

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA PRESIDENT TED CARTER

# DECEMBER 2021 COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA

Good morning and welcome to Baxter Arena and the University of Nebraska at Omaha. I'm well aware that you've had to listen to a lot of speeches today, and I'm the last thing between our students getting their undergraduate degrees, master's degrees and their Ph.D.s. I plan to only speak for about three and a half hours, so settle in!

Before I give my remarks, I want to give a few congratulations. Nate and Hannah, congratulations on receiving the Order of the Tower. Nate graduated from Omaha College—now UNO—58 years ago. He's probably the master Maverick in the room today. Travis, listening to your background, all I have to say is, "none of us are worthy." Your accomplishments as a 2005 graduate—and all that you've done from MIT to Google X—are amazing, and you're representing the university so well. Adib, you gave a beautiful speech as our student speaker today. I love the words that you ended with: love, perseverance and hope. We didn't coordinate at all, but I might talk about some of those things myself. I'm proud of all you've done and that you're representing Mavericks from South India.

I also want to say thank you to our regents. Regent Weitz, thank you for delivering the welcome. You and your husband Wally are amazing supporters of UNO, and I thank you for your continued, undying support for this great university. And thank you to our other regents here today, Tim Clare and Jack Stark. Our regents represent all 93 counties of the great state of Nebraska. Eight of them have been publicly elected and they do amazing work.

How about Dr. Joanne Li, UNO's 16th chancellor? I could not be prouder. Let's give Chancellor Li a big round of applause.





acknowledge. Leaders and experts in almost every institution that we've held dear, taken belief in, and trusted in this country—from pharmacists and the medical community to elected leaders and the military—we now question. Why is that? Maybe it's because we're so interconnected. We get information through Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Twitter, or YikYak. We tend to want to believe what we see through a cell phone rather than listening to our experts. That could be troubling, and I don't have a solution for how we get that trust back—but I do believe the thread that matters the most is what you wrote to your younger selves. If you believe in yourself,