



(08-09:249)

May 5, 2009

TO: Students, Faculty and Staff

FROM: Charles A. Sorber  
Interim President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Charles A. Sorber', written over the printed name.

**RE: UTPA May Commencement Update**

After careful consideration and monitoring of the H1N1 (swine) flu threat, The University of Texas-Pan American has decided to **go forward with Spring Commencement 2009** scheduled for Saturday, May 9th at the McAllen Convention Center. This decision comes after lengthy consultations with state, local and university health officials as well as UT System administrators.

If you plan to participate in May graduation ceremonies, you need to be aware of the health risks associated with a major gathering at this time. Note that, on average, 7,000 people attend each ceremony. To protect the safety and well-being of our students and community, **it is imperative that you, your family and friends stay home if you are experiencing flu-like symptoms.** Again, please act responsibly. *Do not attend commencement ceremonies if you are ill.* We strongly urge you to take this precaution seriously.

We are offering our students and their families, concerned over this health issue, a choice in this matter. Students will have the option of participating in the May 9th ceremonies or delaying their graduation until Summer Commencement to be held August 22, 2009. Students must notify the Office of the Registrar within the next 48 hours to reschedule graduation. Simply submit notification, name and identification number to Assistant Registrar Cynthia Blanco via email at [registrars@utpa.edu](mailto:registrars@utpa.edu).

We appreciate your patience and understanding during this public health emergency and look forward to a successful and safe commencement celebration.