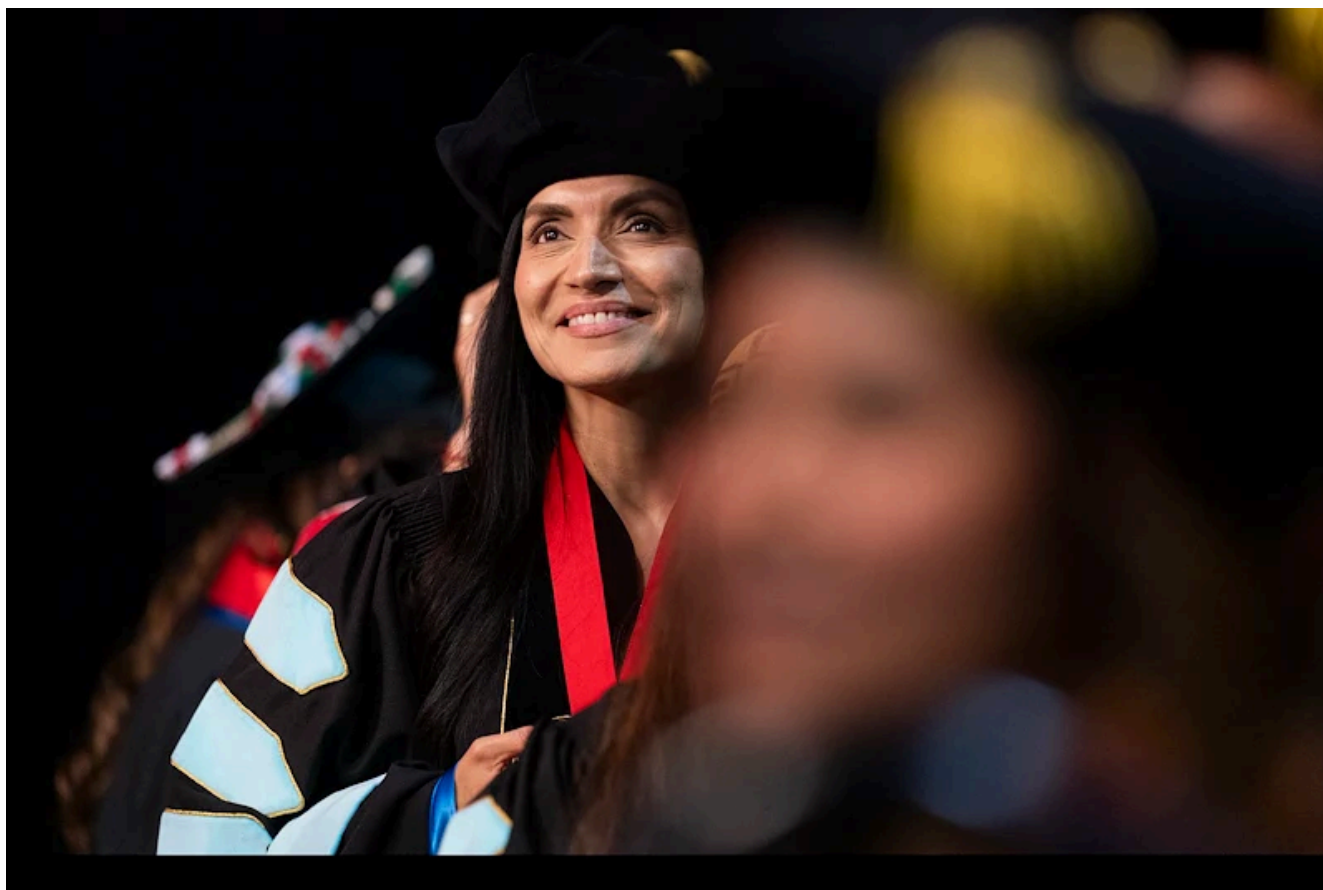


# EXPOSURE



## EVERYTHING AND MORE

*Three graduates' perspectives on their degree journeys*

Story by [Fresno State](#)

June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024

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Every Bulldog's story is a unique journey toward graduation.

Some journeys are uncharted, others are nontraditional, and many are filled with incredible adversity, but one thing is certain. Through unwavering dedication and a tenacious spirit, our graduates reach a milestone fueled by passion, resilience and purpose. They become our next generation of leaders, ready to define the road ahead.

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As the class of 2024 embarks on a new journey as Fresno State alumni, take a look at how three remarkable graduates ignited their own passions to forge new paths and pave a brighter future for us all.

## Everything I Expected and More | A Short Film About Graduating



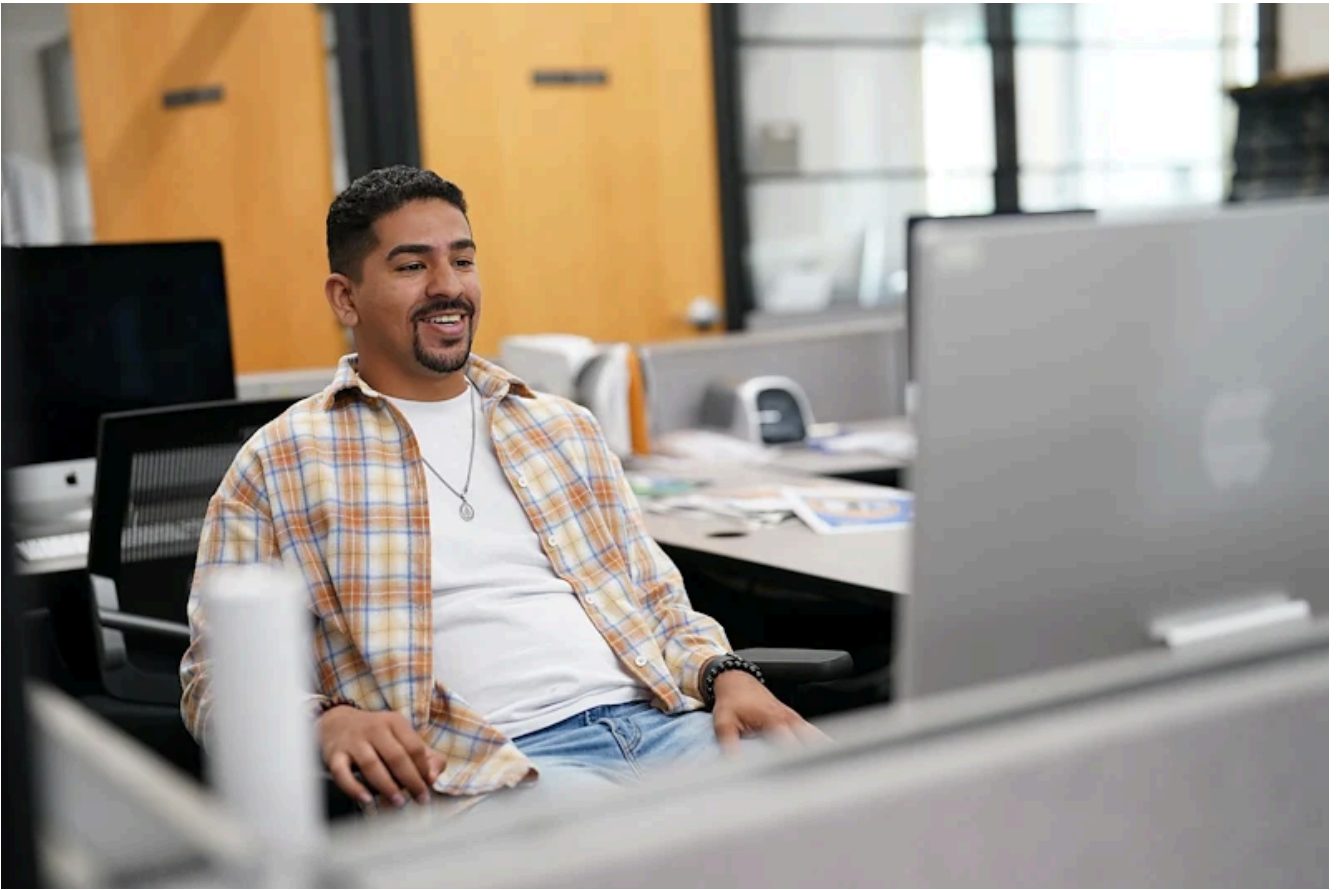
## CARLOS CASTRO

When Carlos was eight years old, he and his mother left Honduras to follow his father to the U.S. in search of better opportunities, especially in education. Originally interested in photography, he became fascinated with the combined power of visual and written storytelling and knew a degree in journalism would help give voice to his passion. Through Fresno State's student-run newspaper, *The Collegian*, and countless other hands-on learning opportunities, Carlos graduated with the skills needed to make a profound impact in his field. As the first in his family to graduate with a college degree, he is forging a new path for his little sister and future generations of leaders to come.

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## LUPE MENDOZA

As a three-time Fresno State graduate, Lupe has always been driven to make a difference in the lives of Valley students. After realizing common gaps in the dual enrollment program she oversees as vice principal at Mendota High School, Lupe decided to pursue a doctorate degree and focused her dissertation research on culturally-relevant and age-appropriate pedagogy, reaffirming her commitment to life-long learning.

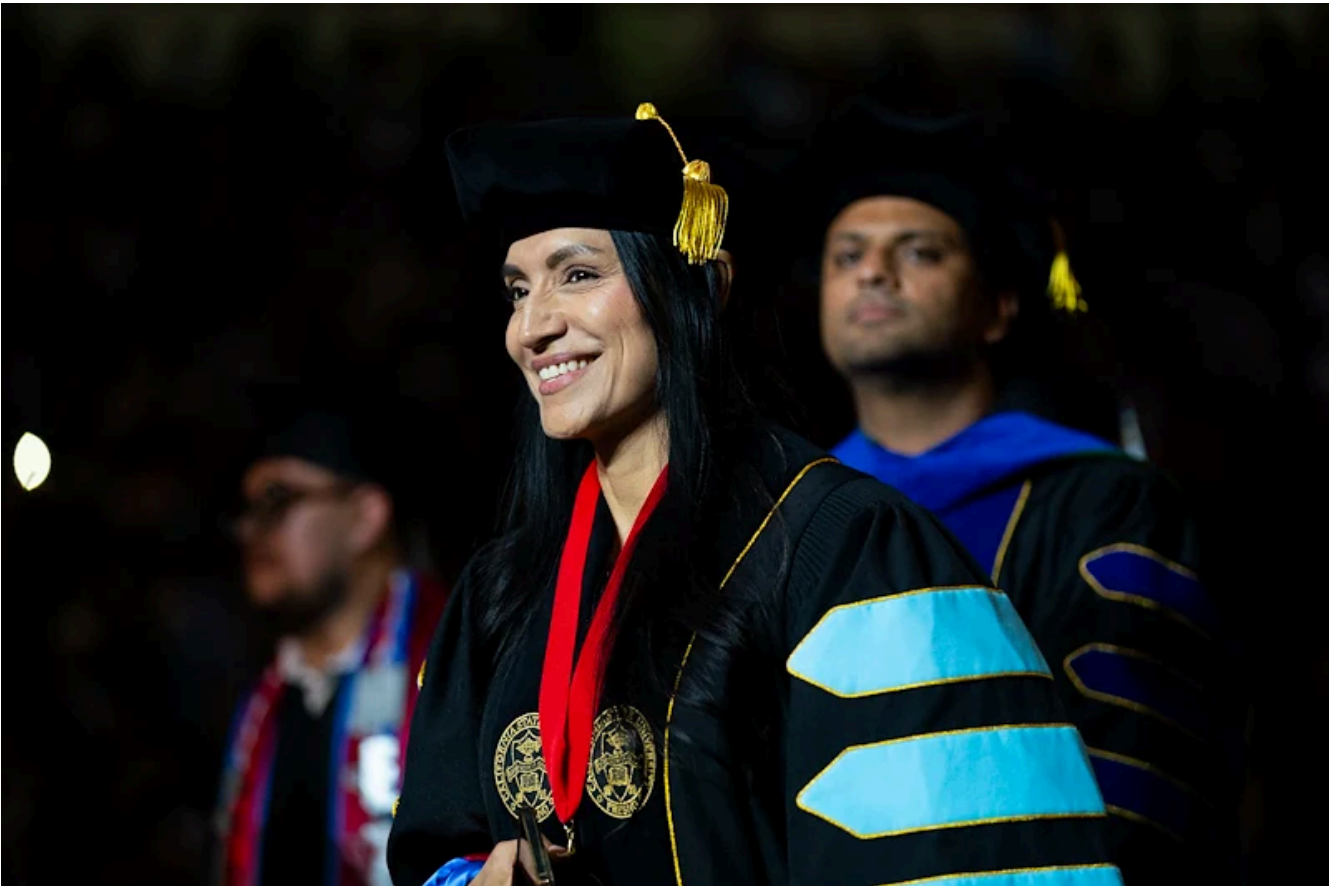
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## NATHAN THENG

As a Smittcamp Family Honors College scholar and computer science graduate, Nathan not only excelled in academics, but worked to make a positive impact on others through his research and mentorship. Nathan's research focused on leveraging technology to revolutionize the healthcare industry, and his commitment to service through tutoring and leadership ultimately empowered his peers. Through these accomplishments and more, Nathan was selected as the **President's Undergraduate Medalist**, the university's top honor for an undergraduate student.

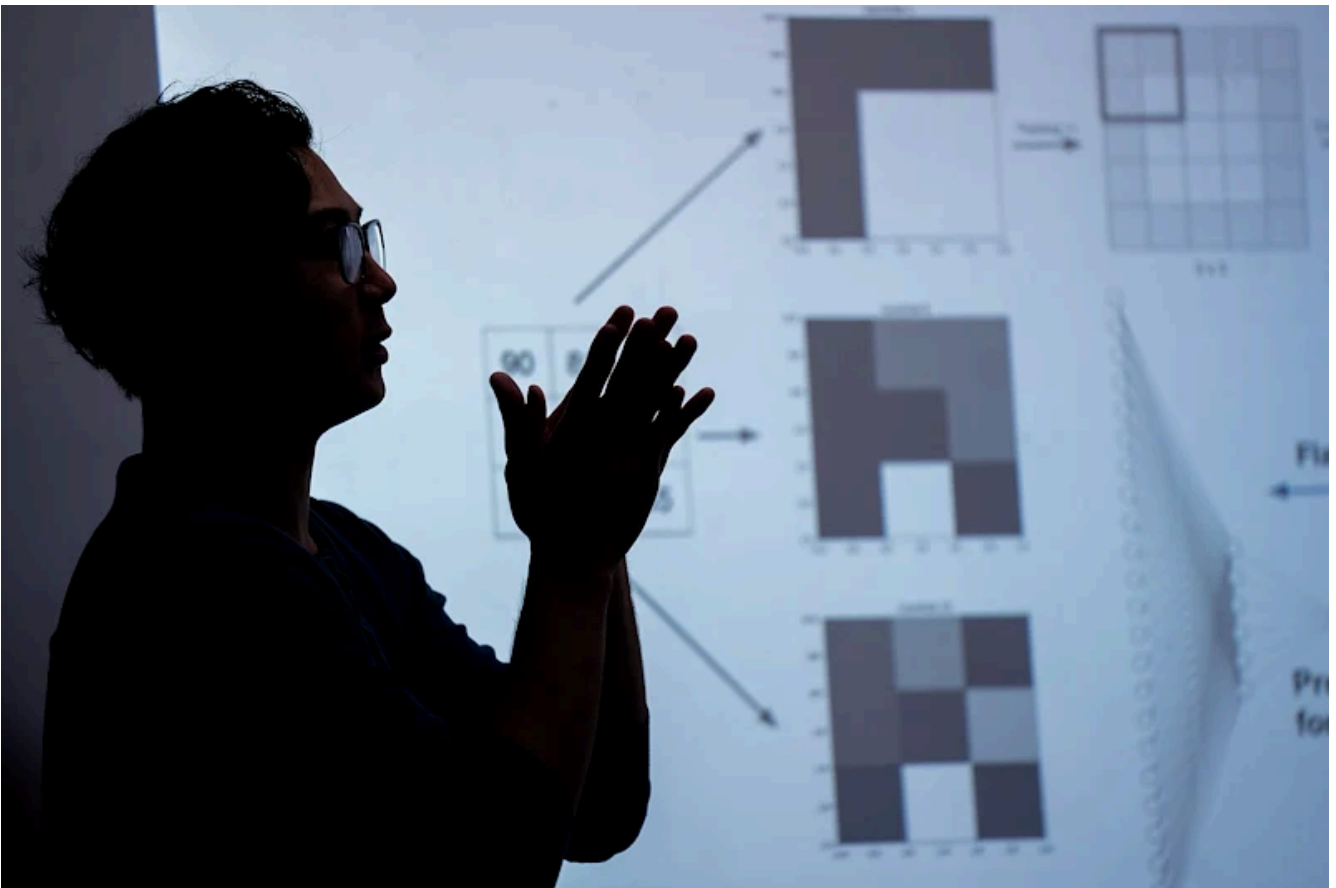
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*Footnote: Video by Matt Mealer, Photos by Cary Edmondson— University Marketing and Communications*

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