

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

First-Generation Student Celebration

2025



FIRST GENERATION
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



**We may be the first,
but we will not
be the last!**



OAMI'S EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE

To the Graduating Class of 2025,

Congratulations! We want to honor your hard work, dedication, and perseverance as you celebrate this incredible achievement. Graduating from the University of Michigan is a significant accomplishment, and doing so as a first-generation student is even more commendable.

Your journey has been unique, marked by challenges, sacrifices, and moments of triumph. As a first-generation graduate, you have laid the foundation for a promising career, created a lasting legacy for yourself and your family, and overcome doubt and fear, blazing a trail for those who come after you.

We are so grateful for the contributions you have made to our campus community. Because of your leadership and engagement, your community is more energized and visible. Our faculty and staff better understand your individual paths and how we can support you along the way. We have more resources and spaces for those who come after you. We thank you for these and countless other contributions.

As you prepare to enter the next phase of your life, furthering your education, entering the workforce, or pursuing other dreams, remember this – you carry a spirit of resilience and the strength of your story. Being a first-generation graduate is a badge of honor, a testament to your strength and determination.

As you meet new challenges, remember to stay true to yourself, continue to learn and grow, and never forget the community that supported you along the way. You are a trailblazer, a pioneer, and a powerful example of what is possible when hard work meets opportunity.

Congratulations once again on this remarkable achievement!

With gratitude,

The Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives

PROGRAM

WELCOME

Dr. Tabbye Chavous

Vice Provost for Equity & Inclusion and Chief
Diversity Officer

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Aidan Sova

STUDENT SPEAKER

Selia Monique Rendon

PRESENTATION OF THE GRADUATES

CLOSING

Dr. Norris Chase

Director of the LSA First-Generation
Commitment

MASTER OF CEREMONIES



NORRIS CHASE, PH.D.

Director of the LSA First-Generation Commitment

Dr. Chase serves as the Director of the LSA First-Generation Commitment. As a first-generation college graduate, Dr. Chase brings enthusiasm and experience with developing, designing, implementing, and evaluating student success initiatives within and across higher education institution types.

Prior to joining LSA and the First-Generation Commitment, Dr. Chase served as Dean of Students/Chief Student Affairs Officer at Eureka College, overseeing all aspects of co-curricular engagement, including strategic planning, co-curricular assessment, housing and residential life, student activities, new student and family programs, and inclusive excellence. Prior to Eureka, Dr. Chase served as the Executive Director for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at Bradley University for over six years, leading initiatives to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in student outcomes and engagement.

Dr. Chase believes in the transformative power of higher education and is excited about building this new and exciting department. As a practitioner-scholar, Dr. Chase's professional experience and scholarship cut across two areas: student success and identity-centered engagement.

Outside of serving as a director, Dr. Chase is an aspirational foodie who enjoys spending time with family and friends while cheering on the Detroit Pistons and the Oakland University basketball teams.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



AIDAN SOVA

Regional Product Lead of AI-Powered Ads, Google
Trustee and Vice President, Ann Arbor District Library

Aidan Sova grew up in a low-income, single-parent household in Jackson, Michigan. Inspired by the support of an entire community and mother's care, he decided to dedicate his life to service. He worked many internships, assistant opportunities, and hourly jobs to prepare for the professional world in the hopes of one day giving back to southeast Michigan.

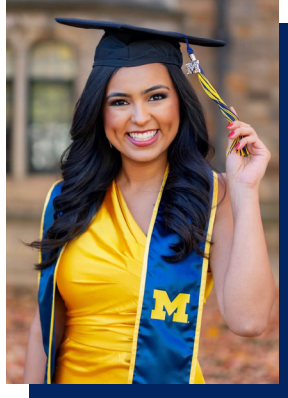
He is now a Regional Product Lead of AI-Powered Ads at Google. Previously, he led the Big Ten Student Government Association as Executive Director and served as a Human Rights Commissioner for the City of Ann Arbor. He also contributed to the State of Michigan's Coronavirus Task Force on Racial Disparities and the Growing Michigan Together Council work group on infrastructure.

Sova is the Trustee and Vice President of the Ann Arbor District Library, making him the youngest-ever Black person elected to any office in city history. Currently, he is also an Emerging Leaders Council Member for the Legal Services Corporation and Community Advisor to Grow Jackson.

He is a recipient of the City of Jackson's Youth Citizen of the Year Award, the State of Michigan's Youth Volunteer of the Year Award, Jackson Black Excellence Award, Jackson 30 and Under Distinction, and the University of Michigan's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Service Award.

Aidan is a first-generation graduate of the University of Michigan (2021) and the University of Pennsylvania (2024).

STUDENT SPEAKER



SELIA MONIQUE RENDON

Selia Monique Rendon is a senior in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, majoring in Political Science with a minor in Crime and Justice. She is a proud recipient of the ABC Greater Houston Chapter Scholarship. During her time at the University of Michigan, she has served as Treasurer and Historian of the phenomenal Alpha Chapter of Delta Tau Lambda Sorority, Inc., and made history as the first Latina to be crowned Miss Wayne County through the Miss America Scholarship Organization.

Driven by a passion for service and community empowerment, she founded *SmartCents*, a financial literacy initiative aimed at equipping students across Metro Detroit with the tools and knowledge to make informed financial decisions. After graduation, she plans to pursue a Juris Doctor and become an attorney, using her voice and experiences to advocate for justice and equity in underserved communities.

DOCTORAL GRADUATES

Flora Kibong

School of Information, School of Public Health
Health Informatics

LaShawnda McLean

School of Nursing
Nursing

Patrizio Rosatelli

College of Engineering
Aerospace Engineering

MASTER'S GRADUATES

Lizett Aguilar

Gerald R. Ford School of Public
Policy, School of Information
Public Policy; Information

Zannatun Alim

A. Alfred Taubman College
of Architecture and Urban
Planning
Architecture

Amber Brewer

School of Public Health
*Epidemiology; Social
Epidemiology*

Nicolas Calo

School of Information
Applied Data Science

Jeong Hin Chin

School of Information
Information

Caitlin Crittenden

School of Information
*Health Informatics; DEI
Certificate; Innovation and
Entrepreneurship*

Kalpana Das

School of Public Health
Biostatistics

Frankie Douglass

School of Public Health
Nutrition; Dietetics

Shravani Gummaraju

School of Public Health
Epidemiology

Zariah Hernandez

A. Alfred Taubman College
of Architecture and Urban
Planning
Architecture

Benjamin Isyk

Stephen M. Ross School of
Business
Management

Shaun Laurel

Stephen M. Ross School of
Business
Business Administration

MASTER'S GRADUATES

Gail Lyons

School for Environment and
Sustainability
*Environmental Justice and
Sustainable Development*

Ashley Mendoza

School of Social Work
*Social Work; Welfare of
Children and Families*

Suliyat Olagbenro

School for Environment and
Sustainability
Sustainable Systems

Farah Pitcher

Gerald R. Ford School of Public
Policy
*Public Policy; Science,
Technology, and Public Policy*

Hunter Richards

Rackham Graduate School
*Civil and Environmental
Engineering*

Juan Roacho

School of Public Health
*General Epidemiology, Public
Health Genetics*

Lisa Tseng

Stephen M. Ross School of
Business
Business Administration

Simon Weingaertner

College of Engineering,
Rackham Graduate School
Mechanical Engineering

Fei Wu

College of Engineering
*Computer Science and
Engineering*

BACHELOR'S GRADUATES

Haifaa Abuelezz

School of Dentistry
Dental Hygiene

Mackenzie Adamczak

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
*Chemistry; Polish Language,
Literature, and Culture*

Fiorella Adan

School of Nursing
Nursing

Zainab Ahmad

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
*Biopsychology, Cognition, and
Neuroscience; Asian Languages
and Cultures*

Modesrah Ahmed

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Psychology

Christopher Alajajian

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Neuroscience

Shoaib Alshuja

A. Alfred Taubman College
of Architecture and Urban
Planning

Chinyere Amasiatu

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Computer Science

Jennifer Arroyo

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

Camila Avalos

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

Enrique Baranda

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Sociology; Writing

Bianca Barraza

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

Ashley Barringer

College of Engineering
Biomedical Engineering

Kenneth Bauman

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Psychology

Faviana Bazan

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
*Political Science; International
Studies*

Colleen Bello

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

Cithlaly Betancourt

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

BACHELOR'S GRADUATES

Cassidy Brimer

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

*Communication and Media;
Women's and Gender Studies*

Ashley Carman

College of Engineering
Aerospace Engineering; Physics

Emily Castaneda- Espinoza

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

Psychology; Linguistics

Jason Chao

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

*Molecular, Cellular, and
Developmental Biology; Music*

Idalis Chavez

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

Biomolecular Science

Amy Chen

College of Engineering
*Chemical Engineering; Industrial
& Operations Engineering*

Rohima Chowdhury

School of Nursing
Nursing

Faijanur Chowdhury

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

*Biopsychology, Cognition, and
Neuroscience*

Yasmira Cortez

College of Engineering
Chemical Engineering

Logan Davies

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

*Chemistry; Anthropological
Archaeology*

Maegan Davis

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

*Philosophy; Law, Justice, and
Social Change*

Alayah Davis

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

*Sociology; Law, Justice, And
Social Change*

Afjalur Dipu

Stephen M. Ross School of
Business

Business Administration

Emily Dominguez

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

*Computer Science; Business
Administration*

Morgan Doyen

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

Sociology; Urban Studies

Estrella Escutia

School of Nursing
*Nursing; Global Health; Gender
and Health Studies*

Brenda Itzel Esquivel Rivera

School of Information
*User Experience Design;
Education for Empowerment,
Urban Studies*

BACHELOR'S GRADUATES

Michelle Fajardo

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

Computer Science; Linguistics

Sara Gajos

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

*Political Science; Social Class &
Inequality Studies*

Yuan Gao

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

Biology, Health, and Society

Elaine Garcia

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

Economics; Latino/a Studies

Breya Gardner

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

*Biopsychology, Cognition, and
Neuroscience*

Angelika Gasior

Stephen M. Ross School of
Business

Business Administration

Gabriela Gaytan-Aguirre

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

*Sociology; Law, Justice, Social
Change; Spanish*

Madison Gillis

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

*Molecular, Cellular and
Developmental Biology;
American Culture*

Andrea Gonzalez

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

Latina/o Studies; Chemistry

Anadelia Gonzalez-Segura

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

*Sociology; Law, Justice, and
Social Change; Education for
Empowerment*

MaShelle Nia Gregory

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

Statistics; Portuguese

Mariam Habring

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

*Biology, Health, and Society;
Spanish*

Mansurul Hamja

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

Psychology

Jacy Hammonds

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

Women's and Gender Studies

Karrar Hamoudi

School of Nursing

Nursing; Global Health

Amari Hardy

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

*Program in the Environment;
Ecology and Evolutionary
Biodiversity*

BACHELOR'S GRADUATES

Rachel Hoops

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts, School for
Environment and Sustainability
Statistics; Environment

Robbie Hudzinski

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts, Stephen M. Ross
School of Business
*Business Administration; Film,
Television, and Media*

Jacqueline Huynh

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

Kaylee Johnson

College of Engineering
Computer Engineering; German

Ramesh Kafley

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Economics

Harpreet Kaur

School of Dentistry
Dental Hygiene

Charlotte Kehrberg

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
*Psychology; Sociology: Social
Work; LGBTQ+ Studies*

Katie Keim

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

Brandon Keyes

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
*Organizational Studies;
Entrepreneurship*

Lakya Keys

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

Mujahedulislam Khan

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
*Computer Science;
Entrepreneurship*

Kaycee Khuat

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

Kassandra Kohsmann

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

Jason Kooima

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Economics

Autumn Kucharczyk

School of Nursing
Nursing

Emily Laffey

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Arts and Ideas in the Humanities

Emily Li

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

BACHELOR'S GRADUATES

Maddison Linker

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

*Psychology; Organizational
Studies*

Kate Lopez

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

Psychology

Christian Lored-Duran

Gerald R. Ford School of Public
Policy

*Public Policy; Music; Latinx
Studies; Law, Justice, and Social
Change*

Jenna Lowe

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

Sociology

Vanessa Ly

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

*Computer Science; Digital
Studies*

Giana Mae

Stephen M. Ross School of
Business

*Business Administration;
Entrepreneurship*

Meghan Mak

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

*Biomolecular Science;
Environmental Science*

Shakilla Malikzada

A. Alfred Taubman College
of Architecture and Urban
Planning
Architecture

Leticia Marquez

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

Sociology; Health and Medicine

Paige Marsman

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

Psychology; Spanish; Linguistics

Melanie Martinez-Lopez

School of Information
User Experience

Manuel Maya

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

*Psychology; Sociology; Law,
Justice, and Social Change;
Community Action and Social
Change*

Luz Mayancela Cazho

Gerald R. Ford School of Public
Policy

*Public Policy; Education for
Empowerment; Quantitative
Methods in the Social Sciences*

Ella McCalmont

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

*Psychology; Gender and Health,
Education for Empowerment*

JaKhia Mitchell

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

Psychology

Deidre Mitchell

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

*Molecular, Cellular, and
Developmental Biology*

BACHELOR'S GRADUATES

Lina Moalin

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Biomolecular Science

Khadijah Mohammad

School of Dentistry

Tamara Monjaras

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts, School of Social
Work
*Biology, Health, and Society;
Community Action and Social
Change*

Jacqueline Moreno

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
*Political Science; American
Culture; Ethnic Studies*

Steve Nguyen

College of Engineering
*Data Science; User Experience
Design*

Aydin Oelzturk

School of Kinesiology
Sport Management

Jameela Omar

School of Dentistry
Dental Hygiene

Veronica Orozco

School of Nursing
Nursing

Isabelle Pacurar

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

Tom Palmer

Marsal Family School of
Education
*Education in Mathematics; Earth
and Space Science*

Brandon Palomino- Alonso

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

Yanbo Pan

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
*Astronomy and Astrophysics;
Statistics; Interdisciplinary
Physics*

Preciosa Paucar

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Psychology

A'mya Paul

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Anthropology

Andrea Pellot Jimenez

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Physics

Laylah Perez

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

Dazire Peterson

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

BACHELOR'S GRADUATES

Megan Pham

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Psychology

Madelyn Probst

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts, Marsal Family
School of Education
*History; Education for
Empowerment*

Thaslimah Rahman

School of Nursing
Nursing

Lauren Reese

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Ecology; Evolutionary Biology

Selia Rendon

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
*Political Science; Crime and
Justice*

Kylie Rice

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Psychology, Native Studies

Jaidy Rodriguez

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

Jennifer Roman

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Psychology

Morelia Rosas-Martinez

A. Alfred Taubman College
of Architecture and Urban
Planning
*Architecture; Sustainability;
Gender, Race, and Nation*

Emily Rudzinski

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

Tanjina Saeed

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

Sammer Saeed

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Anthropology; Computer Science

Stephanie Saenz

School of Nursing
Nursing

Anthony Sanchez

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts, Gerald R. Ford
School of Public Policy
Political Science; Public Policy

William Sangwa

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

Ka'Lynn Savage

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Political Science

BACHELOR'S GRADUATES

Alanna Grace-Marie Schwartz

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Sociology; Intergroup Relations

Mindy Shimon

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

Samantha Smith

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Asian Studies; Korean Studies

Melissa Su

Stephen M. Ross School of
Business
Business Administration; Chinese

Marquis Sullivan

College of Engineering
*Industrial and Operations
Engineering*

Anisha Sultana

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Economics

Tasnim Tabassum

School of Information
Information; UX Design

Chinmoy Tarafder

College of Engineering
Aerospace Engineering

Itzel Tello

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Education for Empowerment

Shalma Torres

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Anthropology; Urban Studies

Zadia Torres

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

Alisa Tran

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Cognitive Science

Goretti Tran

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Organizational Studies

Francesca Tucci

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

Andres Velasco

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
*International Studies;
Environment*

Citlalli Villagomez

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
*Psychology; Human Anatomy
and Physiology*

Lexia Wabindato

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Psychology

BACHELOR'S GRADUATES

Elizabeth Whitmore

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

Hennessey Wilkins

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
*Ecology, Evolution,
and Biodiversity*

Amonya Woods

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

Jacquelyn Wrubel

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
*Psychology; Community Action
and Social Change*

Caitlin Yeung

School of Information, Stephen
M. Ross School of Business
*Business Administration;
Information Analysis*

Eva Yu

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
*Mathematical Economics;
Economics*

Peter Zhao

Stephen M. Ross School of
Business
Business Administration

Jessaly Zhu

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Physics; Math



**1ST
GEN**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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

**Norris Chase
Timothy Cheek
antonio c. cuyler
Katie Fredline
Joelle Fundaro
Adan Hussain
Sandy Krupa
Dwight Lang
Sylvia Lang
Matthew Sullivan
Caitlin Taylor**

**First Generation Students @ Michigan*
University Career Center
University Housing**

*Founded in the Fall of 2007, First Generation College Students @ 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.

LETTER OF THANKS TO TABBYE CHAVOUS

Dear Dr. Chavous,

Thank you for being here and speaking at this joyous occasion to honor all of our first-generation graduating students. We are happy to have you here with us at a very important moment in many of our lives.

As first-generation students, we have been fortunate to have you as a leader and advocate here at the University of Michigan. You have dedicated over 25 years of your life to educating students from all backgrounds while using your leadership to make them feel more at home.

Just like us, you are a trailblazer. You have also blazed a trail by courageously advocating for under-represented students and the values of providing access to higher education and supporting students along the way.

With your oversight of the Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives, you furthered the growth of these student celebrations, which allow students, families, and loved ones to be here today to celebrate the immense accomplishments of our community.

Thank you for your work at Michigan. We wish you the best as you pursue to make higher education a more welcoming and inclusive place for us and for all.

Sincerely,

The First-Generation Celebration
Planning Committee

FIRST-GENERATION END-OF-YEAR CELEBRATION PLANNING COMMITTEE

The First Generation End-of-the-Year Celebration is a celebration that acknowledges the unique experiences that come with being the first person in your family to graduate from college. The First Generation End-of-the-Year Celebration 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.

Jana Alkadri
Victoria Bloch
Karen Menez
Lexie Milukhin
Terra Molengraff
Shreya Srivathsan
Victoria Bloch

FIRST-GENERATION STUDENT GATEWAY

The First-Generation Gateway and its programs are a four-office 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
Demond Davenport, Interim Director

Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs
Nadia Bazzy, Director

Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives
Sharon Burch and Hector Galvan, Interim Co-directors

Office of New Student Programs
Joe Colangelo, Director

HISTORY OF THE FIRST-GEN CELEBRATION

The University of Michigan's First Generation College Student @ Michigan student organization held its first celebration for graduates in 2008. This first celebration was hosted in the pool hall in the Michigan Union. In 2009 and 2010, the 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 celebration 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 celebration 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 celebration continues to be a highlight of the program and comprises one of seven celebrations hosted annually by the Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives.

STUDENT CELEBRATION MISSION

The First-Generation Celebration reflects the history of activism by first-generation college students to pursue access and opportunity through education. This event celebrates the commonalities and differences that characterize the experiences of first-generation college students and serves as an example of the excellence and innovation first-generation college students bring to the University of Michigan.

The event acknowledges the value and uniqueness of the first-generation student experience and commemorates the accomplishments of those students who participate in the celebration. It honors the communities students bring with them and build during their time at the University of Michigan and beyond. The First-Generation 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 First-Generation Celebration Planning Committee, institutes this annual celebration as an expression and tradition of valuing the University's cultural offerings and commitment to supporting those who are the first in their families to attend and graduate college.

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/employer, complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding nondiscrimination. 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. (Standard Practice Guide Policies)

Inquiries or complaints may be addressed to the Equity, Civil Rights, and Title IX Office, 2072 Administrative Services Building, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1432. Phone: 734-763-0235, TTY 734-647-1388. Email: ecrtoffice@umich.edu.

For other University of Michigan information, call 734-764-1817.

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, Birmingham
Carl J. Myers, Dearborn
Katherine E. White, Ann Arbor, chair
Santa Ono, *ex officio*, President

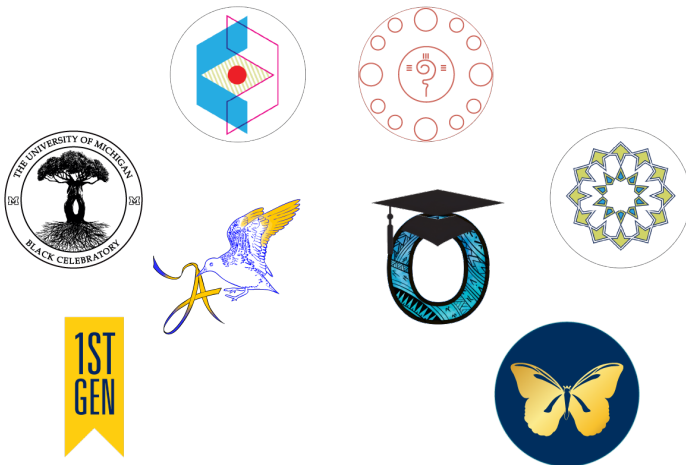
OAMI STUDENT CELEBRATIONS

OAMI Student Celebrations take place during graduation season to honor the achievements, shared experiences, and diverse backgrounds that shape our students' journeys.

All of OAMI's celebrations are open to all students at the University of Michigan, recognizing and honoring the diverse experiences and identities within our community.

CELEBRATION SYMBOLS

These symbols are used by OAMI and the organizing committees to represent the eight student celebrations:



**Native Student Celebration
La Celebración Latina**

**Black Celebratory
Asian Student Celebration
Oceania Student Celebration
Middle Eastern & North African Student Celebration**

**First-Generation Student Celebration
Undocumented Student Celebration**

oami.umich.edu/celebrations

The background of the entire image is a night sky filled with stars. In the lower half, a road with white dashed lines stretches from the bottom center towards a horizon. The horizon is marked by a soft orange and yellow glow, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. On either side of the road, there are dark, silhouetted hills or mountains.

**1ST
GEN**



OFFICE OF ACADEMIC MULTICULTURAL INITIATIVES
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN