BLACK CELEBRATORY
2022

R.I.S.E.
Resiliency, Ingenuity, Success, Education

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
29TH ANNUAL BLACK CELEBRATORY
SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2022
POWER CENTER
Greetings,

It is with great pleasure that we recognize the 29th annual Black Celebratory at the University of Michigan. This celebration is an opportunity for us to highlight the accomplishments of this year’s graduating class of African American students and the communities that have supported them.

The Black Celebratory began in 1993 to publicly recognize the distinctive contributions that graduating African American students have made to the University of Michigan.

As we honor this extraordinary graduating class, I am excited about the opportunities that await them. I am confident that they have the skills, talent, drive and commitment necessary to overcome whatever challenges they may face and to make a real difference in the world.

These students have endured one of the most challenging times in memory at the University and the broader society. The resiliency they have demonstrated as a result has only made them stronger and better-prepared to meet the challenges that await them.

The Class of 2022 has made a difference during their time here, and we are a better university for having them as students. The University of Michigan will always be their home, and they will always be welcome.

While graduation often signifies the conclusion of an academic journey, the root of the word “commencement” is not to end, but to begin. I wish the graduates nothing but success and happiness in the next phase of their life journey.

Please join me in congratulating the Class of 2022 and their families for their outstanding accomplishments.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Sellers
Vice Provost for Equity and Inclusion
Chief Diversity Officer
Martino Harmon
Vice President for Student Life

Wolverines, congratulations on your graduation!

Wolverines, you never cease to amaze. You spent the past several years striving for academic excellence despite two years of a pandemic that put life as we know it into lockdown — and yet that has not deterred you from obtaining your degree from the University of Michigan. That takes courage. That takes commitment. That takes the kind of grit and self-love and respect that will serve you well for the rest of your lives.

To be a Michigan graduate is not just to join the community of over half a million Michigan alumni spread around the globe — half a million friends, colleagues, and mentors who are ready to help welcome you into your next chapter. It is also to embrace the idea that the knowledge and experiences you have earned here are a gift to be used. Your talents, dreams, and aspirations, along with the book-learning and real world practicums that you have seized all along here on campus, are not meant to be hoarded, but shared.

Go out and do great things with what you have learned. Do them well, with integrity and joy in the honest work of it. Carry with you the sense of self-assurance that even a pandemic could not stop you from chasing your dreams. You have overcome sleepless nights of studying for finals, the sweaty-palms feeling of just before a thesis defense, and so many other challenges, big and small. Whatever the next chapter of your story brings, I know you can handle it, and make us still here in Ann Arbor so very proud.

In fact, we are already proud. Your friends, family, and classmates could not be prouder of your achievements. But I hope you know that the most important opinion in all of this is how you see yourself. Wolverines, be proud of yourselves. Recognize and celebrate you for all you have done. Have there been times of self-doubt and struggle for you? I am sure there have. After all, that is what it means to be human.

You are not alone. I have those moments, too — and I am the vice president for Student Life at “the greatest university in the world!” as the voice for Darth Vader (James Earl Jones) put it. Every single other Michigan alum has been through this before you, and as you cross this finish line and set your eyes on a new horizon, remember that they are excited for you to join them, and we the staff and faculty at the University of Michigan will always be here to support you, wherever you go.

And, wherever you go — Go Blue!

Congratulations again, Wolverines. We are so proud of you.

Martino Harmon, Ph.D.
Vice President for Student Life
The 2022 Black Celebratory Theme Statement
R.I.S.E.
Resiliency, Ingenuity, Success, Education

As members of the Graduating Class of 2022, we faced extreme changes and losses of opportunities early in our academic careers. But even as the world shut down and tensions rose, we marched on. Despite the constant changes in power, laws, and protocols, we recovered – tenaciously! As a class, Resiliency and Ingenuity were the pillars on which we stood to achieve Success in our Education. Throughout the pain and sorrow, we have been a class that reflects the ability to RISE! This is our legacy.

“R” is for Resiliency - the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties. As Black individuals, Resiliency is not a foreign concept. We have inherited this ability from those who paved the path before us. We begin with the tragic history of being stolen from our homelands and surviving the brutal journey through the Middle Passage. We endured the brutalities of enslavement and Jim Crow and braved protests during the Civil Rights Movement. We navigated the disparities of healthcare through the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet our people have consistently proven that we are resilient. Resiliency is part of our DNA. When challenged with uncertainty, we remembered the dreams held by our ancestors, and we persevered, determined to fulfill their hopes and our own.

“I” is for Ingenuity - the quality of being original and inventive. To say the past two years have been challenging is an understatement. As students, we battled a pandemic and witnessed historic civil unrest. We went from learning in person to engaging with our courses, professors, and peers entirely online almost overnight. That shift was monumental, and it created distinct challenges for many of us while simultaneously illuminating the disparities in access to technology within our community. Through it all, instead of lying down and giving up, we chose to pivot. We got creative and dug deep within ourselves, mustering the strength to weather these storms. Standing on the shoulders of our ancestors, we spoke truth to power to a nation rooted in supremacy. We, the Graduating Class of 2022, are uncompromising in our pursuit of equality and justice. Because of our steadfast dedication to our dreams, we have achieved. Together, we triumphed in the face of adversity and never lost sight of the goal to obtain our Michigan degrees.
“$” is for Success - the accomplishment of our purpose.
We are successful, not just because we’re here today to commemorate our graduation. We’re successful because of all the days leading up to today and what we did to get here. We’re successful because we hiked to class during the cold of winter, even though staying inside always seemed more enticing. We’re successful because we refused to continue to operate in failing systems and worked to get our opinions out into the world when being compliant might have been easier. We’re successful because although many of us are experiencing our final days as students on this campus, beyond today, we will continue to go into the world and demonstrate what it truly means to be the leaders and bests. We are successful because, although we know not what the future holds for us, we will never give up. We are successful because we rose to the challenges before us, even through the hardship and turbulence. We, the Graduating Class of 2022, are successful not because of what we have done but because of what we can and will do from this momentous point forward.

“E” is for Education - the process of receiving instruction or an enlightening experience.
Education has taught us to apply our intelligence and develop our cognitive skills and scholarly talents. As a result, we have become better communicators, life learners, problem solvers, and vessels of creativity. The pandemic has taught us all things inside and outside of the classroom -- and we continue to learn. We survived, we thrived, we failed, we repeated, we tried, we failed again -- but all in all, we are here today because we picked ourselves back up and clung to the vision. Education has taught us the principles of life and has helped to prove that holding fast to life’s dreams fortifies our goals and future aspirations. We learned not to give up on our dreams, and along this journey, we gained the knowledge to navigate the world around us and develop our world in our scope.

Yes, we, the Graduating Class of 2022, represent the abilities inherent in Resiliency, Ingenuity, Success, and Education. We will stand on this foundation as we continue to move forward into new territories and conquests -always reaching back to pull forward; always destined to RISE!
PROGRAM OF EVENTS

GREETING
Gregory O. Thomas, Assistant Director, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives & Coordinator, Black Celebratory Procession
Administrators, Faculty, Staff, Marshals & Class of 2022

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & WELCOME
Michelle Easley, Bachelor in General Studies, College of LSA & Black Celeb Committee Member

BLACK NATIONAL ANTHEM
Sung by Imani Mchunu Grosvenor, Master of Music, Vocal Performance; School of Music, Theatre & Dance

LIBATIONS
Elizabeth James, Program Associate, Department of Afroamerican and African Studies

MASTER OF CEREMONY
Dr. Robert M. Sellers, Vice Provost for Equity and Inclusion & Chief Diversity Officer

REMARKS & INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT SPEAKERS
Dr. Martino Harmon, Vice President for Student Life

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SPEAKER
Mariah Stevens, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Dance, School of Music, Theatre & Dance

GRADUATE STUDENT SPEAKER
Timberlee Whiteus, Master of Health Behavior & Health Education, School of Public Health

PRESENTATION OF CORNERSTONE AWARDS
Jamilah Willis, Bachelor in General Studies, College of LSA & Black Celeb Committee Member
Emmanuella Arhin, U-M Junior & Black Celeb Committee Member

FACULTY CORNERSTONE AWARD RECIPIENT
Dr. Riana Anderson, Assistant Professor, School of Public Health

STAFF CORNERSTONE AWARD RECIPIENTS
Erica Sanders, Director, Office of Undergraduate Admissions
Domonique Weston, Former Assistant Director, Wolverine Pathways & Current Site Director, SMASH University of Michigan

INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Dr. Robert M. Sellers, Vice Provost for Equity and Inclusion & Chief Diversity Officer

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Dr. Todd V. Ester, Assistant Dean, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Clinical Assistant Professor
School of Dentistry

PRESENTATION OF THE MOODY/MONTS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS
Dr. Robert M. Sellers, Vice Provost for Equity and Inclusion & Chief Diversity Officer

MOODY/MONTS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS
Vickie Crupper, Former Senior Associate Director, Office of Financial Aid
Dwight L. Fontenot, Associate Director, Comprehensive Studies Program
Jeffery D. Harrold, Former Coordinator, Academic Standards and Special Populations & Academic Advisor
Wendy A. Woods, Former Associate Director of the Michigan Community Scholars Program

PRESENTATION OF THE CLASS OF 2022
Nicole Banks, Assistant Dean of Students, Dean of Students Office
Dwight L. Fontenot, Associate Director, Comprehensive Studies Program
Antonio Junior-Robins, GEAR UP Program Manager, Center for Educational Outreach

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN BLACK ALUMNI
A’Lynne Boles Dukes, Chair, University of Michigan Black Alumni

SPECIAL RECOGNITION PRESENTATIONS
Dr. Susan M. Collins, Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Martino Harmon, Vice President for Student Life

CLOSING
Cloe Allen, Bachelor of Science, Movement Science, School of Kinesiology & Black Celeb Committee Member
Keynote Speaker

Todd V. Ester, DDS
Assistant Dean
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion & Clinical Assistant Professor
School of Dentistry

Todd V. Ester, DDS, MA is the Assistant Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the department of Cariology, Restorative, Material Sciences and Endodontics at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry. He is also a founding partner of Renaissance Endodontics, PLLC (established in 2003) in Southfield, MI.

As the Assistant Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Dr. Ester is collaboratively responsible for planning and delivering programs and services related to diversity issues for students, faculty and staff at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry and coordinating diversity programs and functions for students. Dr. Ester is a champion for DEI, Health Equity and Justice! Dr. Ester currently serves on the Steering Committee for the School of Dentistry’s 2022 Climate Study and serves as a Steward for the Strategic Plan: People Domain and is the DEI Co-Lead representing the School of Dentistry for the University of Michigan Campus-wide DEI Strategic Planning Initiatives. Dr. Ester is an Unconscious/Implicit Bias Trainer for the School of Dentistry and University of Michigan campus.

Dr. Ester has received numerous awards and honors throughout his career including most recently induction into Omicron Kappa Upsilon (OKU) dental honor society as a faculty member. He also received the 2019 ADEA GIES AWARD of excellence on behalf of the University of Michigan School of Dentistry for an Academic Institution for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Dr. Ester has been recognized by peers and the community as a “Top Endodontist” in Hour Magazine (2008-22). Dr. Ester is a board member of the ADEA Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee and currently serves on the education committee of the National Dental Association. Dr. Ester served as a board member with Delta Dental Plans of Michigan (2003-12), has served on the executive board of the minority affairs section of the American Dental Education Association (2001-07) Dr. Ester is also a specialist member of the American Association of Endodontists and the Michigan Association of Endodontists. He holds memberships in the American Dental Education Association, the American Dental Association, National Dental Association, Hispanic Dental Association, Society of American Indian Dentists, Wolverine Dental Society and Detroit District Dental Society.

Dr. Ester is a proud alumnus of both Detroit Cass Technical High School and Morehouse College (Atlanta, GA), graduating with honors in Biology. Dr. Ester is sustained by the credo that “service” is the price we pay for living on God’s Magnificent Earth and with God “I Can Do All Things!”
TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The University of Michigan was founded through the Treaty of Fort Meigs in 1817, when the Anishinaabeg - the Three Fires Confederacy of the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi - along with their neighbors, the Seneca, Delaware, Shawnee, and Wyandot nations ceded portions of their land so that their children could be educated.

Through these words of acknowledgement, their ancestral, traditional, and contemporary ties to this land and the founding of the University are renewed and reaffirmed.

BLACK NATIONAL ANTHEM

“LIFT EVERY VOICE & SING”
Lyric by James Weldon Johnson
Sung by Imani Mchunu Grosvenor, Class of 2022, Master of Music, Vocal Performance;
School of Music, Theatre & Dance

Lift every voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise,
High as the list’ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of faith
that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope
That the present has brought us.
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

The libations ritual is the custom of pouring a liquid, oftentimes a locally brewed wine, as a religious event that reunifies and harmonizes the past, the present and the future. In human terms, this embodies the Creator, the ancestral spirits and those currently present. This age-old tradition is practiced throughout Africa and the Diaspora.

LIBATIONS RITUAL

By Elizabeth James
Program Associate, Department of Afro-American and African Studies

The libations ritual is the custom of pouring a liquid, oftentimes a locally brewed wine, as a religious event that reunifies and harmonizes the past, the present and the future. In human terms, this embodies the Creator, the ancestral spirits and those currently present. This age-old tradition is practiced throughout Africa and the Diaspora.
THE BLACK CELEBRATORY
CORNERSTONE AWARD

Founded in 1999, the Cornerstone Award is given annually to a member of the University of Michigan faculty and staff. The award recognizes the unique contributions and assistance that these individuals have given to enhance the academic and social progress of African American students at the University of Michigan.

This year’s Faculty Cornerstone Award recipient is

Dr. Riana Elyse Anderson

&

The Staff Cornerstone Award recipients for this year are

Erica Sanders & Domonique Weston

Congratulations!
2022 Faculty Cornerstone Award

Riana Elyse Anderson, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
School of Public Health

Dr. Riana Elyse Anderson is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Behavior and Health Education at the University of Michigan’s School of Public Health. She earned her PhD in Clinical and Community Psychology at the University of Virginia and completed a Clinical and Community Psychology Residency at Yale University’s School of Medicine and a Fellowship in Applied Psychology at the University of Pennsylvania.

On the whole, Dr. Anderson aims to facilitate healing in Black families with practical applications of her research and clinical services, as well as through public engagement, teaching, mentorship, and policy recommendations. Dr. Anderson uses mixed methods to study discrimination and racial socialization in Black families and apply her findings to help families reduce racial stress and heal from racial trauma. She is particularly interested in how family-based interventions help to improve Black youth’s psychosocial well-being and health-related behaviors. Dr. Anderson is the developer and director of the EMBRace (Engaging, Managing, and Bonding through Race) intervention and loves to translate her work for a variety of audiences, particularly those whom she serves in the community, via blogs, video, and literary articles.

Dr. Anderson’s work has garnered hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants and has been supported by the Ford Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, WT Grant Foundation, National Institute of Health, Society for Research in Child Development, and the Michigan Health Endowment Foundation. She has published over 40 peer-reviewed articles and contributed to a range of blogs, articles, and media, including CNN, The New York Times, Washington Post, The Times London, Huffinton Post, Psychology Today, Women’s Health, WebMD, and NBC’s Newsroom. Dr. Anderson is involved nationally and is an appointed member of several work groups, including the American Psychological Association’s Children, Youth, and Families committee and the Society for Research on Adolescence’s Anti-Racism Task Force. Additionally, Dr. Anderson consults with national companies and organizations, including Google, Youtube, and Nickelodeon. Dr. Anderson also serves as the co-host of Our Mental Health Minute, a multimedia organization geared towards reducing stigma in the Black community.

Starting in the fall of 2022, Dr. Anderson will be a fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University. Finally, Dr. Anderson was born in, raised for, and returned to Detroit and is becoming increasingly addicted to cake pops.
Erica Sanders  
*Director*  
*Office of Undergraduate Admissions*

**Erica Sanders** is the Director of the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at the University of Michigan. She oversees all functions related to undergraduate admissions including recruitment, admission, and enrollment of students who reflect the socioeconomic and racial diversity of the State of Michigan and the nation.

Erica began her career in Admissions at the University of Michigan as a work-study student, followed by advancements that included admissions counselor, assistant director for recruitment before becoming director of admissions at one of the highest-ranked public universities in the nation. She also serves as a consultant for the selections of prestigious scholarships at universities across the nation. Her expertise is valued nationally as she participates in numerous advisory capacities.

During her career at the University, she has been integral to a variety of student services arenas including student orientation, diversity facilitation, and academic advising.

Erica’s work in admissions has literally impacted thousands of students across the nation and the world and has been the foundation for every undergraduate student that has attended the University of Michigan for the past three decades. As a result of her leadership and role in selecting the leaders and best, we are able to celebrate the Class of 2022 and every preceding class for the past 31 years.

Erica is a native of Detroit, Michigan and a graduate of the University of Michigan.

**Domonique Weston**  
*Former Assistant Director, Wolverine Pathways; Current Site Director, SMASH University of Michigan*

**Domonique Weston** currently serves as the Site Director for SMASH University of Michigan, an Oakland, California-based nonprofit organization that operates SMASH Academy, a year-round STEM-focused academic program that serves underrepresented high school students. As Site Director, Domonique is responsible for building, sustaining, and improving the transformative experience scholars need to pursue, persist, and succeed in STEM careers.

Before joining SMASH, Domonique served as Assistant Director for College Access and Strategic Initiatives for the University of Michigan’s Wolverine Pathways program. Domonique helped launch the program in 2016 and was a critical force in its evolution and success through her commitment for over six years in supporting underrepresented middle and high school students in exploring their interests and creating a path to college and their future careers.

This spring, the class of 2022 will represent the first cohort of Wolverine Pathways students graduating from the University of Michigan. Domonique’s tremendous leadership and passion for student success undoubtable played a significant role in this monumental accomplishment. Domonique is a native of Detroit, Michigan and she spent many of her early years in Chicago, Illinois. She is a graduate of Cass Technical High School and as well as the recipient of a B.A. degree in Secondary Education from the University of Michigan, and a M.A. in Educational Leadership from Eastern Michigan University. Domonique’s professional interests include diversity and inclusion work, academic and college readiness programming, and student development. She leverages her skills in these areas to lead programming that focuses on the holistic success of students.
The Black Celebratory inaugurated the Charles Moody and Lester Monts Lifetime Achievement Award in 2019. This award is named in honor of Dr. Charles Moody, who served as the first Vice Provost for Minority Affairs from 1987 - 1993, and Dr. Lester Monts, Executive Vice Provost for Academic Affairs from 1994 to 2014. Both Dr. Moody and Dr. Monts were academic giants, engaging in excellence through teaching and research in addition to their administrative roles. Each year we honor outstanding retired or retiring faculty and staff members for their career commitment to student success at the University.

This year’s Moody/Monts award recognizes four giants:

Vickie Crupper
Dwight L. Fontenot
Jeffery D. Harrold
Wendy A. Woods

Congratulations!
Vickie Crupper
Senior Associate Director
Office of Financial Aid
(1979-2020)

Vickie Crupper graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in Labor and Industrial Relations. She began her career in higher education at MSU, working for the Upward Bound TRIO program, working with low SES, traditionally underserved, high school students identified as having the potential to successfully attend college with additional support and mentoring. She remained with this program as the senior instructor/counselor for seven years.

When her family relocated to Columbus Ohio, she accepted a position at the Columbus College of Art and Design, becoming their Director of Financial Aid. This position launched a lifetime career geared toward helping students navigate the financial aid application process and secure funding to attain their college degree.

Family responsibilities brought Vickie’s family back to Michigan and Vickie accepted a director of aid position with Mercy College of Detroit, where she remained until 1988, when she accepted the finance coordinator position for the Inter-Cooperative Council.

In 1991 Vickie transitioned to the University of Michigan Office of Financial aid as the Student Employment Coordinator. Shortly thereafter she was asked to lead the Special Programs and Services outreach unit, focusing on assisting traditionally underserved populations understand the financial aid possibilities available both at the university and in general. Vickie continued to serve students when she added the role of associate director for client services in 1999 and as the senior associate director beginning in 2017.

Vickie’s knowledge and proactive approach to providing information on the financial aid process has made a Michigan education a reality for many students that otherwise would not have been able to access the resources available for higher education.
The Charles Moody and Lester Monts Lifetime Achievement Award

Dwight L. Fontenot, Ph. D.
Associate Director
Comprehensive Studies Program (CSP)
(1993-2022)

For the past 29 years, Dr. Dwight L. Fontenot has been the Associate Director of the Comprehensive Studies Program (CSP). During this time, he has had oversight of the academic and student success offerings at CSP. Over the course of his tenure, the program has tripled in size, now serving more than 3,000 undergraduate scholars. One of the most successful programs of CSP is the Summer Bridge Scholars Program. When Dr. Fontenot started, there were 75 Bridge students mostly from the state of Michigan. Today, that program admits up to 350 scholars from every state in the union. Through his efforts, this program has focused on Growth Mindset, Academic Self-Efficacy, Motivation, and Sense of Belonging to deliver a persistence rate of 98% and a graduation rate of 87%. The entering message “You will be busy” continues to motivate these scholars to success.

Dr. Fontenot has led the Comprehensive Studies Program through many changes while keeping the success of the students and welfare of the staff and faculty his major priority. CSP continues to be a great place to work mainly because of his focus on belonging and community. The work with students continues to be a sense of joy for him.

Dr. Fontenot is an ordained minister and is the Associate Pastor and Minister of Music at the Community Church of God, Ypsilanti, MI. He and his wife, Dr. Argenis Conner-Fontenot, will continue to minister to family relationships within the greater Washtenaw County community.
Jeffery D. Harrold
Coordinator, Academic Standards and Special Populations & Academic Advisor
LSA Student Academic Affairs (1988-2022)

Jeffery D. Harrold is a native of Detroit, Michigan, where he graduated from Cass Technical High School. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of Michigan and a Master of Divinity from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. He is a recent retiree from the position of Coordinator for Academic Standards and Special Populations and member of the Academic Standards Board in the University of Michigan’s College of Literature, Science, and the Arts (LSA). In this role, he oversaw the College’s joint degree program and served on the Race and Ethnicity subcommittee as well as the Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives (OAMI) Student Academic Multicultural Initiatives Committee, and the Center for the Education of Women’s Council for Non-Traditional Students. He is trained in Social Justice Mediation and served as a mediator and dialogue facilitator for the U-M Office of Student Conflict Resolution. He is a past member of the Diversity Council and past president of the U-M Association of Black Professionals, Administrators, Faculty, and Staff. Jeff is also the founding chair of the Committee for Intercultural Development of the LSA Student Academic Affairs Office, a committee that championed, promoted, and stewarded ongoing learning and cultural experiences to develop an inclusive atmosphere for students, faculty, and staff. The committee was a 2016 team recipient of the University of Michigan Distinguished Diversity Leader Award.

An ordained Elder in the Free Methodist Church-USA (FMC-USA), Jeff is the founding pastor of New Beginnings Community Church, where he currently serves as the Senior Pastor. He is a past Director of the African Heritage Network, a national organization of pastors, educators, and lay leaders of African descent, and has conducted leadership training in Central Haiti for pastors, school principals, and curriculum coordinators. He has organized workshops on racism, the biblical basis for racial justice as well as teachings regarding implicit bias and systemic racism in America. He is currently Chair of the Justice Action Team and a member of the Ministerial Education and Guidance Committee of the Southern Michigan Conference of the FMC-USA. He serves as the Board Chair for the Family Learning Institute, a local non-profit whose core program provides free, one-on-one literacy and math tutoring to Washtenaw County 2nd-5th grade students from low-income households.

Jeff has been a voice of strength and a consistent force for positive thought, action, and impact. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the University of Michigan Distinguished Diversity Leader Award, and the Staff Impact Award. He is also the recipient of the community service award given by the Delta Psi Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and the Man of the Year Award given by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.

Jeff resides in Ann Arbor, MI and has been happily married to his wife of 40 years. They are the parents of five adult children, 12 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.
The Charles Moody and Lester Monts Lifetime Achievement Award

Wendy A. Woods
Associate Director
Michigan Community Scholars Program (MCSP)
(1995-2022)

Wendy Woods has served in numerous capacities at the University of Michigan and its local and regional areas. She was born in Cleveland, Ohio, and attended Wittenberg University where she began her study of social justice and civil rights and was one of the founding members of Concerned Black Students (CBS), which still thrives as an active student organization. She completed her education at the University of Michigan, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry Management and a Master of Science degree in Environmental Policy and Management.

As the Associate Director of the Michigan Community Scholars Program (MCSP), her leadership helped to attain national recognition as an exemplary residential learning program that focuses on social justice, community service, diversity, and civic engagement. She served in many other professional capacities at the University of Michigan, including being a member of the Association of Black Professionals, Faculty, Administrators, and Staff (ABPFAS), the Advisory Board for the University Outreach Council, the UM President’s Advisory Commission on Women’s Issues, the Scholarship Committee for the Center for the Education of Women (CEW), and the Women of Color Task Force.

Wendy also has been integral to broader sectors of the life of the university. She is a member of the University Musical Society (UMS) as well as the Ann Arbor Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., for which she has been honored with the Alumnae Spirit Award for the Midwest Region and the Social Activist of the Year Award for the State of Michigan. These, among many other civic and social honors and awards, exemplify the breadth and depth of her leadership and service.

Her contributions have had impact beyond the campus community as she has served as a Councilwoman for Ann Arbor and a member of numerous boards and committees for the city. Wendy also is a violist who has played for the Ann Arbor Summer Symphony as well as the University of Michigan Campus Orchestras while a student.

Married to her college sweetheart for 50 years, Wendy is blessed with family and community. The excellence of her work has contributed to the lives and future pathways of many individuals who have benefitted from her talents, dedication, and richness of spirit.
2021 Master’s Degree Graduates

Courtney Grove-Dyer
Masters in Social Work

Mejoy F. Lawson
Masters in Business Administration
& Masters of Science in Information

Jenise Brooke Williams
Education Leadership and Policy

2021 Bachelor’s Degree Graduates

Katrina Lewis
African and African American Studies

Ajeé Brianna Moore
Women’s and Gender Studies

David M. Wells
Mechanical Engineering
2022 DOCTORAL DEGREE GRADUATES

Tony Edward Larkin
Program in Biomedical Sciences/Neuroscience Graduate Program (Neuroscience)

Kyle Simone Nisbeth
Health Behavior

Christine Lynette Quince
PhD in Educational Studies with a focus on Teaching and Teacher Education

2022 MASTER’S DEGREE GRADUATES

Nelius Gachambi Wanjohi
Aristarchus Abidemi Arowoole
Brittani Banks
Brandon Bond
Jazmin Branch
Jeanette Larene Broxton
Diamond J Buchanan
Darian Alexia Burns
Jodie Davis
Jordan Dodson
Jasmine Donald
Shayon Donaldson
Chikodi Etike
Maeghen Goode
Kyra Grant
Imani Mchunu Grosvenor
Evan Lamont Hollins
Vivian Kalumbi
Thea Louis
J’Taime B Lyons
Kathleen Elizabeth McDonnell
Briana L Nelson
Adetoun Oladele
Samuel Osei Afriyie
Temitope Oyelade
Jai Keli Parson
Whitney Pollard
Simon Charles Rivers
Justin Rufen-Blanchette
Candance B Samuel
Rachael Imani Smith
Markyth T. Smith
Melanie Wells
Sydney Whack
Timberlee Whiteus
Darrell Lee Williams
Eljonna Williams
Justin Woods
India Woods
Courtney Yancey
Mariah Christina Benford
Franchion Nicole Jefferson
Malaysha Chante Johnson
Jessica Ann McCain
Moise Moket
Chelsea Michelle Parker
Joseph M Kemp
Patrice Drummond
2022 Bachelor Degree Graduates

Amari Rose Aaron
Gabrielle D Adams
Khalif O Adegeye
Oloruntobi Agunloye
Cloe Lauren Allen
Karla Kapri Bell
Tihnae Rayann Bennett
Dejanae Sarai Benton
Mariah Angel Bobo
Darica Brazier
Eryn A. Brazil
Angel Monei Campbell
Tamera Sierra Cora Carter
Brianna L. Coleman
Leo J. Cromartie
Nayah Daniel
Elizabeth Cleo Sidney Davis
Kevin James Davis
Nadia R. Davis
Elizabeth Davis
Michelle Renee Easley
Kathryn N. Ellison
Kathryn Nicole Ellison
Erinn Madison English
Ryan Ilyssa Estmond
Rai Fleming
Lauren Foulks
Michaela Glenn
Miranda Ife Goodson
Miranda Goodson
Nia Gray
Destiney S. Hadden
Shannon Harper
Jacob Heningburg
Kia Michelle Johnson
Kameron Leroy Johnson
Deashia Johnson
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Midwest Global Group
Kente Stole Providers: www.midwestglobalgroup.com

ReliveTheBAR
Apparel Providers: https://relivethebar.com

Foresight Group
Printing Services: https://relivethebar.com

Deaf Community Advocacy Network
Sign Language Interpreting Services: https://www.deafcan.org

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BLACK CELEBRATORY MISSION

The purpose of Black Celebratory is to celebrate the value and uniqueness of the African/African American experience and serves to commemorate the accomplishments of graduating students. Black students organized and implemented the first Black Celebratory in 1993 and remain an integral part of the planning process. With assistance from the Office of the Provost & the Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives, Black Celebratory has become a tradition at the University of Michigan.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN STATEMENT OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

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FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND ARTISTIC EXPRESSION

The University of Michigan strives to create an open form in which diverse opinions can be expressed and heard. Members of the University community, speakers, artists, and other invited guests have a right to express their views and opinions, and the University will protect that right. The University also supports the rights of those with differing views to express their opinions. In the interest of protecting these rights for all, University representatives may warn anyone unduly interfering with a speaker of performer’s freedom of expression, and if the warnings are not heeded, may remove those individuals from the building. The policy extends and affirms University policies set forth by our Civil Liberties Board in our Student Handbook; and in the U-M Standard Practice Guide; Regents Ordinance Article XII, Section 1; and state statutes.
These symbols represent the cultural graduation ceremonies that are coordinated annually through the Office of Academic and Multicultural Initiatives (OAMI).

**Top left to right:**
Black Celebratory, Native American Graduation, La Celebracion Latina

**Bottom left to right:**
Middle Eastern & North African Celebration, First Generation Graduation, Asian & Pacific Islander Graduation

[OAMI website link]
CONGRATULATIONS
AND
FOREVER, GO BLUE!