

Graduation Ceremony Binder

Welcome and Processional

Matt Johnston

Good morning, graduates, parents, friends, faculty and staff! Welcome to the 7th Annual California Aeronautical University Commencement ceremony. Please stand and join me in welcoming our graduates as they file to their seats.

[Processional]

[Graduates proceed to their seats and remain standing.]

Presentation of Colors

Matt Johnston

Ladies and gentlemen, please remain standing for the Presentation of the Colors by members of the Civil Air Patrol's Bakersfield Composite Squadron 121.

[The Color Guard will retreat.]

National Anthem

Matt Johnston

Please remain standing for the singing of our National Anthem by Julie Verrell.

Thank you. Please be seated.

Matt Johnston's Welcome Address

MC: Matt Johnston

Thank you. Please be seated.

It's great to see all of you here today hopefully prepared to survive our first heat wave. We appreciate all of your sacrifices, travels and scheduling to allow this celebration to occur. My name is Matt Johnston and I have the great privilege of serving as the president of California Aeronautical University. Can you believe that just a few years ago each of you was starting your journey and here we are now celebrating your accomplishment.

I speak for many when I say how lucky we all are to be part of something so special at CAU. I am thankful for our friends, family,

aviation community supporters, airline representatives, state and federal politician representatives, current students and everyone who has had a part in establishing California Aeronautical University, all established with one goal in mind.....TO CELEBRATE AVIATION PROFESSIONAL GRADUATES LIKE YOU!!

I want to take just a moment of your time to speak to you about SUCCESS. When you are successful with something, it feels good. As you celebrate your graduation, it should feel good to you, you worked hard for it.

I believe there are 2 elements that contribute to success and that it's a journey capable of repeating itself throughout our life if we choose it to.

The first element is to CONVINCE YOURSELF that you can be successful. You have to

want it and believe in yourself valuing that you deserve to have it. Setting your mind to doing what you want or becoming what you want. Dream big and you just might surprise yourself over and over again throughout your life as your life journey builds upon dream after dream.

The second element is to COMMIT YOURSELF to your success. This is the part that is really hard and requires efforts every day. Set goals for yourself and never give up. Recognize that nothing worth having ever comes easy and there are stages to it.

These 5 stages are what test resolve and when recognized will keep driving your success journey. You're first going to experience adversity at the beginning stage that tests your determination and will to make the changes and sacrifices. You're then going to experience an alone stage

when others around you don't want to pay the price or follow or support the dream you're living. Don't worry because hard work and commitment does pay off and you will then reach the accomplishment stage that proves your character and motives for having the dream. The fourth stage again experiences aloneness because of your continued growth and development. As you climb the mountain to the dream, less people want to take the trip. Hang in there because the last stage is the attractiveness stage where once achieved your dream and associated success is realized. You are now very attractive to others seeing what you accomplished. This attractiveness is infectious and drives others to want to DREAM BIG and grow like you did.

Graduates of 2025 you should feel proud of your success journey here at CAU. You experienced all of the stages along the way to

earning your degree by 1) Convincing yourselves and having the DREAM and 2) Committing yourselves to getting here pushing through the ups and downs.

It might not appear, but you are very attractive to others for what you have accomplished and who you have become as aviation professionals earning your degrees. CAU believes in you and wants to thank you for believing in us as we have traveled on our success journeys together. We are truly honored to have you as part of our family and we look forward to following you as you continue to pursue more success journeys throughout your life. Keep repeating your inspiration to others.

California Aeronautical University has enjoyed great support from the aviation industry as I have previously mentioned. We are pleased to share some words of

congratulations from the aviation community.

[Play supporting videos from SkyWest, Endeavor, United Aviate, and GoJet]

Local Dignitary Remarks

Dr. Michael Berry

Thank you once again to our airline partners for those messages of support.

At this time, we'd like to recognize several of our local leaders who have extended their congratulations to today's graduating class. We are honored to acknowledge certificates of recognition provided by **Senator Shannon Grove** and **Supervisor Phillip Peters**, in celebration of this year's graduates.

We also extend our sincere thanks to **Supervisor Jeff Flores** for his ongoing support of our program and today's ceremony.

Representatives from their offices are here with us today to share a few words on their behalf. Please welcome **Vivian Cao** and **Stephan Sanchez** to the stage.

[Vivian Cao and Stephan Sanchez come to the stage from VIP seating, speak, and exit]

[Dr. Berry comes to the podium following remarks.]

Commencement Speaker Introduction

Dr. Michael Berry

Thank you to our representatives for those thoughtful words and for joining us in celebrating today's achievements.

As we continue this special occasion, it's now my honor to introduce our commencement speaker, LT. Colonel Carlos Pinedo.

Lt. Colonel Pinedo currently serves as the Senior Military Test Pilot for the B-21 stealth bomber program. Prior to this role, he was the Dean of Faculty at the United States Air Force Test Pilot School at Edwards Air Force Base in California, where he led curriculum development and instruction for the Air Force's next generation of test pilots, flight

test engineers, combat systems officers, space operators, and enlisted professionals.

Commissioned in June 2005 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Air Force ROTC program as a distinguished graduate, LtCol Pinedo went on to complete pilot training in 2006 and was selected to fly the B-1B Lancer at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas. He served with distinction, flying 137 combat missions during three deployments in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

In 2012, he was selected to attend the elite U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School, where he began a new chapter in his career as an experimental test pilot. Over the years, LtCol

Pinedo has accumulated more than 3,000 flight hours across over 30 aircraft types.

Adding to his impressive credentials, LtCol Pinedo recently completed doctoral studies at the University of Colorado Boulder, where he focused on Bioastronautics and advanced human landing systems—pushing the boundaries of how humans may safely return to Earth or land on other planetary surfaces.

And now, I am pleased to invite LtCol Carlos Pinedo to the podium.

[LtCol Pinedo comes to the podium.]

Commencement Speech

LtCol Carlos Pinedo

*[Dr. Berry comes to the podium following
LtCol Pinedo's speech.]*

Dr. Michael Berry

Thank you, LtCol Pinedo. What a remarkable speech. The life you have led and experiences you have shared really inspire us to push the boundaries of what we think is possible in order to achieve the exceptional.

[Present plaque and gift bag as a thank you for being our commencement speaker.]

And now, I have the great privilege of calling upon President Matthew Johnston to present the Outstanding Graduate award.

Matt Johnston - Outstanding Graduate Award

Matt Johnston

Please join me in recognizing our Outstanding Graduate. We are proud of the manner in which this student excelled in the classroom and in the flight labs, and participated in other areas of the CAU community. He has been an example for many students throughout his journey. It is therefore, with great honor and pleasure, with the input of key faculty and staff members, that we announce and recognize the Outstanding Graduate for this 2025 graduating class as:

Anthony Campisi

[Present Outstanding Graduate Plaque after recognizing the Outstanding Graduate]

We thank Anthony for all of his hard work and dedication during his time at CAU. We are also excited to hear more from him later in the ceremony, as one of our distinguished student speakers.

Now, it is my pleasure to introduce someone who plays a vital role in guiding the academic success of our students. As the Academic Dean, she brings dedication, insight, and an unwavering commitment to excellence in education. Please join me in welcoming Megan Dutto, who will now present the Distinguished Academic Recognitions.

Distinguished Academic Recognition

Megan Dutto

High Honors

I now have the pleasure of recognizing our graduates who have demonstrated the highest levels of academic excellence. While we are proud of all our graduates and their accomplishments, we want to especially recognize the students who have demonstrated impressive dedication and achievement while attending school and managing life.

The graduates receiving High Honors today have graduated with a cumulative GPA of 4.0 and are adorned with a gold stole. As I call out your names, please stand & remain standing to be recognized.

Joseph Benyameen
Michael D. Brookes
Anthony Campisi

CONGRATULATIONS! and PLEASE BE SEATED.

Dean's List

The graduates on the Dean's List have maintained a GPA of 3.5 - 3.99 throughout their programs. The graduates who have earned this honor can be recognized by the silver cords they are wearing. As I call out your name, please stand and remain standing to be recognized.

Orlando Joseph Acevedo [ass-eh-VAY-doe]

Sarah S. Beaver

Noah Burchfield

Yvonne Marie Castellanos [EE-VON-EE Marie KAH-STEH-YAH-NOHS]

Jacob J. Castro

Samantha Coston

Andrew Downey

Sebastian DuPree

Isabella N. Frausto
Travis Henderson
Andrew Iroff
Zachary Krizo
Jacaree Louis
Carlos Magana
Lino E Moreno [“LEE-Know E. MORE-eh-no”]
Jorge [“HOR-hay”] Munoz
Richard Tolbert Precop
Ivette L. Rosetti-Trujillo
Riley Siegel
Kamran Siddiq
Kelby Smith
Renato M. Soto
Reign Stoddard

**CONGRATULATIONS! and PLEASE BE
SEATED.**

Alpha Beta Kappa

We will now recognize some of our graduates who have been honored to become a member of the Alpha Beta Kappa National Honor Society.

As a member of Alpha Beta Kappa, each graduate must have achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher. Each graduate has been presented with a certificate and a gold key pin, which should be worn with pride as it signifies “Integrity and Excellence.”

Graduates who will be receiving this honor are adorned with red and blue cords.

At this time, I would like to ask the following students to PLEASE STAND while we give them a round of applause.

Michael D. Brookes

Lino E Moreno [“LEE-Know E. MORE-eh-no”]

Jorge Munoz

Richard Tolbert Precop

Kamran Siddiq

Riley Siegel

Kelby Smith

Ivette L Rosetti-Trujillo

CONGRATULATIONS! and PLEASE BE SEATED.

Alpha Eta Rho

Now we will recognize participation in Alpha Eta Rho. Alpha Eta Rho is a professional collegiate aviation fraternity founded in 1929 to bring together students who have a common interest in the field of Aviation.

Membership is open to all collegiate men and women who have a strong interest in any career within the aviation and aerospace industry. Alpha Eta Rho is the oldest aviation organization on college campuses today.

At this time, I would like to ask **Jacaree Louis** to **please stand** as the only student in Alpha Eta Rho for this graduating class, and let's give him a round of applause.

CONGRATULATIONS! and PLEASE BE SEATED.

Veteran Recognition

Next, we would like to honor those who have served our country in all branches of the military. These individuals can be recognized by the blue stoles they are wearing.

At this time, I would like to ask the following students, as well as faculty, staff and any of our guests who have served in the military, to please stand while we give them a round of applause and thank them for their service to our country.

Randy J. Adams
Michael D. Brookes
Noah Burchfield

Tyler Briggs
Anthony Campisi
Jean [“zhahn”] Deaconson
Sebastian DuPree
Travis Henderson
John Sedfrey Inductivo
Andrew Iroff
Lino E Moreno [“LEE-Know E. MORE-eh-no”]
Shannah [“SHAN-uh”] O'Connor
Alonso Olvera
Keanu [“Kee-ah-nu”] Dimitri Padilla
Samuel Schreader [“SHRAY-DUR”]
Riley Siegel
Adam Westmoreland

Thank you! Please be seated.

Next, I would like to call President Matt Johnston to the podium to introduce our student speakers.

Student Speaker #1 Introduction

Matt Johnston

Thank you, Megan. Now, we would like to welcome to the stage our first student speaker. This student truly exemplifies the meaning of perseverance and has inspired many of the other students, faculty, and staff with her tenacity, proving that you can achieve anything you set your mind to, even in the face of the most difficult challenges. I am proud to introduce Sarah Beaver to the stage!

Sarah Beaver Speech

Hi everyone,

I hope you're all as excited as I am to be standing here today. To be completely honest, I never imagined I'd be the one giving this speech. But here I am, and I'm incredibly grateful for this opportunity and bear with me here because I'm really shy.

My journey to where I am today wasn't always easy, and it definitely wasn't planned. When I was 14, I lost my dad just before starting high school. At that time, I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life. I didn't care much about anything, honestly. But somehow, life had a way of pushing me in the right direction, even when I wasn't looking.

My senior year of high school, I learned that North High had an aviation program, and that's when everything started to change for me. I met a teacher who took a chance on me and gave me flight lessons in Shafter. It was there that I found my love for aviation, and by 2023, I earned my private pilot's license. But life wasn't done testing me yet. After attending another flight school, I was let down when I was kicked out for failing a mock check ride. At that point, I thought flying wasn't for me anymore, and I had to make a decision about what I wanted to do next.

That's when I found the aircraft mechanic program at CAU, and everything clicked. I realized that I really enjoyed working with my

hands, and that was the path I needed to take. One of the best things that came out of going to this school wasn't just the education, but the friendships I made along the way. I'll never have a better group of friends than the ones I had here, especially Isabelle. I finished the in-person portion of the program in February and even landed a job at SpaceX. But the hours and pay didn't quite match the expectations I had for the license I'd earned. So, I made another change, and now I'm working at Robinson Helicopter, where I've found a place that feels right for me.

What I want everyone to know is that no matter what happens in life, there's always another path you can take. You may face setbacks, you may question your choices,

but keep moving forward because there's always something else out there for you. And being part of this aviation industry? You've made the right choice. The possibilities in aviation are endless, and you're all in the right place.

None of this would have been possible without the support of my family, especially my mom. She's the one who pushed me to keep going through everything, even when things got tough. Having a good support system makes all the difference, and I'm lucky to have hers.

So, to everyone graduating today, remember that your journey doesn't end here. There's so much more waiting for you, and whatever you do, don't stop believing in yourself.

You've chosen a career where the sky's the limit, and I can't wait to see what you all do next.

Thank you.

Student Speaker #2 Introduction

Matt Johnston

Thank you for that inspiring speech, Sarah. Our second student speaker is someone who has always been the type to set a positive example for others. He has consistently gone above and beyond in taking initiative to engage in academic and career-driven activities, both on- and off- the Oxnard campus. A good student and role model, we are proud to welcome back to the stage, Anthony Campisi!

Anthony Campisi Speech

Good morning, everyone,

Ever since I was a kid, I've loved everything about aviation and had always dreamed of one day being behind the controls of an aircraft.

I have spent my entire professional life in aviation, working as an aircraft maintainer in the Air Force for over 15 years.

I truly enjoy the cycle of inspection, troubleshooting, and repair that keeps an aircraft safe and reliable.

The satisfaction I get seeing an aircraft I fixed flying is something I will cherish for the rest of my life.

However, the longer I worked on aircraft, the more I was reminded of my childhood dream of becoming a pilot.

I thought that the opportunity had passed me by.

Luckily for me, however, CAU had the perfect program which allowed me to leverage my military background in pursuit of that childhood dream.

Returning to school after being away for so long wasn't easy.

I had to relearn how to study, how to balance full-time course work and flight training.

It was more difficult than I had ever imagined, but each late night, each struggle, and each lesson brought me close to something that I had only dreamed of.

Like all of my fellow graduates here with me today, I trusted the process and kept working hard, and all of that hard work has paid off.

My journey to this stage was different than yours, I'm sure, but it is our own unique experiences that make us the pilots, mechanics, and aviation professionals that we are.

Aviation demands the very best of us all and no matter your specialty, the moment you stop learning is moment this field will leave you behind.

Procedures change.

Regulations change.

Technology changes.

We have a responsibility to those who entrust us with their lives to continue learn, to never

be content with the status quo, and to always seek to improve.

THAT is what makes us professionals.

I want to finish here with some words of thanks:

To our instructors who pushed us to our limits.

While we may not have always appreciated it in the moment, I thank you for always holding us the standards you knew we could achieve.

To our loved ones, who kept us fed during late nights.

Who guided us when the doubts began to creep in.

Who supported this crazy dream and who will continue to support us while we move into the next chapter of our careers.

I thank you.

None of this would have been possible without you.

To the class of 2025, I can't express how proud I am of each and every one of you.

We have all achieved something that only a select few do.

Congratulations, and remember, always keep the blue side up!

[Dr. Berry comes to the podium following Anthony's speech.]

Faculty & Staff Video Compilation

Dr. Michael Berry

Thank you, Anthony, for that moving speech. Before we move on to the conferral of diplomas, we'd like to take a brief pause to share something meaningful.

Our faculty and staff have walked alongside you throughout this journey, and today, they want to share just how proud they are of everything you've accomplished.

Please enjoy this special video message from the people who have supported, taught, and cheered you on every step of the way.

[Play compilation video of faculty and staff]

Conferred Degrees

Dr. Michael Berry

Master of Aviation Science: Hooding Ceremony

I now have the pleasure of hooding our Master's in Aviation Science graduates, but first, let me provide a brief history of the "Hooding Ceremony." The tradition of academic dress entered the United States through King's College, which is now known as Columbia University. In the 1880's, different institutions established their own academic dress codes. The custom grew so rapidly that a commission was formed to draw up an intercollegiate code of academic dress. This code, with modifications made in

1959, remains in force today. The attire, colors, trimmings and patterns you see are all traditional, and reflect both the degree and field of learning.

The colorful hood is reserved for those individuals who have attained a professional degree, one that specializes in a particular field of study, such as a Master's in Aviation Science. It is a special part of the academic regalia that denotes scholarly and professional achievements.

Please notice that the hood is lined with the official colors of CAU, red and blue, with the red forming a chevron pattern over the blue. The hood is edged and bound with gold velvet representing the sciences.

Please join me in welcoming

Richard Tolbert Precop

And

Ivette L Rosetti-Trujillo

to the stage to be hooded.

[Have students face the audience; place the hood over their head. Give students diploma. Stand for a moment with the students in order for pictures to be taken, then dismiss the students.]

(David Alvarez will step to the podium and read Degrees and Names. Megan Dutto will stand and hold the basket of diplomas.)

David Alvarez

At this time, California Aeronautical University would now like to confer the following degrees.

Will the graduating class of 2024 please stand and come to the stage as we call your name.

Aviation Maintenance Technology:

Randy J Adams

Jacob J Castro

Sebastian DuPree

Carlos Magana

Josue Salazar

**Associate of Science Aviation
Maintenance Technology:**

**Sarah S Beaver
Michael D Brookes
Isabelle S Council
Isabella N Frausto
Zachary Krizo
Heriberto Romero-Martinez
Renato M Soto
Lincoln J Sumner**

Bachelor of Science Aeronautics:

**Orlando Joseph Acevedo ["Ass-se-ve-doe"]
Haroon Alamamay
Haven Aldrich
Louis ["Loo-is"] Austin
Nathaniel Bass**

Joseph Benyameen
Tyler Briggs
Noah Burchfield
Anthony Campisi
**Yvonne Marie Castellanos [“EE-VON-EE Marie KAH-STEH-
YAH-NOHS”]**
Simranjit Chera
Samantha Coston
Jean [“zhahn”] Deaconson
Andrew Downey
Gary Flores
Peter Gerges
Kareen Guerra
Travis Henderson
Caleb Hoffman
John Sedfrey Inductivo
Christopher Iniguez [“EEN-yee-gehz”]
Andrew Iroff
Jacaree Louis

Brian M McComb
Lino E Moreno [“LEE-Know E. MORE-eh-no”]
Jorge Munoz
Shannah [“SHAN-uh”] O’Connor
Alonso Olvera
Alfredo Orozco Flores
Keanu [“Kee-ah-nu”] Dimitri Padilla
Wyatt Parsons
**Ninive Aleini Ramos Milian [“NINNE-vay Ah-lee-
knee RAMOS Mill-yawn”]**
Kyle Robillard [“row-bih-lard”]
Zachary Rossi
Samuel Schreader [“SHRAY-DUR”]
Kamran Siddiq
Riley Siegel
Kelby Smith
Reign Stoddard
Adam Westmoreland
Christopher Zimmerle

(David Alvarez and Megan Dutto will step down from the podium.)

Class Confirmation

Dr. Michael Berry

We have heard from many wonderful people today who were kind enough to share their stories with us. These testimonials remind us that each of you possesses the characteristics it takes to be successful and of the importance of hard work, adaptability, and perseverance in order to accomplish one's goals.

...So without further delay, the moment we have all been waiting for.

Will the graduates of California Aeronautical University's Class of 2025 please stand?

[Graduates stand.]

With the authority given to me by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges, and the State of California, I would like you to now move your tassels from the right to the left. Your degrees have now been confirmed. Congratulations!

[Matt comes to the podium for final remarks.]

Exit

Matthew Johnston

We thank you for joining us in this day of celebration and the promise of a bright future. Please stand as the graduating students from California Aeronautical University, the Class of 2025, leaves the hangar.

[Matt and stage party exit leading the recessional.]