

## **Uplift Education Celebrates College & Career March Across 13 DFW Campuses**

*More Than 1000 Seniors Take Their Next Step Toward Higher Education and Career as  
Family, Classmates and Educators Cheer Them On*

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**DALLAS (December 5, 2025) - Uplift Education's College & Career March** returns with celebrations at 13 schools across Dallas-Fort Worth on Friday, December 5. A tradition of more than a decade, the College & Career March features schoolmates, family members, and educators rooting on the senior students as they parade their way through campus before delivering their college applications, military enlistment forms, or career intent letters to a ceremonial mailbox. The celebration recognizes the accomplishments of the 1,129 scholars who are part of Uplift Education's class of 2026.

As high school seniors across the country navigate the college application process, the 11th annual College & Career March brings Uplift Education's mission to life by helping every student reach their highest potential. Uplift graduates earn college degrees at twice the state average and three times the national average. More than three-quarters of the class of 2026, totaling 896 scholars, will be the first in their family to attend college or university.

"Uplift prepares scholars to live lives of contribution after high school, whether that journey takes them to college, or into the workforce or military," said Uplift Education President and incoming CEO Dr. Remy Washington. "The class of 2026 has inspired me with their grit, passion, ingenuity, and devotion to one another and their communities. The College & Career March may mark the beginning of the end of their time in high school, but I hope they know our team will be with them, urging them on, as they move forward to make their mark in the world."

Every Uplift campus boasts a team of dedicated counselors who diligently work to identify each scholar's best-fit college or career. The counselor-to-student ratio is 50-1. So far, counselors have helped the class of 2026 submit 9,453 applications to 621 institutions and start more than 550 FAFSA applications. This work will continue until May 1, 2026 — signing day for U.S. seniors around the country.

Recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* as some of the best high schools in the nation, 100% of Uplift graduates are accepted to college. Last year, Uplift graduates secured \$193 million in scholarships, dramatically reducing financial barriers to higher education. With application season barely underway, the class of 2026 already has received 622 acceptance letters from institutions such as:

- Southern Methodist University
- University of North Texas
- East Texas A&M University
- University of Texas at Arlington
- Texas State University

Sa'Mya Craff, who plans to study nursing in college, is one senior standout. Craff has flourished academically at Uplift Ascend, earning a 4.0 GPA, participating in DECA and

National Honor Society, and preparing to graduate as part of Ascend's first International Baccalaureate DP-eligible senior class. At seven years old, Craff founded her own nonprofit, Sa'Mya's Little Helping Hand, which provides meals, clothing, toys, blankets, back-to-school supplies, and more to residents of high-poverty neighborhoods. Craff's passion for service shaped her desire to become a nurse, a career she hopes will allow her to eventually expand her nonprofit to provide free healthcare support to people experiencing homelessness.

"Uplift has given me the confidence to believe in my goals and the support to reach them," said Craff. "My teachers and counselors guided me through every step of planning for life after graduation and challenged me to see what is possible. I feel prepared for college and the future I am building."

Craff is just one member of a standout class of future philanthropists, entrepreneurs, innovators and leaders participating in the College & Career March.

The education the class of 2026 received from Uplift will have a lasting impact no matter what path scholars pursue after high school. Uplift alumni earn, on average, \$20,000 more annually than peers who graduated from local districts.

Uplift Education empowers North Texas students to positively change the world through work, lifelong learning, and service. Established in 1996 with one school in Irving, it is now the largest, free public charter school network in North Texas, serving more than 23,000 pre-K-12th grade scholars annually on 20 campuses.

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### About Uplift Education

[Uplift Education](#) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to changing the lives of teachers, families, and, most importantly, students. With a network of 45 college-preparatory, community charter schools in six cities in North Texas, Uplift offers students a safe, supportive place to learn with individualized attention in class and a priority on students' personal, intellectual and emotional development. A multidisciplinary curriculum instills the value of hard work and prepares scholars for future success in their college and career pathway – all at no cost. Approximately 82% of students receive free or reduced lunch. Incredible, caring educators guide and teach over 23,000 students, with the majority being the first in their family to attend college. In the last 20 years, 100% of Uplift graduates have been accepted to colleges and universities.

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