UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

First-Generation Student Graduation Celebration

2023





Program

Welcome

Dr. Tabbye Chavous

Vice Provost for Equity & Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer

Keynote Speaker

Zanib Sareini

District Equity and Inclusion Lead
Dearborn Public Schools

Student Speaker

J. Wilton

Presentation of the Graduates

Closing

Dr. Terra Molengraff

Assistant Director of First-Generation Initiatives



Celebration Welcome Letter



Greetings,

We recognize the University of Michigan 2023 First-Generation graduates with great enthusiasm and pride!

As first-generation college students, these are the first steps in creating a world of opportunity – one where dreams have the potential to become a reality. The journey may be challenging at times, but its impact will be long-lasting and offer hope and inspiration to those who come after you.

As we honor this extraordinary class of trailblazers, we are excited about the opportunities that await you. We are confident you have the skills, talent, drive and commitment to overcome challenges and make a real difference.

To be a Michigan graduate is more than joining the community of over half a million Michigan alumni spread around the globe — half a million friends, colleagues, and mentors 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 gifts to be used to make a tremendous impact in the world.

So, go forth and do great things with what you have learned. Do them well, with integrity and joy. Carry with you the sense of self-assurance that you have created trailheads for others to follow to reach the top of the mountain. Celebrate that you have demonstrated the courage for future first-generation students to follow these trailheads or explore new ones.

Share your talents, dreams, aspirations, and the classroom and real-world practicums you have seized here on campus with your greater communities and the world. In doing so, always realize that you may be the first, but you won't be the last.



Celebration Welcome Letter



We wish you nothing but success and happiness in the following phase of your next journey.

Finally, whatever you do, and wherever you go, Go BLUE!



Nanta Ov

Santa J. Ono President

Sank. Mc Carly

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

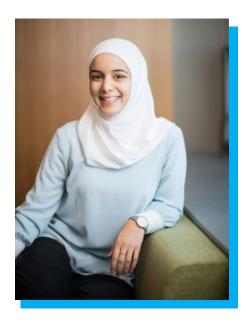
Martan I

Martino Harmon
Vice President for Student Life

Jably M. Charous

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

Keynote Speaker



Zanib Sareini

District Equity and Inclusion Lead, Dearborn Public Schools

Zanib Sareini is a two-time graduate of the University of Michigan. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Master of Social Work in Community Organizing. She is a proud alum of the Summer Bridge Scholars Program and is grateful for the support the program offered her as a first-generation college student. Zanib's work in higher education was focused on supporting students with underrepresented identities through coaching, programming, advising, and teaching. She believes strongly in the power of positive relationships and fostering inclusive spaces. Currently, Zanib serves as the District Equity and Inclusion Lead in Dearborn Public Schools.



Student Speaker



J. Wilton

J. Wilton is a senior at the Ross School of Business and the University of Michigan School of Information, majoring in Business and Information Analysis. J. has served the first-gen, low-income community in a couple of ways, with a pre-COVID student organization dedicated to supporting first-gen, low-income students, and has more recently served as the First-Gen Residential RA. Throughout his time at the University of Michigan, J. has also been a Carson Scholar for Public Policy interests, a Paton Fellow for Accounting pursuits, a Cappo Sales Track Student, and an avid fan of Michigan Sports. After graduating, J. will start his career in cybersecurity consulting and obtain a CPA license in Michigan before moving throughout the business world while also serving on the Board of Directors for his high school.



Doctoral Graduates

Dajai Livingston

School of Nursing
Doctor of Nursing Practice

Jacqueline Lin

University of Michigan Law School

Juris Doctor

Master's Graduates

Dalia Ali-Khan

School of Social Work

Master of Social Work

Layla Berry

College of Engineering Biomedical Engineering; Medical Product Development

Anthony Bui

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

Christian Ilarraza Colon

Stephen M. Ross School of Business & Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy

Business Administration; Public Policy

Ruma Deb

School of Information Information

Krysta December

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy; School for Environment and Sustainability Social Policy; Conservation Ecology & Environmental Justice



Master's Graduates

Priscilla Flores

School of Social Work Interpersonal Practice in Integrated Health, Mental Health, & Substance Abuse; Global Social Work Pathway

Tania Harris

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy Public Policy

Marcia Hawkins-Day

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts **Applied Statistics**

Tiana Huang School of Public Health

Health Informatics

Tiffany Lee School of Public Health Public Health: Population and Health Sciences

Jessica Liang

Stephen M. Ross School of Business Business Administration; Public Policy

Yu Liu

Stephen M. Ross School of Business Accounting

Miguel Lopez

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy & Stephen M. Ross School of Business Public Policy

Eliana Lozano

Stephen M. Ross School of Business **Business Administration**

LaShawnda McLean

School of Nursing Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner

Ryan Miller

School of Social Work Social Work; Geriatric Scholar



Master's Graduates

Michael O Gorman

Stephen M. Ross School of Business Business Administration

Manal Rizwan

Rackham Graduate School Molecular & Integrative Physiology

Adrianna Rojas

School of Public Health Public Health: Global Health Epidemiology

Angelica Tome School of Information

School of Information
Information: User Experience Research and Design

Olivia Vaden

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy

Public Policy

Marisol Valentin

Stephen M. Ross School of Business Business Administration

Tao Zhou

Rackham Graduate School Computer Science and Engineering

Shayla Zimmerman

School of Public Health Public Health; Population and Health Sciences; Spatial Epidemiology and Health Geography



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College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Biology, Health, & Society

Zannatun Alim

A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning Architecture

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Movement Science; Creative Writing

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

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College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Neuroscience; Entrepreneurship

Sage Caperton

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Political Science

Yuri Chen

College of Engineering
Art & Design

Jeannette Cheung

Stephen M. Ross School of Business Business Administration; Real Estate Development

Farhana Chowdhury

School of Nursing Nursing; Global Population Health

Farzana Chowdhury

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Gender and Health

Tayebah Chowdhury

School of Public Health Entrepreneurship

Trinity Coates

College of Engineering Chemical Engineering

Bianca Cobian-Campos

School of Nursing *Nursing*

Austin Cornish

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Cellular and Molecular Biomedical Sciences

Tiffanie Corwin

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Psychology



Lyana Cremnitz

School of Music, Theatre & Dance Composition

Nicholos Daniel

Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design Fine Arts

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Adilene De Los Santos

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Anthropology; Performing Arts Management and Entrepreneurship

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College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Business

Sockhna Diaw

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Biology; Communications and Media

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Larisa Elias

School of Dentistry Dental Hygiene

Lorena Elias

School of Dentistry Dental Hygiene

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College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Biopsychology, Cognition, & Neuroscience; Writing; Community Action & Social Change

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College of Engineering Biomedical Engineering

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Peter Wu

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Edison Zhu

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Acknowledgements

Thank you to the offices, students, and staff that have supported first-generation programs throughout the year.

Thank you Faculty, Staff, and Students

Joelle Fundaro
Adan Hussain
Dwight Lang
Sylvia Lang
Mike Morland
First-Generation Students @ Michigan*
Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
University Career Center
University Housing

Regents of the University of Michigan

Santa 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

* Founded in the Fall of 2007, First-Generation College Students at Michigan (FGCS) is a student organization dedicated to the goals of recognizing, raising awareness of, and resolving the unique needs of first-generation college students at the University of Michigan.



Acknowledgements

First-Generation Student Gateway

The First-Generation Gateway and its programs are a fouroffice collaborative effort. The directors and staff from each office provide leadership and support to the mission, goals, and strategies that contribute to first-generation student success.

Comprehensive Studies Program - Kierra Trotter, Director

Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs - Nadia Bazzy, Director

Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives - Gloria Derr Taylor,

Director

Office of New Student Programs - Joe Colangelo, Interim Director

First-Generation Graduation Planning Committee

The First-Generation Graduation Celebration is a supplemental ceremony that acknowledges the unique experiences that come with being the first person in your family to graduate from college. The First-Generation Graduation Committee is made up of students and staff from First-Generation College Students @ Michigan and the First-Generation Gateway. The committee works together on several aspects of the celebration including the theme, speakers, marketing, graphic design, and community involvement.

Delina Kamposh - Outgoing President of First-Generation College Students @ Michigan

Esaú Delgado - Graduate Student Representative

Terra Molengraff - Assistant Director of First-Gen Initiatives

Madison Sahagun-Bisson - Outgoing Secretary of First Generation College Students @ Michigan

Erin Zhan - Program Assistant to the First-Gen Gateway



Graduation Celebration History

The University of Michigan's First-Generation College Student @ Michigan student organization held its first graduation in 2009. This celebration was hosted in the living room of Dwight Lang, a sociology professor at the University of Michigan, and his wife, Sylvia. In 2011, the number of students participating in the graduation had grown, and the event was relocated to the Pond Room in the Michigan Union. In 2017, funding was provided through the Vice Provost, Robert Sellers, and the graduation was held in the Michigan Union Ballroom. In the same year, the Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives, the Comprehensive Studies Program, the Office of New Student Programs, and Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs collaborated in hiring the first program manager for the university's First-Generation initiative and expanded the scope of First-Gen efforts. The graduation celebration continues to be a highlight of the program and comprises one of seven cultural graduations hosted annually by the Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives.

Graduation Celebration Mission

The First-Generation Graduation celebrates the commonalities and differences that characterize the experiences of first-generation and other students at the University of Michigan and serves as an example of the University of Michigan's commitment to diversity.

The ceremony acknowledges the value and uniqueness of the first-generation student experience and serves to commemorate the accomplishments of those students that participate in the celebration. The First-Generation Graduation 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, in partnership with the First-Generation Graduation Planning Committee, institutes this annual celebration as an expression and tradition of valuing the University's cultural offerings and commitment to diversity.

Statement of 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.



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.

Acknowledging the land is an important first step towards healing that needs to be followed by further action. We invite all of you to think about how you can support Indigenous communities that surround you.

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.





OFFICE OF ACADEMIC MULTICULTURAL INITIATIVES

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN













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

oami.umich.edu



We may be the first but we won't be the last!





1ST GEN

