La Celebración Latina

CLASS OF 2022

OFFICE OF ACADEMIC MULTICULTURAL INITIATIVES
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Bienvenidos,

It is with great enthusiasm that we acknowledge the student graduates of the 23rd annual Celebración Latina.

On April 28, 2000, the University of Michigan launched its inaugural Celebración Latina to recognize the significant contributions that graduating LatinX students have made to the University of Michigan. Throughout the history of this celebration, many things have evolved across our campus. However, the commitments of LatinX students, faculty, staff and community have remained constant.

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.

Please join me in congratulating the Class of 2022 and their families for their outstanding accomplishments. I wish the graduates nothing but success and happiness in the next phase of their life journey.

Vamos Azul!

Sincerely,

Robert M. Sellers
Vice Provost for Equity and Inclusion
Chief Diversity Officer
Welcome Remarks

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
Order of Events

Welcome
Lawrence La Fountain-Stokes

Opening Remarks
Dr. Robert Sellers

Keynote Speaker
Gabriela Santiago-Romero

Circle Award
Dr. Ashley Lucas

Student Speaker
Sandra Perez

Closing Remarks
Hector Galvan
Master of Ceremonies

Lawrence La Fountain-Stokes
Lawrence La Fountain-Stokes
Professor and Chair of American Culture

Student Speaker

Sandra Perez
Student Keynote Speaker
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Bachelors in Psychology & Spanish
Gabriela Santiago-Romero

Gabriela Santiago-Romero, an immigrant from Mexico and a Southwest Detroit native, is the newly elected Detroit City Council Member for District 6. She currently serves on the Budget, Finance & Audit Standing Committee, and is the first Latina to ever chair a Detroit City Council standing committee, Public Health & Safety.

Santiago-Romero earned her Master of Social Work studying Social Policy and Evaluation with a focus on Community and Social Systems from the University of Michigan. She has made history by becoming the first out female LGBTQ Detroit councilmember. She’s a community activist and organizer who has extensive experience working for local government and Detroit nonprofits, including at We The People Michigan where she served as Policy and Research Director. Love and food fuel her work.
Dr. Ashley Lucas

Ashley Lucas is Professor of Theatre & Drama, the Residential College, the Penny Stamps School of Art & Design, American Culture, and English Language and Literature at the University of Michigan. She is the Director of Latina/o Studies, Former Director of the Prison Creative Arts Project (PCAP), a founding member of the Carceral State Project, and a co-primary investigator on a large-scale humanities archival project called Documenting Criminalization and Confinement. Her book Prison Theatre and the Global Crisis of Incarceration (Bloomsbury, 2020) examines the ways in which incarcerated people use theatre to counteract the dehumanizing forces of the prison. The book was also translated into Portuguese by Vicente Concilio and published in Brazil (Editora Hucitec, 2021).
Platform Party

Sharon Burch
Associate Director
Office of Academic and Multicultural Initiatives

Rosalva Osorio Cooksy
Field Faculty and LEO Lec III.

Ivana Lopez Espinosa
DEI Manager

Lawrence La Fountain-Stokes
Professor and Chair of American Culture

Erica Jansen
Research Assistant Professor
Nutritional Sciences

Robert M Ortega
MSW Program Director
and University Faculty Ombuds

Teresa Sanchez-Snell
Program Coordinator & Lecturer II
Spanish Language Internship Program

Denise Galarza Sepúlveda
Director
Foundational Course Initiative, CRLT

Gloria Derr Taylor
Director
Office of Academic and Multicultural Initiatives
Doctoral Graduates

Franceska Alers Rojas
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Psychology

Cyndi Gonzalez Gomez
Medical School
Medicine

Juliana Mesa
Rackham Graduate School
Ph.D in Earth and Environmental Sciences
Experimental Petrology/Geochemistry

Luis Nolasco
School of Kinesiology
Movement Science - Biomechanics

Yolanda Rivera-Cuevas
Rackham Graduate School
Microbiology and Immunology

Alma Torres
Medical School
Medical Student

Astrid Zamora
School of Public Health
Nutritional Sciences with a concentration in Epidemiology/Public Health
Master’s Graduates

Javier Alister
Stephen M. Ross School of Business
Business Administration

Priscilla Alvarado
Rackham Graduate School, School of Education
Educational Equity, Justice, and Social Transformation

Mari Alvarez
School of Public Health, School of Social Work
Health Behavior and Health Education; Interpersonal Practice in Integrated Health, Mental Health, & Substance Abuse

Areli Balderrama
A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, School of Public Health
Mater of Public Health; Master of Urban and Regional Planning

Brittney Barros
School of Social Work
Masters of Social Work; Concentration in Welfare of Children & Families

Ariana Castillo
School of Public Health, School of Social Work
Health Behavior and Health Education; Interpersonal Practice in Integrated Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse

Alyssa Cisneros
School of Social Work
Master of Social Work- Policy & Political

Paloma Contreras
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, Rackham Graduate School
Anthropology

Veronica Correa
School for Environment and Sustainability
Environment and Sustainability

Tony Cueva Bravo
Rackham Graduate School
Biomedical Engineering

María Isabel Dabrowski
School for Environment and Sustainability
School for Environment and Sustainability with specializations in Behavior, Education & Communication and Ecosystem Science & Management
Master's Graduates

Valeria de Luna-Kent
School of Music, Theatre & Dance
MM in Vocal Performance

Elizabeth Gonzalez
School of Public Health
Health Behavior and Health Education

Christian Gutierrez
School of Information
M.S. Information Science

Káteri Gutiérrez
Stephen M. Ross School of Business
Business Administration

Anamaria Last
Rackham Graduate School, School of Education
Masters of Arts with Elementary Teacher Program

Valerie Lujan
A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning
Masters of Urban and Regional Planning

Rosa Manzo
A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning
Master of Architecture

Laura Melendez
A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning
Urban and Regional Planning

Judith Mendoza
A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning
Architecture

Marie Chantel Montás
School of Public Health
Master of Public Health - Global Health Management and Policy

Jennifer Moreno
Medical School
Human Genetics

Crystal Olalde-Garcia
Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy
Master of Public Policy
Master’s Graduates

Dolores Perales
A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, School for Environment and Sustainability
MS Environment and Sustainability; MURP

Holly Quivera Teague
School of Public Health
Health Behavior and Health Education; Master’s of Public Health

Selene Rangel
Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy
International Economic Development

Gabriela Rodas
School of Education
Educational Equity, Justice, and Social Transformation

Javier Saenz
Stephen M. Ross School of Business
Business Administration

Marivi Sifuentes Gutierrez
School of Information
Information Science

Jorge Arturo Silva Victor
College of Engineering
Master’s in Engineering of Manufacturing

Jack Simmons
Rackham Graduate School, Stephen M. Ross School of Business
Masters of Industrial and Operations Engineering, Masters of Business Administration

Marissa Solis
Rackham Graduate School, School of Education
Masters of Arts with Elementary Teacher Certification

Danielle Vermeer
School for Environment and Sustainability
Master of Science in Environment and Sustainability

Victoria Vezaldenos
School of Education
Education Studies: Program Evaluation and Improvement Research
Master’s Graduates

Cinthia Villarreal
School of Social Work

Christina Weiberg
Stephen M. Ross School of Business
Business Administration

Sarai Zelada
A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning
Master of Urban and Regional Planning; Graduate Certificate in Healthy Cities
Bachelor’s Graduates

Lilia Aguilera
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Bio Psychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience

Adriana Alcala
Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design
Art & Design

Mariajose/Maia Aramburu
School of Music, Theatre & Dance
BM Vocal Performance - Minor in Performing Arts Management and Entrepreneurship

Athena Bryer
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Majors: Psychology; Gender and Health

Aissa Cabrales
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Psychology; Spanish

Lorena Cano
School of Public Health
Community and Global Public Health
Congratulations Class of 2022!

Erick Cochea Machado
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Cognitive Science

Joselyn Cordero
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Biopsychology, Cognition, & Neuroscience

Jacqueline Del Angel
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Biomolecular Science

Kelly Delgado
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Biology, Health and Society

Stephanie Delgado
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Major in Sociology and Minor in Latina/os Studies
Bachelor’s Graduates

Esau Delgado
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Literature, Science, and the Arts

Laura Isabel Diaz Florez
College of Engineering
Industrial and Operations Engineering

Alison Diaz-Mercado
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Biopsychology, Cognition, & Neuroscience

Stephane Estrada
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience

Priscila Flores
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Environment (major) ; Writing (minor)

Kiana Gabriella Merino Ghahyazi
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Biopsychology, Cognition and Neuroscience

Yosabeth Guerrero Gomez
College of Engineering
Mechanical Engineering with a Manufacturing Systems Concentration

Osvaldo Gutierrez
College of Engineering
Electrical Engineering

Jennifer Hernandez
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Sociology with a sub-plan in Law, Justice, and Social Change

Emely Hernandez Rubio
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
General Studies

Rebecca Herrera
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
International Studies with a focus in Political Economy and Development

Daniel Izquierdo
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Economics; International Studies
Bachelor’s Graduates

Marcela Lebrija
College of Engineering
Mechanical Engineering

Ximena Mancilla Delgado
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Psychology

Stephany Mendez Ortega
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Neuroscience; Communication & Media

Angela Montoya
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Biology, Health, and Society

Gustavo Navarro
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Communication and Media

Jaiyanni Ortiz
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Biology, Health, and Society

Erin Maria Ospina
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

Zuly Pasillas-Riquelme
College of Engineering
Environmental Engineering

Nilsa Ileana Pedanou
College of Engineering
Chemical Engineering

Sandra Pérez González
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Psychology; Spanish

Covadonga Perez Pelaez
School of Nursing
Nursing

Evelyn Reyes
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
B.A Organizational Studies
Bachelor's Graduates

Juan Roacho  
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
Biology, Health, and Society

Rachel Rodriguez  
School of Kinesiology  
Movement Science

Ivan Roman  
College of Engineering  
Computer Science Engineering  
Isabella Rondon Begazo  
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
Biomolecular Science

Bryan Rosello  
College of Engineering  
Aerospace Engineering

Gustavo Sacramento  
Stephen M. Ross School of Business  
Business Administration

Moisés Salgado  
School of Kinesiology  
Athletic Training

Emmanuel Servin  
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
Neuroscience

Marcus Spinelli da Silva  
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
Biology, Health and Society

Gustavo Tovar  
College of Engineering  
Mechanical Engineering with a Concentration in Manufacturing

Maria Velasquez  
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
Psychology

Tania Zaragoza  
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
Political Science; Sociology
Planning Committee

2022 GRADUATION IS COORDINATED BY

Héctor Galván
Assistant Director
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A Unit of the Office of the Vice Provost for
Equity, Inclusion and Academic Affairs
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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.

Statement of Affirmative Action

The University of Michigan, as an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding nondiscrimination and affirmative action, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The University of Michigan is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination and equal opportunity for all persons regardless of race, sex*, color, religion, creed, national origin or ancestry, age, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, or Vietnam-era veteran status in employment, educational programs and activities, and admissions.

Inquiries or complaints may be addressed to the Senior Director for Institutional Equity and Title IX/Section 504 Coordinator, Office for Institutional Equity, 2072 Administrative Services Building, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1432, 734-763-0235, TTY 734-647-1388. For other University of Michigan information call 734-764-1817.