

# A Closer Look

From Franklin College President  
Kerry N. Prather



Greetings, Franklin College alumni and friends!

One point of universal agreement throughout the Franklin College community is that the most inspiring event of each academic year is Commencement. There is just something special about an intimate ceremony with graduates surrounded by family and friends, sitting within reach of the faculty and staff members who have mentored them through their academic journey. Pride and gratitude are

palpable, not only among the honored class, but also among those who have helped them earn their success.

The long list of academic majors reflected in this class mirrors our liberal arts heritage and our unique emphasis on digital fluency. Graduates have mastered content not only in their majors, but also in the essential "power skills" of effective communication, collaboration, critical thinking and innovative problem solving.

I challenged this year's graduates to honor the 190-year legacy of this great institution by sharing their impressive talents generously, "sustaining the proud tradition of Franklin College graduates who have made this world a better place." I am confident they will do exactly that, leading in their professions, communities and beyond.

Contrary to the narrative commonly publicized about this generation, Franklin students recognize that they have to earn success, and they are eager to do so. They know that long hours and hard work are essential ingredients for success. A third of each class are first-generation college graduates who worked diligently to blaze a trail for future generations of their families. Most graduates have worked part-time jobs throughout their four years while also engaging in campus activities like intercollegiate athletics, student organizations and government, and the arts. Corporate employers consistently describe Franklin College students who have been hired as interns and employees as "innovative, hardworking, committed and creative."

We are anxious to help the Class of 2024 network successfully as they pursue that first full-time position. It may well be that you are looking for talent to strengthen your company or organization, and I would love the chance to connect you with our newly minted Franklin grads.

If your business is seeking young, eager, bright and ambitious employees, I encourage

you to contact Kirk Bixler, our director of career development, at [kbixler@franklincollege.edu](mailto:kbixler@franklincollege.edu), or reach out to me personally. We will connect you with our most recent talented graduates. You will be impressed. Thank you for your continued support of Franklin College.



Kerry N. Prather  
President



We celebrated the achievements of our graduating class on May 18, conferring a total of 222 degrees. The top 5 majors: business, exercise science, psychology, biology & elementary education. Enjoy a glimpse into the day [here](#).

It was a great day to be a Grizzly!



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