



Congratulations Class of 2023



We look forward to celebrating your academic achievements at this year's commencement ceremony. The following details will help you and your guests prepare for this special occasion.

DATE: Tuesday, May 9

PLACE: Arizona Financial Theatre

400 W. Washington St. | Phoenix, AZ 85003

TIME: Ceremony 7-9 p.m.

Students will check in at the west-side employee entrance of the theatre.

5 p.m. Stage party and group photo check in

5:45 p.m. General student check in begins

The main doors will open to the public at 6 p.m.

Please plan to meet guests outside, in front of the main doors after the ceremony.



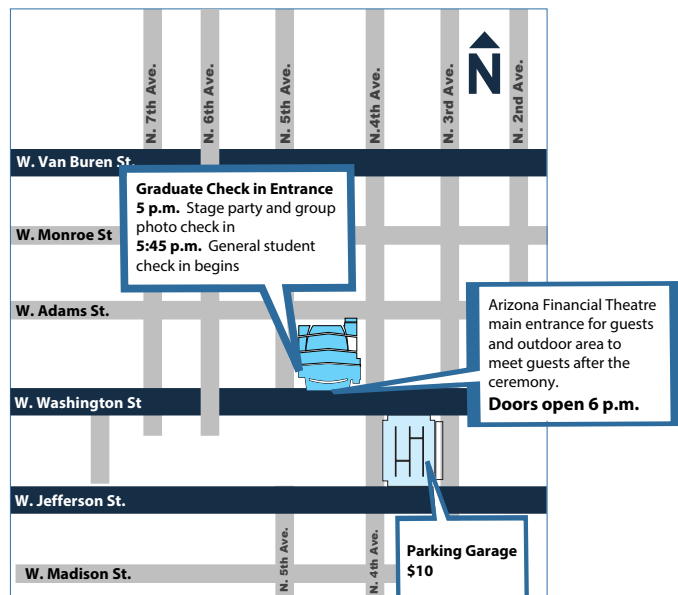
2023 STUDENT SPEAKER

Jacqueline Elliott

"I chose Rio because I needed my courses to be all online. At the time, I was a single parent working full-time. Rio was the difference between me being able to go to school or not."

CEREMONY PROGRAM

- Emcee announcements - Ms. Andrea Vazquez
- Processional
- Honor Guard - Luke Air Force Base
- National Anthem by Ms. Candice Chavez
- Welcome and Congratulatory Remarks
 - Dr. Kate Smith, Rio Salado President
 - Dr. Steven Gonzales, MCCCDC Chancellor
 - Dr. Linda Thor, MCCCDC Governing Board Member at Large, Rio Salado President Emeritus
- Student Speaker Address by Jacqueline Elliott
- Candidate Confirmation and Recommendation by Faculty Senate President Karen Docherty
- Awarding of Certificates, Degrees, and Recognitions of Academic Achievements
- Conferring of Credentials by President Smith
- Recessional



CAPS, GOWNS AND OTHER REGALIA

Graduates can pick up caps and gowns April 24 – May 9 once the \$25 fee is paid by visiting the Admissions and Registration office at our Tempe headquarters. For more information call 480-517-8540 or email graduation@riosalado.edu.

Parking is available for **\$10** at 305 W. Washington St. Visit valleymetro.org about light rail options. There are other events scheduled May 9 that may pose traffic and parking delays. Please plan accordingly.

Honor cords for distinction will be distributed with caps and gowns. PTK students, please contact John Bastian to arrange for your PTK cords and stoles at 480-517-8656 and john.bastian@riosalado.edu.



TIPS FOR EVENT DAY

- Check local traffic news
- Wear comfortable shoes
- Arrive on time wearing your cap and gown
- Leave personal belongings with guests
- Silence electronic devices
- Advise guests to enter main doors after 6 p.m.
- Advise guests to meet you in front of the theatre after the ceremony



GRADUATE RECOGNITIONS

Each graduate's name and one credential will be announced. Graduates will receive a diploma cover, have photos taken on stage alone and with President Smith. All graduate credentials will be listed in the program. Graduates who registered after the March 31 deadline may not appear in the program. Graduates will receive diplomas via mail.

Graduates will enter the auditorium as part of the processional and have assigned seating. Graduates will exit the auditorium as part of the recessional to meet guests at the front of the theatre.

VENUE SECURITY, BAG CHECK AND POLICIES

All bags will be searched prior to entry. Bags that are not clear will be subject to additional search. Bags up to 12" x 6" x 12" are allowed. **No Balloons or horns.** Guests can share balloons after the ceremony, outside the theatre.

CONCESSION OPTIONS

Vendors will sell soft drinks and snacks 6-7 p.m.

DISABILITY ACCOMODATIONS

If you require accommodations due to a disability please contact Disability Resources and Services at (480) 517-8562 and Disability.Services@riosalado.edu.



2023 STUDENT MARSHAL Antonette Pearson

"Rio is a family! A family of great educators, staffers and students. Want to reach your greatest potential or be the greatest version of yourself? Look to obtain your degree at Rio Salado College."

COMMEMORATIVE PHOTOS

GradImages will take two photographs of students on stage. Visit www.gradimages.com to purchase photos. We will post other photos on our Facebook account you can download and share for free.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Share your grad images and stories using **#RioGrad**

LIVE STREAMING

Invite others to watch the ceremony
www.youtube.com/watch?v=dsMMhloq9A



Get the latest event news online

www.riosalado.edu/student-resources/admissions-records-and-registration/commencement