



## Stanford's 2011 Commencement Speaker is Felipe Calderón, President of Mexico

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Felipe Calderón Hinojosa, president of Mexico since 2006, will be the 2011 Commencement speaker at Stanford University. Stanford's 120th Commencement Weekend is scheduled for June 10-12.

From the [Stanford Report](#) [1]:

President Calderón was elected in 2006 to a six-year term. He is a member of the National Action Party (PAN), one of the three major political parties in Mexico. Prior to the presidency, Calderón served as national president of the party, as federal deputy and as secretary of energy in the Cabinet of former President Vicente Fox.

"President Calderón assumed office at one of the most challenging times in the history of his nation, and is a respected foreign leader who has been involved in public service and advocacy for his entire life," said Stanford University President John Hennessy. "He is committed to finding solutions to a number of national and global problems, ranging from combating drug cartels to comprehensive immigration reform and arms control. His views on a life devoted to solving pressing problems and to improving society will be particularly meaningful to our graduates, as will his experience leading a nation so vitally intertwined with the future of California and the United States."

Senior Class Presidents Dante DiCicco, Pamon Forouhar, Mona Hadidi and Molly Spaeth said they nominated Calderón as the 2011 Commencement speaker "to send a powerful message" to the country and the rest of the world about the importance of leadership in international cooperation and social justice.

"In his capacity as a head of state, President Calderón has grappled with real problems and solutions that have had a tangible impact on both the domestic and international stage," they said in a statement. "He serves as an example of commitment and leadership in the face of adversity, characteristics we all may hope to emulate as we move on to the next phase of our lives and embark on a new series of opportunities and challenges. We are so pleased he has accepted our invitation."

President Calderón earned a bachelor's degree in law from the Escuela Libre de Derecho in Mexico City, a master's degree in economics from the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México and a master's in public administration from Harvard University in 2000. He represented his native state of Michoacán in the Legislative Assembly and twice in the federal Chamber of Deputies, the lower house of Congress in Mexico. His wife, Margarita Zavala, also served in the federal Chamber of Deputies. They have three children. A number of the couple's very close friends have attended



Stanford, including a member of the senior class.

Take a look at SearchWorks for [titles about President Calderón](#) [2]. You can also view [Calderón's profile page](#) [3] on the BBC News website. Calderón also appeared recently on interviewed recently on the Charlie Rose Show; you can watch the interview [here](#) [4].

For more information, you can also visit the website of the [Mexican Embassy to the United States](#) [5].

See also:

- [Susan Rice](#) [6], 2010 Commencement Speaker
- [Justice Anthony Kennedy](#) [7], 2009 Commencement Speaker
- [Oprah Winfrey](#) [8], 2008 Commencement Speaker
- [Dana Gioia](#) [9], 2007 Commencement Speaker
- [List of Stanford Commencement Speakers](#) [10]

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### Links:

[1] <http://news.stanford.edu/news/2011/january/calderon-commencement-speaker-011810.html>

[2] [http://searchworks.stanford.edu/?f\[topic\\_facet\]\[\]=Calderón Hinojosa, Felipe, 1962-&lookfor=felipe calderon&q=felipe calderon](http://searchworks.stanford.edu/?f[topic_facet][]=Calderón Hinojosa, Felipe, 1962-&lookfor=felipe calderon&q=felipe calderon)

[3] <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-12242685>

[4] <http://www.charlierose.com/view/interview/11664>

[5] <http://embamex.sre.gob.mx/usa/>

[6] <https://www.stanford.edu/group/ic/cgi-bin/drupal2/node/1077>

[7] <https://www.stanford.edu/group/ic/cgi-bin/drupal2/node/589>

[8] <https://www.stanford.edu/group/ic/cgi-bin/drupal/content/more-about-oprah-winfrey-2008-commencement-speaker>

[9] <https://www.stanford.edu/group/ic/cgi-bin/drupal/Gioia>

[10] <http://library.stanford.edu/depts/spc/uarch/commencement.html>