

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Native
Student*

GRADUATION CELEBRATION



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OFFICE OF ACADEMIC MULTICULTURAL INITIATIVES
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Celebration Welcome Letter

Aanii,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome the University of Michigan 2023 Native American graduates.

From one perspective, we are marking this wonderful occasion of graduation as an ending, the conclusion of a long journey. However, the root of the word “commencement” is the act of beginning, starting, initiating.

This feast recognizes the importance of family and friends. The presentation of the blankets symbolizes protection, security and warmth—all of the things we wish our graduates as they begin the next chapter of their lives.

As we honor you, we are excited about the opportunities that await each of 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 not just 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 developed and gained here are gifts to be used and shared.

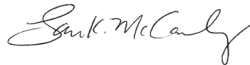
So, go forth and do great things with what you have learned – both personally and professionally. Do them well, and with integrity and joy. We wish you nothing but success and happiness as you now start these next steps of your life journey.

And whatever you do, and wherever your journey takes you - Go Blue!

Miigwetch, for celebrating with us!



Santa J. Ono
President



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



Martino Harmon
Vice President for Student Life



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



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.



Order of Program

Opening

Master of Ceremonies

Jaime Fuentes

Native American Student Association

Welcome

Dr. Ellen Meader

Assistant Vice Provost for Equity, Inclusion & Academic Affairs

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Bethany Hughes

*Assistant Professor, Department of American Culture
College of Literature, Sciences, and the Arts*

Class Recognition

Closing

Andrea Wilkerson

Program Manager, Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs

Honor Song

Joe Reilly and NASA Community

Master of Ceremonies



Jaime Fuentes

Native American Student Association

Jaime Fuentes is an enrolled member of the Hopland Band of Pomo Indians and Co-Secretary for the Native American Student Association at U-M. After completing an M.S. in Cellular and Developmental Biology at California State University, he started at UM in the Dept of Microbiology and Immunology in 2018, where he is pursuing his Ph.D. in the lab of Dr. Eric C Martens. His research aims to discover how common human gut bacteria have evolved to persist despite constant pressure by bacteriophage and environmental factors. He hopes to utilize a background in teaching and engagement acquired through community development and scientific inquiry to foster new relationships and increase diversity in STEM and academia.

Welcome Speaker

Ellen Meader

*Assistant Vice Provost for Equity,
Inclusion & Academic Affairs*



Dr. Ellen Meader is a seasoned administrator with more than 30 years of experience in higher education. Among her many duties with faculty-related DEI initiatives, Ellen is co-leading the DEI 1.0 Evaluation for the campus, and is involved with the campus-wide Inclusive Teaching initiative.

Prior to her current position, Ellen worked with the U-M ADVANCE Program focusing on equitable and preemptive strategies in faculty recruitment, retention, climate, and leadership. She also worked as a program manager in the Office of Graduate Student Success in the Rackham Graduate School.

Ellen received her Ph.D. from U-M's Center for the Study of Higher and Postsecondary Education and has authored research papers on faculty and student success and diversity in higher education.

Keynote Speaker



Bethany Hughes

Dr. Bethany Hughes (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of American Culture and a core faculty member in the Native American Studies Program. She teaches classes on Native American Studies, race and Broadway musicals, Authenticity and Representation, Indigenous Performance, and American theatre. Her research focuses on stereotypical theatrical representations of Native Americans called redface and how redface impacts Indigenous sovereignty by creating a racialized character. She also researches contemporary Indigenous performance.

Closing Speaker

Andrea Wilkerson

Andrea Wilkerson (Aamjiwnaang First Nation of Sarnia) serves as a Program Manager in the Office of Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs and the Advisor for the Native American Student Association (NASA). She works closely with NASA to host programs like the Native American Student Welcome, Native American Heritage Month, cultural workshops and conversations, as well as the Dance for Mother Earth Powwow. Andrea could not be more proud of these amazing graduates and honored to have spent time in community with them - some since their very first week on campus now through their graduation!





Bachelor's Graduates

Sarah Angelique Allen



*Sault Ste Marie Tribe of
Chippewa Indians*

Psychology
College of Literature,
Science, and the Arts

“Respect your elders.”

Zoi R.K. Crampton

*Saginaw Chippewa Indian
Tribe*

Art and Design
Penny W. Stamps School of
Art & Design

Ethnobotany;
Minor in Native Studies
College of Literature,
Science and the Arts



Bachelor's Graduates

Solomon Milner



Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians

*English Language and Literature;
Communications and Media Studies
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts*

“There are no words that can express how much I have loved my time in the Native American Student Association: being in this community that we have forged has been the highlight of my academic career! Chi miigwech to everyone in NASA, to all of my friends, to my family, and to all the staff and faculty who helped me get here! I love you all dearly!”

Master's Graduates

Jennifer Jones



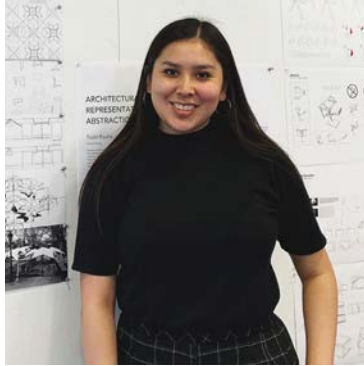
Navajo Nation

*Master of Science in Environment and Sustainability,
with concentrations in Sustainable Systems
and Environmental Justice
School for Environment and Sustainability*

“Thank you to mom, dad, and Tyler for supporting from afar, and to my UM community of native students. Thank you to my AISES community and fellow STEM nerds in the Lighting the Pathways program.”

Master's Graduates

Callie Singer



Navajo Nation

Master of Science in Engineering, Civil Engineering
College of Engineering

“I greatly appreciate all the support from my family!”

Master's Graduates

Davon Wheeler



Lenape Heritage

*Master of Public Health in Health Behavior
& Health Education*
School of Public Health

*Master of Social Work in Program Evaluation
& Applied Research*
School of Social Work

“Thank you to NASA for being a supportive community for me during my transition from being a working professional to a professional student. I felt like I was able to foster a real family while completing my master’s programs. I look forward to staying connected and having much more time, attention and baked goods available in the months to come as I finalized my next steps in health care policy research.”

Planning Committee

2023 Graduation is coordinated by:

Héctor Galván
Jaime Fuentes
Andrea Wilkerson

Celebration Mission

The Native Student Graduation celebrates the commonalities and differences that characterize the experiences of native students 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 native student experience and serves to commemorate the accomplishments of those students that participate in the celebration. The celebration 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 Native Student Planning Committee, institutes this annual celebration as an expression and tradition of valuing the University's cultural offerings and commitment to diversity.

Thank you to the offices, students, and staff that have supported the Native Student Graduation throughout the years.

About the Art

The color illustrations in this program were created by Zoi Crampton for the 2023 Dance of Mother Earth Powwow.

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

Statement of Freedom of Speech and Artistic Expression

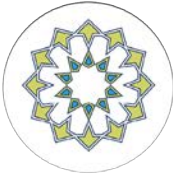
The University of Michigan strives to create an open form in which diverse opinions can be expressed and heard. Members of the University community, speakers, artists, and other invited guests have a right to express their views and opinions, and the University will protect that right. The University 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 or 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

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



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