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## **PRESS RELEASE**

For Release: Tuesday, May 5, 2009

### **UTPA to go forward with 2009 Spring Commencement Ceremonies on May 9**

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

UTPA administrators are asking prospective graduates who plan to participate in May graduation ceremonies 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 the students and community, **it is imperative that prospective graduates, and their family and friends stay home if they 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,” Charles A. Sorber, UTPA interim president, said.

The University is offering students and their families, concerned over this health issue, a choice in this matter too. Students will have the option of participating in May 9 ceremonies or delaying their graduation until Summer Commencement on August 22. 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).

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