique Kreszentia Marie
Kroboth
MacKenzie Lynn Kuehny
Llawelyn Jean Levy
Crystal Joyce Lowder
Kari Alicen Lyle
Mallarey Martin Matlock
Donna J McFerran
Kara Leigh Meredith
John Ramon Nease
Edward Githuthwa Njuguna
Kimberly Kay Phelps
Shannon LeAnn Pruitt

Michael Charles Puccio
Tammie Lynn Richardson
Nathan Alexander Robl
Charles Lee Roden
Brandon Rollins
Jana D Rowe
Tameika La Shai Savannah
Leslie A Scrivner
Alex Nicole Simpson
Kasi Layne Snow
Tyler James Soden
Kylie Jo Teape
Courtney Marie Thomas
Bailey LeRae Thornburg
Kristen Marie Todd
Merida Jean Tomb
Ross Wade Tucker
Christopher Mark Turner
Kylee Jo Weaver
Royanna M Willis
Jennifer Leigh Wilson
Steven Jerome Wilson
Taylor Rae Wood
Heather Renee York-Clune

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ACCOUNTING

Jalen Fred Grotts

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HUMAN RESOURCES

Ashley Dawn Hammers
Kristin Renee Hester

Kyleigh R Norris
Pawan Pandey

Anusha Sharma
Mara Shea Stevenson

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

Melissa Paulette Brassfield
Carra Lea Burrage
Adria Nicole Haggard

Trevor Zaide Rogers
Eberechi Nicolette Solomon
Egwu

Nathaniel Joseph Starry

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN WATER RESOURCE POLICY & MANAGEMENT

Brandon Lee Blankenship
Jeremiah John Brosowske
Marilla Harris-Vincent

Samantha Paige Hinman
Summer Lynn Jennings

Kelsey Elayne Lovell
Lindbloom
Taylor Ian Nasu



Fall 2023

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Stormy SkyAnn Acosta
Alayna Rose Anderson
Alexus Dawn Corona
Anthony Joseph Correia
Sara Anne Emery
Valerie Lauran Evans
Seth Eric Ferguson
Abby R Frederick
Seth Dawn Gilley
Sharina Jasmine Gray
Cassie L Hall

John-Wesley D Harden
Christopher D Humphrey
Rebecca Gayle Jackson
Cheyenne Faith Johnson *HH*
Allyson Camille Jolley
Kylee Anne King *HH **
Jessica L Littlefield *H*
Eunice Martinez
Devin S Monroe
McKenna Elizabeth
Morgenthaler

Jennifer Ashley Odom *HHH **
Haylie Dawn Poulin *H*
Brandon Cole Prine *H*
Kristina Marie Reed
Rachelle Madolin Richardson *H*
Tylee Marie Sheppard *H*
Xyla Reylen Threadgill
Jessica Lea Faith Waddell *H **
Timothy A Wakefield *H*
Angela Rose Winkeler

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

Rahul Adhikari
Laura Elizabeth Bazzell *HHH*

Kylee Anne King *HH **
Gracie J Pillow *HH **

Laura Elizabeth Rose *H*
Addison Reese Walls *H*

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE ♦

Kellie Jewell Armitage
Sage N Barrett
Sumit Basnet
Dalaan Arcadia Bassett Sr *HH*
Rita Bhatta II
Yurima Bindari
Aruna Bk
Triston C Boling
Latisha Marie Booth *H*
Brandon James Boutwell
*HHH **

Hannah Marie Boykin
Bryce Callaway Brister
Brody Dobbs Brooks
Alisha Budhathoki
Raven Rochelle Buttram *H*
Reid Mitchell Cartmell
Chelina Kay Charles
Andrew Reice Cheatwood
Robert Cheruiyot
Chloe Calista Cole
Emily Taylor Coleman *H*
Kylan Malachi Cooper
Mindy L Corbin *H ##*
Kandyce Lea Ellen Davidson
Kaylie Ann Davidson
Keveon Davis
Manish Dhungana
Montana Zane Dinsmore
HHH

Allison Elaine Dunkle
Claire Elise Embree *HH **
Michael Asuk Erim
Pierce Wayne Farris *H*
Hunter N Forbes *H **
Halle Frazier
Axl Ray Geissler
Rajeev Giri *H*
Alyx Bryana Gray
Jefferson Rylee Gray
Madison Michelle Grigg
Virginia C Hacker
Tiarra Nashae Harper
Logan Ray Harris
Motavious Arece Harris
Aaliyah Jo Harvey

Shelby Nicole Herren
Charzettea Equinita Hodge
Janae F Hughes *H*
Cooper William Hunt
Hannah Elise Hurtz *HHH*
Stephenie R Huston
Seth N Jensen *HH*
Aakriti Khadka
Whitney Nicole Kimberlin *HH*
Haleigh Jordyn Kyle *HH*
Avishu Lamsal
Abbigail Julianne Long ***
Madisyn Shae Lyons
Trevin Dean Madron *HH **
Trevin Dean Madron *HH **
Lynsey Kaylan Martin *HH **
Stacy Lynn Martin
Cesar Garcia Martinez
Emily Ann Mathews *H*
Koby C McClain *H*
Jett Allen McDowell *HHH*
Darcy Andrea McKee
Tara Lynn Merritt
Kanda Makay Mondragon
April Lily Morgan *H*
Autumn Leigh Morris
Hunter Layne Newell
Zoie G Newman *HH*
Abena Korantema Ofori *H*
Oluwayemisi Temitope
Oyesanya *H*
Oluwayemisi Temitope
Oyesanya *H*
Jodi Oyler
Cameron Everett Pair
Gavin Trace Parks
Lauren Elizabeth Patkowski
HH
Alexis Jade Patton *HH*
Gisselle Perez
Christine Elaine Phelps *H*
Jimmy Lynn Pitts, Jr *H*
Savannah N Porter *H*
Sovika Poudel *H*
Ethan S Presgrove, Sr
Marizol Prieto

Baylee-Colette Lark Quinn
Adrianna Ashlyn Rahming
Kaylyn Nicole Rawls
Jayda Leigh Reed *H*
Melanie Renae Rhynes
Razia Maheen Riaz *H **
Santosh Rimal
Brandon G Roniss
Emily G Rosenberg *H **
Devon Anthony Roush
Neida Salazar-Salas ***
Beecher Lowry Sanders, II
Maggie M Sawyers *H **
Delanie M Seals *HH * #*
Faith Anne Smith
Nevaeh Shay Smith
Tsegaye Abebe Smith
Amber Lynn Spain
Joshua C Strother *HH*
Suman Subedi
Robert Lynn Summers
Andru Ray Tackett
Dakota D Tatum
Roy Delvin Terry
Colby Shane Thomas
Deborah Lynn Thornton *H **
Jaqueline Torres
Lexi L Tusek *HHH*
Jennifer Alexa Ugalde
Anuja Upadhyay *H*
Rachel A Wallis *HH*
Jordan E Ward
Mekensie A Welch *HH*
Nigel Armani Wells
Samuel Carter White *H*
Katrina Dawn Wicker
Isaiah Martrek Willhoite *H*
Westin Miles Williams
Josh Lee Wilson
Ryan Austin Winters
Elijah L Woodward *HHH * #*
Luke Matthew Dean
Woodward *HH * #*
Rosalinda Woodward
Seth Ameer Wortham
Ranjit Yadav

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION

Victoria Marie Arie *H*

Victoria Tiana Barbour

Hali D Bray

Fall 2023

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION *Continued*

Abby Shea Dixon *HH*
Emily Garcia Ford *HH * #*
Haley Marie Koster *H*
Lauren Marie Mcalvain
Fidelia Ocampo

Jessica Paige O'Hanlon
Mary J Patrick *H*
Malorie Nicole Riggle *H #*
Kristie A Rodgers

Payton Breanne Row *H*
Channing Renea Scallorn *HH*
Tawni L Stinnett *H **
Andrew Jace Williams

BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK

Mychal Elizabeth Barnett
Raeleigh Louise Brum
Chasity Susette Busby *H*
Jailen Abigail Gallant
Karen A Heizer *HH **

Sabrina Lynn Hurley
Emma Rae Irby
Tina Marie Jaramillo
Ada Mehojah *H*
Alexandra Elizabeth Smith *H*

Memory Dawn Smith
Jennifer Lynn Smothers
Vanessa Venus Tamayo
Patricia Naomi Tehauno
Raven Elise Vaughn

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION *

Brandon James Boutwell
Hannah Marie Boykin
Hannah Marie Boykin
Trevin Dean Madron
Trevin Dean Madron
Devon Anthony Roush

Maggie M Sawyers
Elisha Shrestha
Tsegaye Abebe Smith
Dakota D Tatum
Colby Shane Thomas
Deborah Lynn Thornton

Deborah Lynn Thornton
Deborah Lynn Thornton
Jaqueline Torres
Rosalinda Woodward
Rosalinda Woodward

HHH Highest Academic Achievement

HH High Academic Achievement

H Academic Achievement

* Students listed multiple times have earned multiple degrees/certificates

**Alpha Chi*

University Scholastic Honors

Department Honors

Academic Robes & Colors

The caps, gowns, and hoods worn at today's commencement are based on the garb worn by the medieval priests and students who founded the first universities in Europe. Those who have earned the associate's and bachelor's degree wear a gown with a yoke, a long pleated front and long pointed sleeves, and barrel pleats across the shoulders and yoke back. Master's degree holders wear a similar gown, but the sleeves are usually oblong at the ends and open to the waist. Those holding the doctor's degree wear gowns with broad velvet panels down the front and three velvet bars across their full, round, open sleeves. Although the velvet trim is usually black, it may also be the color representing the wearer's field of learning.

Because black is traditional for academic gowns, most of the color and meaning of the academic costume is found in hoods and tassels. Master's and doctoral hoods are silk-lined with the color or colors of the institution conferring the degree earned by each wearer. The velvet border of the hood, like the tassel, shows the color of the field of learning to which the degree belongs. Among the traditional academic colors you may see today are these:

Agriculture - *Maize*

Arts, Letters, Humanities - *White*

Behavioral Science - *Royal Blue*

Commerce, Accountancy,

Business - *Drab*

Economics - *Copper*

Education - *Light Blue*

English - *White*

Fine Arts - *Brown*

Journalism - *Crimson*

Law - *Purple*

Library Science - *Lemon*

Medicine - *Green*

Music - *Pink*

Nursing - *Apricot*

Oratory/Speech - *Silver Gray*

Philosophy - *Dark Blue*

Physical Education - *Sage Blue*

Science - *Golden Yellow*

Social Work - *Citron*

Theology - *Scarlet*

East Central University *Commencement*

~December Ninth Two Thousand Twenty-Three~

PROCESSIONAL

"Pomp and Circumstance" by Elgar
Rudy Lupinski
Accompanist

PRESENTATION OF MACE

Shirley Mixon, Ed.D.
Professor, Interdisciplinary Studies & Senior Faculty Member

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

ECU Gold Program

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Haleigh Kyle
ECU Senior Student

MOMENT OF SILENCE

INTRODUCTION

Wendell L. Godwin
President of the University

CLASS OF 2023 FANFARE

ECU Brass Ensemble
Nick Meyers, DMA

GREETINGS

Connie Reilly, M.L.S.
Regent
Regional University System of Oklahoma

PRESENTATION OF COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

President Godwin

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Paula Kedy
BS, East Central University, 1976
ECU Distinguished Alumna, 2023

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR MASTER'S DEGREES

Sarah Peters, Ph.D.
Associate Provost & Dean, School of Graduate Studies

CONFERRING OF MASTER'S DEGREES

President Godwin

PRESENTATION OF ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT CANDIDATES & SCHOLASTIC HONORS PROGRAM CANDIDATES

Jeffrey K. Gibson, Ph.D.
Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR BACHELOR'S DEGREES

Provost Gibson

CONFERRING OF BACHELOR'S DEGREES

President Godwin

EAST CENTRAL ALMA MATER

Steven Walker, Ph.D.
Professor of Music



Hail, oh hail, our Alma Mater
Loyal, brave, and strong,
To thee with voices ever ringing,
Comes our victory song.
Love and honor, strength and courage,
These we pledge anew.
Hail, oh hail, our Alma Mater.
Hail, oh E-C-U.