

# **GRADUATE DIVISION COMMENCEMENT**

**DR. NÚÑEZ**

**MAY 13, 2023**

Hello! I am so happy to be here this morning to celebrate the conferring of master's degrees to one of Eastern's largest graduate classes. More than 100 students have earned graduate degrees in Accounting, Education, and Organizational Management, and I wish to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all of you!

You have worked diligently and tirelessly. With the help of the Eastern faculty, and with the ever-present guidance from Eastern's liberal arts values and educational approach, you now have the honor of being a master of your profession. While moving through your respective programs, you have asked more questions, debated more theories, and argued the finer points of the fine points. You have grown in both measurable and immeasurable ways. And by delving deeper, you have risen higher!

Today, you are the future of your chosen profession!

I am certain that some of you began your graduate studies with a great deal of anxiety -- maybe even with fear. Perhaps you doubted yourself. Perhaps others doubted you. On the other hand, perhaps you thrived, never questioning your place on the academic road you traveled, and always reminding yourself "hey, I got this!" Well, I want to remind you that, whichever of those students you may have been, you both needed unbreakable resolve and shatterproof commitment to be sitting here today.

Earning a graduate degree is not easy. It is especially difficult when your academic work conflicts with your work as a provider for the loved ones who depend on you; when it conflicts with your work as a spouse or partner; when it conflicts with your work as a parent; when it conflicts with your work as a son, daughter, brother or sister providing care for an older family member or sibling. The most important people in your lives have supported you, each in their own way.

At this time, I would like all of the graduates to rise, turn to the back of the Concert Hall, and give a well-deserved round of applause, to the parents, spouses, partners, siblings, children, co-workers and bosses who have gathered here today to support you, yet again, and to celebrate one of the most significant moments of your lives.





