



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE

GRADUATION CEREMONY

DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT AFFAIRS
ADMINISTRATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

MAY 11, 2024 • 11 AM

BLUFFS BALLROOM
1725 STATE STREET
LA CROSSE, WI 54601

EVENT PROGRAM

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Tori Svoboda

Ed.D. WELCOME

Dr. Adele Lozano

Ed.D. STUDENT SPEAKER

Dr. Kelly Simerick

PRESENTATION OF Ed.D. CANDIDATES

M.S.Ed. WELCOME

Dr. Jörg Vianden

M.S.Ed. STUDENT SPEAKER

Nou Xiong

PRESENTATION OF M.S.Ed. CANDIDATES

CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. Tori Svoboda

Ed.D. GRADUATES

Melissa DeCarlo Recknor

"My Voice Matters": Latinx Students' Experiences in Dual Enrollment Programs in Rural North Carolina

Marco Torrez Miranda

From the Margins to the Center: A Critical Phenomenological Study on the Experiences of BIPOC DEI Leaders at Two-year Predominantly White Institutions in the Midwest

Hillary M. Vamstad

"Go with the Flow": A Phenomenological Study of Regional Admissions Professionals Recruiting in the Midwest

Mark Joseph Mach

BIPOC Medical Student Wellness: An Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis

Kareem Watts

An Arts-Based Study on Hip Hop Pedagogy for Black College Student Success

Quran Green

Hanging on to Our Hope: African American Middle Level Managers' Retention in Student Affairs

Kelly Jo Simerick

Juggling Acts: Navigating Motherhood and Leadership as Senior Student Affairs Officers

Cynthia Anne Waldeck

Medical Withdrawal Reentry Policies in a State University System: A Comparative Case Study

M.S.Ed. GRADUATES

Lawrence Blaser

Implementation of Restorative Justice in Higher Education Housing

Macy Caroline Carty

Increasing Standardized Resources and Support for Working Professionals Supervising a Graduate Student

Caleb E. Colon-Rivera

Agricultural School Pipeline: Diversification and Retention in Ag Programs

Alejandra Cruz

Global Lens: Internationalization and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Hannah Mae Dickman

An Alternative for Student Conduct: Restorative Justice

Lucas Wilder Dresden

Creating Inclusive Communities: Gender Inclusive Housing at UW-Platteville

Liam Granlund

An Academic Program for Men of Color at the University of Wisconsin Madison

Elliot F. Knoke

"Am I the Only One?": The Importance of Queer Spaces at Religious Universities

Seev Lee

Shifting Institutional Culture Around Racial Tension on the UWEC Campus Through Professional Development

Casey Lehmann

Closing the Financial Equity Gap for Non-traditional Students

Rachel R. Leopold

Building Resilience in UW-Eau Claire Students by Encouraging Difficult Dialogues

Maikou K Lor

Supporting the Success of Hmong Students at Predominately White Institutions

Ashley E. McCarthy

Empowering Pregnant and Parenting Students: Strategies for Retention and Persistence in Higher Education

Cristina Montejano Moreno

Mi Experiencia Matters: The First-Year Latinx Commuter Student Experience

Amberly Ann Roeck

Advancing UWL's Sorority Experience through Leadership Skill-Building

Henry Scamehorn

"Feeling Like a Freshman Again": Rebuilding Transfer Students' Sense of Belonging

Cooper Li Shea

Identifying and Addressing Barriers in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Representation in Pre-Health Majors

Michaela E. Smith

Reframing Disability Culture: How Disability Cultural Centers Cultivate Community and Foster Belonging Among Disabled College Students

Joseph Trujillo

Supporting Students with Learning Disabilities in Their Transition to Higher Education and Degree Attainment

Ashley M. Watzig

Undocumented and DACAmended Student Access to Study Abroad

Bergen Aleta Wendt

My Senior Year: A Financial Literacy Program

Raymond Windsor

Legacy Admission: Increasing the Enrollment of Minoritized Students at Harvard College Through Policy Modification

Nou Xiong

Hmong American Students' Experiences in Graduate School

Recognition

2024 Rosandich Graduate Thesis and Dissertation Award

Dr. Jane Brannan

2024 GEL Graduate Student Academic Achievement Award

Nou Xiong

2024 CASSH Graduate Student Recognition of Excellence

Rachel Leopold
Dr. Marco Torrez-Miranda

2024 Eagle Teaching Excellence Award

Dr. Tori Svoboda

A very special thank you to our partners and colleagues for their help with recruiting, retaining, and supporting the students in our program:

PROGRAM PARTNERS & ADVOCATES

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Dr. Damira Grady		

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