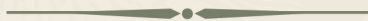




Undocumented Student

GRADUATION
CELEBRATION



Class of 2024



RECOGNITION FROM UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP

We are honored to recognize the 2024 class of undocumented students graduating from the University of Michigan.

We are proud and humbled that you chose to bring your talents to the University of Michigan and participate in and contribute to its communities. We remain committed to supporting access and opportunities for other undocumented students like you who demonstrate immense potential and contribute so much to our campus, individually and culturally.

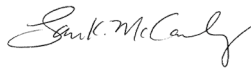
Navigating college requires academic and intellectual skills, strength, courage and determination. In pursuing higher education, you have taken steps to expand the world of opportunities that await you, one where dreams have the potential to become a reality. The impacts of your hard work and accomplishments will be long-lasting and also offer hope and inspiration to those who are connected to your success and those who follow in your footsteps. Pursuing higher education means expanding your world and opportunities, one where dreams can become a reality. Your commitment and drive will have long-lasting impacts while inspiring others to follow your lead.

Our University community has been made better by having you as students. The University of Michigan will always be your home, and you will always be welcome.

Go forth and excel in everything you do personally and professionally, and always 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 graduating from the University of Michigan! Despite the challenges you may have faced, you succeeded in achieving your academic goals. Your determination and perseverance are a testament to your character, strength, and readiness for the next stage of your life.

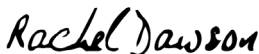
As you move on, I want to take a moment to celebrate your incredible accomplishments. I know this milestone may be accompanied by unique challenges and uncertainties. Being an undocumented student can be an isolating experience that many don't understand. While you dedicated time and energy to your studies, you may have often carried the weight of discrimination, fear of deportation, and separation from your family. You had to do all of this in the middle of a pandemic that created even more isolation and separation, and yet you met all these challenges with strength, determination, and resilience.

As you navigate this next chapter of your life, please know that you are not alone. You have resources and support systems both on campus and within the broader community, and I encourage you to reach out for help when you need it.

I also thank you for all that you have contributed to the University of Michigan. You worked tirelessly to create a community for undocumented students across campus so that no one would be left behind. You worked with our office and university leaders to develop policies and opportunities to support undocumented students. You refused to stay in the shadows, and because of you, our campus is better.

Congratulations once again on this incredible achievement. May your strength, dignity, and persistence serve you well in all you do. The University of Michigan is proud to have you as a graduate, and I look forward to seeing the impact you will undoubtedly make in the world.

Sincerely,



Rachel Dawson

Director for the Office of Multicultural Academic Initiatives



OPENING

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Catalina Concha-Ormsby

Associate Director

Center for Educational Outreach

WELCOME

Dr. Tabbye Chavous

*Vice Provost for Equity & Inclusion
and Chief Diversity Officer*

Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Ashley Lucas

*Professor of Theatre & Drama, the Residential College,
the Penny Stamps School of Art & Design, and English*

Language and Literature

CLASS RECOGNITION

CLOSING

Catalina Concha-Ormsby



Master of Ceremonies



Catalina Concha-Ormsby

Associate Director

Center for Educational Outreach

Catalina Concha-Ormsby is the Associate Director for the Center for Educational Outreach (CEO). She has served as a higher education professional occupying various administrative and leadership roles at the University of Michigan for almost 20 years. Her areas of responsibility include building faculty, staff and student capacity in educational outreach efforts, leading faculty initiatives to support and strengthen educational outreach, and advancing CEO's ongoing partnerships and new collaborations across campus and beyond. She also serves as a lecturer at the School of Social Work where she teaches a graduate course on intergroup dialogue, diversity and social justice. As a native Colombian and first-generation student, she is passionate about serving underrepresented students and providing them with tools and resources to maximize their potential while learning skills necessary for navigating their academic and social environments. She is a founder and chair of the Professional Latinx at U-M Alliance (PLUMA) and serves as the advisor for the Latinx student organization La Casa.

She received a master's degree from the University of Michigan's Ford School of Public Policy and completed her bachelor's degree with honors at Eastern Michigan University's Business School.



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.



Keynote Speaker



Ashley Lucas, Ph.D.

*Professor of Theatre & Drama, the Residential College,
the Penny Stamps School of Art & Design, and English
Language and Literature*

Dr. Ashley Lucas is professor of Theatre & Drama, the Residential College, the Penny Stamps School of Art & Design, and English Language and Literature at the University of Michigan. For six years, she also served as director of the Prison Creative Arts Project (PCAP) and is currently one of the faculty leads on a large-scale humanities archival project called, Documenting Criminalization and Confinement. She holds a B.A. in Theater Studies and English from Yale University and a joint Ph.D. in Ethnic Studies and Theatre and Drama from the University of California, San Diego.

She is a fellow of the Ford Foundation, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) Faculty Engaged Scholars Program, UNC's Institute for Arts and Humanities, and U-M's Institute for the Humanities. Her research and teaching interests include U.S. Latina/o theatre, prison theatre, theatre for social change, and related topics in acting, playwriting, and comparative ethnic studies. Lucas is also the author of an ethnographic play about the families of prisoners entitled *Doin' Time: Through the Visiting Glass*, which she has performed as a one-woman show throughout the U.S. and in Ireland, Brazil, and Canada.

Her forthcoming book *Prison Theatre and the Global Crisis of Incarceration* (Bloomsbury, Sept. 2020) examines the ways in which incarcerated people use theatre to counteract the dehumanizing forces of the prison. Her scholarly publications include articles in the *Journal of American Drama and Theatre*, the *Journal for the Study of Radicalism*, *Latin American Theater Review*, *American Music*, and *Revista de Literatura Contemporania de México*.



Master's Graduates



Diana Martinez

School for Environment and Sustainability
*Environmental Sustainability;
Behavior, Education, and Communication*

So thankful for my community away from home in my new home at the University of Michigan.

Stephany Mendez Ortega

School of Public Health
*Health Services of Administration;
Health Management & Policy*



¡Gracias a mi familia (Mom, Dad, Miah, Janeth ❤️) por todo su amor y apoyo durante todo este proceso!



Sandra Perez Gonzalez

School of Social Work
*Environmental Sustainability;
Policy & Political Social Work*

I appreciate everyone I met throughout my journey. Also big shoutout to those who have believed in me including mentors, staff, professors, and friends. Mil gracias a mi familia por su apoyo ❤️





Joseph Mendoza Martinez

School of Public Health
Health Services Administration

Bachelor's Graduates

Alexis Camarena Torres

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts,
Stephen M. Ross School of Business
Business Administration; Computer Science



Hector (David) DeLaRosa

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

*Gracias a mi bella esposa, mis amigos
inteligentes y mi maravillosa familia por su
continuo amor y apoyo! ❤️*





Zoe Hu - Hú Zé Yuán

College of Engineering
Materials Science & Engineering

Lauren Yocoli Kouassi

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience;
Law, Justice, and Social Change



Thank you to everyone that has helped me get through these four years. I'm happy to have stumbled upon SCOPE one day in Trotter ❤️ See you next year!



Jeimy López García

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Organizational Studies

Querida familia,

Quiero decirles que los agradezco mucho por su apoyo y amor. Sus consejos han sido la luz que ha guiado mi camino hacia esta meta. Sin ustedes, esto no seria posible. Con todo mi corazon, gracias por estar siempre a mi lado y por creer en mi.



*Congratulations Undocumented and
DACAmented graduates!*



UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT GRADUATION
CELEBRATION PLANNING COMMITTEE

Jeimy López García
Brenda Garcia
Karla Osorio
Alan Nava

The 2024 Undocumented Student Graduation
is coordinated by:

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



GRADUATION CELEBRATION HISTORY

This annual graduation ceremony, which began in 2019, is one of various celebrations organized by the Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives (OAMI) that supplement the traditional University of Michigan Commencement and express appreciation for the achievements, commonalities, and cultural differences that characterize the experiences of students at the University of Michigan.

The Undocumented Student Celebration celebrates the graduation of undocumented students and students with DACA at the University of Michigan. This event allows for graduating students to celebrate their accomplishments with those who supported them during their academic journey, including friends, family and community members, and U-M faculty, staff, and administrators.

This event is organized in collaboration with the Student Community of Progressive Empowerment (SCOPE), a student organization that advocates for and centers the experiences of undocumented students at the University of Michigan. While aware of the many challenges presented to undocumented individuals across the country as pertaining to legal status, we are proud to showcase and honor with great pride the tenacity and determination of our own students.

GRADUATION CELEBRATION MISSION

The Undocumented Student Graduation celebrates the commonalities and differences that characterize the experiences of undocumented 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 undocumented 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 (OAMI), in partnership with the Undocumented Student Graduation Planning Committee, institutes this annual celebration as an expression and tradition of valuing the University's cultural offerings and commitment to diversity.



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 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*

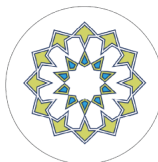


CULTURAL GRADUATION CELEBRATIONS

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 Students Graduation
Undocumented Students Graduation

oami.umich.edu/grad-celebrations





OFFICE OF ACADEMIC MULTICULTURAL INITIATIVES
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN