

2025



NATIVE STUDENT CELEBRATION

MAY 3RD, 6PM

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES BUILDING
530 S STATE ST, ANN ARBOR
MAIZE & BLUE AUDITORIUM**





OAMI'S EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE

To the Graduating Class of 2025,

Congratulations on your immense achievement of graduating from the University of Michigan. You should take pride in what you have accomplished and use the knowledge you have gained through your experiences here to guide your way forward.

We are excited to see the Native Student Celebration continue to grow year after year, and are honored to partner with the Native American Student Association to host this event. We are also incredibly honored to be able to assist the Native American Student Association in hosting the annual Dance for Mother Earth Powwow. We want to thank you for letting us be a part of this journey with you.

Finally, we wish you success, fulfillment, and happiness in all your endeavors. We look forward to hearing about the great things you all will accomplish in the future, and the impacts you will make on your communities.

Once again, congratulations on your graduation, and best wishes for a bright and promising future!

With gratitude,

The Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives





LAND AND LABOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Since its inception, the University of Michigan has been founded on violence against Indigenous communities, and it upholds this legacy through the continual harming of Native students, Black students, and other students of color and marginalized groups. The land where the Ann Arbor campus stands was taken from the Anishinaabe peoples—the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Bodewadmi—through the 1807 Treaty of Detroit, which promised rights that were never honored. The University's very founding was made possible by the 1817 Treaty of Fort Meigs, in which thousands of acres of land, primarily in what is now Ohio, were taken from the Anishinaabeg. This land and its assets were later liquidated to fund the University's establishment. Article 16 of the treaty promised education for Anishinaabe children in exchange for this land—a commitment the University has yet to meaningfully fulfill.

While the University references these treaties in limited ways, it has not instituted a formal land acknowledgment nor taken substantive steps to uphold its responsibilities. Land acknowledgments without action are empty gestures. We urge the University to honor its treaty obligations and take real steps toward addressing its institutional neglect for Black, Indigenous, and people of color across Michigan and beyond.





ORDER OF PROGRAM

OPENING

Masters of Ceremonies

Jalen Greene & Elladiss Winter

WELCOME

Dr. Tabbye Chavous

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

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Mona Stonefish

Doctor of Traditional Medicine

CLASS RECOGNITION

HONOR SONG

CLOSING

Andrea Wilkerson

*Assistant Director of Native American
Student Enrichment and Belonging
Office of Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs*





MASTERS OF CEREMONIES



Jalen Greene

Master's Student, Public Policy
Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy

Elladiss Winter

*Undergraduate Student, Biopsychology,
Cognition, and Neuroscience;
Native Studies and Law, Justice, &
Social Change*
College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts





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 PhD 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

Mona Stonefish

*Doctor of Traditional
Medicine*



Anishinaabe Elder Mona Stonefish (Potawatomi and Mohawk, Bear Clan). She is a Doctor of Traditional Medicine and holds an honorary doctorate of law from the University of Guelph. She is an international activist for peace with an emphasis on Anishinaabek women's and disability rights. She has served as a Senator of the Anishinaabemowin Teg – language preservation, a Keeper of Wisdom, and a Grandmother Water Walker. Mona Stonefish is also a member of the Native American Museum of Washington D.C., a traditional dancer, and recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal (2013). She was a Board Member at the Art Gallery of Windsor and served as the Chair of the Parent Council for Hermann High School in Windsor and has been actively involved in improving the education system for many years. On February 20, 2020, she received the Lt. Governor's Award at Queen's Park in Toronto for "Into the Light", which was displayed at the Museum of Guelph, after fighting for 65 years to bring light to the trauma experienced by the First People in residential schools. She and her family support and teach one another, confront discrimination, and fight to tear down barriers in their travels together across Turtle Island.





CLOSING SPEAKER



Andrea Wilkerson

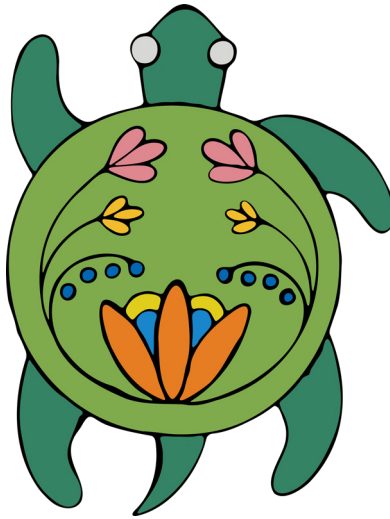
*Assistant Director of Native American
Student Enrichment and Belonging
Office of Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs*

Andrea Wilkerson (Aamjiwnaang First Nation of Sarnia) serves as an Assistant Director of Native Student Enrichment and Belonging in the Office of Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs and the Advisor for the Native American Student Association (NASA). She works closely with NASA to host programs like the Native American Student Welcome, Native American Heritage Month, cultural workshops and conversations, as well as the Dance for Mother Earth Powwow. Andrea is inspired every day by the amazing students she gets to work with and is so proud of them!





**CONGRATULATIONS TO
THE CLASS OF 2025!**





DOCTORAL GRADUATES



Jaime Fuentes
*Hopland Band of Pomo
Indians*
Medical School
*Microbiology &
Immunology*



Caleb Hawpetoss
Menominee
Law School
Juris Doctor





DOCTORAL GRADUATES



Tayah Schuette

Pascua Yaqui

Law School

Juris Doctor



George Ward

Yaqui

Law School

Juris Doctor

Thank you to everyone who made my time here at Michigan Law possible! Peri, your unwavering support and willingness to come to Ann Arbor has been my anchor through law school. Mom & Dad, despite the distance, your encouragement kept me strong. To NALSA and my 3L peers, your passion for our community has meant the world. Chiokoe uttesia!





DOCTORAL GRADUATES



Lauren White
*Choctaw Nation of
Oklahoma*

School of Social Work
*Joint Program for Social
Work and Psychology*

I want to thank my family, my husband Travis, and my extraordinary dissertation committee for believing in me. Your wisdom, kindness, and support shaped every part of this journey. To all who guided, challenged, and stood by me—you made this possible. I share this achievement with you, with deepest gratitude and love. Chi hullo li.





MASTER'S GRADUATES



Brittany Amaral

Dancing Butterfly

Narragansett and Mashpee

Wampanoag Descent

**College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts, School for**

Environment and Sustainability

M.S. Ecology and Evolutionary Biology;

M.S. Environment and Sustainability

*Thank you so very much to my mother, father, and sister
who have always been there for me and have supported me
throughout my academic journey!*

Marlena Boedigheimer

Red Cliff Ojibwe

School of Music, Theatre

& Dance

Master of Music in

Improvisation



*Miigwech to my family and community back home in
Onigamiinsing for always supporting me on this journey!
Miigwech to everyone in NASA for welcoming me into this
amazing community here at Michigan. You all have truly
changed my life and taught me so much!*





MASTER'S GRADUATES

Rebecca Irvine
*Sault Ste Marie Tribe of
Chippewa Indians*
Stephen M. Ross School
of Business
Executive MBA



Chi miigwech to the ikewewag that encourage shared learning and community building - especially Andrea, Selena, Stacie, and the rest of the Asiginaakwadiswan. Stay fierce, niijiiwag!



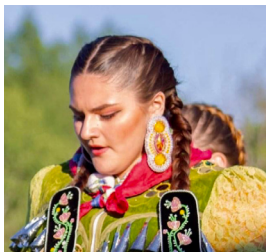
Kenneth Wilson
Dinenizho
Diné (Navajo)
Gerald R. Ford School
of Public Policy
Public Policy

Thank you to everyone who has supported my educational pursuits and made it possible for me to achieve a master's degree.





MASTER'S GRADUATES



Roxy Sprowl

Bezhigonoodinkwe

Red Cliff Band of Lake

Superior Chippewa Indians

School of Social Work

Masters of Social Work;

Welfare of Children, Youth, and

Families Pathway; Advanced Standing Program;

Child Welfare Scholar; National Association of

Social Work Consuelo Gosnell Scholar

Chi miigwech to all my aunties for endlessly unconditionally guiding me in ways I can't even begin to put into words. I am eternally grateful for all of your love, feminine leadership, mentorship, encouragement, and teachings that you have passed down to me.





BACHELOR'S GRADUATES

Kaya Beaudoin

Waabanong

Sault Tribe Ojibwe

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

Earth and Environmental Science



No words can express my gratitude for my family and community. Gchi-miigwech to my NASA family here for your love and support throughout these years. Gchi-miigwech to my relatives and loved ones for grounding me when things were rough and to my professors for pushing me to grow. I am so thankful for the time I have had here.



Baylee Carlisle

Waabgonees

Walpole Island First Nation

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

Biology, Health, and Society;

Native American Studies;

Community Action and Social Change

I'm deeply grateful to my family, mentors, and community for their unwavering support throughout this journey. I would not have come this far without your love, guidance, and sacrifices. To the faculty and staff who have uplifted us, thank you for believing in our dreams. To my older sister, thank you for lighting the path that I walked—you've been my inspiration every step of the way. Chi Miigwetch, thank you!



BACHELOR'S GRADUATES



Kali Aurora Rain Fleischer

Mvskoke

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Microbiology



Mvto for giving me a community these past four years. I've had a wonderful time in NASA and made great friends. I can't wait to see where life takes us!



Denali Gere Kaska Dene

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

I'm so grateful for the communities I have.





BACHELOR'S GRADUATES

Avery Gooden

*The Turtle Mountain Band of
Chippewa Indians*

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

*Biology; Gender, Race, and
Nation*



*Thank you to my wonderful family for your support and words
of encouragement over these past four years. I couldn't have
done it without you! I love you all!!*



Alexis Gurski

Ojibwe and Potawatomi

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

*I want to thank my family and friends for the wonderful
support system, I appreciate them dearly.*



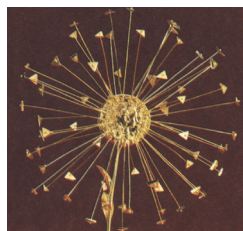
BACHELOR'S GRADUATES



Abraham H.

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

*Biopsychology, Cognition,
and Neuroscience*



*From the bronzed waters of the Huron
to the verdurous forests of Washtenaw,
my journey in exploring, embracing, and cherishing
the Indigenous American has been both subliminal and
exhilarating. Thank you for your unrelenting support and
confidence in my potentials and ambitions, as I confronted the
many rigors of this dynamic University. Now, we have arrived
at a moment of joy, of exuberant smiles and radiant tears, of
celebrating culminations and curiously unwreathing horizons.
Together, we progress - harnessing the relatable to shape the
admirable.*



Henry Klott *Cherokee Nation*

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Psychology

*Being in NASA has been one of the most important experiences
during my undergraduate career, and I'm so happy that I got
to know each and every one of you. Thank you for all of the
support, community, and love throughout the years. Love y'all!*





BACHELOR'S GRADUATES

Manuel Maya

Purépecha / P'urhepecha

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

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



Kylie Rice

Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg

First Nation

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

*Psychology;
Native American Studies*



BACHELOR'S GRADUATES



Carly Salazar

Chamorro/Quechua

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

*Anthropological Archaeology;
A/PIA Studies, Museum
Studies, Gender & Health
Studies*



Saina ma'åse', gracias, thank you to all the wonderful people I've met and shared time with over my four years. To my beautiful communities, I would not be as strong and brave without all the support and friendship you've gifted me. I hope to leave campus carrying the love of my friends, community members, and most especially my family, on to my next journey.

Hu guaiya yan agredesi hamyo!



Noemi Tehauno

Comanche Nation

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

*Linguistics &
Native American Studies*





BACHELOR'S GRADUATES

Lexia Wabindato

*Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and
Chippewa*

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Psychology



Jacy Hammonds *Lumbee*

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

Thank you to my mom for standing by me throughout my college journey, I could not have done it without your support. Thank you to my dad for keeping me close to my Native American heritage and making sure I always knew my roots. You two will forever hold the most special place in my heart. I am grateful to this group for everybody who welcomed me as a freshman, and everybody in between who has believed in me along the way.





NATIVE STUDENT CELEBRATION PLANNING COMMITTEE

The 2025 celebration is coordinated by the
Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives
and the Native American Student Association

CELEBRATION MISSION

The Native Student Celebration celebrates the commonalities and differences that characterize the experiences of Native students 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 native 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, in partnership with the Native American Student Association, institutes this annual celebration as an expression and tradition of valuing the University's cultural offerings and commitment to diversity.

**Thank you to the offices, students, and staff
that have supported the Native Student
Celebration throughout the years.**





LETTER OF THANKS TO TABBYE CHAVOUS

Dear Dr. Chavous,

Thank you for being here and speaking at this joyous occasion to honor our Native graduating students. The fact that you have decided to share your warmth and enthusiasm with us is very heartening.

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.

With your leadership, the Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives has continued to foster the Native Student Celebration and other student celebrations. These events bring students, families, and loved ones together to celebrate the immense accomplishments of each community.

With NASA, MESA, and OAMI, we have continued to strengthen the legacy of the Dance for Mother Earth Powwow, now going on its 52nd year. Your support allows us to hold these important and culturally meaningful events.

Thank you for all you have done for us. We wish you the best as you continue your work of making higher education a more welcoming and inclusive place for all students who will follow in our footsteps.

Sincerely,

Native American Student Association &
the Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives





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/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: ecrtooffice@umich.edu.

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





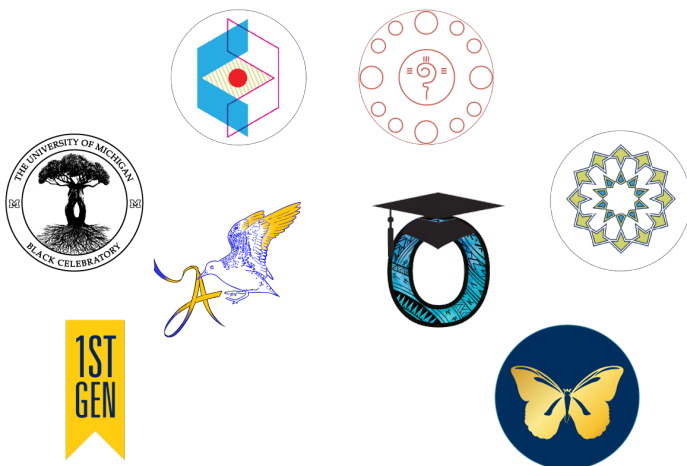
OAMI STUDENT CELEBRATIONS

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







OFFICE OF ACADEMIC MULTICULTURAL INITIATIVES
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN