

Donde hay luz, hay esperanza Where there is light, there is hope

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OAMI'S EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE

To the Graduating Class of 2025,

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

In April 2000, OAMI and the student committee held the inaugural La Celebración Latina to recognize and celebrate this community's significant contributions to the University. Throughout the celebration's history, many things have evolved across campus. However, the commitment of Latine students, faculty, and staff has remained constant.

As Latine 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. You are "la luz" for your parents, siblings, friends, and all your loved ones. Know that your accomplishments and dreams brighten the world around you and radiate hope with the people you touch.

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.

We know that each of you will go on to do great things in higher ed, workplaces, and communities across the country and the world. We look forward to hearing of 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!

With gratitude, The Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives

ORDER OF EVENTS

OPENING

MASTER OF CEREMONIES Dr. William Calvo-Quirós

Associate Professor, Associate Chair and Director of the Program in Undergraduate Studies College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

WELCOME Dr. Tabbye Chavous

Vice Provost for Equity & Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer

KEYNOTE SPEAKER Dr. Ruth Behar

Victor Haim Perera Collegiate Professor of Anthropology College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

CIRCLE AWARD Ruby Flores Camacho

Program Manager Office of Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs

STUDENT SPEAKER Andrea Vargas Cabrera

CLASS RECOGNITION

U-M LATINO ALUMNI ASSOCIATON Reuben Kapp

U-M Latino Alumni (UMLA) Board Member

CLOSING

CELEBRATION THEME STATEMENT

When darkness threatens to consume, our light endures.

Today marks a milestone—whether you are the first in your family to graduate from a four-year university or continuing a legacy of academic achievement, this day is ours to celebrate. It is a moment of joy, triumph, and recognition of the journey that brought us here.

Yet, as we celebrate this significant milestone, we cannot ignore the challenges our community continues to face. Across the country, Latine people—alongside other marginalized groups have been the target of unchecked actions and inflammatory rhetoric. These acts of violence and discrimination are not new, but they are escalating.

In response, La Celebración Latina planning committee has chosen a theme for this ceremony: **"RADIANTE: Donde hay luz, hay esperanza"—"Where there is light, there is hope**." This theme is a declaration, a reminder of the brilliance we each carry and the collective strength of our community. Many may try to dim our light, but our resistance lies in our ability to envision and create a brighter future.

Every late night spent studying, every sacrifice made, and every barrier broken is proof of our resilience. From the connections we have built through student organizations, to the campus events we have led, we have collectively illuminated spaces across this entire university—and in doing so, we have worked to create a more inclusive campus community for generations to follow.

There is no denying that we have woven ourselves into the very fabric of the University of Michigan—bold, unyielding, and brilliant. We are triumphant, we are radiant, and no darkness will ever eclipse our light.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES



William Calvo-Quirós, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Associate Chair and Director of the Program in Undergraduate Studies College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Professor Calvo-Quirós' research and teaching focus on the connections and intersections among the multidisciplinary fields of Religion, Latino Studies, Aesthetics, and both virtual and physical spaces. Key questions guiding his work include: How do faith and religion manifest and evolve? How do individuals engage with and change their religious practices? What role do empathy and care play in motivating and inspiring people to imagine and enact the promotion of a different world?

His early work focused on car subcultures and how cars manifest American values and histories, particularly examining car customizations and their use of color and design methodologies. His most recent book, titled Undocumented Saints: The Politics of Migrating Devotions, explores the translocation of popular saints and devotions into the U.S. and the evolution of their meanings.

His research is recognized nationally and internationally, as he frequently travels abroad to present his findings and collaborate with scholars from around the world. He is a member of the International Sociological Association, serving as a founding member and current co-president of Thematic Group 12: Social Love and Solidarity. Additionally, he serves as a board member of SocialOne, an international group of scholars interested in studying and understanding social love and care on a global scale. He has also been a board and consultant member for the Love World Index.

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WELCOME SPEAKER



Tabbye Chavous, Ph.D.

Vice Provost for Equity & Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer

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



Ruth Behar, Ph.D.

Victor Haim Perera Collegiate Professor of Anthropology College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Ruth Behar is a Cuban-born writer and anthropologist who was named a "Great Immigrant" by the Carnegie Corporation. She is the author of acclaimed anthropology books, including *Translated Woman, The Vulnerable Observer, An Island Called Home, Traveling Heavy,* and the poetry book, *Everything I Kept/Todo lo que guardé*. Her novels for young people, *Lucky Broken Girl, Letters from Cuba,* and *Across So Many Seas,* which incorporate insights and understandings from anthropology and history into captivating tales of displacement, personal discovery, and generational endurance, have won several prestigious awards, including a 2025 Newbery Honor, a Sydney Taylor Honor, a Pura Belpré Award, and starred reviews in *Kirkus.* The first Latina to win a MacArthur "Genius Grant" Fellowship, Behar is the James W. Fernandez Distinguished Professor of Anthropology at the University of Michigan and an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

CIRCLE AWARD RECIPIENT



Ruby Flores Camacho

Program Manager Office of Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs

Ruby Flores Camacho serves as the inaugural Assistant Director for the LSA First-Generation Commitment. Before joining the LSA First-Generation Commitment, Ruby was a Program Manager in the Office of Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs. She also serves as an advisor to La Casa, supporting Latine students and advancing advocacy and inclusion efforts.

Committed to leveraging her experiences to inspire and support other first-generation students, Ruby is guided by philosophies centered on advocacy, diversity, and social justice education, along with building authentic relationships. She eagerly anticipates connecting students with essential resources, mentors, and peers. She is a first-generation college graduate with a bachelor's and master's two from Indiana University in Bloomington and is from Indianapolis, where she was raised in a bilingual (Spanish and English) household.

GUEST SPEAKER



Reuben Kapp Board Member University of Michigan Latino Alumni (UMLA)

STUDENT SPEAKER



Andrea Vargas Cabrera Mechanical Engineering

College of Engineering

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Doctoral Graduates

Saraí Blanco Martinez

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, Marsal Family School of Education Education and Psychology

Ariana Bueno

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Applied Physics/Climate and Space Sciences and Engineering

Francisco Gomez-Rivera

Medical School, Rackham Graduate School Immunology

Zaira Pagan-Cajigas

College of Engineering Industrial and Operations Engineering

Master's Graduates

Lizett Aguilar

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, School of Information Master of Science in Information; Master of Public Policy

Shirley Araiza Santaella

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, School of Information Master of Public Policy; Master of Science, Information - Big Data Analytics

Zariah Hernandez

A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning Master of Science in Architecture

Moncerrat Llanas

School of Public Health Master of Public Health in Population and Health Sciences Program

Isabel Lopez

School of Information Master of Science in Information

Ashley Mendoza

School of Social Work Master of Social Work in Welfare of Children and Families

Juan Roacho

School of Public Health Master of Public Health in General Epidemiology; Certificate in Public Health Genetics

Jayna Sames

Rackham Graduate School School for Environment and Sustainability Master of Landscape Architecture; Master of Science (Environmental Justice)

Bachelor's Graduates

Fiorella Luisa Adan

School of Nursing Nursing

Jennifer Arroyo

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

Bianca Barraza

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

Colleen Bello Arcos

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 & Social Change; Political Science

Emily Castaneda-Espinoza

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

Colin Cazho

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Computer Science

Elizabeth Cervantes

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

Vienna Chafart

College of Engineering Aerospace Engineering

Ariana Chaidez

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Neuroscience

Idalis Chavez

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Biomolecular Science

Luis Chavez Navarrete

College of Engineering Aerospace Engineering

Gianna Cordova

College of Engineering Computer Science

Yasmira Cortez

College of Engineering Chemical Engineering

Dayanara Diaz

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

Emily Dominguez

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

Jazmin Espinosa-Romero

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Psychology

Karen Itzel Espitia-Rodriguez

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

Brenda Itzel Esquivel Rivera

School of Information User Experience Design

Nayseth Fernández

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

Bacheloi's Graduates

Nelson Figueroa

College of Engineering Electrical Engineering; Computer Science Engineering

Dalia Flores

College of Engineering Chemical Engineering

Andre Gala-Garza

College of Engineering Data Science

Elaine Garcia

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Economics; Latino/a Studies

Pablo Garcia Acuna

College of Engineering Computer Engineering

Maria Cristina Garcia Rivera

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

Gabriela Gaytan-Aguirre

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Sociology: Law, Justice, & Social Change; Spanish

Aileen Gonzalez

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

Andrea Gonzalez

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Latino Studies; Chemistry

Vanessa González

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

Andy Gonzalez Rodriguez

School of Music, Theatre & Dance Music Performance; Performing Arts Management and Entrepreneurship

Anadelia Gonzalez-Segura

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Sociology: Law, Justice, & Social Change; Education for Empowerment: Advancing Equity Through Education Policy

Andy Gutierrez-Martinez

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Economics

Leslie Guzman

College of Engineering Environmental Engineering

Nicole Haanschoten

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts International Studies (Political Economy and Development); Communications & Media

Victoria Hernandez

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Spanish

Anahi Hernandez

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

Elayna Kash

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

Janely Lemus

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

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Bochelor's Gradvates

Kate Lopez

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Psychology

Jesmar Lopez-Vasquez

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

Christian Loredo-Duran

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy Public Policy

Julia Magallanes

School of Information User Experience Design

Ariana Maldonado-Torres

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

Leticia Marquez

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

Paige Marsman

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

Juan José Martínez

College of Pharmacy Pharmaceutical Sciences

Manuel Maya

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

Luz Mayancela

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy Public Policy

Cindy Mazariegos Barrios

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

Michelle Mendoza

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Neuroscience

Alexia Moreno

College of Engineering Computer Engineering

Dashiel Munoz Perez

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, School for Environment and Sustainability Program in the Environment

Xamantha Palomino

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

Preciosa Paucar

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Psychology on Pre-Medical Track

Andrea Pellot Jimenez

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Physics

Laylah Pérez

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

Stefania Ramirez

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

Bochelor's Gradvates

Crystal Ramirez-Garcia

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Women and Gender Studies; Sociology of Health & Medicine

Rigoberto Rangel Jr.

Stephen M. Ross School of Business Business Administration

Selia Rendón

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

Jaidy Rodriguez

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

Amy Rodriguez

School of Information Information Science - UX Design; Business

Naomi Rodriguez

Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design, School of Music, Theatre & Dance Interarts Performance

Lola Rodriguez

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

Gabriela Rodriguez

Marsal Family School of Education Education; Mathematics, Spanish, English Language Development

Karla Rodriguez-Garcia

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

Sarah Rodriguez-Medina

College of Engineering Biomedical Engineering

Jennifer Roman

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Psychology

Morelia Rosas Martinez

A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning Architecture

Stephanie Saenz

School of Nursing Nursing

Carly Salazar

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Anthropological Archaeology

Valeria Sanchez

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Psychology

Anthony Sanchez

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

Christopher Sanchez

College of Engineering Mechanical Engineering

Daniel Sanchez

College of Engineering Computer Science

Jonathan Sarasa

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

Bachelor's Graduates

Rocio Serratos

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Economics

Gerardo Sierra Reyes

College of Engineering Mechanical Engineering

Justin Siguencia

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Economics

Daniela Silva

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

Gustavo Silva Velasco

College of Engineering Mechanical Engineering

Yareydy Soto

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Psychology

Carlos Tapia

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

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

Santiago Uribe Guiza

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Computer Science

Jocelyn Valenzuela

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

Andrea Sofía Vargas Cabrera

College of Engineering, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Mechanical Engineering

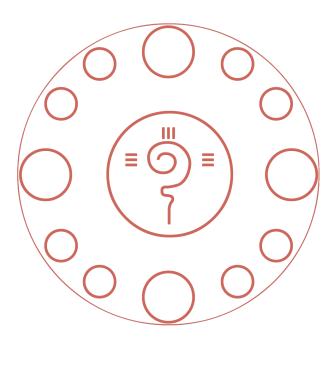
Citlalli Villagomez

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

Brian Zhagui

Stephen M. Ross School of Business Business Administration

Congratulations to the Class of 2025!



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.

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 CELEBRATION PLANNING COMMITTEE

Andrea Bustillo Maria Cardenas Valentina Castro-Pumay Ariana Chaidez Hilda Fuentes Martinez Elaine Garcia Manuel Maya Luz Mayancela-Cazho Kasandra Negrete Sylvia Rodriguez Cid Jonathan Sarasa Angel Serna Emma Sital

La Celebración Latina 2025 is coordinated by:

Héctor Galván

Interim Co-Director Office of Academic and Multicultural Initiatives

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.

LETTER OF THANKS TO TABBYE CHAVOUS

Dear Dr. Chavous,

Thank you for being with us today as we celebrate the wide-ranging accomplishments of our Latine student community. Each year, you have stood at this lectern and shared your appreciation for our parents, family members, friends, and support networks that have helped us reach this day. Now, we want to show our appreciation for you.

You have been a teacher, mentor, and advocate here at the University of Michigan for over 25 years. Holding leadership roles at the department, college, and central administration levels, you have touched the lives of generations of students in our community and beyond.

In 2023, you took on leadership of the Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. In this role, you used your expertise and resources to help students find their place on campus while empowering them to share their cultures with the broader community. This support has allowed us to share the traditions and practices that we are so proud of.

With your oversight of the Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives, you have helped strengthen and grow the student celebrations that allow students, families, and loved ones to be here today to celebrate the immense accomplishments of our community. La Celebración Latina is one of the oldest of the events, and continues to grow each year – an inspiring reminder of how traditions grow through commitment and collective vision.

This year's theme is about the brilliance and resilience of our community – our light that illuminates and radiates throughout campus. We are grateful for how you have seen us and supported us, helping to spread this light to places it may never have reached.

We thank you for the warmth, encouragement, and friendship you have shown to us, and for your commitment to all students and their cultures at the University of Michigan.

Sincerely, The 2025 La Celebración Latina Committee

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 J. Ono, *ex officio*, President

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 eight student celebrations:





OFFICE OF ACADEMIC MULTICULTURAL INITIATIVES