



2024

 University of
Kentucky®

Harambee *Unity*
Graduation Celebration

MAY 2, 2024 | 5:30 PM

CENTRAL BANK CENTER



Harambee Pomoja

Harambee Pomoja is Swahili For “Pulling Together”

This ceremony represents a time of coming together, marking an achievement which is both individual and communal. Graduates, each of you have worked diligently toward your educational goals, and now you have succeeded. Today, we celebrate your success.

Family members, this is your success as well, due to your loving and often self sacrificing support of your graduate. “**Harambee Pomoja**” is thus an apt metaphor for this evening’s program, as we recall the hours and days, the months and years of study, sacrifice and struggle, of “pulling together” which has brought each of you to today’s momentous occasion.



PROGRAM

PROCESSIONAL Class of 2024 led by **Mr. Emmett "Buzz" Burnam**
Office of Admissions, Retiree

OCCASION **Ciarra Butler**
Master of Social Work

WELCOME **Unique Young Nutter**, *Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator*
College of Pharmacy

OPENING REMARKS **Dr. Eli Capilouto**, *12th President*
University of Kentucky

STUDENT REFLECTIONS **Harrison Goode**
B.S. in Equine Science and Management

Aliyah McDaniel
M.S. in Kinesiology and Health Promotion, specialization in Sport Leadership

PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES **Jasmine Prince**, *Associate Director*
Martin Luther King Center

Dr. Brandon Thompson, *Associate Dean of Students*
Office for Student Success

CLOSING REMARKS, ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND ROSE CEREMONY **Keith Jackson**, *President*
Lyman T. Johnson African American Constituency Group

Dr. Walter Malone, *Director*
Center for Academic Resources and Enrichment Services (CARES)

2024 HARBEE UNITY GRADUATION CELEBRATION AFTERPARTY

All graduates and guests are invited to join us in the back of the hall for music, dancing, and refreshments.

Mistress of Ceremonies

Unique Young Nutter

**Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator
College of Pharmacy**

Unique Young-Nutter is a native of Louisville, KY currently serving as the Diversity and Inclusion Program Coordinator for the University of Kentucky's College of Pharmacy. Her tasks include assisting with the design and implementation of short- and long-term diversity initiatives for the college, along with developing and planning various projects and deliverables for the DEI office. She works primarily with the Associate Dean of Diversity & Inclusion to increase the support and retention of the UK College of Pharmacy's students, employees, alumni, and faculty. In the community, Unique is a recent 2023

graduate of Leadership Lexington and is currently serving as a Neighborhood Healer with Lexington's Neighborhood Healers Project to help promote and improve mental health awareness. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Integrated Strategic Communication from the University of Kentucky, and during her undergraduate career she served in multiple student organizations as a student leader, including serving as a past student President of UK's Black Student Union and becoming a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Unique has also earned a Master of Science in Higher Education with a concentration in Student Affairs from the University of Kentucky, and she is currently on her journey to becoming Dr. Nutter by pursuing her PhD in Higher Education Studies with a concentration in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Unique plans to continue her work as a change agent and advocate for at-risk groups across campus and in her community!





2024 Graduates

BACHELORS, MASTERS, AND DOCTORATE DEGREES

Names of graduates are presented
alphabetically and by college.

**Graduates with multiple degrees will appear with each of their colleges.*

CONGRATULATIONS!

WE ARE IMMENSELY PROUD OF EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU.

**THE HARAMBEE UNITY GRADUATION CELEBRATION COMMITTEE
AND THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY COMMUNITY**

Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

Bachelors

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Ariel Baldon | Yazmin Miramontes |
| ViAsia Bramblett | Jared Mosley |
| Harrison Goode | Aileena Roberts |
| Brandy Jackson | Jayla Sergent |
| Sheridan King | Ryan Smith |

College of Arts and Sciences

Bachelors

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Lauren Ashley | Khdija Conteh |
| Joshua Berry | Chantel Hughes |
| Damiya Bostic | Cynquesha Jarrell |
| ViAsia Bramblett | Sheridan King |
| Chassidy Brown | Jimia Mack |

College of Arts and Sciences

Bachelors

Jocelyn Martin
Hailey Amira McKee
Skyla Meadows
Mahogany Mobley
Rachel Mukeba
Hallie Rice
Makaia Robinson
Jazmin Rose

Daryn Seals
Seven Simms
Cindy Sossa
Llana Smalls
Carlos Vereza Zacarias
Alisha Ward
Alyssa Williams
Alexus White

Masters

Erin Salano

Doctorate

Omotope Matilda Solomon

Gatton College of Business and Economics

Bachelors

**Chidi Afam
Samantha Walker**

Masters

Jalen Williams

College of Communication and Information

Bachelors

**Sterling Acton
Kennedi Brookins
Patrice Cornelious
Maria Folio
Niya Gates
Isaiah Ingram
Brandy Jackson**

**Jasmine Jackson
ShelbieAnn Larmour
Nyah Leveretter
Jade Lyons
Jathan Spicer
Bryson Steed
Alayna Tobo**

College of Education

Bachelors

**Vanessa Darby
Jania Martin
Tamari Miller
Jordyn Thomas**

Masters

**Aliyah McDaniel
Shania Rayford**

Stanley and Karen Pigman College of Engineering

Bachelors

Anthony Lopez

College of Fine Arts

Bachelors

Kennedi Brookins

College of Health Sciences

Bachelors

**Emmanuel Dhemby
Sydney Thurman
Cori Simpson
Mariel Wilkerson**

College of Medicine

Masters

Cheyenne Chandler

College of Nursing

Bachelors

Jessie Pearson

College of Public Health

Bachelors

Kelsey West

Masters

Tisha Clayborn

College of Social Work

Bachelors

Kalen Cheatum

Masters

Ciarra Butler

Sydney Hardin

Kenyatta Jarrell

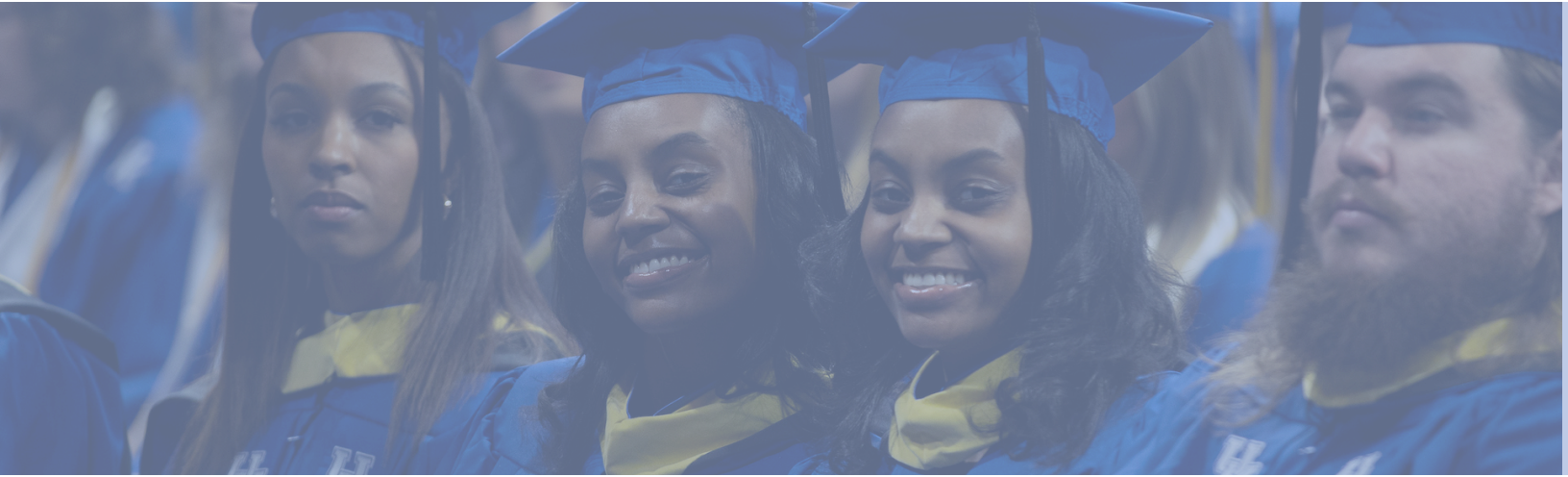
Dapaogewende Kamasse

Kathleen Summers

Doctorate

Uriah Carter

Carol Taylor



Graduate Salutes

GRADUATE THANKS AND APPRECIATIONS

In celebration, we are happy to share space for graduates to thank the people who impacted their educational journeys.

Submissions are ordered alphabetically by graduate last name.

“

You don't become what you want, you become what you believe.”

Oprah Winfrey

A WORD FROM OUR GRADUATES

Sterling Acton

Thank you God, My mom and dad, and all my loved ones who have been in my corner no matter what. Thank you for all the support and love. & Thanks UK for an unforgettable college experience!

Chidi Afam

Mama we made it!

Lauren Ashley

Thank you to my family and friends for being there for me throughout my college journey. Specifically, I want to thank my mom & dad for everything they have done for me. They've given me endless love and guidance, been incredibly supportive, and guided me down the path to success. Words can't express how much I am grateful for you and all the sacrifices you have made. Thank you also to the University of Kentucky for providing me with a stellar education and some of the best years of my life!

Ariel Baldon

Thank you to everyone who poured into me during my college journey.

Joshua Berry

College has allowed me to develop and grow, and upon my graduation I will further develop as a leader and future educator.

A WORD FROM OUR GRADUATES

Damiya Bostic

To God, I offer my sincerest thanks for guiding me through difficult times and blessing me with love, strength, and perseverance. To my family, I am forever grateful for your unconditional love, support, and guidance. You have been my rock and my cheerleaders, always there to lift me up and encourage me to reach for the stars. And to my sisters, you are my closest confidants and my best friends. Your laughter, camaraderie, and sisterly bond have brought me endless joy and companionship. Thank You

Kennedi Brookins

Thank you to UK for giving me 4 years of growth and insight. Thank you to my support team, my mom, dad and brother for always being a phone call away. To the friends and relationships foster here at UK, thank you for being in my life. Thank you God for establishing my plans for the future, I look forward to this next chapter.

Cassidy Brown

Thank you for the love and support!

Ciarra Butler

This has been an amazing journey and I loved every minute of it. One thing I will say is, Romans 8:28 is absolutely true. I am eternally grateful to the Lord, my three children, my father, mom, mother, sisters, (Dominique, NyTeshia, Angie, and Kathleen) Demetria, Aunt Jean, Manella, and many more. An special thank you to Nancy Nettles, Ayesha Keller Delores Butler, Hannah Washington Sabrina Pittman, and Sebrina McClinton. Your support has shaped me. I love you all. UKY DSW program see you soon! :-)

A WORD FROM OUR GRADUATES

Uriah Carter

First, giving glory and honor to God for carrying me through! I want to thank my family, friends, students, and loved ones in my village for their support. Lastly, I want to thank all the Black women in the world who have set the path before me-thank you for your greatness, my sisters!

Cheyenne Chandler

To my family, thank you for pouring into me throughout my academic journey and reminding me that I can do anything I set my mind to. Your love and support are something I will never forget. To my friends, I love each and every one of you and couldn't have made it without you! The University of Kentucky has given me so many opportunities and has molded me into the woman I am today. Soon to be Dr. Chandler PharmD, MSMS.

Kalen Cheatham

I would first like to thank my Mom, Dad, and Sister for always supporting me through the ups and downs I've had in college. I would also like to thank my partner and friends who have been with me through my big and small moments and have always been by my side. Lastly, thank you to the University of Kentucky for giving me opportunities I never knew I could have and helping me reach goals I never thought I would accomplish. Congratulations to all the graduates!

A WORD FROM OUR GRADUATES

Tisha Clayborn

Thank you to my family, your support has been my guiding light. To my professors and mentors, I am profoundly grateful for your guidance and dedication. I am indebted to you for shaping my academic journey. My resilience and determination have been crucial in overcoming challenges and achieving this milestone. Graduation signifies not only academic success but also personal growth and strength. I am proud of the person I've become and the journey that has led me to this moment.

Kadija Conteh

I would like to thank my mother for all her sacrifices and commitment that she poured into me. She raised me all by herself and I would not have achieved so much without her. I would also like to thank Siler for being my rock through it all. Finally, to KRNL for allowing me the opportunity to cultivate my passions for fashion even further.

Vanessa Darby

Thank the Lord and my friends and family for being there as I couldn't have done this without them.

Emmanuel Dhemby

I'd just like to give all the glory to my Lord and savior Jesus Christ. He has been my rock and leader through everything. I'd also like to thank my parents, Ruth and Max and siblings, Mahvie, Rebecca, Juste, Dorcace, and Justice as well as my nieces; Certe, Abigael and Zoe and my nephew Claude. I'd also like to recognize my best friend Erick and Blessed for their support. Finally, Dr. Clancy and Dr. Kerksmar for their support. Last but not least, E.L.B.B and Pastor Dominic for his friendship.

A WORD FROM OUR GRADUATES

Maria Folio

There are several parties I'd love to shout out! To my mom, dad, and brother, I love you and thank you for always supporting me. Charlee, thank you for loving me unconditionally and I can't wait for this next chapter with you. Abigail, thank you for always being my biggest cheerleader and best friend. Finally to Implicit Dance Crew, thank you for being a second family!

Niya Gates

Thank you to everyone that I've come across during my time at UK. You all have helped shape to be the woman I am today.

Harrison Goode

Thank God for this opportunity to study at the University of Kentucky. Thank you to my parents and family for believing in me!

Sydney Hardin

I would like to thank my family and friends for their constant support and love throughout this journey. Without them, I would not be receiving my Masters degree.

Chantal Hughes

I just want to thank anyone that helped me to get where I am today. And I'd like to give a special thanks to my mom who never gave up on me.

A WORD FROM OUR GRADUATES

Isaiah Ingram

Mom and Dad, Thank you for your relentless belief in me and my success throughout my time at UK. Thank you Kentucky for the unforgettable memories and experiences I've had since moving here in 2019-and finally, Thank me, for not giving up, for being consistent, and for finishing out strong!

Brandy Jackson

In due time. Thank you to my family you are truly my biggest supporters and I couldn't have done it without your constant encouragement. To EE, I am so lucky to be loved by you all and I'm am happy to call you my sisters! Two down, two to go.

Jasmine Jackson

Dear Family,

Thank you for all the support that you guys have shown me over the years. Without it, I would not be able to say that I am apart of the graduating class of 2024. University of Kentucky has opened so many doors open for me and I am grateful for the experience!

Cynquesha Jarrell

I just want to say thank all of my advisors and team to make this day possible, my family who never thought this day would come and of course my partner, Mike! Thank you for putting up with me missing events to study! I'm so grateful for this opportunity! Thank you, UK! It's definitely been a long time coming!

A WORD FROM OUR GRADUATES

Kenyatta Jarrell

Thank you to all that have helped me along the way! Go Wildcats

Dapaogewende Kamasse

Dear family,

I am so grateful for all your assistance through this education journey. It has not been easy but I am here today and I am grateful to God Almighty. He has put you all in my life to be present and show me love whenever I needed. Thank you for walking with me till this day. God bless and I love you all. WE MADE IT!!!

Sheridan King

To my family, thank you for your constant love and support in everything I do. To my sisters, I will forever cherish our sisterhood and the memories we've made.

ShelbieAnn Larmour

"The secret of our success is that we never, never give up."

- Wilma Mankiller

We are the wildest dreams of our ancestors. May the next seven generations grow from the roots we plant today.

A WORD FROM OUR GRADUATES

Nyah Leveretter

Thank you to all my coaches, teammates, professors, administrators and anyone that has played a role in my growth as a student, athlete and woman here at Kentucky. Special shout-out to my best friends Syd, Meeko, Kris and Marcus for making this a home and family away from home. Kentucky made a little girl's dreams come true. I will cherish the memories I've made here forever.

Anthony Lopez

Going to college seemed like a normal step in my life, something I felt like I was supposed to do. Mom and Dad, you have given me the push in life to accomplish my dreams, to find myself, the opportunity to make you both proud, I love you both with all my heart. To all my friends that I've made across my years here, thank you for giving me the life that I never thought I wanted, for being the people I can lean on, laugh with and do dumb stuff with. Forever in my life you will hold a special spot.

Jade Lyons

Thank you for some of the most memorable years of my life!! Mama, you're my reason & this is for you! Biggest ups to Ja'Mahl, Jasmine & Ms. Mel in the MLK Center!

Jimia Mack

I would like to thank my parents for their unwavering support on this journey, my friends for making every day a little bit better, and the University for the opportunity to fulfill my dream of being a wildcat!

A WORD FROM OUR GRADUATES

Jania Martin

Thank you UK for the best year of my life. I didn't know I was going to love this school the way I do now. Truly even though I been here for a short amount of time; The University of Kentucky has made such a big impact in my life. Thank you to my family for being my rock, my teammates for accepting me for who I am and Jesus Christ for being my savior, protector, and provider. By his grace and mercy I'm getting my second degree!

Jocelyn Martin

Thank you to everyone who helped me get where I am today! I couldn't have done any of this without the immense support from my friends, family, and colleagues.

Aliyah McDaniel

A time was had ! Shout out my friends. Love y'all real bad!

Hailey Amira McKee

Thank you to everyone who helped me get where I am today! I couldn't have done any of this without the immense support from my friends, family, and colleagues.

A WORD FROM OUR GRADUATES

Skyla Meadows

Thank you to my mom for being my biggest supporter and inspiration. Thank you to my family for encouraging me to follow my dreams. UK has molded me into the person I am today and I'm excited for the next chapter in my life.

Tamari Miller

Thank you to my parents, my siblings, my friends, family, and JJ.

Yazmin Miramontes

To begin, I give all of my gratitude and honor towards God. For He is the reason why I am here today and the reason to have love, compassion, and humility in my heart. But at the same time I can only think of special people in my life to dedicate this victory to and this is for my family, my mom and sister. Thank you for motivating and supporting me to become the best version that I can be. Thank you to the University of Kentucky for permitting me to learn, grow and making a dream possible.

Mahogany Mobley

Thank you god for allowing me to be fearless and reach new heights in my life ! I appreciate this journey and everything that has come with it. and to my mom my brother my teammates my sisters thank you for believing in me and encouraging me. I couldn't have done it without your support!!
LOVE YOU GUYS!

A WORD FROM OUR GRADUATES

Jared Mosley

I can finally go back home

Rachel Mukeba

Thank you God for this opportunity, thank you to my husband my parents and brother and sister.

Jessie Pearson

I wanted to thank everyone who has supported me and who continues to support me for always pushing me to reach my goals.

Shania Rayford

To my beloved Mother & Father, thank you so much for your love, support, & guidance. Since birth you've planned for my future & I am beyond grateful for the sacrifices you've made to get me here. I love you both & I hope I've made you proud.

Hallie Rice

To my family, thank you for reminding me that I've come so far to give up and always having faith in me even when I didn't have faith in myself.

To my community at UK, thank you for supporting me in everything I do and for being there for me when I wasn't even there for myself. I couldn't have made it without you and wouldn't trade these past four years with you for anything.

A WORD FROM OUR GRADUATES

Aileena Roberts

I thank God and my family wholeheartedly for getting me through college. I am very excited to start a new chapter and see where I can go!

Makaia Robinson

Thank you to my support system for your love and generosity! None of this would be possible without you guys!

Jazmin Rose

I would like to thank my Mother for being my rock and for always supporting me. My sisters for always giving me a laugh and a shoulder to cry on. The Black community here at UK for giving me a home and valuable lessons. And Lastly, I would like to thank God for dying on the cross for my sins, giving me a hope and a future. For giving me unconditional and redeeming love these past 4 years, without him, I would not be here today.

Erin Salano

Gracias a mi mama por enseñarme fortaleza, a mi hermana por su inmenso apoyo, a mi papa que nunca se raja, y a mi Tati por nunca desampararme. Si se pudo.

A WORD FROM OUR GRADUATES

Daryn Seals

Thank you to my support system for encouraging me throughout the last 4 years. You have graciously lifted me through the hard times, allowing me to arrive here today. To my sisters, thank you for pouring into me over the years. You are forever in my heart.

Jayla Sergent

The University of Kentucky has always been home. From sitting in class at Whitehall with my mom, to coming full circle being a UK graduate. Thank you to my mom and dad for their endless support, love and money! I am excited to continue my education here.

Seven Simms

Thank you to my mom for being my anchor the entire process. I love you to the moon and back!

Cori Simpson

"God is within her; She will not fall" - Psalms 46:5

I am grateful to my friends, family, and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. for their unwavering support during my undergraduate career. Special thanks to my Mom and Dad for enabling my growth as a daughter and a student. Your sacrifices and love are invaluable. Here's to the next chapter!

A WORD FROM OUR GRADUATES

Llana Smalls

"God is within her; She will not fall" - Psalms 46:5

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Ryan Smith

This school owes me absolutely nothing. I love who I've become throughout my college years. Thank you to my family for picking me up when I was down. I wouldn't have made it if it weren't for the LORD Himself carrying me through.

"We also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit." Romans 5:3-5

Omotope Matilda Soloman

Thank you first to God, to my family, my friends and my professors. I could not have come this far without you all.

Thank you.

A WORD FROM OUR GRADUATES

Cindy Sossa

I want to thank God for orchestrating the community who forever has my heart here at UK. He knew I needed people who were willing to take a chance on the my wallflower self so that I could then step into the advocate I was called to be. Those people include Yaw who always reminded me to take breaks, Miss Mel who always made me feel welcome, Jasmine Prince and Ja'Mahl McDaniel who showed me what compassion looks like as well as my parents, TNX sisters, and UGP kids who gave me hope in humanity.

Jathan Spicer

The future is not something we enter, it is something we create!

Bryson Steed

Mom and Dad, thank you for all your support throughout my time at UK and EKU. Love y'all so much!

Kathleen Summers

To my beloved family my dear mom, Greg, and my precious children, Amaya, Gail, and Jr. as well as my siblings Kevin, Jessica, and Josh, and to the memory of my brother Chris, who became my guardian angel on February 16th, 2024, I am deeply grateful for your unwavering love and boundless generosity. Your support has been my rock, and I couldn't have navigated this journey without each of you by my side. The University of Kentucky has given me the best years of my life!

A WORD FROM OUR GRADUATES

Jordyn Thomas

To my beloved family my dear mom, Greg, and my precious children, Amaya, Gail, and Jr. as well as my siblings Kevin, Jessica, and Josh, and to the memory of my brother Chris, who became my guardian angel on February 16th, 2024, I am deeply grateful for your unwavering love and boundless generosity. Your support has been my rock, and I couldn't have navigated this journey without each of you by my side. The University of Kentucky has given me the best years of my life!

Sydney Thurman

To my beloved family and friends,

Thank you all for being by my side since the beginning. This journey wasn't easy, and I couldn't have accomplished all I have without your support! I love you forever and always!

Love,
Your future PA-C in the making!

Alayna Tobo

Thank you God for leading me here and allowing me to blossom. Thank you to my parents for always supporting me and continuously keeping me grounded. I couldn't have done this without you all. To my line sisters, my love for ya'll runs deep. Our sisterhood means everything to me. To everyone else who has assisted me throughout college, your unwavering support has not gone unnoticed. Thank you all!

A WORD FROM OUR GRADUATES

Carlos Vereza Zacarias

I would like to thank my parents, friends, family, and all the staff at the university who have helped me get here. It's been a long and tiring road to graduation, but thanks to the support and encouragement I received from them I am able to graduate as First-Generation student from immigrant parents. Thank you to all for everything!!!

Samantha Walker

Mom and Dad, thank you for all you do and for getting me to this point. To my sisters and the Illustrious Iota Sigma Chapter, thank you. You have made my time at UK the most memorable and rewarding and I will forever cherish our sisterhood!

Alisha Ward

Mom and Dad,

Thank you so much for always supporting me and pushing me to be the best version of myself. Thank you to all of the friends that I've made here because you have helped to change my worldview in ways I knew imaginable. I can't wait to close this chapter of my life knowing that I came, I saw, and I conquered.

A WORD FROM OUR GRADUATES

Kelsey West

Thank you to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for allowing me to make it thus far. Thank you to my mother Ronnye and sister Tylar for all of your love, encouragement, and support. To the Illustrious Iota Sigma Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, thank you for all of the memories and bonds I will cherish for the rest of my life! This sisterhood means so much to me and it was my honor to have served as your Vice President.

Mariel Wilkerson

To my family, thank you for your love and unwavering support. To my sisters and closest friends, you have made my time here at UK the most memorable.

Jalen Williams

All Glory to God for guiding me through this journey. There were many obstacles that I had to overcome. I just want to thank my family for always being there to love and support me through this process. Lastly, I am grateful to the University of Kentucky and the city of Lexington. You will always hold a special place in my heart.

Alyssa Williams

Family and friends, thank you from the bottom of my heart for all your love, motivation, and support. These past 2 years had been very hard on me but my friends who I consider family were always on the sidelines cheering me on. Thank you, University of Kentucky for providing so many resources for me to be a successful student!



Unity Celebration Planning Committee

JOHN BLAINE

CENTER FOR GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL DIVERSITY INITIATIVES

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OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS, RETIREE

RON JACKSON

CENTER FOR ACADEMIC RESOURCES AND ENRICHMENT SERVICES

DR. WALTER MALONE

CENTER FOR ACADEMIC RESOURCES AND ENRICHMENT SERVICES

STEPHANIE NANCE

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DR. KENDRIANA PRICE

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