

BLACK CELEBRATORY

2026



H A I L

T O O R

V I C T O R I E S !

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
33rd ANNUAL BLACK CELEBRATORY
SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026
POWER CENTER

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.



CELEBRATION WELCOME LETTER

Greetings,

Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2026 and the participants of the 33rd Annual Black Celebratory.

Commencement is a meaningful milestone for the University of Michigan community. It is a time to recognize your achievements, your growth, and the communities that supported you along the way. Today, we celebrate all that you have accomplished and all that you have contributed to this campus.

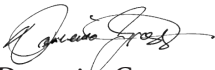
This year's theme, "Hail to Our Victories," reflects the spirit of the Class of 2026. Your journey began during a time of uncertainty and change. You found your way through those early moments and played a vital role in restoring the energy and connection that define this campus.

You created community with intention. You brought people together, built spaces of belonging, and strengthened traditions that matter. You remained grounded in who you are and carried that presence into classrooms, organizations, and everyday moments.

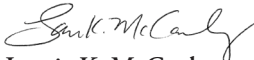
The symbol of Black Celebratory reminds us of a tree with deep roots and far-reaching branches. You are connected to a powerful legacy, and you continue to shape what comes next through your actions and your leadership.

As you leave this campus, you carry your experiences, your voice, and your impact. What you built here will continue to live on in the spaces you shaped and the people you supported.

We celebrate you and all that is ahead.
Hail to your victories.
Wherever you go from here - Always Go Blue!



Domenico Grasso
President



Laurie K. McCauley
Provost & Executive Vice President
for Academic Affairs



Martino Harmon
Vice President for Student Life



Angela D. Dillard
Interim Vice Provost for Access &
Opportunity and Vice Provost
for Undergraduate Education



OAMI'S EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE

Dear Graduating Class of 2026,

This moment belongs to you.

Today is a chance to pause and take in all that has brought you here. Not just the milestones, but the quiet persistence, the late nights, the moments of doubt you pushed through, and the people who walked alongside you.

“Hail to Our Victories” speaks to all of it. The visible wins, and the ones no one else saw. The ways you kept choosing yourself, your goals, and your community, even when it wasn't easy.

There is something powerful about the way you stayed rooted in who you are while continuing to grow. That grounding carried into classrooms, into organizations, and into the relationships you built along the way.

The tree that anchors Black Celebratory holds that same truth. It reminds us that your story is part of something larger, held by those who came before you and carried forward through what you do next.

As you leave this place, take with you a clear sense of who you are and what matters to you. Trust that. Let it guide how you move, how you lead, and how you continue to show up in the world.

We are grateful to have been part of your journey.

We celebrate you, fully and with deep respect.

With gratitude,

The Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives



The 33rd Annual Black Celebratory Theme Statement “HAIL TO OUR VICTORIES!”

The Class of 2026 stands at a defining moment, shaped by strength, marked by impact, and carried by a joy we had to earn. Our Michigan story began in the quiet uncertainty of a world on pause: masked up, spaced out, and unsure what college would even be like. Now it culminates in the noise of stadium-roar seasons, Big Ten highs, shout-outs celebrating our success stories, and a campus alive again because we helped bring back its heartbeat.

Our pride was never something we borrowed from an institution; it was forged through lived experience, shared memory, and hard-won community. We navigated rocky terrain and real consequences, including DEI rollbacks that disrupted meaningful initiatives like the LEAD Scholars program and so many others. Still, we chose to be visible anyway: rooted, brilliant, and unshakable. “Hail to Our Victories” is more than a theme; it’s the anthem of the Black Graduating Class of 2026 at the 33rd Annual Black Celebratory, an oath we speak into a world that keeps trying to rewrite what we’ve earned.

Somewhere between social distancing and learning how to return from it, we rebuilt community in real time. We filled Trotter again (#OccupyTrotter). We brought Soul Food Sundays back. We made BSU skate nights feel like home. We showed up for United We Play. From homecoming tailgates to late nights just trying to make it through, we learned how to turn pressure into purpose, because community wasn’t just something we had; it was something we created.

Yes, we celebrate the wins the world can count: champions on the field and champions on the court, but we have also been champions in every room we entered and refused to shrink in. We also honor the quiet triumphs: passing the exam that felt impossible, securing the internship that changed everything, asking for help and finding people and resources that met us with care; learning the importance of the lesson on how to choose yourself again and again and again.

We are that generation! These are OUR victories! And as we graduate, we don’t just leave with degrees, we leave with proof that we can endure, rebuild, and rise, and that what we’ve made together cannot be undone.

Hail to our victories, past, present, and still to come!

**CONGRATULATIONS and
FOREVER, GO BLUE!**



PROGRAM OF EVENTS

GREETING

Gregory O. Thomas, Assistant Director, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives and Coordinator, Black Celebratory

PROCESSION

Administrators, Faculty, Staff, Marshals & Graduates

LAND & LABOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Bryce Kilburn, Bachelor, Communications and Media;
Afroamerican and African Studies, College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

BLACK NATIONAL ANTHEM

Lewis Jackson, Bachelor, Acting, School of Music, Theatre & Dance
Shelby-Ariel Williams, Bachelor, Music, School of Music, Theatre &
Dance

WELCOME

Eric Veal, Jr., Bachelor, Political Science and Secondary Education,
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

LIBATIONS

Elizabeth A. James, Program Associate,
Department of Afroamerican and African Studies

REMARKS & INTRODUCTION OF THE CO-EMCEES

Dr. Angela D. Dillard, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education
and Interim Vice Provost for Access & Opportunity

BLACK CELEBRATORY CO-EMCEES

Dr. Robert M. Sellers, James S. Jackson Distinguished University
Professor, LSA Psychology
Adele C. Brumfield, Vice Provost for Enrollment Management,
Office of Enrollment Management
Shalanda H. Baker, Vice Provost for Sustainability
and Climate Action, Office of the Provost



PROGRAM OF EVENTS

REMARKS & INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT SPEAKERS

Dr. Martino Harmon, Vice President for Student Life

STUDENT SPEAKER

Julia Odhiambo, Bachelor, Public Policy, Gerald R. Ford School
of Public Policy

INTRODUCTION OF THE JOHN MATLOCK CORNERSTONE AWARDS

Adele C. Brumfield, Vice Provost for Enrollment Management,
Office of Enrollment Management

PRESENTATION OF THE JOHN MATLOCK CORNERSTONE AWARDS

Kenyatta Washington, Bachelor, Urban Technology,
A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning
Ja'Nya Bargaineer, Bachelor, Psychology, College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

JOHN MATLOCK FACULTY & STAFF CORNERSTONE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Professor Ronald C. Woods, Lecturer II, Afro-American
and African Studies

Dr. Kyra T. Shahid, Director, Trotter Multicultural Center and
Multiethnic Student Affairs

INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Shalanda H. Baker, Vice Provost for Sustainability
and Climate Action, Office of the Provost

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Mrs. Stacy L. Giles, Educator, Philanthropist, and Community Leader



PROGRAM OF EVENTS

INTRODUCTION AND PRESENTATION OF THE MOODY/MONTS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Dr. Robert M. Sellers, James S. Jackson Distinguished University
Professor, LSA Psychology

MOODY/MONTS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

Dr. Debby Mitchell Covington, Director of Strategic Partnerships
and Equity Initiative, College of Engineering

Charles G. Ransom, Multicultural Studies Librarian, University Library

PRESENTATION OF THE CLASS OF 2026

Nicole P. Banks, Associate Dean of Students, Dean of Students Office
Reginald Beasley, Program Manager for Medical Student Programs

Dr. Norris Chase, Director of First-Generation Commitment, LSA
Undergraduate Education

Dr. Kellyn Mackerl-Cooper, Associate Director, Trotter Multicultural
Center

Kierra Trotter, Director, Alumni Career and Education

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN BLACK ALUMNI

Dr. Susan M. Holmes, Chair, University of Michigan Black Alumni
(UMBA)

CLOSING

Breonna Boyd, Bachelor, Business Administration, Stephen M. Ross
School of Business



BLACK NATIONAL ANTHEM

“LIFT EVERY VOICE & SING”

Lyric by

James Weldon Johnson

Sung by

Lewis Jackson & Shelby-Ariel Williams, School of Music, Theatre & Dance

Lift every voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise,
High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of faith
that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope
That the present has brought us.
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

LIBATIONS RITUAL

Ritual by Elizabeth A. James

Program Associate, Department of Afroamerican and African Studies

The libations ritual is the custom of pouring a liquid, oftentimes a locally brewed wine, as a religious event that reunifies and harmonizes the past, the present and the future. In human terms, this embodies the Creator, the ancestral spirits, and those currently present. This age-old tradition is practiced throughout Africa and the Diaspora.



MASTERS OF CEREMONIES



Robert M. Sellers, Ph.D.

James S. Jackson Distinguished University Professor, LSA Psychology

Dr. Robert M. Sellers is the James S. Jackson Distinguished University Professor of Psychology and Education at the University of Michigan. He received his undergraduate degree at Howard University and Ph.D. at the University of Michigan, both in Psychology. He has been on the faculty at the University of Michigan since 1997. Dr. Sellers has served for more than 15 years in academic administration including serving as the Vice Provost for Equity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer (VPEI-CDO) at the University of Michigan from July 2014 to August 2022. He also served as President of APA Division 45 in 2009-2010. In addition to his contributions as an administrative leader in higher education, Dr. Sellers has had a productive and successful academic career as a scholar studying the role of race in the psychological lives of African Americans. He and his students have proposed influential conceptual frameworks for understanding African American racial identity and racial socialization processes. Elected to the National Academy of Sciences, Dr. Sellers has received numerous national and international career honors and awards for his scholarship, mentoring, and service to the field including being named the Charles D. Moody Collegiate Professor at the University of Michigan.



MASTERS OF CEREMONIES



Adele C. Brumfield, M.A.

*Vice Provost for Enrollment Management,
Office of Enrollment Management*

Adele C. Brumfield serves as the University of Michigan's vice provost for enrollment management. As a first-generation college graduate, she advocates passionately for the transformative impact of higher education, reaching students across the United States and internationally. Brumfield is recognized for her commitment to expanding access and promoting equity in enrollment and student financial support. In collaboration with campus partners, she leads efforts with schools, colleges, and units to shape and advance enrollment management strategies. Before joining U-M, Brumfield was the associate vice chancellor for enrollment management at the University of California San Diego, where she engaged in cross-campus and University of California system-wide collaborations. Originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Brumfield previously served as director of admissions and recruitment at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and has held admissions roles at the University of Chicago, Denison University, and Marquette University. Brumfield is a recognized expert in enrollment management and is a frequent contributor to conferences and programs on topics including access, affordability, and leading through change. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Common App, and is a member of the Cambridge University Press & Assessment Strategic Higher Education Advisory Council and the advisory council for the College Board's Access and Opportunity Collaborative. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in speech with a major in broadcast communication from Marquette University and a Master of Arts in telecommunication from Michigan State University.



MASTERS OF CEREMONIES



Shalanda H. Baker, J.D.

Vice Provost for Sustainability and Climate Action, Office of the Provost

Shalanda H. Baker is the inaugural Vice Provost for Sustainability and Climate Action at the University of Michigan. She joined the university after serving as the Senate-confirmed Director of the Office of Energy Justice and Equity, Secretarial Advisor on Equity, and Chief Diversity Officer at the United States Department of Energy. Prior to that, she served in the Biden-Harris Administration as the nation's first Deputy Director for Energy Justice. Before her appointment, she was a Professor of Law, Public Policy, and Urban Affairs at Northeastern University; an associate professor of law at the University of Hawai'i William S. Richardson School of Law; and on the faculty at the University of San Francisco School of Law. Shalanda holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science from the United States Air Force Academy, a Juris Doctor from Northeastern University School of Law, and an LLM from the University of Wisconsin School of Law. Her book, *Revolutionary Power: An Activist's Guide to the Energy Transition*, argues that energy policy is the next domain to advance civil rights (Island Press 2021).



KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Mrs. Stacy L. Giles, M.A.

Educator, Philanthropist, and Community Leader

Stacy Giles is an educator, philanthropist, and community leader dedicated to expanding educational opportunity and strengthening communities through service. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan's Marsal School of Education (ABED '95, TeachCert '95) and holds an MA from Wayne State University. She began her career teaching in the Detroit Public Schools, an experience that continues to shape her leadership and philanthropic work. Stacy remains closely connected to the University of Michigan, serving on the Marsal School of Education's Dean's Advisory Council and the Executive Leadership Council of RAISE. Together with her husband, Joseph, she has established endowed scholarships at Plymouth United Church of Christ in Detroit, the University of Michigan Alumni Association, the Marsal School of Education, and the Ross School of Business. Their goal is to ensure that talented students, especially those from underrepresented communities, have access to life-changing educational opportunities. Her dedication to service extends to the Chicagoland area, where she serves on the Board of Directors of the nonprofit ChiGivesBack, supporting low-income families and senior citizens. Through hands-on leadership in holiday drives and family sponsorship programs, she works to provide dignity, joy, and essential support to hundreds of local households. A proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., she views serving others as a fundamental responsibility and strives to ensure that every community she touches is seen, valued, and uplifted. She and her husband are the parents of two children, Justin and Alex, both of whom are students at the University of Michigan.



THE JOHN MATLOCK CORNERSTONE AWARD



Dr. John H. Matlock

Founded in 1999, the Cornerstone Award is given annually to a member of the University of Michigan faculty and staff respectively. Since 2023, the award has been known as the “John Matlock Cornerstone Award” in honor of the late great Dr. John H. Matlock. Dr. Matlock served as Associate Vice Provost in the Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Michigan while directing the Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives (OAMI) from 1989-2013.

Dr. Matlock engaged in many activities involving diversity research, multicultural programming, pre-college initiatives, student leadership training, academic and success, and enrichment activities. His work in engaging diverse groups of faculty, staff, and students to advance campus diversity initiatives is unparalleled. The award recognizes the unique contributions and assistance that this individual has given to enhance the academic and social progress of African American students at the university.

**The 2026 John Matlock Faculty Cornerstone Award
recipient is**

Ronald C. Woods, J.D.

**The 2026 John Matlock Staff Cornerstone Award
recipient is**

Kyra T. Shahid, Ph.D.



2026 JOHN MATLOCK FACULTY CORNERSTONE AWARD



Ronald C. Woods, J.D.

Lecturer II, Afro-American and African Studies

Professor Ronald C. Woods is a lecturer in U-M's Department of Afroamerican and African Studies. A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, he holds a B.A. in History from Wittenberg University, and a M.A. in History and a law degree from the University of Michigan. Currently a Professor Emeritus of Africology and African American Studies at Eastern Michigan University, he began his career as a poverty law attorney in Cincinnati. Professor Woods joined CAAS in its inaugural year, 1970-1971 as a Teaching Fellow in African American history. Over his five decades with the Department, he has taught a range of race and law courses. He has challenged generations of students to increase their civic literacy and knowledge of the Constitution, to stay ahead of the curve of national and global events, and to embrace the power of ideas in pursuing a "more perfect union." Professor Woods constantly encourages his students to be worthy stewards of a rich tradition that integrates intellect with practice to shape the direction of our common future. He has parlayed his work in the classroom in numerous ways into the greater local and national community. His service and leadership portfolio ranges across many areas, -- youth development, education, institutional growth, community violence prevention, and housing. Officially recognized for his contributions at the county, state, and Congressional levels, he holds an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Eastern Michigan University. Professor Woods credits faith, family and community for the opportunities to pass light on to others. His students now are the torch bearers.



2026 JOHN MATLOCK STAFF CORNERSTONE AWARD



Kyra Shahid, Ph.D.

Director, Trotter Multicultural Center and Multiethnic Student Affairs

Dr. Kyra Shahid is a visionary educator and equity-centered leader known for advancing transformative, healing-informed approaches in higher education. As Director of the Trotter Multicultural Center and Multiethnic Student Affairs at the University of Michigan, she leads innovative efforts that build on leadership heritages that draw out the best in others -- amplifying strengths, expanding confidence, and supporting leaders, students, and her team in reaching their highest potential. Dr. Shahid is the architect of groundbreaking initiatives such as Xavier University's Stained Glass Initiative, addressing institutional ties to slavery, and is the author of *Anti-Black Racism and Epistemic Violence*. A first-generation graduate of Central State University, she earned her Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from Miami University at age 26. Widely recognized for her dynamic leadership, Dr. Shahid blends intellectual rigor with emotional intelligence, cultural awareness, and deep attentiveness to power, identity, and human experience in order to empower individuals and communities to lead, heal, and thrive.



THE CHARLES MOODY AND LESTER MONTS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



**Dr. Charles
Moody**



**Dr. Lester
Monts**

The Black Celebratory inaugurated the Charles Moody and Lester Monts Lifetime Achievement Award in 2019. This award is named in honor of Dr. Charles Moody, who served as the first Vice Provost for Minority Affairs from 1987 to 1993, and Dr. Lester Monts, Executive Vice Provost for Academic Affairs from 1994 to 2014. Dr. Moody and Dr. Monts were academic giants, engaging in excellence through teaching and research in addition to their administrative roles. We honor outstanding retired or retiring faculty and staff members each year for their career commitment to student success at the University.

This year's Moody/Monts Award recognizes two giants:

**Debby Mitchell Covington, D.Min.
Charles G. Ransom, M.A.**

Congratulations!



THE CHARLES MOODY AND LESTER MONTS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



**Debby Mitchell Covington,
D.Min.**

*Director, Strategic Partnerships and
Equity Initiatives, College of Engineering
(2003-2026)*

Dr. Debby Mitchell Covington is a multi-talented professional who has made significant contributions as an executive leadership coach, higher education professional, social worker, organizational leader, and ordained associate pastor. Currently, she serves as the Strategic Partnerships and Equity Initiatives Director at the University of Michigan College of Engineering, where she leads initiatives focused on student access, retention and excellence, partnerships with minority-serving institutions, and community harm reduction. She has been recognized with numerous awards, including the Willie Hobbs Moore Mentoring and Distinguished Diversity Leader, Outstanding Innovative Graduate Program Award, and Staff Innovation Award for her dedication to fostering educational, business, and personal growth. In 2023, Dr. Covington founded VestedIn U, LLC, a coaching and consulting firm, after completing an Executive Leadership Coaching program at Georgetown University. She is a credentialed coach specializing in emotional intelligence, cultural intelligence, and leadership development. Dr. Covington also plays an active role in preserving Black history and promoting community development. Since 2014, she has served on the Board of Directors for the African American Cultural and Historical Museum (AACHM), becoming Chair in 2020. Under her leadership, the museum secured a permanent location and significant funding for renovation and growth. In 2024, she was appointed to the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission, further emphasizing her commitment to preserving the county's historical sites, particularly those related to Black heritage. Dr. Covington's academic background includes a bachelor's degree in urban development, a master's degree in social work and practical theology, and a doctorate in ministry, reflecting her broad expertise across multiple fields.



THE CHARLES MOODY AND LESTER MONTS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Charles Gregory Ransom, M.A.
*Multicultural Studies Librarian, University Library
(1991-2026)*

Born in Indianapolis, Indiana, **Charles Gregory Ransom** graduated from Crispus Attucks High School, earned a Bachelor of Arts from Wabash College, and completed a Master of Library Science at Indiana University. He joined the University of

Michigan in August 1991 as the Diversity Librarian, serving in several roles over the years. His work at U-M included three trips to Kenya with U-M students and travel to Zimbabwe for the Zimbabwe Book Fair. This is the first time in 20 years that he has not served as a marshal for the Black Celebratory. During his tenure, Charles served as president of BEAM (Black Employees at the University of Michigan), was a longtime member of the Library Diversity Committee, participated in the campus Martin Luther King Jr. Day Symposium, and chaired the library's MLK Day committee. He reflects fondly on his 35 years at Michigan and the many people he met along the way.

Charles is the proud father of six children, Dana McFarlin, Terrance Dye, Steven Dye (Rayna), Mershon Skender (Robert), Jessica Ransom, and Arianna King (Oliver), and grandfather to eight grandchildren, Maia McFarlin, Nylah Smith, Terrance Dye Jr, Trent Dye, Tyler Skender, Chase Skender, Oliver King, and Auston Charles King. He is also the proud great-grandfather of Nlani Smith. Charles and his wife, Robbie T Ransom, have been married for 20 years. Robbie is a longtime U-M employee who is now retired and a recipient of the U-M Black Celebratory Cornerstone Award (2003), though she proudly bleeds green and white as an MSU alum. Charles shares that his family is his strength and extends a special shout out to his brother, Steven Ransom.



DOCTORAL GRADUATES

Jasmine Cooper

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Psychology

Imani Sarita Elliott

Medical School, School of Public Health
Doctor of Medicine; Master's of Public Health

Denise Lynn Jones

Rackham Graduate School, School of Education,
CPEP - Psychology & Education
Combined Program in Education and Psychology (CPEP)

Aaron James Neal

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Clinical Psychology

Brittani S. Parham

School of Social Work
*Master's in Social Work; Joint Ph.D. in Social Work and
Developmental Psychology*



MASTER'S GRADUATES

Feyi Apampa

School of Information
*Human-Computer Interaction/
UX Research and Design*

Kiana Cook

School of Music, Theatre &
Dance
Dance

Camyrea Barnes

School of Education
*Educational Leadership &
Policy*

Bella Grace Crayton

School of Education
*Educational Studies –
Educational Equity, Justice, and
Social Transformation*

Jada Aiyana Bent-

Thomas

Stephen M. Ross School
of Business
*Business Administration – Data
and Business Analytics*

Michele M Curry

School of Social Work
*Interpersonal Practice in
Integrated Health, Mental
Health, and Substance Abuse*

Kenny C Berrouet

Stephen M. Ross School of
Business
Business Administration

Ethan Ricardo Davis

School of Public Health
*Population and Health Sciences
MPH; Tools for Health Policy
Assessment Certification*

Benjamin Jacob Colding

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
*Earth and Environmental
Sciences – Volcanology*

Kaila C Dawkins

College of Engineering
*Industrial & Operations
Engineering*

Lauren Faith Collins

College of Engineering
Biomedical Engineering

Asha A Dimoji

School of Social Work
*Welfare of Children, Youth, and
Families*



MASTER'S GRADUATES

Cassandra Felix

School of Public Health
*Health Behavior and
Health Education; Health
Administration*

Marcus Gilkie

College of Engineering
*Sequential Undergraduate/
Graduate Studies/Space
Engineering*

Asley O. Gulaid

Stephen M. Ross School
of Business
Business Administration

Airiana Shardae'

Hamilton
School of Social Work
*Interpersonal Practice in
Integrated Health, Mental
Health, & Substance Abuse*

Regis Haynes

School of Music, Theatre &
Dance
Voice Performance and Opera

Cameron A Henry

Stephen M. Ross School
of Business
Management

Antonio Junior-Robins

School of Education
Higher Education

Samira Kimo

Gerald R. Ford School of Public
Policy, School of Social Work
Public Policy; Social Work

Lamar King

College of Engineering
*Engineering – Automotive
Engineering (Motorsports)*

Eryn Lewis

School of Public Health
Public Health

Danielle N Maduka

Stephen M. Ross School
of Business
Business Administration



MASTER'S GRADUATES

Michaela Nichelle

Martin

Penny W. Stamps School of Art &
Design

Interdisciplinary Studio Art

Justin Mason

School of Information

UX Design

Cyrena Kristine

Matingou

School of Public Health

Public Health

Emmanuel Barrington

Pickens

Rackham Graduate School,
School of Education

Higher Education

Rasul A Rahman

Stephen M. Ross School
of Business

Supply Chain Management

Ashley Smith

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

International Studies; Spanish

Tolani Marguerite Smith

School of Information

Human Computer Interaction

Mariah-Sydney D Steele

School of Kinesiology

Athletic Training

Micah A Thorpe

College of Engineering

Mechanical Engineering

Kelcey Williams

Stephen M. Ross School of
Business

Business Administration



BACHELOR'S GRADUATES

Deborah Abodunrin	Jorden Makeila Barnes
Vivica R Addrow	Demi Baston
Mogbonjubola A Adepoju	Ayantun Bedaso
Oreoluwa Adewumi	Alexis Bell
Danielle Opokua Agyemang	Amiah Maria Blackwell
Rachel Akaba	Kristina Bland
Tomilade Akinyelu	Gabrielle A Bowie
Chloe Akombi	Breonna C Boyd
Chioma Akwarandu	Evan Boyd
Morghan Leigh Allen	Madison M Boyd
Ayeyi Asamoah-Manu	Courtney LeeAnn Bracy
Mobadewa Atanda	Spencer Grace Briggs
Nyla Symone Austin	Arneé Marie Brown
Luke William Avery	nova brown
Hailey Naadu Awuletey- Williams	Sierra Loren Buford
Asmah Bah	Ciara Alicia Cade
Ja'Nya E Bargaineer	Bethany A Carter
Brendan Barnes	Madysen J Casey
	Sydnee Nicholle Chamberlain



BACHELOR'S GRADUATES

Elicia Nevaeh Lanae Chatman	Taree Evans
Alyssah Yanelis Checo	Marissa Ewald
Priscilla B Chiangong	Ayo Fadase
Jerianne Joanna Clarke	Janelle J Fairley
Simone D Conley	Veronica Finley
Travis J Cunningham	Trinity Gabrielle Franklin
Sydney Nicole Cyprian	Taylor Gaines
Makeda Mekonnen Dandridge	Elyse N Gay
Isaac Warren Davis	Toluni Ghandi-Olaoye
Jennifer Diane Davis	Caitlyn Desiree Goode
Malia Davis	Aniyah E Graham
Mari Angelique Longmire Davis	Emma Maureen Graham
Fatimata Deme	Ian Hairston
Evangelina Draper	Kenley E Hall
Joshua Cullen Easley	Olga Kinsafula Hamilton
David Ellis	Alexis Elaine Harris
Brooklyn Egiemhen Emuakhagbon	Amaria M Harris
Sydney Emuakhagbon	Kailah Krystina Jade Hawkins
	Tiauna Haynes



BACHELOR'S GRADUATES

Viveca Henry

Sophia Madison Kelly

Chandler Herring

Bryce A Kilburn

Sasha Miliaun Hill

Chelsea Hermione Korang-
Otchere

Otto Hines

Kourtney S Laury

Sohair Jamie Holman

Kyla Ania Symone Lee

Jamiyah Allison Grace
Hudson

Lauryn Sydney Leverett

Kyra Hudson

Shakirah Nakawooya
Lieffers

Lewis Clinton Jackson III

Taliya J Maddox

Jennifer N James

Devin Lynia Maples

Demi Virlyn Jardine

Kendyll Lynn Martin

Londyn Ashley Jefferson

Nya Lillie Mays

Adama Jobarteh

Shania McAdoo

Geo Johnson

Mikail Melchor

Zufan Johnson

Gold'Ann S Mesaros-
Winckles

Candice G.T. Jones

Devin X Jones

Jamaria D Minor

Jeovani Jones

LaNiyah D'Nai Mitchell

Nairobi Jones

Zion Muhammad

Aniasha Jones

Taylor Newton



BACHELOR'S GRADUATES

Sarah Nyaanga	Chandler Jule Ramsey
Alexis Obuobisah	Madison Ramsey
Julia Odhiambo	Deahzana Randall
Anjola Odunuga	Kelston Richmond
Morenikeji Ojubanire	Lyric J Robinson
Chidera Okigbo	Bemnet Shibeshi
Ugonna Duruaku Okoronkwo	Erin R. Skillon
Jessica Chinwe Okoye	Bocar Soumare
Elsa Olander	Alisha Stallworth
Layi O Olusanya	Mariah Samantha Staples
Oghenekome M Otobo- Egwebe	Eden Stokes
Oluwasemiloore Ayobami	Shomari Stone II
Mary Oyekanmi	Emerald E Taylor
Ta'Niah Parker	Jala Taylor-Pickett
Kennedy C Plummer	Marvin Tetteh
Hillary A Poudeu Tchokothe	Madisyn Diana Marie Travis
Arthurline Quaqua	Eric Lorenzo Veal JR
Siannah Quaqua	Maya Wallace



BACHELOR'S GRADUATES

Ja'Mya Marie Warren

Simeon Jerome Williams II

Alexandria Washington

Tamberly Lynn Williams

Kenyatta Washington

Chanel Wilson

Nicholas Alexander
Wilkinson II

Maricella Olivia Wilson

Wesley Warren Wray

Gianna Williams

Kourtney L Wright

Jordan Brianna Williams

Zoe Wright

Leila Alexis Williams

Lynn Estrella Yambaye

Shelby Ariel Williams

Bryce Zampty-Hicks



**KEEP IN TOUCH!
SIGN UP FOR OUR
EMAIL LIST!**



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

**Bryce Kilburn, Eric Veal, Jr., Julia Odhiambo, Kenyatta Washington,
Ja’Nya Bargaineer, Breonna Boyd**
2026 Black Celebratory Planning Committee

Sharon R. Burch & Hector Galvan
Interim Co-directors, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives

Gregory O. Thomas
Assistant Director & Black Celebratory Coordinator,
Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives

Brendan Kirwin
Assistant Director of Marketing and Communication,
Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives

Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives Staff and Students

Sharon R. Burch, Denise Lee, Donovan Coquitt, Travis Martin
Faculty & Staff Marshals

Midwest Global Group
Kente Stole Providers

Stadium Trophy
Award Services

Foresight Group
Printing Services

Michigan Media
Videography Services

City Events Group
A/V Support

ScreenLine Captioning
CART Accessibility Services

REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Jordan B. Acker, Huntington Woods
Michael J. Behm, Grand Blanc
Mark J. Bernstein, Ann Arbor, chair
Paul W. Brown, Ann Arbor
Sarah Hubbard, Okemos
Denise Ilitch, Birmingham
Carl J. Myers, Dearborn
Katherine E. White, Ann Arbor
Domenico Grasso, *ex officio*, President



BLACK CELEBRATORY HISTORY & MISSION

Established in 1994, the Black Celebratory highlights the shared connections and varied experiences that shape African American life and community at the University of Michigan. The celebration reflects a longstanding tradition of honoring achievement, community, and cultural expression. While the celebration centers African American experiences, it is open to all students and members of the university community who wish to participate and celebrate in this space. The Black Celebratory is organized by OAMI in partnership with the Black Celebratory Student Planning Committee.

The Black Celebratory acknowledges the richness of African American experiences and commemorates the accomplishments of participating students. It also recognizes faculty and staff who contribute to student success through academic enrichment, research, and community engagement.

Through this celebration, OAMI affirms its commitment to creating inclusive spaces that honor history, culture, and achievement across communities. The event is open to all students and members of the university community who wish to participate, engage, and celebrate in this space.

STATEMENT OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND ARTISTIC EXPRESSION

The University of Michigan strives to create an open forum in which diverse opinions can be expressed and heard. Members of the University community, speakers, artists, and other invited guests have a right to express their views and opinions, and the University will protect that right. The University also supports the rights of those with differing views to express their opinions. In the interest of protecting these rights for all, speech that breaks the law, violates the University of Michigan's code of conduct, or threatens harm to another person will not be tolerated. Persons engaging in such speech may be warned by University representatives, and if the warnings are not heeded, may be removed from the building. The policy extends and affirms University policies set forth by our Civil Liberties Board in our Student Handbook; and in the U-M Standard Practice Guide; Regents Ordinance Article XII, Section 1; and state statutes.

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY STATEMENT

The University of Michigan, as an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding nondiscrimination and affirmative action, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The University of Michigan is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination and equal opportunity for all persons regardless of race, sex, color, religion, creed, national origin, or ancestry, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability or Vietnam-era veteran status in employment, educational programs and activities, and admissions. Inquiries or complaints may be addressed to the Senior Director for the Office of Equity, Civil Rights and Title IX/Section 504 Coordinator, Office of Equity, Civil Rights and Title IX at 2072 Administrative Services Building, 1009 Greene Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 48109, 734-763-0235



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