

Undocumented Student CELEBRATION

Class of 2021



OFFICE OF ACADEMIC MULTICULTURAL INITIATIVES
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Robert Sellers

VICE PROVOST FOR EQUITY AND INCLUSION



Greetings,

It is with great enthusiasm that we recognize this year's Undocumented student graduates.

Throughout each of our lives, we are presented with opportunities to attempt new things and explore roads that may not have been available to those who preceded us. However, to do these things as undocumented community members requires a great deal of strength, courage, and determination.

As undocumented college students, these are the first steps in creating a world of opportunity, one where dreams have the potential to become a reality. At times this journey may be challenging, but its impact will be long-lasting and offer hope to those who follow in your footsteps.

As we honor this extraordinary graduating class, I am enthusiastic about the opportunities that await them. I am confident that they have all the skills, talent, drive, and commitment necessary to overcome whatever challenges they may face and to make a real difference in the world. They have endured one of the most challenging times in memory both at the University and the broader society. Nonetheless, they have not only endured, but they have also overcome.

Although this is an exciting time for many of our students, graduation can also be bittersweet. It is a time where nostalgia is met with mixed emotions for what lies ahead. We often think of graduation as the conclusion of a long journey. However, it is important to remember that the Latin root for the word "commencement" means beginning. I wish you nothing but success as you commence your next journey.

Please join me in congratulating the class of 2021 and their families for their outstanding accomplishments and their determination.

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



Martino Harmon

VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT LIFE



Wolverines, congratulations on your graduation!

Wolverines, you never cease to amaze. You spent the past year striving for academic excellence in the middle of a pandemic that put life as we know it into lockdown — and you still came out of it with your head held high and a shiny new degree from the University of Michigan. That takes courage. That takes commitment. That takes the kind of grit and self-love and respect that will serve you well for the rest of your lives.

To be a Michigan graduate is not just to join the community of over 500,000 Michigan alumni spread

around the globe — 500,000 friends who are ready to help welcome you into your next chapter. It is also to embrace the idea that the knowledge and experiences you have earned here are a gift to be used. Your talents, dreams, and aspirations, along with the book-learning and real world practicums that you have seized all along here on campus, are not meant to be hoarded, but shared.

Go out and do great things with what you have learned. Do them well, with integrity and joy in the honest work of it. Carry with you the sense of self-assurance that even a pandemic could not stop you from chasing your dreams. You have overcome sleepless nights of studying for finals, the sweaty-palms feeling of just before a thesis defense, and so many other challenges, big and small. Whatever the next chapter of your story brings, I know you can handle it, and make us still here in Ann Arbor so very proud.

In fact, we are already proud. Your friends, family, and classmates could not be prouder of your achievements. But I hope you know that the most important opinion in all of this is how you see yourself. Wolverines, be proud of yourselves. Recognize and celebrate you for all you have done. Have there been times of self-doubt and struggle for you? I am sure there have. After all, that is what it means to be human.

You are not alone. I have those moments, too — and I am the vice president for Student Life at "the greatest university in the world!" as the voice for Darth Vader (James Earl Jones) put it. Every single other Michigan alum has been through this before you, and as you cross this finish line and set your eyes on a new horizon, remember that they are excited for you to join them, and we the staff and faculty at the University of Michigan will always be here to support you, wherever you go.

And, wherever you go — Go Blue!

Congratulations again, Wolverines. We are so proud of you.

Martino Harmon

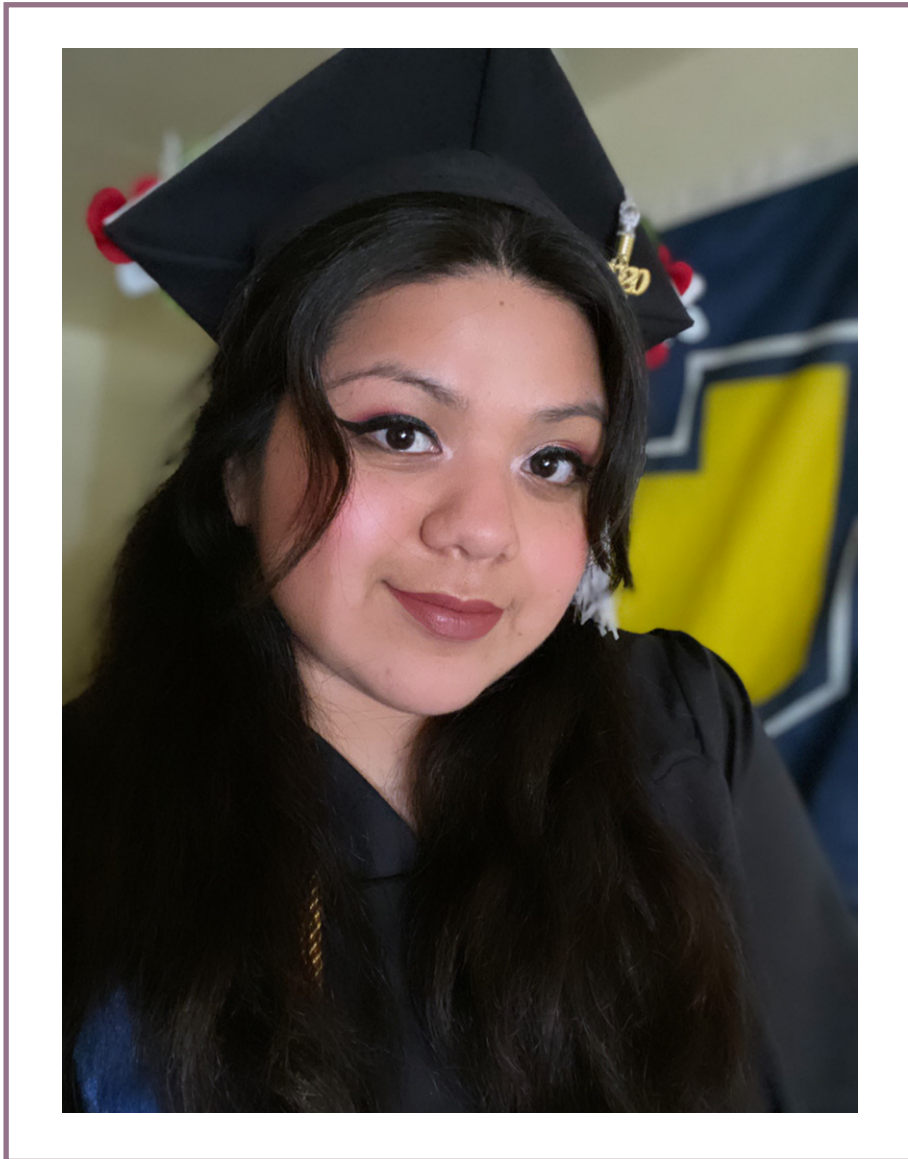
Martino Harmon, Ph.D.

Vice President for Student Life



A decorative border made of purple leafy branches, resembling laurel, framing the entire page. The branches are thin and dark purple, with small, pointed leaves. They curve around the top, bottom, and sides of the central text area.

Graduates



Rosa Avilez-Martinez

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Bachelor's

"Yay! We did it!"





Diana Gaspar

Stephen M. Ross School of Business
Bachelor's





Ivana Lopez Espinosa

School of Education

Master's

"We did it! Congradulations <3 You're amazing and powerful, don't forget that!"





Angela Rubi Martinez-Chavez

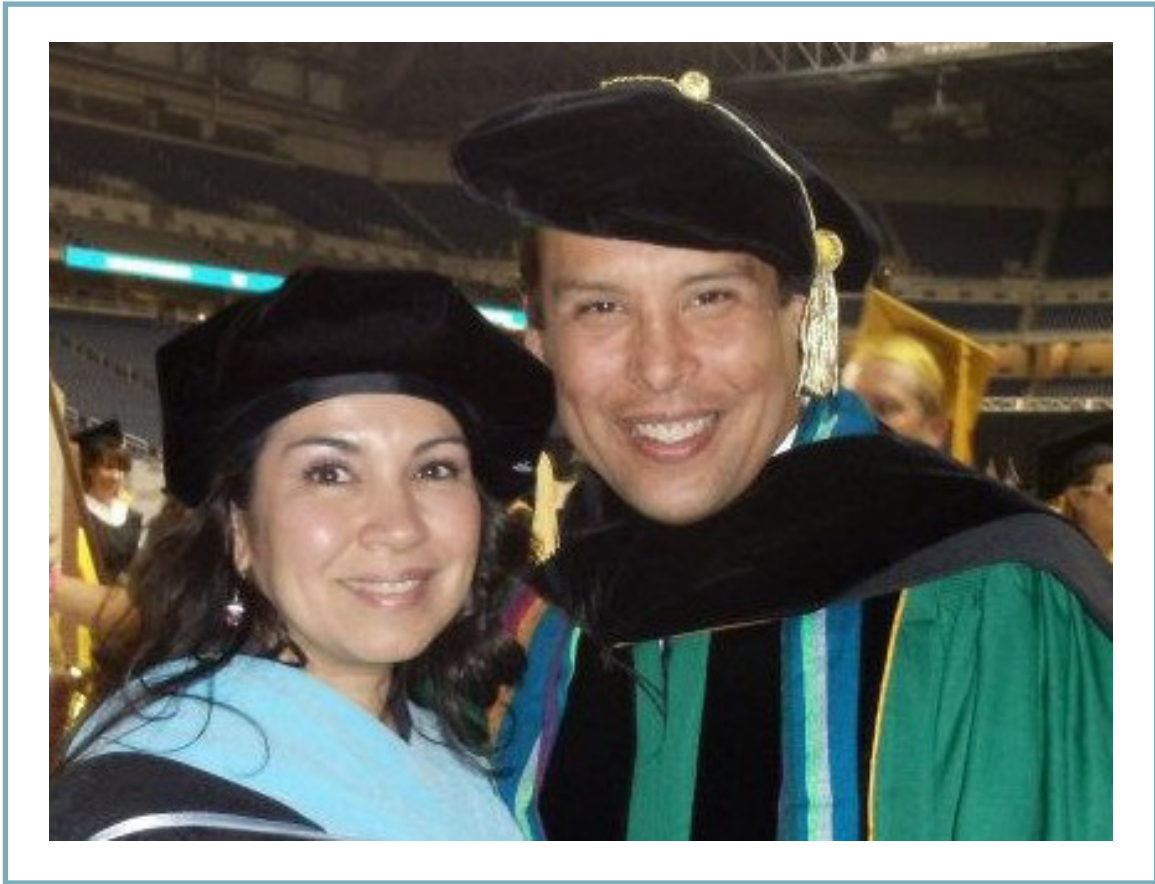
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Bachelor's

"Si se pudo! We did it!"



A decorative border made of teal-colored leaves and branches, forming a rectangular frame around the central text.

Staff & Faculty



Ethriam Brammer

Dean's Office

Rackham Graduate School

"Liberation is a praxis: the action and reflection of men and women upon their world in order to transform it."

--Paulo Freire Congratulations, Class of 2021!"





Larry Gant

Director, Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
School of Social Work, University of Michigan

"do well - raise hell"





Katie Lopez

Office of Global Activities
School of Social Work

"Congratulations on your graduation, winter 2021 graduates! You have worked hard in such incredible circumstances to complete this degree. Your flexibility and adaptability will serve you well in the future. Best of luck as you transition to being a UM alum. Go Blue!"





Adela Pinch

Angel Hall

Department of English

*"Congratulations!! You are the future!! Keep on learning,
keep on fighting!"*





Andarius R. Taylor

Comprehensive Studies Program
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

"Never forget that your presence is powerful and absolutely critical. Every mountain has rough edges, but you have every tool necessary to scale successfully. Be proud of your contributions, continue to endure gracefully and remember to treat yourself better with each day.

Much love to the graduating class and I am ever so proud of you! Special shoutout to my sisters Angela and Azucena! Love y'all dearly and believe in you with my whole heart!

Be Blessed & Stay Encouraged!"





Daniel Valetta

LSA Collegiate Fellow
English Language and Literature

"Congratulations, Class of 2021! Your fresh perspectives, your vigorous insistence upon equity and inclusion, and your commitment to serving your communities—and others—are already changing the world for the better. Keep up the great work, stay true to yourself, and never be afraid to turn to one another in times of need."





To Our Loved Ones...

"Thanks for all the support, always and forever."

- Rosa Avilez-Martinez



"Ma y pa, los amo con todo mi corazon, gracias por su apoyo <3

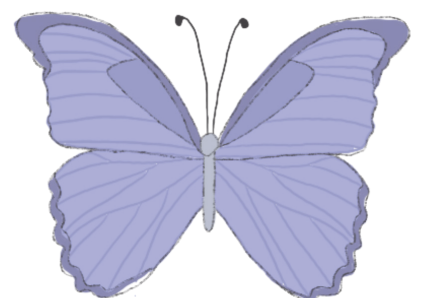
And to everyone around me, thank you for allowing me to grow with you. I am so grateful to have you in my life :)"

- Samara Jackson Tobey

"I want to thank my family, my boyfriend, friends, and all my loved ones for helping me throughout my college journey. I have definitely had some very difficult times, but knowing I had my support system there for me all the time really helped me.

Quiero agradecer a mi familia, a mi novio, a mis amigos y a todos mis seres queridos por ayudarme durante mi viaje universitario. Definitivamente he tenido momentos muy difíciles, pero saber que tenía mi sistema de apoyo ahí para mí todo el tiempo realmente me ayudó."

- Virginia Shelifoe



Regents and Statements

Jordan B. Acker, *Huntington Woods*

Michael J. Behm, *Grand Blanc*

Mark J. Bernstein, *Ann Arbor*

Paul W. Brown, *Ann Arbor*

Sarah Hubbard, *Okemos*

Denise Ilitch, *Bingham Farms, chair*

Ron Weiser, *Ann Arbor*

Katherine E. White, *Ann Arbor*

Mark S. Schlissel (ex officio)

Territorial Acknowledgement

The University of Michigan was founded through the Treaty of Fort Meigs in 1817, when the Anishinaabeg - the Three Fires Confederacy of the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi - along with their neighbors, the Seneca, Delaware, Shawnee, and Wyandot nations ceded portions of their land so that their children could be educated.

Through these words of acknowledgement, their ancestral, traditional, and contemporary ties to this land and the founding of the University are renewed and reaffirmed.

The University of Michigan Statement of Affirmative Action

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, 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 Institutional Equity and Title IX/Section 504 Coordinator, Office for Institutional Equity, 2072 Administrative Services Building, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1432, 734-763-0235, TTY 734-647-1388. For other University of Michigan information call 734-764-1817.

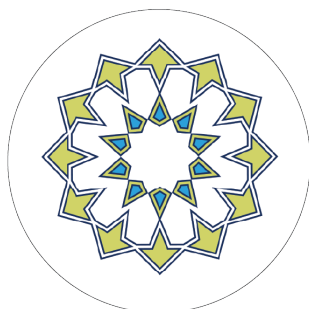
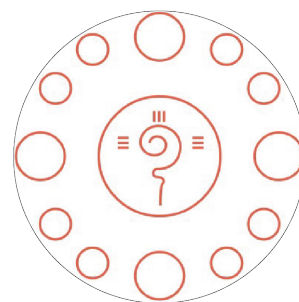
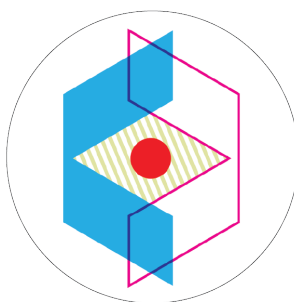
Freedom of Speech and Artistic Expression

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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