

Remarks by Wendy Colindres Menjivar

For the School of Business and Graduate Studies at Trinity's 123rd Commencement, 2026

Good evening President, faculty, families, friends, and my fellow graduates.

When I first started my journey at Trinity, I thought I had a simple plan:
Go to class, do the work, graduate.

Easy... right?

Well, if Trinity taught me anything, it's that plans are cute—but life has other ideas.

Like deadlines that all fall on the same day.

Group projects where someone disappears halfway through the semester.

And learning that coffee is not just a drink—it's a survival strategy. 😊

But behind the humor, the truth is this—many of us here today did not take a traditional path to get here.

Some of us worked full-time.

Some of us supported families.

Some of us returned to school after years away.

Some of us carried responsibilities that no syllabus ever mentioned.

And yet... here we are.

Not because it was easy.

But because we refused to quit.

One of the greatest lessons I learned at Trinity was to say **yes**—even when I felt nervous, unsure, or tired.

Yes to opportunities.

Yes to challenges.

Yes to stepping outside of my comfort zone.

Including opportunities I never imagined—like studying abroad, meeting new people, and learning that growth happens when you allow yourself to experience the world beyond what feels familiar.

There were moments when I questioned myself.

Moments when I wondered:

Can I really do this?

Do I belong here?

But every time doubt showed up... determination showed up louder.

Because for many of us, this journey wasn't just about us.

It was about **family**.

I think about my parents.

Their sacrifices.

Their long days.

Their quiet strength.

There's a word in Spanish that means so much to me:

“sacrificio.”

Not the kind you complain about—
the kind you make because you love someone.

The kind where parents wake up early, work long hours, and carry heavy responsibilities—just so their children can have a chance at something better.

Tonight, when I walk across that stage, I know I'm not walking alone.

I'm walking with every sacrifice that made this moment possible.

And I know many of you feel the same way.

This degree doesn't belong to just us.

It belongs to our families.

Our communities.

Our supporters.

And yes—even to the people who reminded us to submit assignments before midnight.



Being a non-traditional student means learning how to balance more than textbooks.

It means balancing responsibilities, expectations, and sometimes exhaustion.

It means studying when you're tired.

Showing up when you're stressed.

Continuing when giving up feels easier.

But here's what I've learned:

There is no expiration date on growth.

There is no timeline that defines success.

And there is absolutely no single path that leads to achievement.

Some journeys are straight.

Some are winding.

Some take detours.

But every step forward counts.

Every late night counts.

Every challenge counts.

Every time you told yourself "**sigue adelante**"—keep going—it counted.

To my fellow graduates:

We made it.

Not perfectly.

Not easily.

But faithfully.

We showed up.

We kept learning.

We kept pushing.

We kept believing that something better was waiting on the other side of persistence.

And now we stand here—not just as graduates—but as proof that determination works.

Proof that resilience matters.

Proof that when life gets complicated, you can still finish what you started.

As we leave Trinity and move into the next chapter of our lives, I hope we carry this with us:

The courage to say yes.

The strength to keep going.

And the gratitude to remember those who helped us along the way.

Because success is never built alone.

It's built with community.
With sacrifice.
With love.

And sometimes... with a lot of coffee. 😊

To my parents, my family, and to every person who believed in us—even when we doubted ourselves—

Gracias.

Thank you for your sacrifices.
Thank you for your patience.
Thank you for believing that we could do this.

Because today... we did.

Congratulations, Class of 2026.

Your path does not have to be traditional to be powerful.
Sometimes the longer road... becomes the strongest story.

Thank you—and felicidades, Class of 2026. 🎓