

BLACK CELEBRATORY

— 2023 —



A MOMENT IN TIME:

Our Black Joy

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
30TH ANNUAL BLACK CELEBRATORY
SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023
POWER CENTER

CELEBRATION WELCOME LETTER

Greetings,

Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2023 and the participants of the 30th Annual Black Graduation Celebratory!

The annual commencement day ceremonies, where academic degrees are conferred on hundreds of students, are among the most important and joyful times for the University of Michigan community. Graduation recognizes the collective efforts of our students and their families, colleagues, friends, faculty and alumni. It represents the completion of one of many journeys that you will experience in your lifetime. We join our community in applauding your accomplishments, and share a tremendous sense of optimism that life will offer you many more successes throughout the years to come.

Black Celebratory 2023 is a time for reflection and for looking forward. The student planning committee has selected *A Moment in Time: Our Black Joy* as the theme for the 30th Annual Black Celebratory. This theme reflects the legacy of Black communities in cultivating an affirmed sense of self and positive connections to others, even in the midst of historical and contemporary challenge and struggle. Maintaining a sense of humanity and joy is one the greatest forms of resistance.

The traditional emblem for Black Celebratory is a tree supported by deep underground roots. Like the towering tree whose roots are firmly planted in the ground, we hope you stay connected to events, ideas and individuals who represent the past. It is their dreams and hopes that you proudly represent today. Many individuals throughout the centuries have planted the seeds that sprouted the roots for you to attend and be successful at higher education institutions, such as the University of Michigan. You don't have to see the roots to understand how vital they are to the life of the tree.

At the same time, like the tree whose branches reach upward toward the sky, we, too, spread our arms toward the future and all that it offers. Your wisdom, your commitment, and your energies know no boundaries. As you strive to fulfill the wisdom and dreams of your ancestors, you connect, through your diligence, the visions of the past to the visions of the future. It's the legacy you have inherited, and the one you are responsible for moving forward. You are the trunk that connects the roots to its branches, holding the tree firm and healthy.



CELEBRATION WELCOME LETTER

As graduates of this great institution, you carry the legacy of the past, the promise of the present, and the hope of the future. You must understand and balance all three. These vital links are necessary for the future to offer us more. Although there are still many challenges before you, you must always find opportunities to extend a helping hand to others behind us.

You, the Graduating Class of 2023, individually and collectively, face the tremendous task of preserving the best of your communities while continuing to represent and build upon the successes of many people and ideas – both from the past and the future.

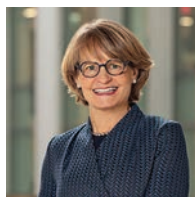
Stay connected, and forever –

Go Blue!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Santa J. Ono".

Santa J. Ono
President



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laurie K. McCauley".

Laurie K. McCauley
Provost & Executive Vice President
for Academic Affairs



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martino Harmon".

Martino Harmon
Vice President for Student Life



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tabbye M. Chavous".

Tabbye M. Chavous
Vice Provost for Equity & Inclusion
and Chief Diversity Officer





The 30th Annual Black Celebratory Theme Statement “A Moment In Time: Our Black Joy”

Black Joy /blak joi/: The true definition of inspiration is meant to support, inspire and uplift the Black culture in unique ways. Emphasizing experiences and moments in time that bring our community together.

Time /tim/: An indefinite continued moment of existence in the past, present, and future.

A Moment In Time. A compelling state that is distinct, memorable, and isolated. A moment that harnesses the remembrance of the joy cultivated amongst ourselves. It runs through our blood, actions, and motivations and is rooted in our victories. Black people have always been resilient and have built a resistance to the oppression we face. We’ve instinctively gained the ability to envision the glorious path that will reveal itself in the future. We make spaces that unite Black people and encourage the freedom to be happy for one another.

Time is not measured by clocks but by moments. In these moments, we become who we are and find pride in what we are becoming. In a world that breaks us down at every stop, Black people continuously showcase the space we take up and spark the joy that radiates through our souls. It reveals itself through ups and downs and allows us to enjoy the times in life that cannot be replicated. **Our Black Joy** seamlessly knows no limits.

CONGRATULATIONS and FOREVER, GO BLUE!



PROGRAM OF EVENTS

GREETING

Gregory O. Thomas, Assistant Director, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives and Black Celebratory Coordinator

PROCESSION

Administrators, Faculty, Staff, Marshals & Graduates

WELCOME & LAND AND LABOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Chyanne A. Laldee, Master in Public Health, Health Behavior and Health Education, School of Public Health

BLACK NATIONAL ANTHEM

Simone C. Headd, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Theatre Performance: Acting, School of Music, Theatre & Dance

LIBATIONS

Elizabeth A. James, Program Associate, Department of Afroamerican and African Studies

REMARKS & INTRODUCTION OF THE PROVOST

Dr. Tabbye M. Chavous, Vice Provost for Equity & Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer

REMARKS & INTRODUCTION OF THE MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Dr. Laurie K. McCauley, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

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

REMARKS & INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT SPEAKERS

Dr. Martino Harmon, Vice President for Student Life

UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE STUDENT SPEAKERS

Eve N. Taylor, Bachelor of Business Administration, Ross School of Business

Chyanne A. Laldee, Master in Public Health, Health Behavior and Health Education, School of Public Health

DANCE PERFORMANCE: CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF BLACK JOY

Brooke A. Taylor, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Dance, School of Music, Theatre & Dance

INTRODUCTION OF THE JOHN MATLOCK CORNERSTONE AWARDS

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

PRESENTATION OF THE JOHN MATLOCK CORNERSTONE AWARDS

Emmanuella N. Arhin, Bachelor of Arts, Psychology, College of Literature, Science & Arts

Deborah T. Akinbola, Bachelor of Science in Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, College of Engineering

JOHN MATLOCK FACULTY & STAFF CORNERSTONE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Dr. Charles H.F. Davis III, Assistant Professor, Marsal Family School of Education

Wayne High, Chief Administrator, College of Literature, Science & Arts

INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER

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

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Corie Pauling, Outgoing President & Chief Executive Officer, Alumni Association of the University of Michigan

INTRODUCTION AND PRESENTATION OF THE MOODY/MONT'S LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

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

MOODY/MONT'S LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

Dr. Patricia W. Coleman-Burns, Assistant Professor Emerita of Nursing, School of Nursing

Dr. Earl Lewis, Founding Director, Center for Social Solutions & Thomas C. Holt Distinguished Professor

PRESENTATION OF THE CLASS OF 2023

Nicole P. Banks, Associate Dean of Students, Dean of Students Office

Erica L. Sanders, Assistant Vice Provost & Executive Director of Undergraduate Admissions

Antonio Junior-Robins, GEAR UP Program Manager, Center for Educational Outreach

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN BLACK ALUMNI

A'Lynne A. Boles Dukes, Chair, University of Michigan Black Alumni (UMBA)

CLOSING

Eve N. Taylor, Bachelor of Business Administration, Ross School of Business



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The University of Michigan is located on the territory of the Anishinaabeg people. The Ann Arbor campus currently resides on land ceded through the Treaty of Detroit in 1807. Additionally, in 1817, the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Bodewadami Nations made the largest single land transfer to the University of Michigan, ceded through the Treaty of Fort Meigs, with the agreement that their children would be educated in perpetuity.

We assert the sovereignty of tribal lands and acknowledge the painful historical and ongoing genocide, forced assimilation, and displacement of Native communities in the establishment of the University.

We affirm contemporary and ancestral Anishinaabeg ties to this land, the profound contributions of Native American peoples to this institution, and the University's commitment to educate the children of Native ancestors.

ENSLAVED PEOPLES' LABOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We similarly recognize, acknowledge, and affirm the historic and contemporary solidarities and intersections between Black and Indigenous peoples.

We acknowledge the extraction of brilliance, energy, and life for labor forced upon people of African descent for more than 400 years.

We celebrate the resilience and strength that all indigenous people and descendants of Africa have shown in this country and world wide.

We carry our ancestors in us, and we are continually called to be better as we lead this work.



BLACK NATIONAL ANTHEM

“LIFT EVERY VOICE & SING”

Lyric by

James Weldon Johnson

Sung by

Simone C. Headd

*Bachelor of Fine Arts, Theatre Performance: Acting
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.

LIBATIONS RITUAL

Ritual by Elizabeth A. James

Program Associate, Department of Afroamerican 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.



MASTER OF CEREMONIES



Todd V. Ester, D.D.S.

*Assistant Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Dentistry*

Todd V. Ester, D.D.S., M.A., 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 the 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) and 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, the National Dental Association, the Hispanic Dental Association, the Society of American Indian Dentists, the Wolverine Dental Society, and the 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!"



KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Corie Pauling, J.D.

*Outgoing President & Chief Executive Officer
Alumni Association, University of Michigan*

U-M Alumna, **Corie Pauling** is the outgoing President and CEO of the Alumni Association of the University of Michigan. As the 11th leader in the Alumni Association's history, Pauling is the first woman and first Black president and CEO of the Alumni Association. Under Corie's leadership, the association launched new engagement

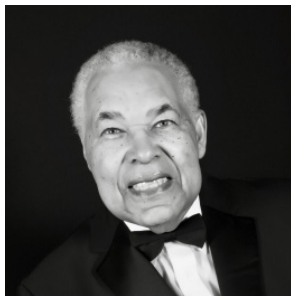
offerings designed to engage broader audiences in signature programs, including the 5K run/walks during bowl and travel tours and heritage month programming such as the sold-out Women's Wellness Retreat at Camp Michigan. The AAUM also enhanced focus on signature programs and events including homecoming and alumni club and affiliate engagement, and the organization strengthened relations with university leadership through promising collaborations and partnerships. Corie's invitation for alumni to "Come Home" and share their Michigan Moments resulted in a new program celebrating graduates.

As TIAA's former Chief Inclusion Diversity & Equity Officer (ID&E) and Head of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Corie advanced the organization's industry-leading workforce, client and brand engagement around ID&E and CSR, including the launch of the Be The Change platform in 2020, the innovative TIAA People Equity Index, and \$13M in corporate and workforce giving in 2021. Through her groundbreaking leadership and strong enterprise collaborations, TIAA garnered lauded employer of choice recognition by renowned organizations such as DiversityInc Top 50, Forbes, and several others. Corie's legal career includes the position of Senior Director, Associate General Counsel at TIAA, providing trusted counsel for 12 years on a broad range of workforce issues and managing employment litigation nationally. Pauling is also a former shareholder with the international employment law firm Littler Mendelson and a former partner with the renowned civil rights law firm Ferguson Stein Chambers.

Corie is an industry thought leader and influencer, speaking regularly on ID&E/CSR connectivity to business/brand differentiation, client engagement and emerging demographic/market trends and analytics. Corie was incredibly honored to be listed among the 2021 Elite 100 Black Women leaders by Diversity Woman magazine, the 2021 Top Diversity Leaders by the National Diversity & Leadership Conference, the 2020 list of North America's Most Influential D&I Leaders by Hive Learning and also a 2019 Most Powerful Women in Corporate Diversity by Black Enterprise and, very meaningfully as the mother of two amazing daughters, a TIAA Working Mother of the Year by Working Mother and also recipient of the Young Civic Leader Award by the Thurgood Marshall College Fund. Corie now serves on the board of Classroom Central in Charlotte, providing free school supplies to students and teachers at Title I schools.



THE JOHN MATLOCK CORNERSTONE AWARD



Dr. John H. Matlock

Founded in 1999, the Cornerstone Award is given annually to a member of the University of Michigan faculty and staff respectively. As of this year, the award will now be known as the “John Matlock Cornerstone Award” in honor of the late great Dr. John H. Matlock. Dr. Matlock served as Associate Vice Provost in the Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Michigan while directing the Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives (OAMI) from 1989-2013.

Dr. Matlock engaged in many activities involving diversity research, multicultural programming, pre-college initiatives, student leadership training, academic and enrichment activities. His work in engaging diverse groups of faculty, staff, and students to advance campus diversity initiatives is unparalleled. The award recognizes the unique contributions and assistance that the recipients have given to enhance the academic and social progress of African American students at the university.

The 2023 John Matlock Faculty Cornerstone Award recipient is

Charles H.F. Davis III

The 2023 John Matlock Staff Cornerstone Award recipient is

Wayne High

Congratulations!



2023 FACULTY CORNERSTONE AWARD



Charles H.F. Davis III, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Marsal Family School of Education

Dr. Charles H.F. Davis III is a third-generation educator, artist, and organizer committed to everyday Black people's lives, love, and liberation. He currently serves as a professor in the School of Education, where his research and teaching focus on issues of race, racism, and anti-Blackness in school and society. Dr. Davis is also the founding director of the Campus Abolition Research Lab, an interdisciplinary research and practice incubator dedicated to reimagining higher education as a life-affirming institution. Dr. Davis' scholarship has been recognized nationally as the recipient of the Melvin D. Hardee Dissertation of the Year Award (Runner-Up) from the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, the Emerging Scholar Award from *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*, and the prestigious National Academy of Education/Spencer Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship. Since arriving in Michigan, Dr. Davis has continued supporting Black students in teaching and service. In addition to his work mentoring and advising Black undergraduate and graduate students across the university, Dr. Davis also serves as a member of the advisory team for the Sigma Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, a member of the university's Black Student Union Platform Working Group, and as a speaker at Black student organization events, the U-M Black History Month program, and as a panelist in the Trotter Distinguished Leadership Series.

2023 STAFF CORNERSTONE AWARD



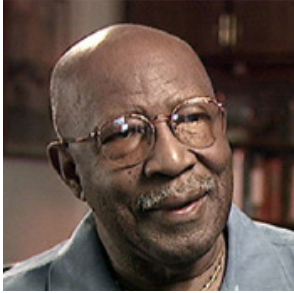
Wayne High

Chief Administrator, College of Literature, Science & Arts

Wayne High joined the Department of Afroamerican and African Studies as Chief Administrator in September 2010. Wayne is also the Interim Chief Administrator for the Sweetland Center for Writing. In this role, he is a strategic partner to the Department Chair and Center Director. Wayne is responsible for managing non-instructional operations, including budget and finance management (planning and execution); human resources (faculty and staff) appointments; facility issues; and supervision of the office staff. He liaises between the department and the College, interprets University and College policies, and develops strategic plans with the Chair and staff. During his time as a Chief Administrator, he has served on several Councils, and within the LSA Chief Administrator Community, he served as the Steering Committee Chair. Detail-oriented, devoted, and willing to go the extra mile to benefit the Community, U-M units, U-M personnel, and their associated projects, which include but are not limited to the following: Study Abroad support, space refurbishment and assignments, Gallery refurbishments and exhibitions, community outreach, and undergraduate marketing and recruitment. As a Chief Administrator and a steward, he has high regard for others. Suffice it to say; he has consistently demonstrated creativity, resourcefulness, and when required, an unconventional approach to obtain successful solutions which positively and directly impacted the mission and goals of the U-M Community.



THE CHARLES MOODY AND LESTER MONTS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Dr. Charles Moody



Dr. Lester Monts

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 to 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 two giants:

Patricia W. Coleman-Burns
Earl Lewis

Congratulations!



THE CHARLES MOODY AND LESTER MONTS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Patricia W. Coleman-Burns, Ph.D.

*Assistant Professor Emerita, School of Nursing
(1991-Present)*

Dr. Patricia Coleman-Burns is a University of Michigan Assistant Professor Emerita of Nursing and affiliated faculty in DAAS. PCB began her career in the 70s studying Black & Black Women's social movements. Appointed by former Dean of the U-M School of Nursing Rhetaugh Dumas in 1991 as director of the Office of Minority Affairs. She founded the GENESIS Projects (1999 – 2011), creating “peer-facilitated study groups” and residential boot camps to recruit and retain persons from economically and educationally disadvantaged populations into nursing. A long-time advocate for the right of all persons, and specifically women and their children, to be free from gender oppression, age discrimination, sexism, racism, and domestic violence, she has served as President of the Board of Directors of the Women's Justice Center in and Washtenaw County SafeHouse Center, Sexual Assault, and Domestic Violence Prevention and Crisis Services. She is an executive member of the Women of Color Task Force and Women of Color In the Academy Project at the U-M. She also is co-Chair of U-M Academic Women's Caucus. Her scholarship focuses on intersecting identities across safe policing for communities, social justice, health equity, social determinants of health, and health promotion and disease prevention. She is an active Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., Detroit Alumnae Chapter member.



Earl Lewis, Ph.D.

*Founding Director, Center for Social Solutions
Thomas C. Holt Distinguished Professor
(1989-Present)*

Dr. Earl Lewis is the founding director of the U-M Center for Social Solutions. Also the Thomas C. Holt Distinguished University Professor of History, Afroamerican and African Studies, and Public Policy, Lewis is president emeritus of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (2013-18), one of the premier philanthropies supporting the arts, humanities, and higher education. As a historian of the African American experience, Earl Lewis has produced pathbreaking and insightful scholarship. At Michigan, Lewis and colleagues in the center address four core social concerns: diversity and race, slavery and its aftermath, water and security, and the dignity of labor in an automated world. Lewis was previously on the faculty at the University of Michigan (1989-2004) and served Michigan as Vice Provost and Dean of the Rackham School of Graduate Studies (1998-2004). President Joe Biden awarded Dr. Lewis the National Humanities Medal during a White House ceremony on March 21, 2023. The National Humanities Medal, inaugurated in 1997, honors individuals or groups whose work has deepened the nation's understanding of the humanities and broadened citizens' engagement with history, literature, languages, philosophy, and other subjects. Dr. Lewis is the first U-M faculty member to receive this award.



DOCTORAL GRADUATES

Eliyas Asfaw

Medical School
Doctor of Medicine

Dominic Bednar

School for Environment and Sustainability
Doctor of Philosophy in Environment and Sustainability

Jozet Channey

Rackham Graduate School
Doctor of Philosophy in Education and Psychology

Maya Collins

Medical School
Doctor of Medicine

Jaerae Dell

School of Dentistry
Doctor of Dental Surgery

Zariq George

School of Engineering
Doctor of Philosophy in Robotics

Aaron Johnson

College of Pharmacy
Doctor of Pharmacy

Florence Johnson

School of Nursing
Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing

Kimson Johnson

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts & School of Public Health
Doctor of Philosophy in Health Services Organization and Policy; Sociology

Flora Kibong

College of Pharmacy
Doctor of Pharmacy

Maya Smith

Medical School
Doctor of Medicine

Epiphany Washington

School of Dentistry
Doctor of Dental Surgery

Ihudiya Williams

School of Information
Doctor of Philosophy



MASTER'S GRADUATES

Yasmin Abdulhadi	Chyanne Laldee
Imani Barnes	Aissa Laouan Wandarama
Cescily Barnes	Erin Levesque
Byron Brooks	Nia McCarthy
Danielle Burnett	Marsae Mitchell
Eugenia Collins	Noma-Gwen Ncube
Makala Conner	Terri O'Neal
Nayah Daniel	John-Henry Ochieng
Adama Diagne	Kaleb Parker
Judah Doty	Nilsa Pedanou
Kennedy DuBose	Lionel Robert
Christine Dumervil	Njeri Rutherford
Kati Ellis	Aries Rutledge
Princess Ewang	Brittney Smith
Alicia Figeroux	Ashley Tanksley
Lauren Foulks	Kyle Terry
Kamara Gardner	Joshua Thomas
Michael Glasper	Darrell Tubbs
Tania Harris	Olivia Vaden
Tamar Harrison	Kiana Washington
Marcia Hawkins-Day	Suveria Welch
Eric Hersey	Mia Wilson
Ariyana Horrison	Kierstyn Worthem



BACHELOR'S GRADUATES

Anthony Abner	Chandler Gay	Nancy Musonda
David Adeleye	Sergio Goodwin	Erica Nelson
Ashley Akaba	Kayla Haley	Aadaeze Njoku
Holly Akabuo	Keaira Hardge	Emil Nkemdilim-Dantzler
Peter Akande	Dana Harding	Ayodele Ojo
Deborah Akinbola	Keion Harris	Mazeed Oluewu
Oluwatamilade Akinyelu	Keshaun Harris	Aderinola Omolade-Adunbi
Enoch Ameyaw	Simone Headd	Andrew Otchere
Jachin Ammons	Jada Houston	Temitayo Oyelade
Adaku Anaele	Aisha Ibrahim	Maria Patton
Teondria Anderson	Leslie Igbo	Zion Phillpotts
Razaq Anibaba	Chimmuanya Iheanyi-Igwe	Trinity Pryor
Emmanuella Arhin	Anina Jackson	Mya Richards
Chanel Barnes	Henry Jackson	Trinity Rives
Grace Benjamin	Alisa Johnson	Brandon Robinson
Ayana Boyd	Jayda Johnson	Grace Sanders
Rayven Brantley	Lydia Johnson	Taylor Scott
Jocelyn Brown	Taylor Johnson	Gabrijela Skoko
Kendall Brown	Mia Jones	John Sloan
Tottionna Bushell	Adrianna Junior-Robins	Taylor Smith
Daphney Cajuste	Whit Karungi	Madrid Spain
Jordan Casper	Jordin Kean	Kayla Tate
Paige Chapman	Heba Kedir	Brooke Taylor
Sharonda Chiangong	Favour Kerobo	Eve Taylor
Kendall Chube	Jimmy King	Mizan Thomas
Karis Clark	Karyn King	Teanna Thomas
Alia Cummings	Tiara King	Timothy Thompson
Alessandra Curry	Esther Kusi	Tyleah Tyner
Nicholos Daniel	Jasmin Lee	Rakira Urquhart
Kamiya Dawson	Myla Lyons	Chase Warren
Devon Delahoussaye	Ebony Matthews	Virgil Watkins
Sockhna Diaw	Christopher May	Erica Williams
Sharifa Doudi	Russell McIntosh	Gabriel Williams
Dania Elsiddig	Angelica Mgbeafulu	Anthony Womack
Riann English	Daeveonna Middleton	Rhianna Womack
Adrianna Farmer-Mohamed	Morgan Miller	Anthony Womack
Dawn Fields	Baqir Mohamed	Adam Wooten
Falon Fletcher	Haley Montgomery	Taliyah Wright
Christopher Flonoury	Darian Moore	Temi Yusuf
Arion Gamble	Jasmine Mumpfield	



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Deborah T. Akinbola, Emmanuella N. Arhin, Chyanne A. Laldee & Eve N. Taylor
2023 Black Celebratory Planning Committee

Gloria Derr Taylor

Director, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives

Sharon R. Burch

Associate Director, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives

Gregory O. Thomas

Assistant Director & Black Celebratory Coordinator, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives

Brendan Kirwin

Assistant Director for Marketing and Communications, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives

OAMI Staff

Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives

Sharon R. Burch, Denise Lee, Travis Martin & Charles Ransom

Faculty & Staff Marshals

Midwest Global Group

Kente Stole Providers: midwestglobalgroup.com

Stadium Trophy

Award Services: <https://stadiumtrophy.com>

Foresight Group

Printing Services: foresightgroup.net

Michigan Media

Livestream Services: media.umich.edu

Michigan Photography

Event Photography: photography.umich.edu

DEAF C.A.N.! & City Events Group

Sign Language Interpreting and CART Services: deafcan.org – cityeventsgroup.com

REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Santa J. Ono, *ex officio*, President
Jordan B. Acker, Huntington Woods
Michael J. Behm, Grand Blanc
Mark J. Bernstein, Ann Arbor
Paul W. Brown, Ann Arbor
Sarah Hubbard, Okemos
Denise Ilitch, Bingham Farms, chair
Ron Weiser, Ann Arbor
Katherine E. White, Ann Arbor



BLACK CELEBRATORY MISSION

The Black Celebratory celebrates the commonalities and differences that characterize the experiences of African Americans and other students at the University of Michigan. In upholding the expectation of the first Black Celebratory in 1994, this program serves as an example of the University of Michigan's commitment to diversity and African American students.

The ceremony acknowledges the value and uniqueness of the African American experience and serves to commemorate the accomplishments of those students that participate in the Black Celebratory. The Black Celebratory recognizes faculty and staff who provide academic enrichments, research opportunities, programs, and activities that promote the communal striving and sense of accountability that help students to achieve.

The Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives (OAMI), in partnership with the Black Celebratory Planning Committee, this annual celebration to honor, respect, and remember those from our past and present communities who could only dream of the opportunity. This ceremony marks a tradition of valuing our cultural offerings, not only to the University, but to the world.

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.

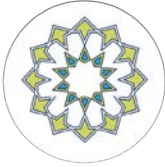
STATEMENT OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

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OFFICE OF ACADEMIC MULTICULTURAL INITIATIVES
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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 Celebración Latina

Bottom left to right:

Middle Eastern & North African Celebration, First-Generation Graduation, Asian & Pacific Islander Graduation

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