



UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Middle Eastern

&

North African

GRADUATION CELEBRATION

2 0 2 4



Celebration Welcome Letter

We are honored to congratulate the 2024 Middle Eastern/North African graduates of the University of Michigan!

This celebration highlights the accomplishments and cultural impact of this year's graduating class at the University of Michigan. We hope this celebration not only honors you but also inspires current and future students to reach their goals.

As we applaud this extraordinary graduating class, we are excited about your opportunities. We are confident that you have the skills, talent, drive and commitment to navigate and overcome the obstacles and challenges of life and to make a difference in your communities and the world.

While college can be challenging for all students, you have endured one of the most challenging times in the history of the University and broader society. We are humbled by your resilience as a U-M student, and we hope you will draw on the strength, knowledge, and wisdom you've gained to meet future life challenges.

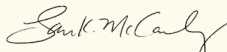
The Class of 2024 has made a significant impact during its time at Michigan. We are a better university because of your gifts, talents and contributions to the campus community. The University of Michigan will always be your home, and you will always be welcome.

While this week offers an exciting rite of passage for you, your families and your communities, we realize that you are also graduating during a time of great uncertainty and difficulty. We hope that you continue to work together to find ways to build a future full of joy and hope.

Go forth and excel in everything you do personally and professionally, with integrity and pride. And wherever your journey takes you, Go Blue!



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 your remarkable achievement! Your hard work, perseverance, and dedication brought you to this moment, and I am incredibly proud of all that you have accomplished. As you reflect on your time at the University of Michigan, I hope you carry with you fond memories of the friendships you made, the challenges you overcame, and the knowledge you gained.

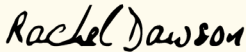
I acknowledge how bittersweet this moment may be for many of you. I know that as you celebrate with pride, unfortunately, many of you also must grieve the loss of family and friends throughout the Middle East, and grapple with the trauma you face as a result of racism, harassment, and discrimination in our world and on our campus. Please know that I wish you peace, equality, and protection, and urge on the day when your humanity is respected and recognized around the world.

I also want to emphasize the great deal of gratitude the University of Michigan owes to you. Your unique perspectives and experiences enriched our community and contributed to the diversity that defines Michigan. Your resilience is inspiring, and your persistence in fighting for your community, defining your own identity, and engaging in wonderful acts of self-expression is to be applauded.

As you move forward, remember the values that have guided you thus far: integrity, resilience, and a commitment to social justice. Carry these values with you as you navigate the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead, and remember that you have the power to shape the world around you for the better – you certainly have done so here.

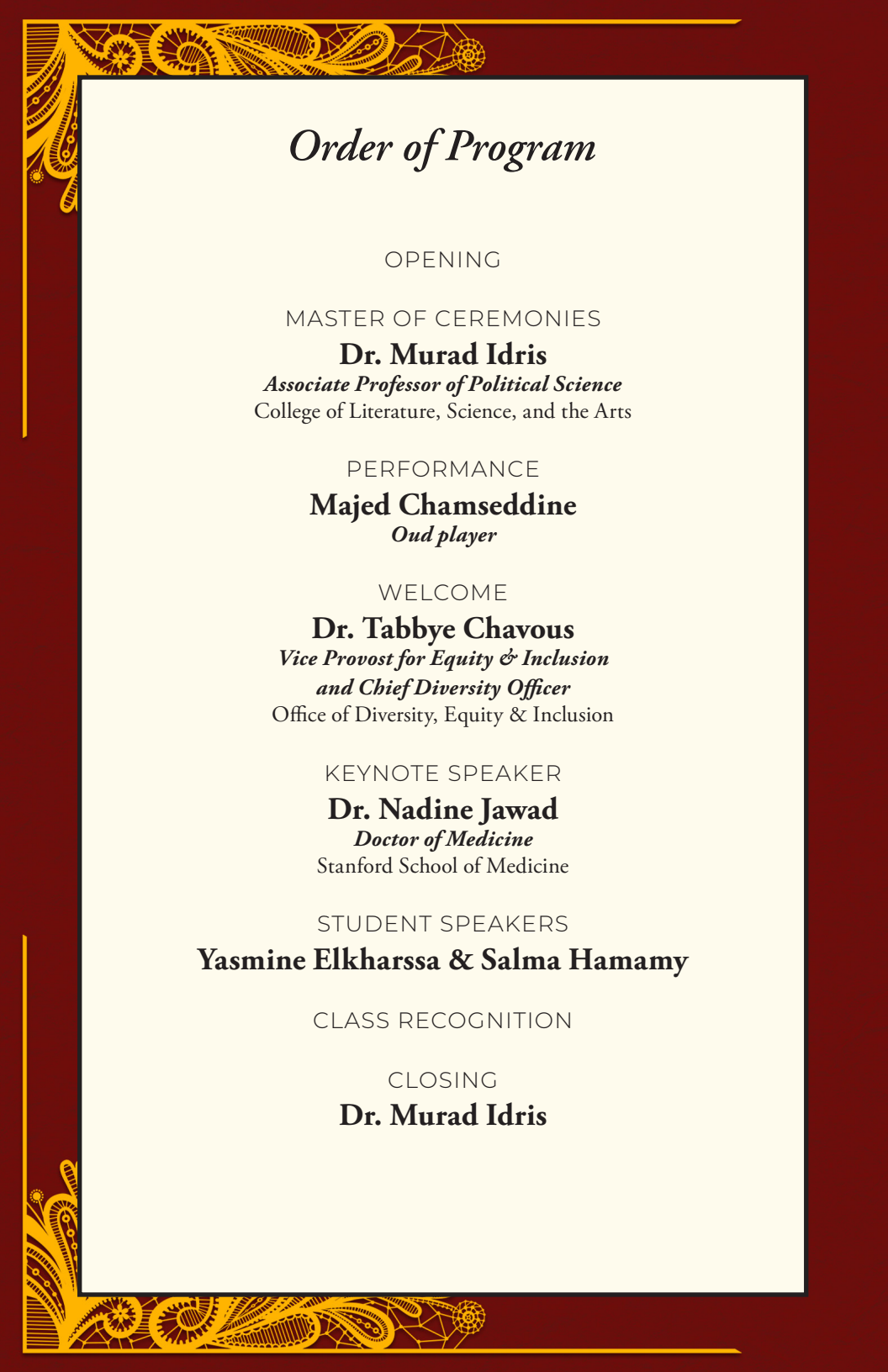
Congratulations once again on your graduation! I wish you all the best in your future endeavors and look forward to seeing the amazing things you will accomplish.

Sincerely,



Rachel Dawson

Director for the Office of Multicultural Academic Initiatives



Order of Program

OPENING

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Dr. Murad Idris

Associate Professor of Political Science
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

PERFORMANCE

Majed Chamseddine

Oud player

WELCOME

Dr. Tabbye Chavous

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

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Nadine Jawad

Doctor of Medicine
Stanford School of Medicine

STUDENT SPEAKERS

Yasmine Elkharsa & Salma Hamamy

CLASS RECOGNITION

CLOSING

Dr. Murad Idris

Master of Ceremonies



Murad Idris, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Political Science
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Professor Idris has wide-ranging interests in political theory and the history of political thought, including war and peace, critical theory, conceptual history, anticolonial and postcolonial thought, political theology, international political theory, comparative political theory, and Arabic and Islamic political thought.

Prof. Idris's book, *War for Peace: Genealogies of a Violent Ideal in Western and Islamic Thought* (2019), won the David Easton Award from APSA, and the International Ethics Best Book Award from ISA, and the Best Book in Interdisciplinary Studies Award also from ISA. He co-edited *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Political Theory* (2020), with Leigh Jenco and Megan Thomas. He previously held fellowships or positions at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, the Academy of Global Humanities and Critical Theory in Bologna, the Society of Fellows in the Humanities at Columbia University, the Department of Government at Cornell University, and the Mahindra Humanities Center at Harvard University. Prior to joining Michigan, he was associate professor of politics at the University of Virginia. He received his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Pennsylvania.

Welcome Speaker



Tabbye M. 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.

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.

Keynote Speaker



**Nadine K. Jawad,
M.D./M.Phil.**

Doctor of Medicine

Stanford School of Medicine

Dr. Nadine K. Jawad is a 2018 University of Michigan Ford School alumna and a recent graduate of the Stanford School of Medicine, where she was a Knight Hennessy Scholar. During her time at the University of Michigan, Nadine was the student body vice president and selected as a 2017 Truman Scholar and a 2018

Rhodes Scholar, where she went on to complete her Master of Philosophy in Comparative Social Policy at Oxford University. Nadine is slated to begin transitional year residency at Henry Ford Detroit and will thereafter complete residency in Preventive Medicine and General Public Health. Her research and clinical interests encompass unhoused care, immigrant and refugee health, opioid use disorder, and the political determinants of health. She is currently the co-founder of the Lebanese Diaspora Relief Organization.

Student Speakers



Yasmine Elkharsa

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy
Public Policy;
2023 Truman Scholar



Salma Hamamy

School of Literature, Science, and the Arts
*Biology, Health and Society; Middle Eastern
and North African Studies;*
Law, Justice, and Social Change;
Arabic Studies



Doctoral Graduates

Maymona Al Hinai
School of Public Health
Nutritional Sciences

Eli Massey
University of Michigan Law School
Juris Doctor

Master's Graduates

**Hameedah Al
Dawood**
Stephen M. Ross School
of Business
Global MBA

Reem Wassim Ali
School of Public Health
*Public Health; Hospital
and Molecular
Epidemiology*

**Yousuf
Altameemi**
Stephen M. Ross School
of Business
Business Analytics

Razan Andigani
College of Engineering
Robotics

Noor Msallaty
Stephen M. Ross School
of Business
Management

Bachelor's Graduates

Samrah Abbasi

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Psychology

Carma Ghaida Abu-Elnaj

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Computation and Cognition

Tiffany Adam

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Biomolecular science

Hannah Ahdab

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Political Science

Abbas Kassem Ajami

College of Engineering
Biomedical Engineering

Hanin Alhubaishi

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

Eaman Ali

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts,
Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design
Political Science; Art & Design

Rawan Aljaber

College of Engineering
Aerospace Engineering

Ahmad Zayd Alkadri

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
*Molecular, Cellular, and
Developmental Biology*

Yazen Omar Alomary

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Neuroscience

Raneem Alshihabi

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Biomolecular Science

Mariam Alshourbagy

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
*Philosophy, Politics, and Economics;
International Studies*

Gharam Alsnayyan

College of Engineering
Electrical Engineering

Dan S. Altman

College of Engineering
Mechanical Engineering

Rawan Antar

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
*Biomolecular Science; Middle Eastern
and North African Studies*

Aya Assaf

College of Engineering
Computer Science

Nicole Mary Baalbaki

College of Engineering
Chemical Engineering

Masa Baghal

Marsal Family School of Education
Education; Biology and Psychology

Nadine Bazzi

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

Hassan Ismail Chammout

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Biology, Health and Society; Drama

Bachelor's Graduates

Nirbhay Chatani

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
*Organizational Studies; Philosophy,
Political Science, and Economics*

Yara Chehab

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
*Political Science; Moral and
Political Philosophy*

Farah Chouaib

School of Public Health
Public Health Sciences

Zeinab Ali Eidy

School of Public Health
Public Health Sciences

Yasmine Hesham

El-Rewini

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

Zahraa Elghoul

School of Information
User Experience Design

Marina Elia

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Honors Biochemistry; Philosophy

Yasmine Elkharssa

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy
Public Policy

Jad Elsaghir

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

Jad Jihad Fakhoury

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

Lillian Kamar Fakih

Stephen M. Ross School of Business
Business Administration

Mohamed Jamal Farhan

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

Jad M Fawaz

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

Zeena Garada

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

Sarah Gargouri

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
*Neuroscience; Middle Eastern
and North African Studies*

Grace Aida Garmo

School of Information
User Experience Design

Hamida Ghali

School of Nursing
Nursing

Fatimeh Ghazali

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Neuroscience

Yasmina Maria Haddad

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

Yasmeen Hafeez

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Political Science

Bachelor's Graduates

Mahmoud Chawki Hage

College of Engineering
Mechanical Engineering

Reema Haimour

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Psychology

Yusuf Safar Halabi

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Computer Science

Salma Hamamy

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
*Biology, Health and Society; Middle
Eastern and North African Studies*

Ziad Harb

College of Engineering
Mechanical Engineering

Arwa Hassaballa

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

Reem Hassan

Stephen M. Ross School of Business
Business Administration

Jumana Ibrahim

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Economics

Zena Issa

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Communication and Media; Journalism

Sereena Jallad

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

Karam Jazmati

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Computer Science

Malak B. Kalasho

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy
Public Policy major; Economics

Celeste Kettaneh

School of Public Health
Community and Global Public Health

Sara Khasawneh

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

Sophia Mashlab

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

Maha Mattar

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

Mitra Mokhlesi

College of Engineering
Computer Science

Zainab Mukdad

Mustafa

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Political Science

Neil Joseph Nakkash

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy
Public Policy

Noor Nashashibi

School of Public Health
Public Health

Bachelor's Graduates

Ghina Nimer

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy
Public Policy

Fairooz Jamal Oudeif

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Biomolecular Science

Mohamad Hassan Reda

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Political Science

Aman Fayzeh Salahie

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

Nooralhuda Omar Sami

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
*Medical Anthropology;
Middle Eastern Studies*

Nardine Samuel

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

Riad Seif

Stephen M. Ross School of Business
Bachelor of Business Administration

Jennah Shah

College of Engineering
Computer Science; Entrepreneurship

Aya Yahya

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
*Molecular, Cellular, and
Developmental Biology*

Nour Yahya

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
*Biology, Health, and Society;
Middle East and North African
Studies; Minor: Islamic Studies*

Jenna Youness

School of Music, Theatre & Dance,
Stephen M. Ross School of Business
Business Administration; Musical Arts

Lilyan Nabil Zebib

Stephen M. Ross School of Business
Bachelors of Business Administration

Dania Amne Zeidan

College of Literature, Science, and
the Arts; School of Public Health
*Community and Global Public Health;
Middle Eastern and North African Studies*

Manar Zoulfikar

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Biomolecular Science



Middle Eastern/North African Graduation Planning Committee

Thank you to the offices, students, and staff that have supported the ME/NA celebration throughout the years.

Sana Sharba
Ahmed Elkhatib
Leyla Dumke
Neil Nakkash
Yasmine Elkharrsa
Zeinab Alhashemi

2024 ME/NA Celebration is coordinated by:

Héctor Galván
*Assistant Director, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives,
a unit of the Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion*

Graduation Celebration History

The University of Michigan's first ME/NA graduation was held in 2015 with support from the Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives. This celebration was hosted in the Michigan Union Rogel Ballroom, 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 the Middle Eastern and North African students at the University of Michigan. The ME/NA celebration is one of seven cultural graduations hosted annually by the Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives.



Graduation Celebration Mission

The Middle Eastern/North African Graduation celebrates the commonalities and differences that characterize the experiences of Middle Eastern, North African, 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 Middle Eastern and North African experience and serves to commemorate the accomplishments of those students that participate in the Celebratory. The graduation 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.

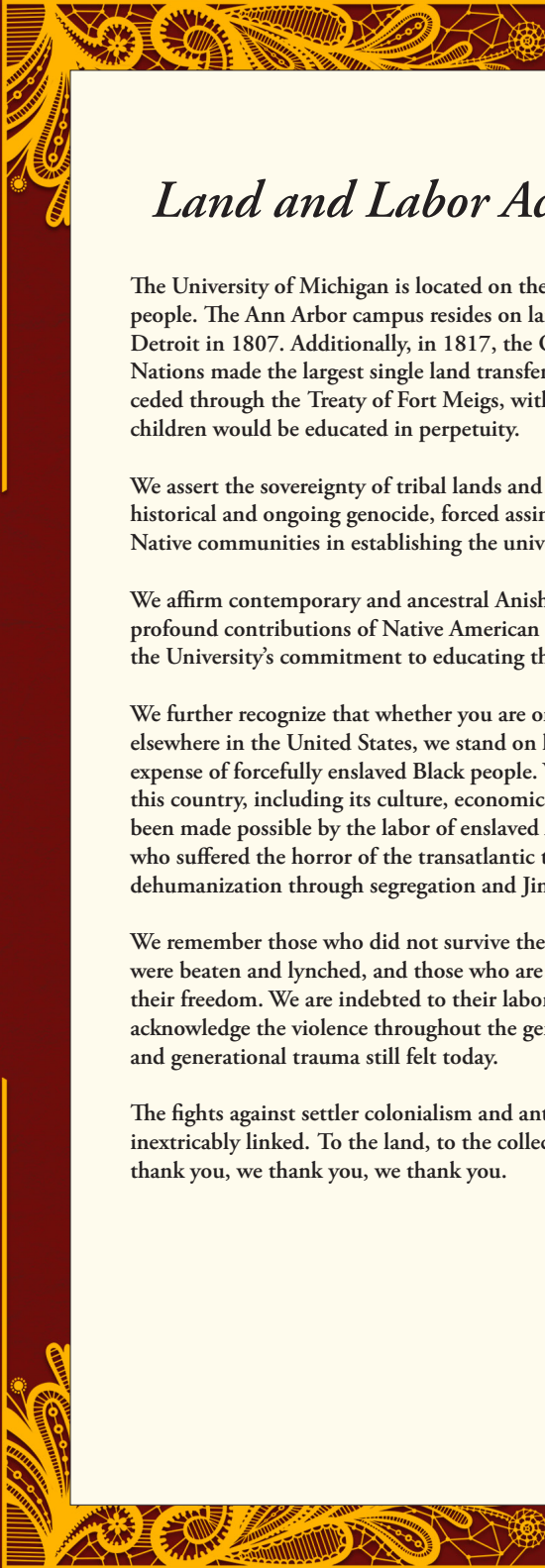
The Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives, in partnership with the Middle Eastern/North African Planning Committee, institutes this annual celebration as an expression and tradition of valuing the University's cultural offerings and commitment to diversity.

Statement of Freedom of Speech and Artistic Expression

The University of Michigan strives to create an open 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



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.

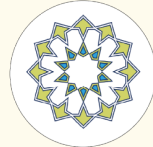
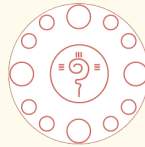
The fights against settler colonialism and anti-blackness will always be inextricably linked. To the land, to the collective, and to the ancestors, we thank you, we thank you, we thank you.

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 Students Graduation
Undocumented Students Graduation

oami.umich.edu/grad-celebrations



OFFICE OF ACADEMIC MULTICULTURAL INITIATIVES
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

