



NATIVE STUDENT

Graduation Celebration

Viewbook



Greetings



Aanii,

It is with great pleasure that we recognize the University of Michigan's annual Native American student celebration.

Traditionally, this ceremony, structured similarly to that of a family feast, recognizes the significant achievements of graduating Native American students.

To commemorate this occasion, graduates will receive Pendleton blankets that feature images or patterns that are significant to its recipient. These blankets are symbolic in providing protection, security, and warmth – something we wish for all of our graduates as they begin the next chapters in their lives.

As we commemorate this milestone, I am confident that this great university - their university, is better for having them as students, and that each graduate is empowered with the skills and resolve to overcome the challenges that await them in our greater world.

While we recognize this is an exciting time for students, graduation can also be bittersweet. It is a time where nostalgia is met with mixed emotions for what lies ahead.

While graduation often signifies the conclusion of a long journey, the root of the word commencement is not to end, but to begin.

Please join me in congratulating the class of 2020 and their families for their outstanding accomplishments.

Miigwetch for celebrating with us!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert M. Sellers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Robert M. Sellers
Vice Provost for Equity and Inclusion
Chief Diversity Officer

Greetings



Wolverines, congratulations on your graduation!

Today, we celebrate not just this moment, but the countless moments, big and small, that have brought you to now. The late nights of studying, the pin-drop silence of tough exams, your active engagement in perhaps one of our 1,400 student organizations, your contribution to this educational community, and the laughter and giddiness of meeting friends on the Diag...

There have been times of joy, and times of heartache. But throughout all the ups and downs, you have never let your circumstances define who you would become. Instead, you have persevered in the face of uncertainty.

You have made Michigan your home. You have invested in helping others feel part of the UM community. And today, you have joined a community of over 500,000 alumni, alumni who will continue to support and uplift you on your journey.

You might feel just as nervous as you feel excited about your next steps. You might wonder if the choices you're making as you graduate are truly leading you onward and upward. What is the right path? What is the right choice?

Let me tell you a secret. There are no wrong turns, only unexpected paths. Just as you have defined "Leaders & Best" in your own special way during your educational journey with us, you will also make this next leg of your journey the right one for you. Remember that your path is yours, not anyone else's. Make it your own. Embrace the questions that you ask deep in your heart. Do not fear the answers, but trust in yourself. You are wiser and stronger than you know.

You are a Victor, after all.

I once heard an interesting story about our Fight Song. "The Victors" is the only fight song that does not exhort the team to win, fight harder, or decimate an opponent. It does something much better; it actually congratulates and celebrates the win already achieved. It celebrates the Victors—Victors like you.

Your graduation is a victory, as is each and every moment that has led you to now. And as you go forth and continue to triumph, doing great things and good things, remember that you are not alone. We will still be here, cheering you on. Always welcoming you back. No matter where you go, here at the University of Michigan, there will always be a place for you.

Hail to the Victors, valiant!

Simone Himbeault Taylor

Simone Himbeault Taylor
Interim Vice President for Student Life



Graduates



Alexis LaChappa

Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians



College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Psychology

I am a proud Kumeyaay native, from the Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians, and nomadic native. I was born in San Diego, California, and I grew up in Harrison, Michigan. While at the University of Michigan, I have completed a degree in psychology and a minor in community action and social change. After graduation, I plan to partner with communities of color and earn graduate degrees in psychology and social work.

I owe everything I am today to my mama and her selfless dedication to my happiness. I miss her fierce kindness and my father's roaring celebrations every day. To my grandparents, you are my rock and I could not have finished my degree without your love and care. To my wonderful friends, you have made these the best years of my life! I love you all so much.

"Don't be afraid to admit that you don't know something, to try new things, or to reach out for help. You will always have room to learn and grow!"

John Petoskey

Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians



School for Environment and Sustainability
University of Michigan Law School
J.D. Law and Master's of Environmental Policy

*Miigwetch to my family and tribal community for
supporting me on this journey*



Staff & Faculty



Ethriam Brammer

Purepecha Tribe



Assistant Dean & DEI Implementation Lead
Rackham Graduate School

Congratulations, 2020 Native Graduates! As you make your transition, please remember the Cheyenne proverb, "Our first teacher is our own heart." I wish you the very best as you follow the teachings of your heart and achieve your dreams.

Steve Erskine

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewas



Construction Supervisor/Grad Student
Architecture Engineering and Construction

To the Class of 2020,
You will inherit a World with more problems than solutions. Please do better than us.

Jasmine Pawlicki

Sokaogon Band of Lake Superior Chippewa



Outreach and Engagement Specialist
University Library

Congratulations 2020 Graduates! The knowledge you need for the future
also resides in the past




The University of Michigan Statement of Affirmative Action

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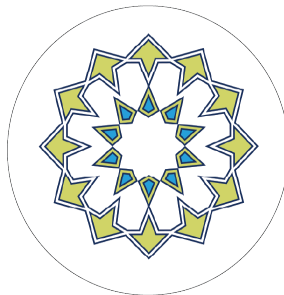
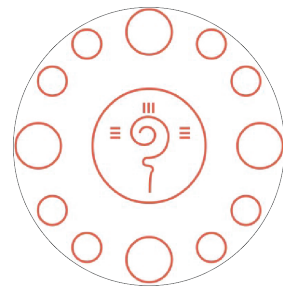
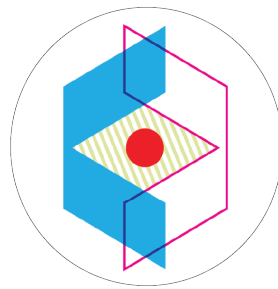
Freedom of Speech and Artistic Expression

The University of Michigan strives to create an open form 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, University representatives may warn anyone unduly interfering with a speaker or performer's freedom of expression, and if the warnings are not heeded, may remove those individuals 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.





OFFICE OF ACADEMIC MULTICULTURAL INITIATIVES
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



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These symbols represent the cultural graduation ceremonies that are coordinated annually through the Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives.

Top left to right: Black Celebratory, Native American Graduation, La Celebración Latina

Bottom left to right: Middle Eastern/North African Graduation, First Generation Graduation, Asian/Pacific Islander Graduation

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