

Annual Performance Evaluation

FY26 performance evaluations now open

The FY26 performance evaluation cycle is now open for classified and Administrative & Professional (A&P) employees who are appointed to work 20 or more hours per week and were hired on or before March 1.

This annual process provides a structured opportunity for employees and managers to reflect on the past year, discuss accomplishments and challenges, identify areas for growth, and establish goals for the year ahead. Performance evaluations support ongoing development and alignment with individual and organizational priorities.

Important dates and details:

- **Evaluation period opened:** April 29
- **Completion deadline:** All evaluations must be acknowledged by **Aug. 31**.
- **Platform:** Evaluations are completed in [iPerform](#).

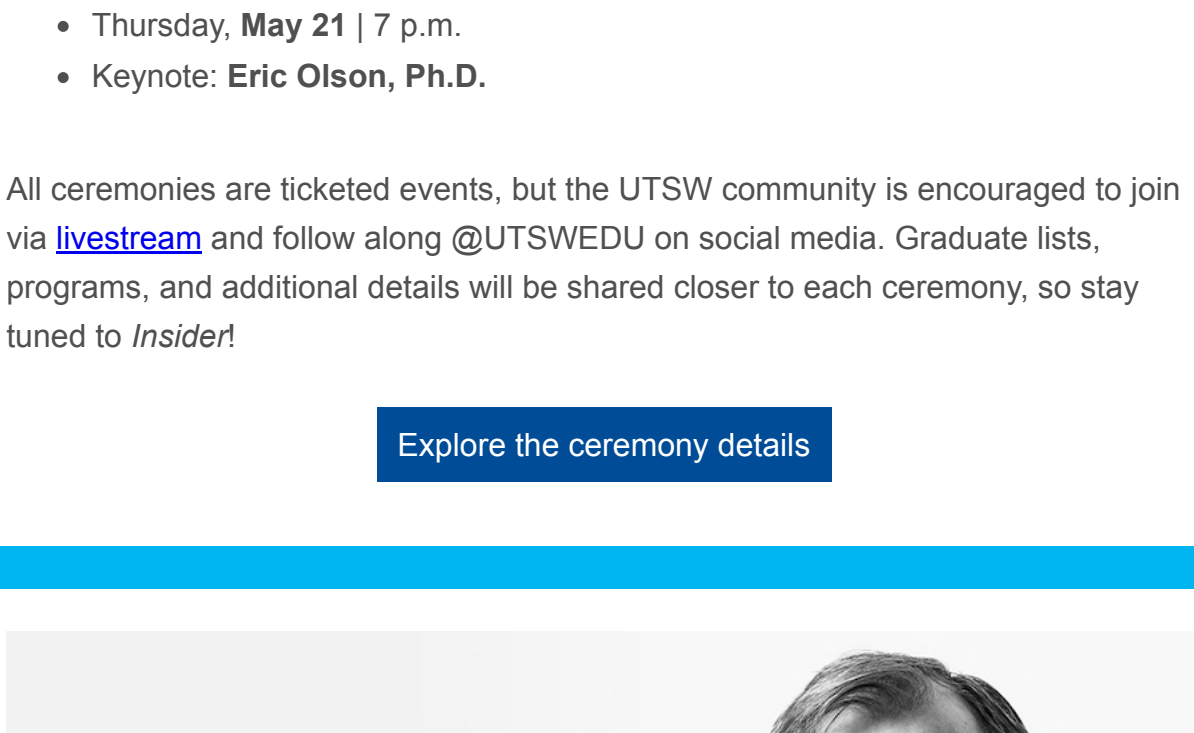
Training and support resources:

Live virtual training sessions are available to support both employees and managers throughout the evaluation process:

- [Employee training](#)
- [Manager training](#)

These sessions offer guidance to navigate the process, complete evaluations, and prepare for meaningful performance conversations.

For additional information or assistance, contact the [Performance Management team](#) or visit the [Performance Management SharePoint site](#).



Cap-and-gown season is here!

This spring, UT Southwestern will celebrate its latest class of graduates across the O'Donnell School of Public Health, Medical School, and Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. From advancing research to shaping the future of patient care and strengthening communities, these graduates are ready to lead, innovate, and make a lasting impact.

Join us in celebrating their achievements:

O'Donnell School of Public Health

- Wednesday, **May 13** | 10 a.m.
- Keynote: **Ellen J. MacKenzie, Ph.D., Sc.M.**

Medical School

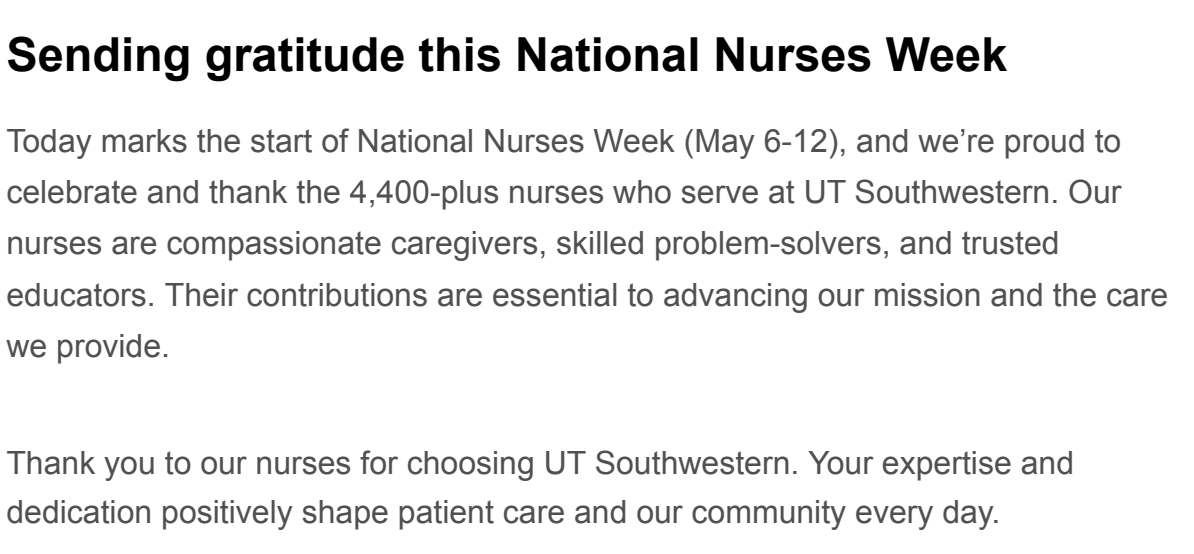
- Friday, **May 15** | 11 a.m.
- Keynote: **John M. Zerwas, M.D.**
- The Hooding Ceremony will be **May 14** at 7 p.m.

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

- Thursday, **May 21** | 7 p.m.
- Keynote: **Eric Olson, Ph.D.**

All ceremonies are ticketed events, but the UTSW community is encouraged to join via [livestream](#) and follow along @UTSWEDU on social media. Graduate lists, programs, and additional details will be shared closer to each ceremony, so stay tuned to *Insider!*

[Explore the ceremony details](#)



Unscripted: Pivot fast. Think big. Innovate boldly.

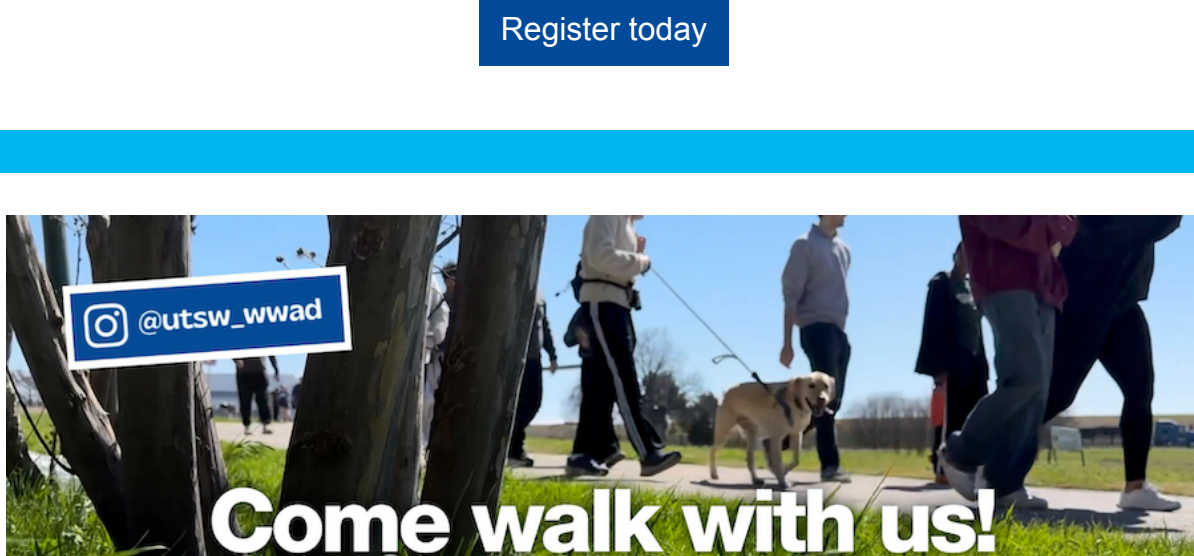
Before leading innovation at UT Southwestern, **Daniel Hommes, M.D., Ph.D.**, was a curious kid growing up in the Netherlands, tagging along with his father – veterinarian to the Dutch royal family – and once even defeating the future king at ping-pong.

A competitive rower with Olympic aspirations, Dr. Hommes learned early the value of pivoting with purpose. He redirected that discipline into medicine, devoting years to research and training in gut immunology. Decades later, a cancer diagnosis of his own put him on the other side of care, transforming how he views healthcare delivery.

Today, as Chief Innovation Officer, Dr. Hommes brings those experiences together to help transform UT Southwestern discoveries into real-world solutions through the [Innovation Hub](#).

Want to learn more? Read this [CT Plus story](#) on the real-world progress of the Hub and see Dr. Hommes and his team in person at [Innovation Hub Live](#) on **May 7**, where you'll get a firsthand look at how the Hub supports researchers at every stage of the journey, from idea to impact.

[Watch his story](#)



Sending gratitude this National Nurses Week

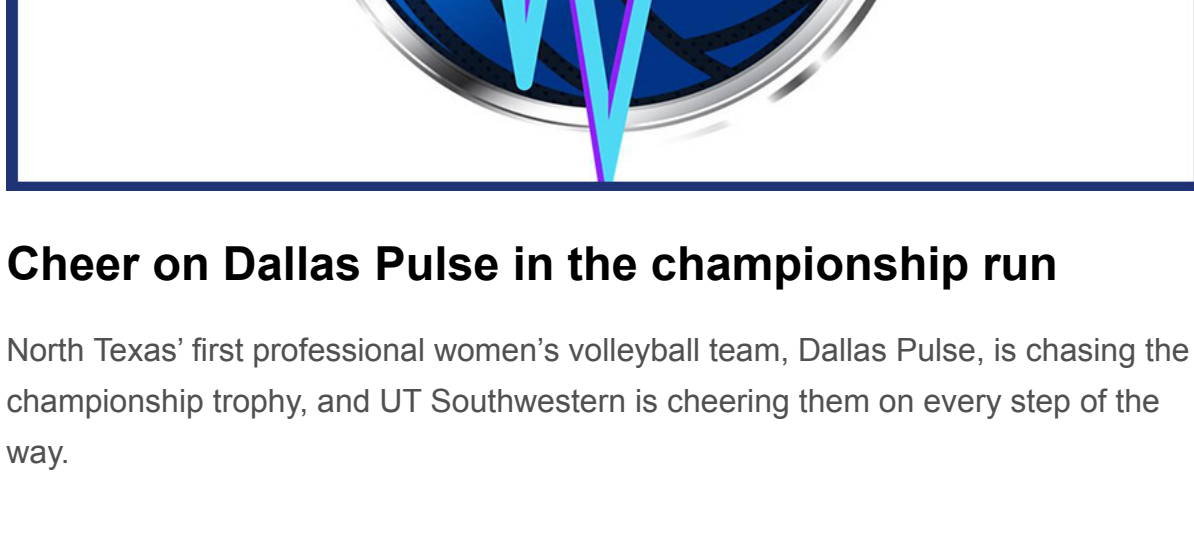
Today marks the start of National Nurses Week (May 6-12), and we're proud to celebrate and thank the 4,400-plus nurses who serve at UT Southwestern. Our nurses are compassionate caregivers, skilled problem-solvers, and trusted educators. Their contributions are essential to advancing our mission and the care we provide.

Thank you to our nurses for choosing UT Southwestern. Your expertise and dedication positively shape patient care and our community every day.

Join us in recognizing and uplifting our nursing community this week by sharing a personal note of thanks using the form below, which will send your message directly to a nurse's inbox.

(Note: **Please double-check the email address of the recipient** of your message before you submit it.)

[Thank a UTSW nurse!](#)



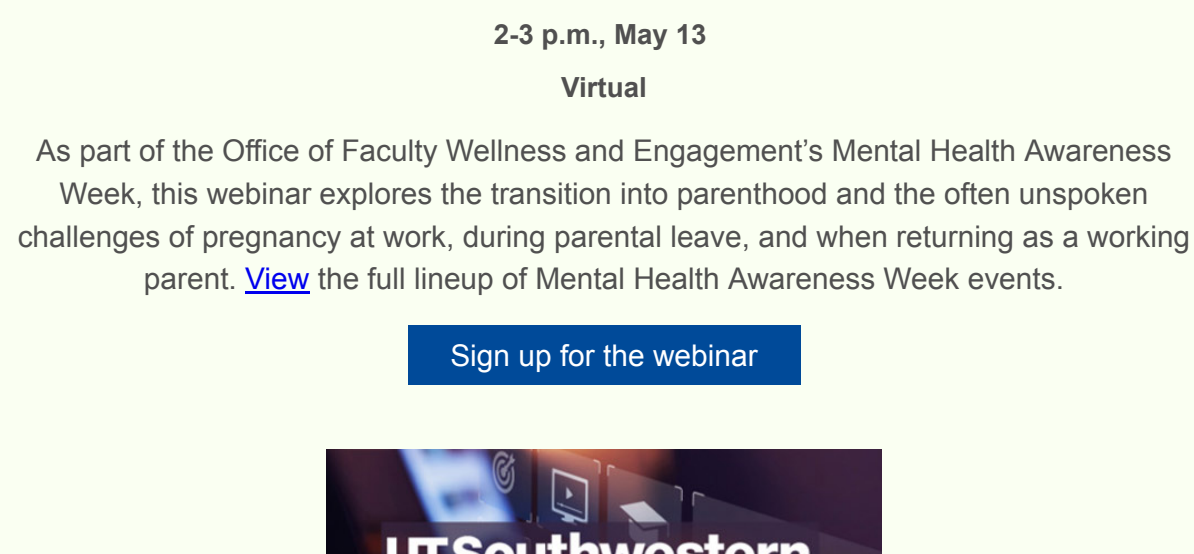
Join a statewide conversation on digital accessibility

UT Southwestern is committed to creating accessible digital experiences for our communities and those we serve. One important way we continue that work is by learning with partners across the state.

In recognition of Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD), the Texas Department of Information Resources is hosting a free, virtual statewide event on **Thursday, May 21**, from 10 a.m. to noon. UT Southwestern employees are encouraged to register and attend.

Whether you create digital content, manage systems, support patients, or simply want to better understand how accessibility impacts our work, this event will offer valuable insights and practical takeaways.

[Register today](#)



Now on video: Walk with a Doc

Looking to get in more steps or enjoy walking with others?

Join Walk with a Doc, a free community program that brings physicians, clinicians, patients, families, and neighbors together to learn, move, and connect.

On the third Saturday of each month, a UT Southwestern healthcare professional shares a brief, practical talk on a timely health topic. Then the group heads out for a walk – moving, talking, and building connections beyond the clinic walls. You don't have to be a patient to participate, and you're welcome to walk at your own pace, for as long as you like. All ages and fitness levels are encouraged.

Want to see what it's like? Watch a quick video featuring **Nora Gimpel, M.D.**, Professor and Vice Chair of Community Health in the Department of Family and Community Medicine, **Sandra Chang, M.D.**, Chief Resident, and community members on the trail.

Then [join](#) them at 9 a.m. **Saturday, May 16**, at Bachman Lake Park.

[See Walk with a Doc in action](#)

Cheer on Dallas Pulse in the championship run

North Texas' first professional women's volleyball team, Dallas Pulse, is chasing the championship trophy, and UT Southwestern is cheering them on every step of the way.

Dallas Pulse will take on the San Diego Mojo on **May 7**, starting 30 minutes after the 6 p.m. semifinal match. **Complimentary tickets are available** to the UTSW community. With a win, they'll advance to the championship finals on May 9 at 2 p.m. All matches take place at Comerica Center in Frisco.

Claim your free tickets using the link below, and help pack the house to show our support.

As the Official Sports Medicine partner of Dallas Pulse, UT Southwestern will collaborate with the team to advance health and fitness causes through upcoming initiatives focusing on women and children in the community.

For questions, contact the [Brand team](#). Visit the [Employee Discounts page](#) for additional ticket offers from our sports and fitness partners.

[Claim your free tickets](#)

Insider Guide

The hidden transition of the working parent

2-3 p.m., May 13
Virtual

As part of the Office of Faculty Wellness and Engagement's Mental Health Awareness Week, this webinar explores the transition into parenthood and the often unspoken challenges of pregnancy at work, during parental leave, and when returning as a working parent. [View](#) the full lineup of Mental Health Awareness Week events.

[Sign up for the webinar](#)

AI in 30: Scopus AI

Noon-1 p.m., May 14
Virtual

Join UT Southwestern Health Sciences Digital Library experts for a quick, informative session on Scopus AI, a research assistant connected to the Scopus multidisciplinary database. Learn how it can help you explore topics, identify relevant literature, and support early evidence discovery.

[Register to attend](#)

UTSW Events Calendar

Looking for your daily dose of happenings?
The UTSW Events Calendar is updated every day.

[View upcoming or trending events](#)

Share your *Insider* suggestions by sending them to utswinsider@utsouthwestern.edu. Looking for an item in a past edition of this newsletter? Check out our [Insider archive](#).