



la Celebración
Latina



2024



CELEBRATION WELCOME LETTER

Greetings!

It is with great enthusiasm that we acknowledge the 24th Annual La Celebración Latina graduates!

On April 28, 2000, the University of Michigan launched its inaugural Celebración Latina to recognize and celebrate this community's significant contributions to the University of Michigan and continue to do so. Throughout the history of this celebration, many things have evolved across campus. However, the commitment of Latino/a/x students, faculty and staff has remained constant.

As we honor you, we are excited for the opportunities that await you. We are confident that as Michigan graduates, you have the skills, talent, drive, and commitment necessary to overcome whatever challenges you face and make a difference in the nation and the world.

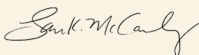
You are joining a community of over half a million Michigan alums spread around the globe—half a million friends, colleagues, and mentors ready to help welcome you into your next chapter. We encourage you to share your knowledge, experiences, talents, dreams, and aspirations with your communities and the world.

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 cannot stop you from achieving your dreams. Whatever the next chapter of your story brings, we know the strength of your heritage, the beauty of your talent, and the resiliency of your experience have prepared you to make a difference.

And whatever you do, and wherever you go, Vamos Azul!



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

OAMI'S EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE

Congratulations on this incredible accomplishment in your academic journey! As you prepare to graduate and embark on new adventures, I want to celebrate and reflect on your significant achievements.

You have exemplified hard work, dedication, and perseverance during your time at the University of Michigan. An international pandemic, remote learning, increased cost of living, and political divisiveness have created many unforeseen challenges. Yet, you overcame those challenges, embraced diversity, and enriched our campus community with your vibrant energy. Some of you have had to make great sacrifices to pursue a degree while still working to support your family back home. You have rebuked stereotypes of your communities that equate immigrants to criminals and "illegal aliens." You have endured racial tensions, critics, and doubters. Through it all, you have found the strength to succeed while building community and giving back.

As you reflect on what you learned at Michigan, I want to acknowledge what the university has learned from you. You showed us that the Hispanic community is not a monolith but a population of Brown and Black people from different countries and communities with a range of traditions and strong cultural connections, varied political beliefs, and a powerful voice in social justice movements on campus. Your presence enriched our classrooms, sparked meaningful conversations, and inspired others to pursue their dreams, and for this, we thank you.

As Latinx graduates, you carry a rich cultural heritage and a deep sense of identity. Your experiences have shaped you into resilient, compassionate, and courageous individuals ready to transform our world.

As you leave this place, remember the values that guided you thus far: integrity, excellence, and a commitment to social justice. Carry these values with you as you navigate the next chapter of your life and continue to advocate for a more inclusive and equitable society.

I am confident that each of you will go on to do great things in graduate schools, workplaces, and communities across the country and the world. I look forward to hearing about your successes in the years to come. Wherever life may take you, always remember that you are a valuable member of the University of Michigan community, and we are proud to call you our alums.

Congratulations once again, and best wishes for a bright and promising future!

Sincerely,

Rachel Dawson

Rachel Dawson

Director for the Office of Multicultural Academic Initiatives



ORDER OF EVENTS

OPENING

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Dr. Lawrence La Fountain-Stokes

*Professor and Chair of American Culture
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts*

WELCOME

Dr. Tabbye Chavous

*Vice Provost for Equity & Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer
Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion*

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Robert Santos

*Director
U.S. Census Bureau*

CIRCLE AWARD

Dr. Susan Montgomery

*G. Brymer Williams Collegiate Lecturer Emerita
and Academic Coach*

STUDENT SPEAKER

Lady Funcke Munoz

*Master's of Social Work candidate in Interpersonal Practice
in Integrated Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse
School of Social Work*

CLASS RECOGNITION

U-M LATINO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Reuben Kapp

U-M Latino Alumni (UMLA) Board Member

CLOSING

MASTER OF CEREMONIES



Lawrence La Fountain-Stokes, M.Phil./Ph.D.

Professor and Chair of American Culture
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Lawrence La Fountain-Stokes, professor and chair of American Culture, is a former director and core faculty member in the Latina/o Studies program at the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor. He is also professor of Romance Languages and Literatures and of Women's and Gender Studies. Born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico, he received his A.B. from Harvard (1991) and his M.A., M.Phil., and Ph.D. from Columbia (1999). He is author of *Queer Ricans: Cultures and Sexualities in the Diaspora* (University of Minnesota Press, 2009) and of *Escenas transcaribeñas: Ensayos sobre teatro, performance y cultura* (Isla Negra Editores, 2018), and coeditor with Deborah R. Vargas and Nancy Raquel Mirabal of *Keywords for Latina/o Studies* (New York University Press, 2017). His book *Translocas: The Politics of Puerto Rican Drag and Trans Performance* was published by the University of Michigan Press in 2021 as part of the *Triangulations: Lesbian/Gay/Queer Theater/Drama/Performance* series and received the 2021-2022 Sylvia Rivera Award in Transgender Studies from CLAGS, the Center for LGBTQ Studies at the City University of New York. He has coedited queer issues of *CENTRO Journal*, *Sargasso*, and *Hostos Review/Revista Hostosiana* and has published two books of fiction, *Uñas pintadas de azul/Blue Fingernails* and *Abolición del pacto*. Larry performs in drag as Lola von Miramar since 2010, and has appeared in several episodes of the YouTube series *Cooking with Drag Queens*.

WELCOME SPEAKER



Tabbye Chavous, Ph.D.

*Vice Provost for Equity & Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer
Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion*

Dr. Tabbye Chavous is the Vice Provost for Equity & Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer at the University of Michigan. She is also a professor of education and professor of psychology.

A native of Aiken, South Carolina, Dr. Chavous attended the University of Virginia where she received her bachelor's degree and went on to earn a Ph.D. in Community Psychology. Following her graduate work, Dr. Chavous entered the University of Michigan as an assistant professor and moved up the ranks to professor.

Dr. Chavous has held leadership roles at the department, college, and central administration levels during her almost 24 years at U-M. Most recently, she was the director of the National Center for Institutional Diversity and associate dean for diversity, equity, and inclusion in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. Prior to that, Dr. Chavous served as an associate vice president for research, associate dean for academic programs and initiatives in the Rackham Graduate School, and chair of the Combined Program in Education and Psychology. Across all of her roles, the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion have been central to her leadership approaches and practices and infused throughout the initiatives, programs, and practices she helped develop and implement.

Based on her academic and scholarly work and leadership impacts, Dr. Chavous has been called on locally, nationally, and internationally to consult and collaborate in efforts to broaden access, participation, and retention and thriving in higher education – more broadly and in fields such as science, technology, mathematics and engineering. These efforts focus on all levels of the academy—undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, and faculty.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Robert Santos

Director

U.S. Census Bureau

Robert L. Santos is the 26th director of the U.S. Census Bureau. His career spans over 40 years in survey research, statistical design and analysis and executive-level management. He previously served as vice president and chief methodologist at the Urban Institute, where he directed its Statistical Methods Group.

Santos has held leadership positions at top survey research organizations, including the University of Chicago's National Opinion Research Center; the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research; and Temple University's Institute for Survey Research. His research expertise includes quantitative and qualitative research design, program evaluation, needs assessments, survey methodology and survey operations. He also has research experience with demographic and administrative data, decennial censuses, social policy research as well as equity issues.

Santos received the American Statistical Association's Founder's Award (2006); the American Association for Public Opinion Research Award for Exceptionally Distinguished Achievement (2021); Mexico's Ohtli Award (2022) recognizing contributions to the Mexican community; and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund's Excellence in Community Service Award (2023).

He has a bachelor's in mathematics from Trinity University in San Antonio and a master's in statistics from the University of Michigan. In 2023, he was bestowed honorary degrees by North Carolina State University and San Antonio College.

CIRCLE AWARD RECIPIENT



Dr. Susan Montgomery, Ph.D.

*G. Brymer Williams Collegiate Lecturer Emerita
and Academic Coach*

Dr. Susan Montgomery is the G. Brymer Williams Collegiate Lecturer Emerita. Having retired from her role as director of undergraduate studies and program advisor in chemical engineering, she currently serves as academic coach at the Engineering Center for Academic Success, helping students make the most of their time at Michigan. She is also the faculty advisor to the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers student chapter at U-M.

STUDENT SPEAKER



Lady Funcke Munoz (she/her/ella) is a passionate advocate and M.S.W. candidate in Interpersonal Practice. Graduating summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Human Services from Palm Beach State College, Lady's academic journey reflects her commitment to integrated health, mental health, advocacy, and human rights. She has also earned specialized certifications from Columbia University and Palm Beach State College, enhancing her expertise in trauma-informed practice and social services.

Recognized for her outstanding contributions, Lady has received prestigious awards such as the DEI Impact Awards Student of the Year, Latinx Research Week 2024 Familismo Award, and the Michigan Difference Student Leadership Awards Nominee from M-LEAD. With her resilience and commitment to social justice, Lady Funcke continues to inspire change and create pathways for a more equitable society.

GUEST SPEAKER



Reuben Kapp

Board Member

University of Michigan Latino Alumni (UMLA)

Reuben C. Kapp (he/his) is a program officer at The Kresge Foundation. Reuben supports Kresge's Education Program to increase college access and success for marginalized students.

Before joining the foundation in 2023, Reuben served as a research assistant, college success coach, and senior admissions representative at the University of Michigan. He also previously worked as a campaign fundraising associate and held public policy fellowships with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus at the U.S. Department of State and on Capitol Hill.

Originally from Saginaw, Michigan, Reuben holds a bachelor's degree in public policy and a master's degree in higher education from the University of Michigan. He is currently finishing his Ph.D. in higher education at the University of Michigan.



Doctoral Graduates

Allura Casanova

Rackham Graduate School
Psychology and Women's and Gender Studies

Mayra del Carmem


College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Psychology and Women's and Gender Studies

Ariana Peruzzi Sancio

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Philosophy

Estefanía Martínez Valdivia

Rackham Graduate School
Chemical Biology



Master's Graduates

Jessica Aguilar

School of Social Work
*Interpersonal Practice in
Integrated Health, Mental Health,
& Substance Abuse*

Brittney Barros

Gerald R. Ford
School of Public Policy
Public Policy; Social Policy

Carlos Cristiano Botia

Rackham Graduate School
Survey and Data Science

Alfredo DeLaRosa

School of Information
UX Design and Agile Development

Heather M. Diggs

School of Social Work
Social Work

Lady Funcke Munoz

A. Alfred Taubman
College of Architecture and
Urban Planning,
School of Social Work
*Interpersonal Practice in
Integrated Health, Mental Health,
and Substance Abuse*

Miriam Gallardo Peralta

Stephen M. Ross
School of Business
Business Administration

Ramiro Angel Garcia

Gerald R. Ford
School of Public Policy
Public Policy - International Policy

Sandra Perez Gonzalez

School of Social Work
Policy & Political Pathway

Flor Azul Lorenzo

Gerald R. Ford
School of Public Policy
*Public Policy; Public
& Non-Profit Management*

Ashley Martinez

A. Alfred Taubman College of
Architecture and Urban
Planning, School for
Environment and
Sustainability, Stephen M.
Ross
School of Business
*Environment and Sustainability;
Real Estate Development*

Stephany Mendez Ortega

School of Public Health
*Health Management and Policy/
Masters in Health Services
Administration*

Ericka Mendez Velazquez

College of Engineering
Engineering; Space Engineering

Master's Graduates

Joseph Mendoza

Rackham Graduate School
Systems Engineering + Design

Joseph Mendoza Martinez

School of Public Health
Health Services Administration

Moriah Nacionales- Tafoya

Gerald R. Ford
School of Public Policy
Public Policy

Miguel Ochoa

School of Social Work
Social Work

Javiera Ramos

Stephen M. Ross
School of Business
Business Administration

Francisco Daniel Rentería Macedo

Gerald R. Ford
School of Public Policy,
School for Environment and
Sustainability
*Public Policy; Science in
Environmental Policy and Planning*

Coco (Conny) Rios Escobar

School of Public Health
*Nutritional Sciences; Maternal and
Child Nutrition Graduate Certificate*

Génesis Ruiz Jiménez

School of Public Health
*Population & Health Sciences;
Public Health and Environmental
Sustainability Certificate*

Eduardo Salas

Stephen M. Ross
School of Business
Business Administration

Juan Sandoval

Gerald R. Ford
School of Public Policy
Public Policy

Marcus Spinelli da Silva

School of Public Health
*Public Health; Epidemiology, Global
Health Epidemiology; Certificate in
Social Epidemiology*

Javier Fernando Torres Delgado

School of Music, Theatre &
Dance
*Violin Performance;
Chamber Music Performance*

Jessica Valencia Alvarado

Rackham Graduate School
*Survey Methodology
and Data Science*

Bachelor's Graduates

Christina Araujo

College of Engineering
Biomedical Engineering

Sami Bazzi

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Biochemistry

Maria Daniela Castillo

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Film, Television and Media;
Screenwriting

Erik Chasi

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Communication and Media; Marketing
& Sales; Entrepreneurship

Rafael Cortes

School of Public Health
Community and Global Public Health;
Biology, Gender and Health; Science,
Technology, and Society

David DeLaRosa

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Sociology; Law, Justice, and Social
Change; Organizational Studies

Giuliana Fagre Guerriero

College of Engineering
Biomedical Engineering

Jahaira Flores

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Computer Science; UX Design

Sophia Garcia

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Political Science

Marnie Guamán

College of Engineering
Environmental Engineering;
International Minor for Engineers;
Sustainable Engineering

Meagann Ibarra

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Psychology

Andrea Lizarazo

College of Engineering
Mechanical Engineering

Irene Lopez

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Biopsychology, Cognition, and
Neuroscience; Latina/o Studies

Isabel Lopez

School of Information
Information Analysis

Marcelo Lopez

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Computer Science

Jeimy López García

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Organizational Studies

Jacqueline Lopez-Bravo

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Communications and Media; Latina/o
Studies

Emilia Lozano

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
English; Political Science

Bachelor's Graduates

Olga Lydia Luna

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
*Biopsychology, Cognition, and
Neuroscience; Spanish.*

Michael Martinez

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Economics

Chris Genaro Medina

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
*Latina/o Studies; International Studies;
Political Economy and Development*

Jose Melendez

School of Music, Theatre & Dance
Music

LuzElena Molina-Medina

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
*Biopsychology, Cognition,
Neuroscience; Spanish*

Juan Morales

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Film, Television, and Media

Celia Morones

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
*Sociology; Women's and Gender
Studies*

Nathalie O'Hernández

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Biomolecular Science; Writing Minor

Ava Luna Pardo-Keegan

College of Engineering
Computer Science Engineering

Arely Pastrana Vega

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Sociology; Social Work

Christina Patten

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Anthropology

Jennifer Peñaloza

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy
Public Policy

Macarena Peralta

College of Engineering
Computer Science

Carlos Pirela Romero

School of Music, Theatre & Dance
Music

Louis Ramirez

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Economics

Siboney Rebolledo

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Sociology Health and Medicine

Citlali Rivera

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Psychology; Sociology & Social Work

Laura Salas

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Women's and Gender Studies

Oscar Sanchez-Martinez

College of Engineering
*Engineering In Environmental
Engineering*

Bachelor's Graduates

Christina Schafer

School of Public Health
*Public Health Sciences; Education for
Empowerment - Education Policy*

Sara Scheff

School of Kinesiology
Sport Management

Isabella Servin

School of Nursing
Nursing

Marina Silva

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Psychology

Maureen Thomas

College of Engineering
Mechanical Engineering

Karen Tineo

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
*History and Sociology; Law, Justice and
Social Change*

Adamari Torres-Arroyo

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Economics

Raymond Ugaz Carhuavilca

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Biology

César Vargas

Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design,
School of Information
Art & Design; User Experience

Christian Vega

College of Engineering
Computer Science Engineering

Leo Velasco

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
English

Annabella Vidrio

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts,
School of Music, Theatre & Dance
Dance; Gender & Health; Public Policy

Paulo Zepeda

Stephen M. Ross School of Business
Business Administration



GRADUATION CELEBRATION HISTORY

The University of Michigan's first Celebración Latina was held in the year 2000 with support from the Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives (OAMI). This celebration was hosted in the Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, and the number of students participating in the graduation continues to grow year after year. We are proud that the celebration continues to acknowledge the accomplishments of Latinx students at the University of Michigan. La Celebración Latina is one of seven cultural graduations hosted annually by the Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives.

Thank you to the offices, students, and staff that have supported La Celebración Latina throughout the years.

Especially to this year's planning committee:
Carlos Pirela, Jeimy López García, Kasandra Negrete,
and Luz Mayancela-Cazho

GRADUATION CELEBRATION MISSION

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

La Celebración Latina 2024 is coordinated by:

Héctor Galván

Assistant Director, Office of Academic and Multicultural Initiatives,
a unit of the Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion



LAND AND LABOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The University of Michigan is located on the territory of the Anishinaabeg people. The Ann Arbor campus 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 establishing 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 educating the children of Native ancestors.

We further recognize that whether you are on campus in Ann Arbor or elsewhere in the United States, we stand on land developed at the often-fatal expense of forcefully enslaved Black people. We acknowledge that much of this country, including its culture, economic growth, and development has been made possible by the labor of enslaved Africans and their descendants who suffered the horror of the transatlantic trafficking, chattel slavery, and dehumanization through segregation and Jim Crow laws.

We remember those who did not survive the Middle Passage, those who were beaten and lynched, and those who are still suffering while fighting for their freedom. We are indebted to their labor and unwilling sacrifice, and acknowledge the violence throughout the generations and the resulting impact and generational trauma still felt today.

The fights against settler colonialism and anti-blackness will always be inextricably linked. To the land, to the collective, and to the ancestors, we thank you, we thank you, we thank you.



STATEMENT OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND ARTISTIC EXPRESSION

The University of Michigan strives to create an open forum 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, speech that breaks the law, violates the University of Michigan's code of conduct, or threatens harm to another person will not be tolerated. Persons engaging in such speech may be warned by University representatives, and if the warnings are not heeded, may be removed 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.

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY STATEMENT

The University of Michigan, as an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding nondiscrimination and affirmative action. The University of Michigan is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, religion, height, weight, or veteran status in employment, educational programs and activities, and admissions. Inquiries or complaints may be addressed to the Office for Institutional Equity - 734-763-0235, TTY 734-647-1388, institutional.equity@umich.edu.

REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

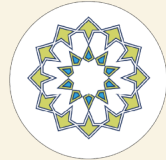
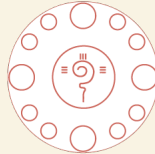
Jordan B. Acker, Huntington Woods
Michael J. Behm, Grand Blanc
Mark J. Bernstein, Ann Arbor
Paul W. Brown, Ann Arbor
Sarah Hubbard, Okemos
Denise Ilitch, Bingham Farms, chair
Ron Weiser, Ann Arbor
Katherine E. White, Ann Arbor
Santa J. Ono, *ex officio*

CULTURAL GRADUATION CELEBRATIONS

OAMI's cultural graduation celebrations supplement the traditional U-M commencement. They are held during graduation week to express appreciation for the achievements, commonalities, and cultural differences that characterize the experiences of graduating students. Additionally, they offer a chance for students to recognize the impact of faculty and staff with awards and honors.

CELEBRATION SYMBOLS

These symbols are used by OAMI and the organizing committees to represent the seven cultural graduations:



Black Celebratory
Native Student Graduation
La Celebración Latina
Middle Eastern/North African Graduation

Asian & Pacific Islander Graduation
First-Generation Graduation
Undocumented Students Graduation

oami.umich.edu/grad-celebrations



OFFICE OF ACADEMIC MULTICULTURAL INITIATIVES
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

