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

>> Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome the Graduating Class of 2018. [Music].

>> The processional is led by Dr. Gregory Reck 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 graduating candidates to their seats the Graduate School Banner is being carried by Dr. Robert Sanders members of the Student Ambassadors are specially selected to serve in the role as marshals. Now entering the arena are the candidates for Master's and specialists degrees the degrees to be conferred today include Master of Arts, Master of Science, Master of Library science, Master of Public Administration, Master of Business Administration, Master of Music, Master of Social Work and specialists in school psychology. Master hoods include gold and white. Representing Appalachian State University. [Music].

>> Now entering the arena are the candidates for Baccalaureate degrees. Students graduating this morning include the majors of anthropology, biology, Appalachian studies, English, French and francophone studies, history, interdisciplinary studies. Languages and literatures and culture. Mathematics. Philosophy. Political science. Psychology. Religious studies. Sociology, Spanish. Women's studies. Actuarial science. Biology, cell and molecular biology. Biology, ecology,

Students graduating in the Walker College of Business including the majors of economics, accounting, computer information systems, finance and baking.  Hospitality and tourism management.  International business.  Management.  Marketing.  Risk management and insurance.  And splay change management will be seated on the west side of the arena.

Students graduating from the Hayes School of Music including the majors of music education, music performance, music therapy and music industry studies will also be seated on the west side of the arena.

[Music]

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

[Music].

>> The Processional now includes 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 Chancellors, Provost and Chancellor.  We hope you enjoy the ceremony.  And thank you for joining us.

>> MAYA BROWN-HUGHSTON:  Good morning.  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 booms 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.  [Applause].

>> MAYA BROWN-HUGHSTON:  Please be seated.  Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the fall 2018 Commencement at Appalachian State University.  As a reminder, 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 time for celebration so let us enter into the spirit of honoring praising and congratulating our graduates of the Class of 2018.

[Applause].

>> MAYA BROWN-HUGHSTON:  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:  Good morning, everybody, can I pause for just a moment and capture a photo of this?  Because this is a really good view.  Follow me on Twitter.  And you'll see it.  (Chuckles).

>> 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, civic engagement, and 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 you take forward into a future made all 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 of Student Affairs, Mr. JJ Brown, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Mr. Leroy Wright. Professor in the Department of Anthropology and our Macebearer for today’s ceremony. Dr. Gregory Reck. Thank you. You may be seated.

(Applause).

>> PROVOST KRUGER: In the next row we have dean of the Cratis D. Williams School of Graduate Studies, Dr. Michael McKenzie.

Gene of the Walker College of Business, Dr. Heather Hulburt Norris.
Dean of the Hayes School of Music, Dr. James Douthit.
Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Neva Specht.
A student in the Hayes School of Music and our vocalist today, Ms. Rachel Tucker.
Graduating students, Ms. Maya Brown-Hughston, Ms. Rajan Farhan Alaql, and Ms. Mackenzie Holland.
Associate Dean in the Cratis D. Williams School for Graduate Studies, Dr. Robert Sanders. University Registrar Ms. Debbie Race. You may be seated.

(Applause).

>> PROVOST KRUGER: And in the next row Associate Dean of graduate programs in the Walker College of Business, Dr. Sandra Vannoy.

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 of undergraduate from Dr. Samuel Formby.
Professor and director of graduate studies in Hayes School of Music Dr. Victor Manusre.
Senior Associate Dean and professor of biology in the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Dru Henson.
And our name reader for today’s ceremony, Associate Dean in the College of Arts and Sciences Dr. Mark Bradbury.
Thank you. You may be seated.

(Applause).

>> PROVOST KRUGER: I am now 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).

>> PHILIP BYERS: I'm the one you've heard about so I'll be quick and will only
embarrass a few -- is anybody here from Rutherford County?
(Applause).

>> PHILIP BYERS: I was their sheriff at one time so I'm sure most of those yelling were at one time incarcerated.
(Chuckles).

>> PHILIP BYERS: Thanks for going here it's a long way from Rutherford County I want to say a few things before I do my prepared notes I always do this I always embarrass the Chancellor and all of you in the middle but that's okay. Get used to it.

We work hard. When you mentioned Board of Governors, I expected you to boo. Sometimes I boo. And that's okay. But we're working hard. Yesterday we were in meetings all day and my biggest concern yesterday was a funding model for this university and others because App State and UNC Wilmington are the lowest funded per student in the state.

And that makes no sense. You got two universities who are doing everything right and I'm saying this for those in the middle, my friends, we're going to fix that, trust me. Because you work hard.
(Applause).

>> PHILIP BYERS: Some of you may not believe in capitalism. I do. And where I come from those who do things right, you pay the most. And Appalachian does things right. So we're going to try to make some changes there.
(Applause).

>> PHILIP BYERS: And that is my promise and most of you know enough -- know enough about me and know I was here for seven years undergraduate that I have to do that I tell you I'm going to do.
(Chuckles).

>> PHILIP BYERS: So to Paul and to Sheri yesterday who were helping me make statements and I say a lot of ugly things sometimes I meant what I said and we're going to work with our Chairman to make sure that funding model is more conducive so that you can stay in Boone for all your careers you choose and that these students can continue receiving the type of leadership and the knowledge that you have to share with them. So thank you.
(Applause).

>> PHILIP BYERS: Okay. Enough of that. Let me get onto my stuff. So I can sit down and be quiet. 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 my expressing my sincere thanks to the Chancellor Sheri Everts. One of the all-time very best. She is one of the finest Chancellors in the UNC system. She has come up with imaginative
solutions and a range of emerging challenges and is committed to enhancing the investment students are making in their education.

Thank you, Chancellor. How -- thank you, Chancellor.

(Applause).

>> PHILIP BYERS: She's going to be angry with me. 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 go to the next level in your life. You deserve to celebrate so do so. But it's also important to acknowledge the contributions of the faculty and staff. We have covered that earlier but I want you to please give a round of applause to the folks that make this train run.

(Applause).

>> PHILIP BYERS: I am certain you agree on how invite the air encouragement has been. 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 this institution. Your futures are beckoning you. Take heed of your callings but I ask you to remember the invaluable education that you have received from Appalachian State University.

We encourage, we insist and insist is a pretty tough word that you stay connected to this wonderful institution. Congratulations, enjoy this moment. And best wishes to each and every one.

(Applause).

>> JEFFREY MERRITT: Good morning, I'm Jeffrey Merritt I'm a proud graduate of the class of 1989 and I'm honored humbled and grateful to serve as President of the Appalachian State University Alumni Association and bring you greetings and congratulations on behalf of over 126,000 Mountaineer across the globe. You join almost 120 years of Appalachian alumni as part of a great tradition of Mountaineer who go forth and 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. The list goes on and on.

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

Today, as you graduate and back part of the Alumni Association, with this new role, I want to encourage you to come back Boone often, keep the Alumni Office updated with your contact information, and the many milestones that you're going to achieve after you leave here.

Be an Ambassador for Appalachian by wearing black and gold proudly and remember to participate in any part of the university that touches you. Class of 2018, your best days are in front of you. And I send you congratulations and welcome to the
Alumni Association.

(Applause).

>> RAJAN ALAQIL: Aaslamu Alaikum much better. Aaslamu Alaikum hello and may peace be upon all of you in Arabic. I am a Millennial with a dream and endless aspirations of how I can serve the world by helping and changing it positively I truly want to leave a mark and want to be a really good example for all of my peers but before we get into all of that please allow me to tell you about my story first.

I came to the United States five years ago as an exchange student through the U.S. State Department. I remember telling my 16-year-old self to not have any expectations of this place. And to just let everything be.

With that, I came here knowing nothing, and only hoping for the best in everything. I left my family that has always believed in me and my home country of Saudi Arabia that has always empowered me.

Family. Family in all of its sense of meaning. Family. I left mine and I came here to find many people that I now consider to be my own extended family.

I was hosted in the small town of Marion in McDowell County here in North Carolina. There I gained my American family that hosted me for a year. I am here today because of them. I applied to Appalachian with the same mindset of not having any expectations and what I found here was truly something to cherish and value.

For all of us here graduating today, when we look right now -- right at this moment we'll find our friends sitting next to us. Our family members in the crowd cheering for us. Our professors and mentors all around supporting us. And we're leaving Boone but we will always be part of this Appalachian Family that will forever welcome us back.

During my time here I was part of several student organizations through them I found a greater purpose of my college journey. However we're graduating today because of the knowledge which we have worked tirelessly to gain it is because of our professors who have always empowered to us by challenging us in the classroom every day and us putting in the hard work so succeed. We are leaving the mountains of Boone with stronger mindsets of the world because these Mountains of Opportunity are and will forever be a place that made us transition in our lives from one chapter to the next. But most of all Appalachian has helped me in finding my place in this world to allowing me and being part of the United Nations I am standing before you here today as a young Millennial who has been representing Saudi youth at the United Nations throughout all of my past years in college and through this amazing experience, I have been privileged to connect with a global family around the world with a bond that truly connects us all.

I started my speech by mentioning family and stressing on it over and over again. That is because I believe that we all made it here today, strong and proud of our journey in the past few years because of the people whom we consider family that made us get here. For everyone here in the audience, the notion of family makes me connect with
you all as I see my family in you as they couldn't come from Saudi Arabia today. All of the professors, as I see lifelong mentors in you. All of my peers and fellow graduates as I see my own friends in you.

Whether it's our actual family or the people we have gained along the way as friends, mentors or supervisors. There is a great saying which I've been living by in the past few years which says, I am who I am because of who we all are. We're leaving Appalachian today all as one and we're moving across the world as thousands of success stories.

Thank you, thank you to everyone here who made it possible for us today to end this amazing chapter of our lives. To everyone who came here to support and celebrate with us. Thank you. As I fly back home tomorrow to Saudi Arabia I'll never forget how America has welcomed me as one of its own over the past five years. To my family, and dear friends who are watching me right now, all of the way from (inaudible), from 6928 miles away, thank you. As we say in Arabic whenever we succeed in a journey, thank you God. Alhamdulilah.

(Appause).

>> MacKENZIE HOLLAND: Okay. Good morning, students, community, faculty, staff members and guests I am honored to have been chosen to be the graduate Student Speaker at the December 2018 Commencement Ceremony.

Undergraduate students about four years ago I was sitting in your seat having accomplished what I knew to be then to be the biggest milestone of my life. What would be next? What is life after college even like? Looking back I can honestly say I did not fully appreciate how important it would be to look beyond today all I could think of then was now I had finished my college degree.

Fast forward to 2016. I had gotten my bachelor's degree from Appalachian and had been working full time for two and a half years and to be perfectly honest I reached what I felt to be a ceiling in my current position my director and mentor would often encourage me telling me that becoming stagnant in an environment where nothing stays the same would make me nothing but complacent and I was learning nothing new I began to realize that if I wanted to go beyond the operational level of work that I had already mastered I needed to do more to set myself apart this is when I began to think about getting an advanced degree with so many existing options I asked myself, where will my impact be the greatest? For me it was business.

I knew I needed to broaden my insight and learn more about the role of business in organizations. This inspired me to pursue a Master of Business Administration. I remember having almost the same level of excitement at the chance to return to Appalachian at the graduate level that I had had the day in high school I first learned I would be a Mountaineer. It was a different process this time in that I recognized that I needed to invest in myself if I wanted more from my career. For me there was only one place I would consider this investment, Appalachian State University. ASU's
distance education MBA program made it possible for me to keep my job and my life while investing in myself along the way.

The classes, professors and fellow students in the Walker College of Business have helped shape my perspective for how I view the world around me. My MBA has already given me the foundation to seek out my strengths and not stop here. My undergraduate to graduate studies at Appalachian not only taught me new skills but also how to craft my own life and work experiences. My experience in the walker College of MBA program inspired the confidence that I didn't have to stay in a dead end and I could achieve great things both personally and professionally.

As I prepared for this speech I thought back to the many experiences, projects, classroom lectures, assignments, exams, and group work that led me to this day. Appalachian State and the Walker College of Business have given me more than just an excellent education. I have gained a lifetime of friendships and memories. My MBA has already offered me the opportunity to change the current health system in which I work and accept a role that's elevated my career throughout the region. I have found that an advanced degree will increase your resource capacity in ways you cannot imagine both financially and intellectually. Giving you the opportunity to change the world around you.

I would like to leave you with a quote by Seth Godin. In a crowded marketplace, fitting in is failure. In a busy marketplace, not standing out is the same as being invisible.

Appalachian State University app and the Walker College of Business have allowed me to stand out, to rebrand myself and optimize my skills. I am equipped for the future and I'm quite proud of being an ASU grad. Go neers.

(Appause).

>> 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 graduate 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 now. Don't be bashful. (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 now, as well. (Applause).

>> PROVOST KRUGER: Thank you.

>> MICHAEL McKENZIE: And now, ladies and gentlemen, the moment for which all of us, particularly the students, have been waiting for. I ask the Chancellor, Dr. Sheri Everts, to please join me at the podium.

Will candidates for the Master’s Degree please rise?

Chancellor, upon recommendation of the graduate faculty of the Cratis D. Williams School of Graduate Studies I present the names of those here today who have met or will meet all the requirements to earn their Master's Degrees. Will all candidates except those in the first row of candidates please be seated?

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 quite competitive and only 55% of our applicants are accepted.

These students are truly exceptional as reflected in their graduation rate of almost 88%, one of the highest in the entire UNC system for graduate studies. With an average completion of 2.1 years to degree.

Therefore, you can understand our immense pride in having more than 350 of our students graduating this summer and fall. Many of whom are participating in our ceremonies today.

Master's candidates have already been hooded prior to the ceremony this morning. All candidates please proceed to the stage and receive your diploma cover. You may be seated when you return to your row.
(Announcing names. Please consult your program.)

>> The students from the Walker College of Business cross the stage.
(Announcing names. Please consult your program.)

>> Associate Dean Robert Sanders and Dean Neva Specht will distribute diploma covers as the students from the College of Arts and Sciences cross the stage.
(Announcing names. Please consult your program.)

>> MICHAEL McKENZIE: Will you please join me in applauding all of those
receiving their graduate degrees today?

(Appause).

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

(Appause).

>> PROVOST KRUGER: Chancellor Everts, upon recommendation of the faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Walker College of Business, and the Hayes School of music, 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 Walker College of Business, followed by the Hayes School of Music and the College of Arts and Sciences. We are proud to have more than 1200 eligible undergraduate candidates for graduation this December, many of whom are participating here today. Students will have their names read and projected as they come cross the stage. Each individual student name is listed in the program by their college and major field of study and 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 Heather Hulburt Norris will now come forward to congratulate students from the Walker College of Business while Sandra Vannoy hands out diploma covers. (Announcing names. Please consult your program.)

>> Dean James Douthit will now come forward to congratulate students from the Hayes School of Music. (Announcing names. Please consult your program.)

>> College of Arts and Sciences while Senior Associate Dean Dr. Dru Henson hands out diploma covers. (Announcing names. Please consult your program.)

[Cheers and applause.]

>> CHANCELLOR EVERTS: Will all candidates for a degree from all colleges and schools please rise.

[Cheers and applause.]

>> CHANCELLOR EVERTS: To those who now present themselves as candidates for 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 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 EVERTS: 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: To the newest graduates of Appalachian State University, congratulations.

[Cheers and applause.]

>> CHANCELLOR EVERTS: Graduates, you may be seated.

I would now ask the faculty to please stand.

(Applause).

>> CHANCELLOR EVERTS: 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 of those present, and our entire university community, thank you for your tireless commitment. Please join me in showing our appreciation for our amazing faculty.

(Applause).

>> CHANCELLOR EVERTS: Faculty, you may be seated.

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for joining us in this ceremony today. I would like to express our appreciation to the Appalachian Brass Ensemble, conducted by Dr. James Stokes.

(Applause).

>> CHANCELLOR EVERTS: For it's fine performance. Also, thank you to the Appalachian Student Ambassadors who served as marshals for today's ceremony.

(Applause).

>> CHANCELLOR EVERTS: At this time I ask everyone to please stand for the singing of the alma mater.

We will -- just a minute. We will be led by vocalist Rachel Tucker, a student in the Hayes School of. All are asked to participate by singing along. The Brass Ensemble will very soon play the arrangement through once and then our vocalist will conduct us in on the repeat. The words are projected on screen and also available in your program. I ask that at the conclusion of the alma mater to please be seated for the
recessional.
[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.
   [Cheers and applause.]
   >> CHANCELLOR EVERTS:  You may be seated.
[Music]

***
This is being provided in a rough-draft format. Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) is provided in order to facilitate communication accessibility and may not be a totally verbatim record of the proceedings.

***