>> Ladies and gentlemen, at this time we ask that you please silence your cell phones and all electronic devices. Please stand for the processional. 

[Music].

>> Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome the Graduating Class of 2018. (Applause).

>> The processional is led by Dr. Linda McCalister, who is carrying the mace the University Banner is carried by the Chair of the Faculty Senate, Dr. Barbara Howard. The marshals will now accompany the graduate candidates to their seats. The Graduate School Banner is carried by Dr. Robert Sanders. Members of the Student Ambassadors are especially selected to serve in the role as marshals.

Now entering the arena are the candidates for doctoral, Master’s and Specialist Degrees. The degrees to be conferred today include Doctor of Education, Education Specialist, Master of Arts, Master of Science, Master's include gold and white representing Appalachian State University.

[Music].

>> Now entering the arena are the candidates for Baccalaureate degrees. Students graduating this afternoon in the Beaver College of Health Sciences including the majors of athletic training, communications sciences and disorder, exercise science, healthcare management, health promotion, nutrition and foods, health and physical education teacher K-12, Recreation Management, nursing and social work, will be seated on the east side of the arena.

Students from the Reich College of Education including the majors of business
Students of the College of Fine & Applied Arts including the majors of art, arts and visual culture, sustainable development, theater arts, art education K-12, graphic design, studio art, apparel design and merchandising, appropriate technology, art management, building sciences, commercial photography, communication advertising, communication electronic media broadcasting, communication journalism, communication public relations, communication studies, graphic arts, and imaging technology, Industrial Design, industrial technology and construction, interior design, sustainable development and teaching theater arts K-12. Technology education. And technical photography will be seated on the west side of the arena.

>> As candidates reach their seats, faculty members of Appalachian State University will march in wearing their colorful hoods of the colleges and universities from which they graduated. The colors of the velvet borders indicate their field of study. You will find additional academic regalia information in the program.

>> The processional now concludes with the entrance of the Platform Party. The Platform Party includes the keynote speakers, the deans and Associate Deans, representatives of the Board of Governors, Board of Trustees, and the Appalachian Alumni Association and the academic leadership of the university, including the Vice Chancellor, Provost and chancellor we hope you enjoy the ceremony and thank you for joining us this afternoon.

>> will the audience please remain standing and join in the singing of our National Anthem.

>> Oh, say can you see
By the dawn's early light what so proudly we hailed
At the twilight's last gleaming
Whose broad stripes and bright stars
Through the perilous fight
O'er the ramparts we watched
Were so gallantly streaming
And the rocket's red glare
The bombs bursting in air
Gave proof through the night
That our flag was still there
Oh, say does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave
O'er the Land of the Free
And the home of the brave.

[Cheers and applause.]

>> Please be seated.

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, my name is Malik Lloyd. Ms. Garcia wasn’t able to be here so it’s my pleasure to welcome you to the fall 2018 Commencement at the Appalachian State University. As a reminder to our guests remote live captioning of the ceremony is available via our Web site at Commencement.appstate.edu. This marks the 119th year since the founding of this great university and it is a time for celebration so join us in honoring, praising and congratulating our graduates of the Class of 2018.

(Applause)

>> It is my pleasure at this time to introduce Dr. Sheri Everts, chancellor of Appalachian State University who is presiding for today's ceremony. Chancellor Everts.

(Applause)

>> CHANCELLOR EVERTS: I am honored to preside over this wonderful day of celebration for our campus. Today we celebrate as our students leave Appalachian prepared to make real and powerful differences in their communities and beyond. We celebrate the amazing academic relationships students have developed with faculty and staff who have served as teachers, fellow researchers, mentors and role models.

This ceremony also recognizes the relationships with family, fellow students, and friends that have supported and sustained our students throughout this transformational journey.

A university campus is an amazing place of confluence where great leaders and ideas emerge for the betterment of society and Appalachian is a shining example of this work. The effect of our work is exponential. Students come to this special place, continue to develop and grow into amazing individuals who go on to touch hundreds and thousands of lives through their professions, their civic engagement, and their service.

To our soon-to-be graduates I say thank you for being part of our great academic community. Please know you will always be a part of Appalachian As-U-R our most enduring legacy. I congratulate each of you on your achievements and celebrate the hope for our community, state, nation, and world as you take forward into the future made all of the brighter because of you. Congratulations.

(Applause)

>> PROVOST KRUGER: It is now my privilege to introduce the members of the Platform Party. I will ask each person to stand and remain standing until their row has been introduced.

Please hold your applause until all rows have been introduced.

In the first row:
Chancellor of Appalachian State University, Dr. Sheri Everts.
Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff Mr. Hank Foreman.
Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs, Mr. Paul Forte.
Member of the UNC Board of Governors, Mr. Philip Byers.
President of our Appalachian State Alumni Association, Mr. Jeffrey Merritt.
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Mr. JJ Brown.
Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Mr. Leroy Wright.
And director of the public school partnership in the Reich College of Education and
our Macebearer in today's ceremony, Dr. Linda McCalister.

Thank you. You may be seated.
(Applause).

>> PROVOST KRUGER: In the next row, dean of the Cratis D. Williams School of
Graduate Studies, Dr. Michael McKenzie.
Dean of the College of Fine & Applied Arts, Ms. Phyllis Kloda.
Dean of the Reich College of Education, Dr. Melba Spooner.
Dean of the College of Health Sciences, Dr. Marie Huff.
A student in the Hayes School of Music and our vocalist today, Ms. Rachel Tucker.
Graduating students, Mr. Malik Lloyd, Ms. Eunice McSwain and Ms. Shawn
Clemons.

Associate Dean in the Cratis D. Williams School of Graduate Studies, Dr. Robert
Sanders.
University Registrar, Ms. Debbie Race.

Thank you, you may be seated.
(Applause).

>> PROVOST KRUGER: And in the next row.
Chair of the Faculty Senate, Dr. Barbara Howard.
Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, Dr. Mark Ginn.
Dean of the Honors College, Dr. Jefford Vahlbusch.
Associate Dean in the Belk Library and information commons, Dr. Ericka Patillo.
Associate Dean in the College of Fine & Applied Arts Dr. Garner Dewey.
Associate Professor in the Department of Art Ms. Tricia Tresie. Associate Dean in
the beaver College of Health Sciences, Dr. Denise Levy.

Associate Dean in the Reich College of Education, Dr. Monica Lambert.
And our name reader today, Associate Dean in the Reich College of Education,
Dr. Nickolas Jordan.

Thank you. You may be seated.
(Applause).

>> PROVOST KRUGER: I am honored to introduce our next speaker. Please
join me in welcoming our distinguished guest, a member of the Board of Governors,
Mr. Philip Byers as he brings greetings on behalf of the University of North Carolina.
(Applause) you.

>> PHILIP BYERS: After listening to the Provost and now listening to me, you’re going to be confused because we don’t -- we both talk just a little different.
(Chuckles).

>> PHILIP BYERS: A little house cleaning before I get to my written remarks anyone here from Rutherford County North Carolina?
(Applause).

>> PHILIP BYERS: I was once you're sheriff and I'm sure if I didn't arrest you, I did your family.
(Chuckles).

>> PHILIP BYERS: So thank you for being here with us. And hurry back home.
(Chuckles).

>> PHILIP BYERS: Before I seriously get into some things, I'll say my mother is very pleased, my mother is 85 and she's very pleased my plane is in New Orleans and I'm in Boone because I felt it was more important to be with the graduates than the Bowl game so maybe finally she's pleased.
(Applause).

>> PHILIP BYERS: I'm confused. But she's pleased. No, I wouldn't have missed you for the world today. Because this is very important. And I want to say a couple of words to our wonderful, wonderful faculty.

Most of you -- I think all of you are new compared to when I was here. But anyway, you do a tremendous job for this university. And I know when you hear the Board of Governors, you either boo or hiss or read in a newspaper all of the ugly things we have to deal with. It is my honor to serve on the Board of Governors. I never planned to do it. But my purpose was to bring some level playing fields, if you would, to some of our schools that in the past had been underfunded and had not received maybe the attention that our other institutions like NC State and Chapel Hill and some others I won’t mention.

But I work hard and your chancellor, who is my dear friend and her Executive Team have allowed us to work on something that's very important for you. And no, you’re not going to read it in the paper. You can read today about all of the statue discussion or whatever. What I was interested in yesterday was talking about a funding model that will start funding the students and the university at Appalachian State and east Carolina and UNC Charlotte in a fair manner compared to the other institutions. Because history has had it that you and UNC Wilmington were the two lowest funded schools in the system. So you have my word and your chancellor is working around the clock with her team to allow us the opportunity to do that and get summer school funding and do some things that are really going to matter in your lives, thus mattering in their lives so I thank you for giving us the opportunity and supporting your chancellor and her team in doing that.
>> PHILIP BYERS: I've covered everything I needed to except I am the one that stayed here on campus undergraduate for seven years.
(Chuckles).

>> PHILIP BYERS: And then I went to Graduate School. So those of you graduating today, extend your lease, do not leave. Don't ever leave this mountain. (Chuckles).

>> PHILIP BYERS: Okay. Now to the serious -- not that your future money wasn't serious.

Chancellor Everts, Provost Kruger, distinguished guests, faculty, staff, members of the community and students of Appalachian State University, I am honored to bring greetings on behalf of the UNC Board of Governors and the Board of Trustees of Appalachian State University, President Margaret Spellings, Chairman Harry Smith and the General Administration staff.

Let me begin by expressing my sincere thanks to Chancellor Sheri Everts. She is one of the finest chancellors in the UNC system. She has come up with imaginative solutions and ways in a range of emerging challenges and is committing to enhancing the investment students are making in their education. Thank you, Chancellor.

(Applause).

>> PHILIP BYERS: We are here to celebrate these fine graduates who have achieved a milestone in their lives. Graduates, your education at Appalachian State University has provided you the knowledge and skills you will need to achieve the goals and challenges you set forth. Your degree represents the hard work and dedication to a most worthy goal. You deserve to celebrate. But it is also important to acknowledge the contributions of the faculty and staff of Appalachian State University and to applaud the support of your parents and family. I am certain you agree how vital their encouragement has been. And I asked that you give them a round of applause.

(Applause).

>> PHILIP BYERS: As a graduate of this institution, you now wield something even more powerful than the diploma you are about to receive. And that is the power of your example. You are Ambassadors of Appalachian State University. Your futures are beckoning you. Take heed of your calling but I ask that you remember the invaluable education that you have received from Appalachian State University.

We encourage we actually insist that you stay connected to this wonderful university. And this mountain.

Congratulations, enjoy this incredible moment, and best wishes.

(Applause).

>> JEFFREY MERRITT: Good afternoon, my name is Jeffrey Merritt and I am a proud graduate of the class of 1989 and I am honored, humbled and grateful to serve as
the president of the Appalachian Alumni Association and bring you greetings and congratulations on behalf of more than 126,000 of your fellow Mountaineers.

You join almost 120 years of Appalachian alumni and part of a great tradition of Mountaineers who make an impact all over the world, as teachers, business executives, artists, Generals, volunteers, caregivers, musicians, School Board members, and even NFL and NBA head coaches.

Each member of the Appalachian Family not only shares this special experience of this university in this magnificent setting, but also a passion to give back.

Today, as you graduate, you become part of the Alumni Association. And with this new role, I want to encourage you to come back and visit campus often, keep the Alumni Office informed of your accomplishments and your milestones and your contact information. And be an Ambassador for Appalachian State. Wear your black and gold proudly. And give back in any way that touches you at this university.

Class of 2018, your best days are ahead of you. And once again, congratulations and welcome to the Alumni Association.

(Appause).

>> EUNICE McSWAIN: Wow, I can't believe this day is actually here. I never thought I would be standing in front of all of you today probably because the college career test I took in high school said I should be a magician. So I guess you could say it's some kind of magic that I'm graduating.

I want to say a quick hello to all of the faculty and staff here today, friends, families and my Nanny who is somewhere in this crowd she turns 84 tomorrow, so happy early birthday, Nanny, love you.

(Appause).

>> EUNICE McSWAIN: Most important I would like to welcome the December Graduating Class of 2018. I cannot put into words how honored I am not only to represent the Recreation Management program, but also the beaver College of Health Sciences as today's undergraduate speaker.

When I called my mom to tell her I was going to be speaking today, of course she started crying, no surprise there. I then called my dad and the first thing that came out of his mouth was, you, really? Are you kidding me?

I have been thinking over the past few weeks, why me? It is true I have done well in my collegiate career but I do not believe I was selected today due to my academic performance. I believe I was selected to talk about my love of life; need for adventure; and passion for human connection.

I try to know every stranger I come across and find so much joy in seeing familiar faces while walking across campus. However, this was not always the case.

By the second week of my freshman year, I had every class planned out until the day I graduated. And in all honesty, I was ready to graduate working because college was simply a roadblock and the way of what I knew I was meant to be doing. I wanted
to be a teacher. After loading up my freshman year with classes I thought were made for me, it resulted in nothing short of chaos. You should have heard that phone call to my mom when I was using a career drop because I was failing one of my courses. And trying to explain to her that replacing it with four physical education classes was a good idea. I was completely clueless. I ended my freshman year with no idea what I wanted to do and wondered why I was still in college.

That summer, I decided it was time to find myself and what better way than to travel halfway across the world? My sophomore year, I was incredibly privileged with the opportunity to spend six months in Australia studying Recreation Management.

(Applause).

>> EUNICE McSWAIN: This was the first time I ever flew on a plane and the first time I was a stranger in a foreign place. Let me tell you, moving 10,000 miles away is difficult. No familiar faces. And an unfamiliar version of the English language to start.

Every time I said ya'll, I was asked if I was from Texas. I was challenged every day to meet new people and to negotiate all the things I can do without thinking like driving on the opposite side of the road or being 16 hours ahead of my friends back home. All while taking classes through Southern Cross University's Recreation Department.

Studying abroad is how I found my passion for human connection. In my outdoor education class, we went on a 30 mile hike over three days. One of the hardest things I had to do was put myself out there, tell my story and trust that interdependence will take me further than independence.

After I returned from Australia I started to dive deeper into the Recreation Management program at Appalachian State. I know what you're all thinking, Recreation Management? She can't be serious?

And I would be lying if I said none of us in the program tried to walk barefoot across this stage today. Whatever stereotypes you have about my people, we are also proud scholars. scholars who hold regional and national certifications. We learned through the Recreation Management program that a life spent outdoors is one that contributes to wellness both physically and mentally and I'm not just talking about hiking the Appalachian Trail. I want to emphasize that recreation comes in the smallest of doses. My professors and fellow classmates taught me how important it is to open the doors of recreation to everyone around us and to show that recreation is everywhere, including playing a round of mini golf or taking a walk in the park or knitting while watching the sunrise over a mountain.

Recreation is any outdoor activity that makes you happy.

Speaking of happiness, one of my professors once pulled me aside after class and said, Eunice, I don't understand why you smile so much. I really don't get it.

Well, a mentor once told me that you never know how long some one goes without seeing a smile. That remark made such an impression on me that I've made kindness
my personal mantra ever since. Pursuing what we love and what fulfills us is what has brought us here today from Health Sciences to education to Fine & Applied Arts. And there will come a day that we will take what we have learned on this educational journey to connect with and improve someone else’s life.

I used to think that kindness had to be an elaborate gesture to the world. But I now know it’s as simple as a smile.

And I hope you will give and receive small kind gestures along the way.

In conclusion, I hope we can all leave this ceremony and find the joy that lies ahead; realize that we can create a new reality for ourselves when we listen to those around us. Please, go be a stranger in a place you’ve never been; challenge yourself to see the world from another perspective. Be a beginner and push yourself to learn something new. I know is that surrounding me today are individuals who will seek new goals, knowledge and change. People that will never stop asking questions and fight for what they believe is right.

I want to thank each and every one of you for giving me a reason to believe that there is still so much good left in this world. I know that we will work together to create a space that is open to every gender, race, ethnicity, culture, religion, and break every boundary that is in our way.

Thank you, App State, for offering me, and my fellow graduates, an educational environment that values all of those things, as well.

And lastly, thank you, faculty and staff, for always believing in us; family and friends, for all being here today; those who we care about who didn't live to see this day and those who fight for our country every day to make events like this possible.

To the graduates, I cannot wait to see what the real world is like with us in it. And to my mom and dad, I can't wait to be roommates again.

(Chuckles).

>> EUNICE McSWAIN: Thank you and don't forget to make recreation be part of your daily life.

[Cheers and applause.]

>> SHAWN CLEMONS: Good afternoon, I am honored and humbled to represent the Reich College of Education today. Congratulations graduates. Whether your journey was smooth or had some curves along the way, we have reached a phenomenal milestone and we are to be commended.

I'd like to thank Dr. Tracie Salinas, my dissertation chair for her unwavering support as well as Dr. Roma Angel and Dr. Jennifer McGee.

I stand here today as the hopes and dreams of my ancestors. I also stand on the shoulders of my grandparents and many more like them who, during their lifetime, though not able to complete high school, were some of the smartest people I've known. They knew how precious an education was and instilled in their grandchildren the value of being educated.
My parents told my sister and me that an undergraduate degree may not be enough to achieve all that we wanted to achieve in life. So to my mom in the audience and my dad looking down from heaven, thank you for your wisdom, foresight, and for making education a non-negotiable.

I've thought at length about what I wanted to share with you today. As I watched TV and checked my social media feeds, there was so much negativity. Unarmed citizens are being killed. The police are called on people for living while Black. People are no longer safe in their houses of worship. And the list continues.

I thought of the world that is being left to the next generation and what needs to happen to bring back civility and positivity.

Then I thought of a quote from Gandhi: Be the change you wish to see in the world.

We have each spent the last few years working to achieve our degree and we are ready to go out into the world and leave our mark. We have the opportunity, as well as the responsibility, to leave the world better for those who come after us.

For those of us in education, we are in the profession that makes all others possible. We get to shape the lives of the generations to come.

As we shape the lives of our students, we are their example. So what is one thing we can easily do to create the world we want?

We must remember that each day is a new day. Author Maria Robinson said: Nobody can go back and start a new beginning. But anyone can start today and make a New England.

We can't change the past. But we can shape the future and create opportunities for good instead of bad. We can create a world that is safe and inviting for everyone.

My mom told me she once had a principal who told the students to learn one new thing each day. That is 365 new pieces of information a year and more than 25,000 new pieces of information in a lifetime. What if we took that idea and applied it to the people we meet? For example, when we encounter someone we don't know or who is different, what if we refrained from making snap judgments and take the opportunity to learn something about the person.

Think about how our own preconceived notions of others would be challenged, stereotypes would be dispelled and we may begin to look at people for who they are rather than judging each other by physical characteristic or something we've heard.

We'd likely have a more inclusive world. Everyone might feel they have the same chance as anyone else of reaching their life's goals.

We may even see academic learning gaps between groups of students decrease and hopefully disappear. We may see more students of color and students from poverty excel at the rates of others.

We may see gender pay gaps decrease. More diversity in the workplace. And less bullying in our schools.
Maybe when we look at each other, we will not look for deficiencies that don’t exist but instead seek out one’s potential. We will see the uniqueness in others as assets that make our world a better place.

As we graduate and leave this great university, we have the opportunity to transform our space in the universe. With each of us transforming our space, we will begin to transform the world into a safe and inviting space for everyone.

Graduates, I wish you success as you leave here today and I pray that each of you reach every goal that you’ve set for yourself.

I also challenge you to be the change you wish to see in the world.

Congratulations, graduates.

(Applause).

>> PROVOST KRUGER: Each year Appalachian recognizes graduate students who have excelled not only in the classroom but also in research, professional practice, leadership and community engagement.

The best of our graduating graduate students are inducted into the Cratis D. Williams Society; graduates so honored have achieved a perfect 4.0 GPA in their graduate coursework and are nominated by their programs as students who have truly excelled in their scholarship and professional practice. These students were presented a university medallion to wear with their regalia at Commencement and represent the top 2% of the 2018-19 Graduating Class.

Undergraduate students receiving academic honors today will be individually recognized as they march across the stage. The gold honor cord being worn designates those candidates for graduation with earned Latin honors.

Honors College medallions being worn recognize a candidate for University Honors. The University Honors College provides students the opportunity to participate in a challenging curriculum of honors courses at Appalachian. The University Honors designation represents superior academic achievement over the course of a student’s career at Appalachian.

Will all students graduating with honors please stand?

(Applause).

>> PROVOST KRUGER: Congratulations.

Today we have students who, along with being committed to their studies here at Appalachian, have also demonstrated their commitment to this country through their service in the military.

The red, white and blue cords being worn marks a candidate who serves or has served in the military Armed Forces.

Will all students graduating who are part of our active military or are Veterans please stand.

[Cheers and applause.]
>> MICHAEL McKENZIE: And now, ladies and gentlemen, the moment for which all of us, especially the students, have been waiting for.

I ask the chancellor, Dr. Sheri Everts, to please join me at the podium. Studies I present the names of those here today who have met or will meet all the requirements to earn their doctoral, Master's or Specialist Degrees. Will all candidates except those on the first row of candidates please be seated? And I ask the marshals to direct the candidates to the stage.

This year we are pleased to have over 1700 graduate students in our Master's, specialist and doctoral programs. Admissions to these programs is competitive as only 55% were accepted. These students are truly exceptional as reflected in the graduation rate of almost 88%, which is one of the highest in the UNC system with an average degree time of 2.1 years to degree. Therefore, I hope you can understand our immense pride in having over 350 of our students graduating this summer and fall, many of whom are participating in today's ceremonies.

Master's candidates have already been hooded prior to the ceremony.

All candidates please proceed across the stage and receive your diploma cover. And you may be seated when you return to your row.

(Announcing names. Please consult your program.)

>> Now Associate Dean Robert Sanders and Dean Marie Huff will distribute diplomas for beaver College of Health Sciences across the stage.

(Announcing names. Please consult your program.)

>> Now Associate Dean Robert Sanders and Dean Melba Spooner will distribute diploma covers as the graduate students of the Reich College of Education cross the stage.

(Announcing names. Please consult your program.)

>> MICHAEL McKENZIE: Will you please join me and applaud all those receiving their graduate degrees today.

(Applause).

>> PROVOST KRUGER: Will all candidates for bachelor's degrees please rise?

[Cheers and applause.]

>> PROVOST KRUGER: Chancellor Everts, upon recommendation of the faculty of the beaver College of Health Sciences, the Reich College of Education and the College of Fine & Applied Arts I hereby present to you those students who have met or will meet the requirements to earn their respective Baccalaureate degrees.

Will the marshals please direct the candidates for graduation to the platform? Candidates in the first row, please remain standing, all others please be seated until your row is directed to the platform.

As a reminder, undergraduate students are being led to the stage beginning with the College of Fine & Applied Arts, followed by the beaver College of Health Sciences and the Reich College of Education.
We are proud to have more than 1200 eligible undergraduate candidates for graduate this December, many of whom are participating here today.

Students will have their name read and projected as they cross the stage.

Each individual student name is listed in the program by their college and major field of study. As a display of respect for all graduates, and as a courtesy to others, we request that members of the audience remain through the entire ceremony. Degrees will not be conferred until all candidates for graduation have been presented.

Thank you.

>> Dean Phyllis Kloda will come forward to congratulate the students while Associate Dean Dewey hands out diploma covers.

(Announcing names. Please consult your program.)

>> Dean Marie Huff will now come forward to congratulate students from the beaver College of Health Sciences while Associate Dean Denise Levy hands out diploma covers.

(Announcing names. Please consult your program.)

>> Now Dean Melba Spooner will come forward to congratulate the students from the Reich College of Education while Associate Dean Monica Lambert hands out diploma covers.

(Announcing names. Please consult your program.)

(Applause).

>> CHANCELLOR EVERETS: It's that time.

Will all graduates or candidates rather, will all candidates for a degree from all colleges and schools please rise?

To shoes who now present themselves as candidates from a degree from Appalachian State University, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the state of North Carolina, and by the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina, upon completion of all requirements, I will confer upon each of you the degree recommended by the faculty, with all the rights, privileges and responsibilities thereunto appertaining.

To the graduate students, you have shown your determination to develop your talents and sharpen your skills to the fullest. Your responsibility now is to apply these capabilities to improve the world; this then is your charge.

To the undergraduate students, since the Middle Ages, the silks of the graduation tassel have represented the colors of the faculty and the power of the University to confer degrees. You will continue this wonderful tradition of silks as you move your tassel to the left -- not yet --

(Chuckles).

>> CHANCELLOR EVERETS: Signifying your transition from undergraduate student to graduate of Appalachian State University. Members of the undergraduate Class of 2018, please move your tassels from the right to the left.

[Cheers and applause.]
>> CHANCELLOR EVERTS: Congratulations to the newest graduates of Appalachian State University. Congratulations.

[Cheers and applause.]

>> CHANCELLOR EVERTS: You may be seated.

I would now like to ask the faculty to please stand.

These distinguished faculty members have taught and mentored our students throughout their academic careers. Faculty, you have made a transformational difference in the lives of these outstanding graduates. And I, on behalf of all those present and our entire university community, thank you for your tireless commitment.

Please join me in showing our appreciation for our amazing faculty.

[Cheers and applause.]

>> CHANCELLOR EVERTS: You may be seated.

Thank you, all, for joining us in this ceremony today. I would like to express our appreciation to the Appalachian Brass Ensemble conducted by Dr. James Stokes for its fine performance. Thank you.

(Applause).

>> CHANCELLOR EVERTS: Also, thank you to the Appalachian Student Ambassadors who served as marshals for today’s ceremony.

(Applause).

>> CHANCELLOR EVERTS: At this time, I will ask everyone to please stand for the singing of the alma mater. And then I’m going to pause.

We will be led by vocalist Rachel Tucker, a student in the Hayes School of Music. All are asked to participate by singing along. The Brass Ensemble will play the arrangement through once and then our vocalist will conduct the audience in on the repeat. The words are projected on screen and are also available in your program.

[Music].

>> Cherished vision of the Southland
Alma mater in the hills
Thou dost point our minds to wisdom
Till the truth our spirit thrills
Appalachian, alma mater
Of our hearts the joy and pride
Lead us ever, lead us onward
Vanguard of the Hero's side.

(Applause).

>> CHANCELLOR EVERTS: That is the way that is supposed to sound.

I ask the audience to please be seated for the recessional. Thank you for being here.

[Music]
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