

La Celebración

Latina

2026

Adelante

Nuestra historia continua

Onward

Our story continues

Adiante

Nossa história continua

Celebration Welcome Letter

Greetings,

Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2026 and the participants of the 26th Annual La Celebración Latina.

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 the presence you have carried throughout your time here.

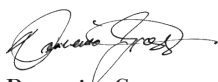
This year's theme, "Adelante, Nuestra Historia Continúa," reflects the spirit of the Class of 2026. Your journey is part of a larger story shaped by resilience, strength, and collective care. Your story continues through you and through the communities that have supported you every step of the way.

This moment holds both celebration and awareness. You have reached an important milestone while remaining grounded in the realities facing your communities. Your presence here carries meaning, and your voices continue to matter.

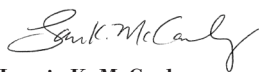
Family, community, and culture have been central to your journey. The encouragement, sacrifices, and love that surrounded you helped carry you to this moment. You also built community here by showing up for one another, creating spaces of belonging, and supporting each other through moments of challenge and growth.

As you move into what comes next, your story continues. It lives in the communities you return to, the paths you create, and the impact you have on others. You carry your experiences, your voice, and your history with you.

We celebrate you, your journey, and all that is ahead. ¡Vamos Azul!



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 Graduates,

It is a true honor to celebrate you at this year's La Celebración Latina.

Today is a milestone shaped by perseverance, sacrifice, and determination. Each of you has arrived here on your own path, carrying stories that began long before this moment. For many, this is a first, for yourselves and your families, and for others, a continuation of a legacy. Either way, this achievement belongs to more than just you. None of us arrive here alone.

At OAMI, we believe student success is not only about what you achieve, but about the spaces you create and the people you carry with you. You have done both. Through your leadership, your presence, and your care for one another, you have built community—spaces where students feel seen, supported, and at home.

And even in this moment of celebration, we hold the fullness of our reality. Many in our communities continue to navigate uncertainty, systems that do not always recognize their humanity, policies that shape futures in ways that feel distant from fairness, and the weight of not always knowing what comes next. Yet you persisted. You showed up. You continued forward, together.

*Adelante—Nuestra Historia Continua...*our story does not stop here. It continues in the lives you will shape, in the communities you will return to, and in the spaces you will create wherever you go. Ours has always been a story of movement of pushing forward, even when the path is uncertain.

Your families are part of this moment. Their sacrifices, their belief in you, their quiet and constant love is what carried you here. You carry that with you now. This is not an ending. It is the next line in a story that has always been yours to tell.

With pride and appreciation,

The Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives

Celebration Theme Statement

Onward—Our Story Continues

Adelante— Nuestra Historia Continua

Adiante—Nossa História Continua

Today, we celebrate a significant milestone in our lives. We gather to share moments of perseverance and triumph that led us here. For first-generation college students and those continuing to carry the legacy, this is a win for each and everyone of us.

Nevertheless, in this moment of celebration, we remain aware of the harsh reality that many of our communities are living through. Across the United States, the Latine community and other marginalized communities are enduring extreme pain, hatred, and injustice that cannot go unaddressed. Our happiness during this celebration today does not erase that truth; it reminds us why this milestone matters, while honoring those who came before us and shaped the communities that made this moment possible.

In response, La Celebración Latina planning committee has chosen a theme for this ceremony: “Adelante— Nuestra Historia Continua.” This theme is to show that Nuestra historia continúa, aunque otros han intentado borrarla – Our story continues regardless of those who attempt to erase it. We have made it this far not by chance, but through resilience built in the face of barriers, and a collective strength that lives in our community and carries us forward.

And so, Adelante—because our story does not stop here. It continues through you, through the communities you return to, and through the doors you will open for others. This is not an ending. It is the next chapter in our historia—one that has always been ours to write, and now yours to carry forward.

Behind every one of you is a story of love, sacrifice, and belief. Your families have been your foundation. Every encouraging word, every sacrifice made, and every moment they told you to keep going—that love is what carries you across this stage today. Carry your stories, your struggles, and your dreams with pride. This is not an ending but a beginning to everything you have worked for. We move forward as different people from how we entered this university, because we have been shaped by the obstacles we overcame and the memories we made. We are carrying these stories into the new beginnings to come. Con ganas y sin miedo.

Order of Events

OPENING

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Dr. Lawrence La Fountain-Stokes

Professor of American Culture

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

WELCOME

Dr. Angela D. Dillard

*Interim Vice Provost for Access & Opportunity
and Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education*

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Kristina Fullerton Rico

*Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center for Racial Justice
at the Ford School*

CIRCLE AWARD

Hector Galván

Interim Co-Director

Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives

STUDENT SPEAKER

Kassandra Negrete

CLASS RECOGNITION

U-M LATINO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Reuben Kapp

President

CLOSING

Master of Ceremonies



Lawrence La Fountain-Stokes, Ph.D.

Professor of American Culture

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Lawrence La Fountain-Stokes is a Professor of American Culture and former director and core faculty member of the Latina/o Studies Program at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He is also a Professor of Romance Languages and Literature and of Women's and Gender Studies. Born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico, he received his AB from Harvard (1991) and his M.A., M.Phil., and Ph.D. from Columbia (1999). He is author of *Queer Ricans: Cultures and Sexualities in the Diaspora* (University of Minnesota Press, 2009) and of *Escenas transcaribeñas: Ensayos sobre teatro, performance y cultura* (Isla Negra Editores, 2018) and coeditor with Deborah R. Vargas and Nancy Raquel Mirabal of *Keywords for Latina/o Studies* (New York University Press, 2017). His book *Translocas: The Politics of Puerto Rican Drag and Trans Performance* was published by the University of Michigan Press in 2021 as part of the *Triangulations: Lesbian/Gay/Queer Theater/Drama/Performance* series and received the 2021-2022 Sylvia Rivera Award in Transgender Studies from CLAGS, the Center for LGBTQ Studies at the City University of New York. He has coedited queer issues of *CENTRO Journal*, *Sargasso*, and *Hostos Review/Revista Hostosiana* and has published two books of fiction, *Uñas pintadas de azul/Blue Fingernails*, and *Abolición del pato*. Larry performs in drag as Lola von Miramar since 2010, and has appeared in several episodes of the YouTube series *Cooking with Drag Queens*.

Welcome Speaker



Angela D. Dillard, Ph.D.

*Interim Vice Provost for Access & Opportunity
and Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education*

Angela D. Dillard is the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and the Interim Vice Provost for Access & Opportunity at the University of Michigan; former chair of the Department of History in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts (LSA); and the Richard A. Meisler Collegiate Professor of Afroamerican & African Studies and History. She also maintains affiliated faculty status within the Residential College, where she is a member of the Social Theory & Practice program.

Dillard is an interdisciplinary scholar trained in history and political theory with a Ph.D. in American Studies, from the U-M's Department of American Culture. She specializes in American and African-American intellectual history, particularly around issues of race, religion, and politics – on both the Left and the Right sides of the political spectrum.

Keynote Speaker



Kristina Fullerton Rico, Ph.D.

*Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center for Racial Justice
at the Ford School*

Kristina Fullerton Rico is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center for Racial Justice at the University of Michigan. Her research examines love across borders and creative uses of technology. Specifically, she focuses on the impacts of U.S. immigration policies that lead families to endure uncertainty and long-term separation. Fullerton Rico argues that effective immigration policy must start with the recognition that every immigrant has (at least) two home countries and that post-migration international immobility is one of the most significant penalties imposed on undocumented immigrants and mixed-status families.

She has published an article about grieving in la jaula de oro and the ways that immigrants honor their loved ones when they cannot attend their funerals in person. Currently, she is writing a book about the experiences of immigrants from Mexico who have aged while being undocumented. Some continue to live in the U.S. while others find themselves in Mexico for the first time in decades. Overall, the book demonstrates that U.S. immigration policies do not only separate young children from their parents. They also upend the lives of grandparents, parents, grandchildren, and other extended family members on both sides of the border. Accordingly, immigration reform has the potential to benefit not only immigrants but their large, transnational families.

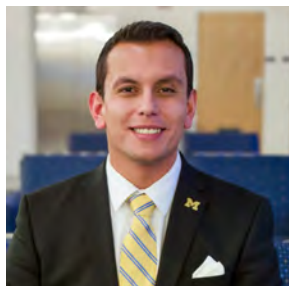


**Escanee el código QR para el
discurso del Dr. Rico en español**



**Escaneie o código QR para o discurso
do Dr. Rico em português**

Circle Award Recipient



Hector Galván

Interim Co-Director

Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives

Hector Galván serves as Interim Co-Director of the Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives (OAMI) at the University of Michigan and also serves on the Board of Directors for the U-M Latino Alumni Association. His work is rooted in opening doors and creating spaces for students to feel seen, supported, and thrive. He leads equity-centered initiatives and builds partnerships that bring meaningful ideas to life.

Raised in the city of Detroit and as a first-generation college student from a working-class family, Hector carries his story into his work each day. His journey shaped a deep belief that talent lives everywhere, even when opportunity does not. This philosophy continues to guide his commitment to expanding access and walking alongside students as they navigate their own paths.

Grounded in care, collaboration, and purpose, Hector is dedicated to cultivating academic success and a sense of belonging at the University of Michigan. His work is not only a responsibility, but a privilege. He aims to help students not only move through the university, but to leave it transformed with a clearer sense of who they are and where they are going.

Student Speaker



Kassandra Negrete

Bachelor's in Political Science and Latina/o Studies; Spanish
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Guest Speaker



Reuben Kapp

President

University of Michigan Latino Alumni Association (UMLA)

Doctoral Graduates

Cassandra Arroyo

Marsal Family School of

Education

Higher Education

Christopher Ayala

Rackham Graduate School

Applied Physics

Savannah Sturla Irizarry

School of Public Health

Environmental Health Sciences;

Certificate in Environmental

Justice

Reuben Cosme Kapp

Marsal Family School of

Education

Higher Education

Saraí Blanco Martinez

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts,

Marsal Family School of

Education

Education and Psychology

Carla Nathaly Villacís Núñez

Rackham Graduate School

Mechanical Engineering and

Scientific Computing

Ronnie Rios

Marsal Family School of

Education

Higher Education

Davinia Mendoza Rodriguez-Wilhelm

Marsal Family School of

Education

Higher Education

Master's Graduates

Sebastián Abbate

School of Social Work
*Social Work; Community
Change Pathway*

Jessica Alvarez

Marsal Family School of
Education
*Educational Leadership and
Policy*

Emily Jimenez Andrade

Rackham Graduate School
Chemistry

David DeLaRosa

Marsal Family School of
Education
*Higher & Postsecondary
Education*

Paloma Del Toro

Gerald R. Ford School of Public
Policy
Public Policy

Amber Garcia

Gerald R. Ford School of Public
Policy; School of Public Health
Public Policy; Public Health

Rebecca Griswold

Taubman College; Ford School
of Public Policy
*Urban and Regional Planning;
Public Policy*

Esther Guerrero

School of Public Health
*Public Health; Maternal and
Child Nutrition Certificate*

Andrea Gonzalez Jimenez

School of Public Health
*Health Behavior and Health
Equity*

Julia Magallanes

School of Information
*User Experience Design and
Research*

Melanie Martinez- Lopez

School of Information
User Experience

Chris Medina

School of Social Work
*Social Work; Management &
Leadership*

Master's Graduates

Ezekiel Medina

School of Public Health; School
of Social Work
Public Health; Social Work

Kimberly Meneses

School of Public Health
*Public Health; Health Behavior
and Health Equity*

Patrick Mullen-Coyoy

School of Information
Information

Abel Nájera

Stephen M. Ross School of
Business
Executive MBA

Lorena Rivera Rincón

Marsal Family School of
Education
Educational Studies

Jo-Ana Rivera

Marsal Family School of
Education
Higher Education

Brenda Esquivel Rivera

School of Information
*Information; User Experience
Design*

Valeria Castañeda Saucedo

Institute of Social Research
Survey and Data Science

Alexis Camarena Torres

School of Information
Information



Bachelor's Graduates

Amarilis Acosta Oliva

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Political Science

Jacqueline Aguiar

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

Kristina Aguilar

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
*Psychology; American Culture
(Ethnic Studies Sub-major)*

Ricardo Aquino-Gonzalez

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Political Science

Jasmine Arechiga-Jacobo

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

Cynthia Aros-Caballero

College of Engineering
Materials Science & Engineering

Rachel Arroyo

College of Pharmacy
Pharmaceutical Science

Luke Avery

College of Engineering
Electrical Engineering

Gabriella Avitia

School of Nursing
Nursing

Georgina Ayala

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Neuroscience

Luis Barcenas

College of Engineering
Mechanical Engineering

Nicole Bermudez-Alvarado

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

Ayline Betancourt

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Economics

Nina Blanco

School of Kinesiology
Applied Exercise Science

Victoria Brown

College of Engineering
*Industrial and Operations
Engineering*

Christopher Bustamante

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Economics

Alexander Calderon

School of Public Health
*Public Health Sciences; Science,
Technology, Society*

Bachelor's Graduates

Fabiola Castaneda-Cardoza

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

Delilah Castillo

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
*Psychology; Women and Gender
Studies*

**Daniela Valentina Castro-
Pumay**

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

Atenea Chavez Contreras

College of Engineering
Aerospace Engineering

Liliana Coker-Rodriguez

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
*Social Theory and Practice;
Latina/o Studies; Afroamerican
and African Studies*

Lucas Benjamín Coria Navia

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
*Sociology of Health and Medicine;
Latin American and Caribbean
Studies*

Beyonce Cruz

College of Engineering
Aerospace Engineering; Philosophy

Melanie Cruz Lopez

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

Mary Czelusniak

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Computer Science

Reahna Czerwinski

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

Aiskel DeJesus

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

Chiara Dettin

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Psychology

Kimberly Gisel Diaz-Bustillo

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

Pearl Evans

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
*Human Origins, Biology, and
Behavior*

Bachelor's Graduates

Elena Fernandez

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

*Biopsychology, Cognition &
Neuroscience; Cognitive Science-
Computation*

Kianna Fraga Albuja

School of Nursing

*Nursing; Population Health in a
Global Context*

Thomas Gala-Garza

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

Philosophy, Politics and Economics

Brenda Garcia

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

*Political Science, Entrepreneurship
Minor*

Kenya Garza

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

Economics

Briana Gonzalez

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

*Biopsychology, Cognition &
Neuroscience; Creative Writing and
Literature*

Emma Gonzalez

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

*Biopsychology, Cognition and
Neuroscience*

Lizbeth Gonzalez

College of Engineering
Civil Engineering

Brenda Gonzalez

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

*Creative Writing and Literature &
Gender and Health*

Getsemani Gonzalez

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

Spanish; Sociology (Social Work)

Lucas Hernandez

College of Engineering

*Aerospace Engineering, Minor in
Mathematics*

Hanny Izquierdo

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

Psychology

Elizabeth Jaramillo

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

Sociology/Social Work; Psychology

Sandra Jarquin-Lopez

School of Nursing

Nursing; Global Health

Cielo Jimenez

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

Economics

Bachelor's Graduates

Marisa Jordan Galarza

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

English; Creative Writing

Veronica Lamas

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

Economics

**Jasmin Karina Landero-
Möttus**

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

*Biopsychology, Cognition, and
Neuroscience; Law, Justice, and
Social Change*

Alondra Larios

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

Biology; Gender and Health

Sasha Lee

College of Engineering
Mechanical Engineering

Sergio Lopez

College of Engineering
Aerospace Engineering; Physics

Yaire Lopez-Quiroz

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

Computer Science

Gabriela Lopez-Salgado

College of Engineering
Computer Science in Engineering

Christian Lored-Duran

Gerald R. Ford School of Public
Policy

Public Policy

Natalia Lovo

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

*Sociology (Sociology of Health and
Medicine)*

Kiana Manjarrez

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

*Sociology with a Submajor in Law,
Justice, and Social Change*

Valeria Marin Gallo

College of Engineering
*Industrial and Operations
Engineering*

Samira Marquez-Gomez

School of Information
User experience design

Asaf Martinez Cardoza

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

Economics

Saya Matos

School of Nursing
Nursing

Dulce Mazariegos

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

Gender and Health

Bachelor's Graduates

G Medrano

School of Music, Theatre &
Dance
*Sound Engineering; Minor in
Electrical Engineering*

Tiana Melendez

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

Glynnys Mencho-Ramos

School of Nursing
Nursing

Tonanzy Mendoza Alvarado

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

Karen Menez

School of Nursing
Nursing

Kimberly Montoya

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Psychology; Gender & Health

Daniela Mora

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

Arlette Morales

School of Nursing
Nursing

Frida Navarro

School of Nursing
Nursing

Kasandra Negrete

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
*Political Science; Latina/o Studies;
Spanish*

Brianna Ochoa

School of Nursing
*Nursing; Science, Technology, and
Society*

Marcela Oliveira Passos

Penny W. Stamps School of Art &
Design, School of Information
UX/UI Design; Art and Design

George Ortega

College of Engineering
Computer Engineering

Regina Paguada

School of Nursing
Nursing

Jasmine Desiree Paredes

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Biology

Vanessa Patino

College of Engineering
Mechanical Engineering

Annahi Peralta-Sorto

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

Bachelor's Graduates

Yocelyn Perez

College of Engineering
Civil Engineering

Angie Perez-Jimenez

A. Alfred Taubman College of
Architecture and Urban Planning
*Architecture; Minor in Museum
Studies*

Alycia Pietrzak

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Creative Writing & Literature

Dayrin Ramirez

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

Valeria Rivera

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

Anna Roa

College of Engineering
Chemical Engineering

Khyara Roble Lainez

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

Emma Robledo

College of Engineering
Civil Engineering

Edna Rosas-Aguilera

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Film, Television, & Media

Daisy Ruiz

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

Jessica Ruvalcaba

School of Nursing
Nursing

Frida Salgado

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

Nicole Salinas

School of Information
UX Design

Dani Sanchez

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
*American Culture (Native
American Ethnic Studies sub-plan);
Digital Studies Minor*

Nazareth Sanchez

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
*Sociology (Law, Justice, and Social
Change)*

Rodrigo Sandino

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Economics

Bachelor's Graduates

Bella Santana

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
*English; Latin American &
Caribbean studies*

Laiyla Santillan

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
*Comparative Literature, Arts, and
Media*

David Servin

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Biomolecular Science

Lorena Sierra Reyes

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Computer Science

Emma Sital

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

Ashley Smith

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
International Studies; Spanish

Aranza Stanton

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

Cel Torres

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
*Political Science, Communications
and Media*

Leslie Treto

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Neuroscience

Ana Trujillo Garcia

Penny W. Stamps School of Art
& Design
*Fine Arts, Minor in
Entrepreneurship*

Sofia Urbina

College of Engineering
*Industrial and Operations
Engineering*

Karla Vega

School of Information
Information Analysis

Amelie Vidrio

School of Music, Theatre &
Dance
*Dance and Minor in American
Culture*

Adileni Vital-Flores

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts
Neuroscience

Bachelor's Graduates

Ashley Junuen Xochimanca-Guerrero

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

*Political Science and
Communications & Media*

Sofia Yaziji

College of Literature, Science,
and the Arts

*Biopsychology, Cognition, and
Neuroscience*

Emily Yunda-Raijer

School of Nursing
Nursing

Claudia Zacarias

College of Engineering
Mechanical Engineering

Liliana Zamora

College of Engineering
Robotics; Space Engineering



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. This celebration was hosted in the Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, and the number of students participating in the graduation continues to grow year after year.

La Celebración Latina brings together a wide range of communities across the University of Michigan, creating space for connection across diverse lived experiences among students, staff, faculty, families, and guests. The celebration reflects the richness and vibrancy of Latine cultures, traditions, and experiences while fostering community, recognition, and shared pride. While the celebration highlights Latine experiences, it is open to all students and members of the university community who wish to participate, engage, and celebrate in this space.

Celebration Mission

La Celebración Latina brings together a wide range of communities across the University of Michigan, creating space for connection across diverse lived experiences among students, staff, faculty, families, and guests. The celebration reflects the richness and vibrancy of Latine cultures, traditions, and experiences while fostering community, recognition, and shared pride.

The ceremony acknowledges the value and uniqueness of the Latine 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. While the celebration highlights Latine experiences, it is open to all students and members of the university community who wish to participate, engage, and celebrate in this space.

*University of Michigan
Latino Alumni Association*

Reuben Kapp

President

*La Celebración Latina
Planning Committee*

Sylvia Rodriguez Cid

Student Coordinator

Andrea Bustillo

Ciara Hurtado

Richard Leon

Ailyn Moreno

Kasandra Negrete

Lucas Navia

Daisy Ruiz

Rodrigo Sandino

Emma Sital

Anna Vega

Ashley Xochimanca-Guerrero

La Celebración Latina 2026 is coordinated by:

Hector 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.

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

Regents of the University of Michigan

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Katherine E. White, Ann Arbor
Domenico Grasso, *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



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