



2025 PH.D./ED.D. HOODING CEREMONY

Wednesday, April 30, 2025
Wayne State Fieldhouse

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THE WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The governors of Wayne State University and their successors in office constitute a body corporate known as the Board of Governors of Wayne State University, in accordance with the Constitution of the State of Michigan. The board consists of eight members elected by the people of Michigan for eight-year terms. Each governor holds office until completion of the term and a successor has been nominated and elected in statewide elections. All vacancies that occur within the eight-year terms are filled through appointment by the governor of the state. Members of the board serve without compensation but are entitled to necessary expenses incurred in connection with the duties of their office.

The Board of Governors elects the president of the university and has general supervision of Wayne State University and the control and direction of all expenditures from university funds. It enacts bylaws and regulations for the conduct of its

business and for the governance of the university. It sets tuition and policy for other fees and charges; determines the compensation to be paid for services; confers degrees; sets the policy for management of gifts, grants, bequests, agreements and contracts; and leases or disposes of property.

Michigan's constitutional system of independent, elected boards to govern its universities is different from systems of most other states. It has helped Michigan to develop and preserve one of the nation's finest systems of colleges and universities. Each governing board devotes itself to one university and is able to work carefully to develop and nurture the excellence of that institution. The constitutional independence of the boards protects the universities from political interference; the election of boards by the voters assures that universities remain responsible to the public at large.



Shirley Stancato,
chair



Bryan C. Barnhill II,
vice chair



Danielle Atkinson



Michael Busuito



Marilyn Kelly



Anil Kumar



Terri Lynn Land



Sunny Reddy



Kimberly Andrews Espy,
ex officio

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT KIMBERLY ANDREWS ESPY

Dear Warriors,

Congratulations on your graduation from Wayne State University! We are so excited to celebrate your accomplishment today, along with family and friends who have cheered for you throughout your educational journey.

Earning a college degree takes determination, drive and grit – qualities that define our Wayne State Warriors. I'm so proud of your achievement!

You made an intentional choice to attend Wayne State University. You did so because you believed we would prepare you with the knowledge, expertise and competencies necessary to thrive in your future careers. After you graduate today, you will go on to achieve great things wherever you go, making a positive impact in metro Detroit and our state, across the nation, and around the world.

Because you chose Wayne State for your academic career, you have also played a critical role in making our community special. In addition to the commitment you showed in earning your degree, you also brought the unique perspectives, insights and care that inspire many others.

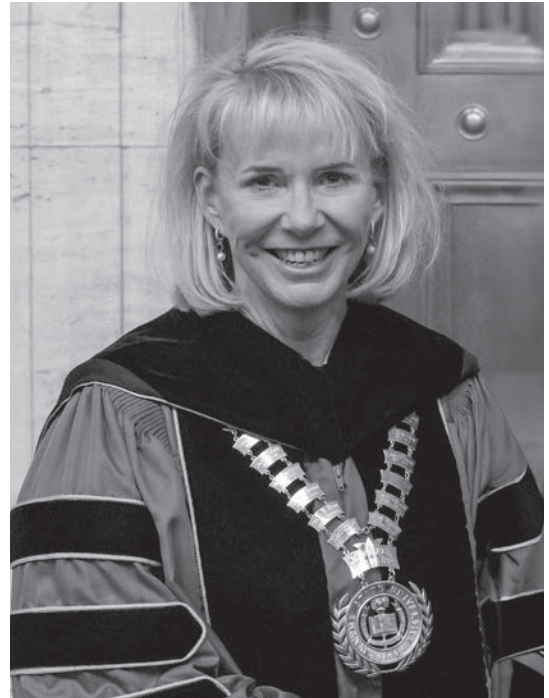
As you head into your careers and prosperous lives ahead, remember that you are always a Warrior – now and forever. Please stay in touch! I invite you to come back, visit campus regularly and engage with the next generation of WSU graduates by providing career-related experiences that prepare them to find success.

Once again, congratulations! Now forge your own bold path, impact our community in a positive way and make our world a better place. And always be Warrior Strong.

Sincerely,



Dr. Kimberly Andrews Espy
President



GOVERNORS EMERITI

Vernice D. Anthony
Richard Bernstein
Debbie Dingell
Diane Dunaskiss
Michael Einheuser
Mark Gaffney
Elizabeth Hardy
Paul Hillegonds
Danialle Karmanos
Denise J. Lewis
Annetta Miller
David A. Nicholson
Sandra Hughes O'Brien
Gary S. Pollard
Dana Thompson
Michael T. Timmis
Kim Trent

UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP

Kimberly Andrews Espy, *President*
Laurie M. Lauzon Clabo, *Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs*

ACADEMICS AND RESEARCH

Deans are represented on their school or college's list of graduate names.
Ezemenari Obasi, *Vice President for Research & Innovation*
Boris Baltas, *Senior Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Academic Personnel*
Charles Cotton, *Vice Provost for Strategic Enrollment*
Darryl Gardner, *Vice Provost for Student Success, Support and Engagement*
Christine Jackson, *Vice Provost for Partnerships and Workforce*
Donyale Padgett, *Interim Vice Provost for Inclusive Excellence*

HEALTH

Bernard J. Costello, *Senior Vice President for Health Affairs*
Mark Schweitzer, *Special Associate for Public Health Planning*

SHARED GOVERNANCE

Linda Beale, *President, Academic Senate*
Hayden Johnson, *President, Student Senate*

BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS

Bethany Gielczyk, *Senior Vice President for Finance and Business Affairs, Chief Financial Officer, and Treasurer*
Brad Dick, *Senior Associate Vice President for Finance and Business Affairs, and Deputy Chief Business Officer*
Carolyn Hafner, *Associate Vice President for Human Resources*
Rob Davenport, *Associate Vice President for Facilities Planning and Management*
Rob Thompson, *Acting Vice President for Enterprise Planning and Operational Excellence*

ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY

Ned Staebler, *Vice President for Economic Development and President, TechTown Detroit*
Taunya Phillips, *Assistant Vice President for Technology Commercialization*
Erika Wallace, *Director of Athletics*
David Ripple, *Vice President for Development and Alumni Affairs and President, Wayne State University Foundation*
Melissa Smiley, *Chief of Staff and University Relations Officer*
Patrick O. Lindsey, *Community Affairs Vice President*

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

Michael Poterala, *Vice President for Legal Affairs, Audit and Compliance, and General Counsel*
Julie Miller, *University Secretary and Executive Officer to the Board of Governors*



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DOCTORAL HOODING CEREMONY

ORDER of EXERCISES

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

9 a.m.



| | |
|---|---|
| Welcome and announcements | Voice overture |
| Processional | |
| The national anthem | Lillian Fellows |
| Introductions and marshaling of the ceremony | Laurie M. Lauzon Clabo, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs |
| Greetings from the Board of Governors | The Honorable Marilyn Kelly |
| Faculty acknowledgement | Steve Chrisomalis, Academic Senate |
| President's address | Kimberly Andrews Espy, President |
| Conferring of academic degrees | President Espy |
| Hooding | Amanda Bryant-Friedrich, Dean, Graduate School Denise Taliaferro Baszile, Dean, College of Education |
| Welcome to the Alumni Association video | Regina Baker, President, Wayne State Alumni Association |
| Recessional | |

CANDIDATES FOR THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

From the Graduate School
Amanda Bryant-Friedrich, Ph.D., *Dean*

Founded in 1933

May 2025

Raef Abdallah

*B.S. 1997, Lebanese American University
M.S. 2002, M.E. 2015, Oklahoma State University*

Dissertation: "Advancing Road Safety Through Software-Defined Vehicles."

Dissertation Advisors: Professors Zheng Dong and Weisong Shi

Computer Science

Jihan Abou Halloun

*B.S. 2011, M.S. 2013, Lebanese University
M.S. 2019, Wayne State University*

Dissertation: "Fault and Cyberattack Diagnosis and Handling Via Large Language Models and State Prediction for Manufacturing and Quantum Systems."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Helen Durand
Chemical Engineering

Mariam Aboudib

B.Ed. 2018, M.Ed. 2020, Wayne State University

Dissertation: "The Impact of Project Based Learning on the Development of English Language Learners in a High School Science Classroom."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Sandra Yarema
Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

Isaiah Adelabu

*B.Tech. 2012, Federal University of Technology Akure
M.S. 2016, King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals*

Dissertation: "Efficient Sabre-Sheath Hyperpolarization of Pyruvate and Other Alpha-Ketocarboxylates and Ultra-High-Qualityfactor Wireless Masing Magnetic Resonance Sensing of Hyperpolarized Contrast Media."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Eduard Chekmenev
Chemistry

Nicholas Korkuvi Adziboloso

*B.S. 2013, M.D. 2016, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology
M.S. 2020, Newcastle University*

Dissertation: "Immune Mechanisms in Ovarian Cancer Initiation and Progression: Implications for Early Detection and Novel Therapies."

Dissertation Advisors: Professors Gil Mor and Sorin Draghici

Physiology

Fatemeh Aghabozorgi

*B.S. 2006, Kharazmi University
M.S. 2010, University of Kashan
M.S. 2019, Mississippi State University*

Dissertation: "Synthesis of Mn-Based Transition Metal Phosphide Nanoparticles and Evaluation of Their Activity as Pre-Catalysts for Electrocatalytic Water Oxidation and Magnetic Applications."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Stephanie Brock
Chemistry

Sahar Aldujaili

*B.S. 1998, Eastern Michigan University
M.Ed. 2006, University of Michigan-Dearborn*

Dissertation: "Engaging Fifth-Grade Urban Students in Exploring Earth's Layers: Argumentation for Relational Conceptual Change."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Jazlin Ebenezer
Teacher Education

Saleh Amareen

*B.S. 2011, Jordan University of Science and Technology
M.S. 2014, Wayne State University*

Dissertation: "Towards Improving the Adoption of GraphQL Among Software Practitioners."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Amiangshu Bosu
Computer Science

Tameka Arnold

*B.A. 1998, M.S.W. 2001, University of Michigan
M.Ed. 2016, Grand Valley State University*

Dissertation: "Are Culturally Relevant Practices the Key to Addressing the Disproportionality of African American Males in Special Education?"

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Sarah Lenhoff
Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

Mohammad Bani Hani

*B.A. 2014, M.A. 2017, Yarmouk University
M.A. 2022, Wayne State University*

Dissertation: "Volatility Spillover Across Energy Markets."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Liang Hu
Economics

K.M. Begian-Lewis

B.A. 2016, B.A. 2020, M.A. 2022, Wayne State University

Dissertation: "'It Was Never Really a Conversation': The Rhetoric of Birth Control as Treatment for Uterine Bleeding Conditions."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Richard Marback
English

Carly Boye

B.S. 2018, University of Michigan

Dissertation: "Genotype-Environment Interactions for Non-Coding Variants in Disease and Evolution."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Roger Pique-Regi
Molecular Genetics and Genomics

Carly Braxton

B.A. 2010, Central Michigan University

M.A. 2012, University of Michigan

Dissertation: "You Have to Listen Differently: Identifying African American Rhetoric & Discourse Strategies in Patient-Provider Communication."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Richard Marback
English

John Bulat

B.A. 2003, M.P.A. 2011, Wayne State University

Dissertation: "The Connection Between Fragmentation and Traffic Stops."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Brady Baybeck
Political Science

Andrew Burks-Wright

B.A. 1996, University of Nebraska at Kearney

M.F.A. 1998, Bowling Green State University

M.A. 2019, University of Washington

Dissertation: "First-Year Writing and the Queer Pedagogy of Dismantling."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Jeff Pruchnic
English

Ion Campeanu

B.S. 2016, University of Miami

Dissertation: "Integrative Analysis of METTL and CMTR1 Methyltransferases in Cancer."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Zeng-Quan Yang
Cancer Biology

Jenna Carter

B.S. 2015, Michigan State University

M.D. 2025, Wayne State University

Dissertation: "Targeting Venetoclax Plus Azacitidine Resistance and Leukemia Stem Cells in Acute Myeloid Leukemia Via the Novel Imipridone ONC213."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Yubin Ge
Cancer Biology

Caitlin Cassidy

B.S.W. 2007, M.S.W. 2008, Wayne State University

Dissertation: "Medical Aid in Dying: Physician Beliefs, Practices, and Respect for Autonomy."

Dissertation Advisors: Professors Faith Hopp and Andrea Sankar
Social Work

Douglas Craig

B.S.E. 1985, M.S. 1988, B.S. 2011, B.A. 2011, Oakland University

M.F.A. 2014, Goddard College

Dissertation: "Leveraging Large-Language Models as Collaborative Reasoning Partners to Enhance Scientific Workflow."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Sorin Draghici
Computer Science

Manasseh Cudjoe

B.Ed. 2010, University of Education, Winneba

M.S. 2014, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology

Dissertation: "Engaging Ghana's Basic School Mathematics Teachers In Relational Conceptual Change Teaching: A Researcher - Teachers Collaborative Inquiry."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Jazlin Ebenezer
Teacher Education

Eric Davis

B.A. 2014, Tiffin University

Dissertation: "Mass Spectrometry Combined with Chemical Biology to Study Human Ailments."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Mary Kay Pflum
Chemistry

Christina DeAngelis

B.S. 2008, University of Michigan

M.A. 2013, Wayne State University

Dissertation: "Counseling Self-Efficacy and Trainee Development in the Age of Covid-19: A Quantitative Investigation."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Francesca Pernice
Educational Psychology

Stacey Deering

B.S. 2007, M.P.A. 2013, Eastern Michigan University

Dissertation: "The Effects of Representation on Student Educational Outcomes."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Brady Bayback
Political Science

Rayane Dennaoui

B.S. 2014, M.S. 2018, Lebanese American University

Dissertation: "Compensatory Roles of JAKs and STATs in Mammary Gland Development and Breast Cancer."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Kay-Uwe Wagner
Cancer Biology

Katherine Dwyer

B.S. 2017, B.A. 2017, M.S. 2019, M.B.A. 2024, Wayne State University

Dissertation: "Splicing-Dependent Regulation of Transcription: A Novel Role of the Splicing Factor Prp19 in RNAPII-Transcribed Genes."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Athar Ansari
Biological Science

Ziad Elhajjaji

B.S. 2005, University of Tripoli

M.S. 2017, University of Detroit Mercy

Dissertation: "Validation of a Wearable Sensor for Measuring Orthostatic Vital Signs."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Amar Basu
Computer Engineering

Samantha Ellens

B.A. 2013, University of Windsor

M.A. 2015, Wayne State University

Dissertation: "Uncovering Landscapes of Labor: The Contributions of the Citrus Lime Industry to Socioeconomic Transformations in the Post-Emancipation Lesser Antilles."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Krysta Ryzewski
Anthropology

Hector Esparra-Escalera

B.S. 2014, M.S. 2018, University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez

Dissertation: "Evaluation of Impacts and Drivers in Stream Ecosystems: Land Development, Nutrient Pollution, and Road Salt Exposure Through Responses in Benthic Macroinvertebrates."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Donna Kashian
Biological Science

Ahmad Faryami

B.S. 2019, Western Michigan University

Dissertation: "In Vitro Investigation of Shunt Catheter Failure in Hydrocephalus Treatment."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Carolyn Harris
Biomedical Engineering

Brenna Friday

B.S. 2019, University of Maryland, College Park

Dissertation: "Quantifying the Ecotoxicological Effects of Harmful Algal Blooms on Vulnerable Native Amphibians."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Donna Kashian
Biological Science

Rosilyn Gborogen

M.B.A. 2001, Delta State University, Abraka

B.S. 2011, Oakland University

M.S. 2015, Texas Technical University Health Science Center

Dissertation: "Experience of African American Women With Mastectomy Without Breast Reconstruction."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Rick Zimmerman
Nursing

Rachael German

B.S. 2005, Central Michigan University

M.S. 2011, Kent State University

Dissertation: "Risk Appraisal: An Investigation of Personality Traits and Prior Injury on Thrill and Adventure Seeking Behavior in a High-Risk Modern Circus Performance Art Task."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Jeffrey Martin
Kinesiology

Jess Goletz

B.A. 2016, M.A. 2020, Wayne State University

Dissertation: "We Are All Storykeepers: An Exploration of Intergenerational Trauma, Family Narratives, and Culture."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Marjorie Beeghly
Psychology

Justin Hackett

B.S. 2012, Grand Valley State University

M.S. 2016, Western Michigan University

Dissertation: "Using Genetically Heterogenous Mice to Identify Regulators of Immune Checkpoint Response."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Heather Gibson
Cancer Biology

Amy Lee Hall

B.S. 2000, Lycoming College

M.A. 2003, Wayne State University

B.S. 2010, Eastern Michigan University

M.S. 2016, Oakland University

Dissertation: "Asthma Self-Management in African American Emerging Adults."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Debra Schutte
Nursing

Farah Harb

B.A. 2015, American University of Kuwait

M.A. 2019, Wayne State University

Dissertation: "Who Are They and Why Are They Hesitant? Exploring Media Misinformation Susceptibility on Covid-19 Vaccine Hesitancy in the U.S.: A Latent Profile Analysis Study."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Elizabeth Stoycheff
Communication

Prashant Hariharan

B.E. 2013, University of Mumbai

M.S. 2015, University of Texas at Arlington

M.E. 2016, Cornell University

Dissertation: "A Two-Pronged Approach to Improving Hydrocephalus Treatment: Utilizing a Multicenter Pediatric Shunt Biobank and Building a Choroid Plexus-on-a-Chip."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Carolyn Harris
Biomedical Engineering

Treyvon Harlin

*B.A. 2014, M.A. 2017, University of Michigan-Flint
M.Ed. 2019, Oakland University*

Dissertation: "Encapsulating Student Perspectives: Investigating Students' Voice in Urban Secondary Education."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Ben Pogodzinski
Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

Iman Harp-Ahmad

*B.S. 2006, University of Michigan-Dearborn
M.A. 2012, Wayne State University*

Dissertation: "The Importance of Parental Involvement and Parent-Partnership Strategies to Support Student Academic - Perceptions of Teachers, Administrators, and Parents During the Middle School Years 2024-25 of 6th-8th Grade."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Ben Pogodzinski
Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

Francis Issah

*B.A. 2009, M.A. 2015, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology
M.A. 2020, Valley View University*

Dissertation: "African Restorative Justice Philosophy: Practicing the Ubuntu Paradigm in the Composition Classroom."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Richard Marback
English

Alanna Jackson

*B.A. 1999, University of Detroit Mercy
M.P.A. 2008, Wayne State University*

Dissertation: "Pressure From Above and Below: Afrodescendant Rights and Recognition in Mexico."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Sharon Lean
Political Science

Reyhaneh Jafari (Rose Rey Bazyar)

B.S. 2009, M.S. 2013, Tehran University of Medical Sciences

Dissertation: "The Effects of Cognitive Versus Motor Load on Overt Stuttering Severity in Adults: An Exploration of Factors Affecting Speech Fluency."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Margaret Greenwald
Communication Sciences and Disorders

Keshav Kasturi Rangan

*B.E. 2014, R.V. College of Engineering
M.S. 2015, Carnegie Mellon University*

Dissertation: "Handling Emerging Sources of Non-Determinism: Proportional Control with Quantum Noise, and Lyapunov-Based Economic Model Predictive Control to Address Stability, Profitability, and Dynamics of Nonlinear Systems Under Cyberattack."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Helen Durand
Chemical Engineering

Ashley Kramer

B.S. 2014, University of Minnesota

Dissertation: "From Bedside to Bench: Investigating Retinal Regeneration in Zebrafish and Employing New Techniques to Study Human Retinal Pathology."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Ryan Thummel
Anatomy and Cell Biology

Dave Lall

*B.S. 1993, Andrews University
M.S. 2015, Eastern Michigan University*

Dissertation: "The Role of Fruiting Bodies in Protecting a Community of Myxococcus Xanthus Spores From the Environment."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Penelope Higgs
Biological Science

Katrina Lewandowski

B.S. 2015, University of Michigan

Dissertation: "Ecological Impacts of Quagga Mussel Veligers and Adults on Yellow Perch and Their Adaptive Strategies in North America."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Donna Kashian
Biological Science

Xinghua Li

*B.A. 2004, Beijing Jiaotong University
M.A. 2010, University of Detroit Mercy
M.A. 2015, Wayne State University*

Dissertation: "The Impact of Education, Economic Downturns and the Removal of the One-Child Policy on China's Marriage Market and Birth Rate."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Stephen Spurr
Economics

Shengyu Liu

*B.A. 2014, Huazhong University of Science and Technology
M.S. 2016, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology*

Dissertation: "Envisioning 4D Futures: Enhancing Design Repositories Through Meta-Ontology Information Modeling and Physical-Mathematical Expression Trees."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Kyoung-Yun Kim
Industrial Engineering

Tyleen Lopez

*B.A. 2017, St. John's University
M.A. 2021, Wayne State University*

Dissertation: "The Ripple Effects of Microaggressions: Understanding Employee Responses and the Moderating Role of Racial Representation at Work."

Dissertation Advisors: Professors Boris Baltes and Lars Johnson
Psychology

Agnes Malysa

B.S. 2004, B.Ed. 2005, B.S. 2006, M.S. 2010,
University of Windsor

Dissertation: "Interaction of the Regulatory Subunit of Ribonucleotide Reductase With Minichromosome Maintenance Complexes Regulate Cell Growth."

Dissertation Advisors: Professors Gerold Bepler and Manohar Ratnam
Cancer Biology

Anna Marie Marrocco

B.S. 1986, *University of Windsor*
M.S. 2000, *Central Michigan University*
M.S. 2009, *Wayne State University*

Dissertation: "Exploring the Lived Experience of the Primary Caregiver During Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygen Treatment."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Mary Anne McCoy
Nursing

Alixandria Mascarin

B.S. 2019, *Wayne State University*

Dissertation: "Modeling Cocaine Use and Relapse: A Focus on Sex Differences in Behavioral and Neurobiological Responses."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Shane Perrine
Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences

Paul Morse

B.S. 2015, *Grand Valley State University*

Dissertation: "The Endogenous Regulation and Exogenous Manipulation of Mitochondrial Activity: Cytochrome C and Cytochrome C Oxidase."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Maik Huettemann
Molecular Genetics and Genomics

Tabitha Moses

B.A. 2011, M.S. 2015, *Johns Hopkins University*

Dissertation: "Using Neuromodulation to Investigate Potential Treatment Pathways Associated With Stress and Substance Use in Opioid Use Disorder."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Mark Greenwald
Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences

Michael Muczynski

B.S. 2018, *Indiana Wesleyan University*

Dissertation: "Biochemical, Structural, and Drug Design Studies of SARS-CoV-2 3CL Protease."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Ladislau Kovari
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Derwin Munroe

B.A. 1986, M.S. 1989, *University of the West Indies*

Dissertation: "The Political Economy of Electricity Investment in Developing Countries."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Sharon Lean
Political Science

Eva Mwakazi

B.S. 2012, *Kenyatta University*
M.S. 2020, *University of Nairobi*

Dissertation: "Identification of the Coordination Complexes Formed in the Ion Flotation Recovery of Co³⁺ and Ni²⁺ Ions with Amine Chelators and Sodium Dodecyl Sulfate."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Claudio Verani
Chemistry

Yashar Naderzadeh Ardebili

B.S. 2012, *Islamic Azad University*
M.S. 2015, *University of Tehran*

Dissertation: "Scalable Methods for Monte Carlo Tree Search."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Ratna Babu Chinnam
Industrial Engineering

Sudhan Nagarajan

B.Tech. 2017, *CSIR-Central Electrochemical Research Institute*
M.S. 2022, *Wayne State University*

Dissertation: "Fundamental Understanding and Designing of Nickel and Cobalt Free Cathodes for Lithium-Ion Batteries."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Leela Mohana Reddy Arava
Mechanical Engineering

Brandon Naylor

B.F.A. 2010, M.A. 2018, *Eastern Michigan University*

Dissertation: "Adequacy, Equity, and Agency: A Study of Professional Development Through Teacher Perceptions and Experiences in Urban Public Schools."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Min Yu
Teacher Education

Katherine O'Brien

B.A. 2006, *California State University San Marcos*
M.B.A. 2012, *University of Phoenix*
M.S. 2018, *Northeastern University*

Dissertation: "Political Values: The Influence of Remittances on Democracy and Autocracy in Latin American Countries."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Sharon Lean
Political Science

Kate Ostrom

B.A. 2008, *University of Michigan*
M.A. 2014, *University of Houston*

Dissertation: "Signs of Crossing: Tracing Borderscapes Through the U.S.-Mexico Middle Place."

Dissertation Advisors: Professors Hernán García and Elena Past
Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures

Ashley Elizabeth Pall

B.S. 2020, University of Michigan-Dearborn

Dissertation: "Evaluation of Metal Homeostasis in Select Biological Systems."

Dissertation Advisors: Professors Timothy Stemmler and Andrew Lipchik

Pharmaceutical Sciences

Jessica Ridgeway

B.A. 2009, M.A. 2012, M.A. 2020, North Carolina

Agricultural and Technical State University

Dissertation: "Reimaging, Rethinking, and Reclaiming Composition: A Black Feminist-Womanist Remix."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Richard Marback

English

Michael Sabbagh

B.A. 2010, Wayne State University

M.S. 2012, London School of Economics and Political Sciences

Dissertation: "Tax Foreclosure, Racialized Dispossession, and Belonging in Post-2008 Detroit."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Sarah Swider

Sociology

Shani Saxon

B.S. 2003, M.S.W. 2011, Michigan State University

Dissertation: "Trauma in Common: A Hermeneutic Phenomenological Inquiry Using Healing Circles to Explore the Impact of Racism, Racial Trauma, and Race-Related Stress on the Coping Abilities of Black Women Clinicians."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Suzanne Brown

Social Work

Yuanjie Shi

B.S. 2016, Beijing Institute of Technology

Dissertation: "Glucose-Responsive Insulin for the Treatment of Diabetes."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Zhiqiang Cao

Chemical Engineering

Deepak Shrestha

B.S. 2012, M.S. 2017, Tribhuvan University

Dissertation: "Structural Impacts of Canonical and Non-Canonical Oligonucleotide Modifications."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Christine Chow

Chemistry

Sujeet Shrestha

B.S. 2015, Western Michigan University

M.S. 2017, Wayne State University

Dissertation: "Predicting Warranty Claims Using IIoT-Driven Machine Learning: Enhancing Quality in Automotive Assembly."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Ratna Babu

Chinnam

Industrial Engineering

Aditi Singh

B.Tech. 2016, Dr. D.Y. Patil Biotechnology and Bioinformatics Institute

M.S. 2018, University of Salford

Dissertation: "Transcriptomic Predictors of Infertility: Insights From ESC Under Stress and Uterine Dendritic Cells."

Dissertation Advisors: Professors Douglas Ruden and James Granneman

Molecular Genetics and Genomics

Boyi Song

B.E. 2014, Shanghai University

M.P.H. 2018, University of St. Andrews

Dissertation: "Development of Durable Zwitterionic Hydrogel Coatings."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Zhiqiang Cao

Materials Science and Engineering

Samira Taghavi

B.S. 2014, Shahid Beheshti University

M.S. 2016, Sharif University of Technology

Dissertation: "Algorithms for Efficient Feature-Based Visual Simultaneous Localization and Mapping in Dynamic Environments."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Farshad Fotouhi

Computer Science

Joseph Torok

B.A. 2003, M.A. 2013, Eastern Michigan University

Dissertation: "On a First Name Bias: A Bibliometric Study of Six Writing Studies Journals."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Jeff Pruchnic

English

Rachel Torres

B.A. 2015, M.P.A. 2019, University of Michigan

Dissertation: "An Auto-Historia-Teoria of Kismet Encounters: Building Bridges Between Multiple-Marginalized Identities - Queer, Latine, and Disabled - In a Colonial Education System."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Sandra Gonzales

Curriculum and Instruction

Dat Tran

B.S. 2019, Ho Chi Minh City University of Education

M.A. 2022, Wayne State University

Dissertation: "Nonconvex Optimization Methods Under Inexact Information."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Boris Mordukhovich

Mathematics

Aaron Willcock

B.S. 2016, M.S. 2019, Wayne State University

Dissertation: "Demand Characterization for Real-Time Cyber-Physical Systems: Algorithms, Analysis, and Applications to Control Systems."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Nathan Fisher

Computer Science

Grace Williams

B.A. 2017, Lake Superior State University

M.A. 2019, Eastern Michigan University

Dissertation: "Managing Projects, Managing Emotions: Understanding Student Attitudes Towards Collaboration in Technical Communication Courses."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Adrienne Jankens
English

Kionna Williams

B.S. 2004, Eastern Michigan University

M.B.A. 2011, Baker College

Dissertation: "Black Joy Chasing: Fighting the Failing School Construct Using YPAR To Investigate Black Joy."

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Christopher Crowley
Teacher Education

Kathryn Wright

B.A. 2001, Oberlin College

M.A. 2007, University of Michigan

M.S.W. 2020, Wayne State University

Dissertation: "Exclusion and Education: Disability and Personhood in Public School."

Dissertation Advisors: Professors Jessica Robbins-Panko and Tam Perry
Social Work

Audrey Zarb

B.A. 2014, Wayne State University

Dissertation: "Bridging Methodological Gaps in Legionella Monitoring of Full-Scale Cooling Towers."

Dissertation Advisors: Professors Shawn McElmurry and Nancy Love
Civil Engineering





CANDIDATES FOR THE DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

From the College of Education
Denise Taliaferro Baszile, Ph.D., *Dean*

Founded in 1881

May 2025

Enida Anderson

B.S.Ed. 2011, Oakwood University
M.Ed. 2015, Ed.S. 2020, Wayne State University

Dissertation: "Understanding the Relationships Between K-12 Teacher Time Use, Workload, Administrative Support, and Job Satisfaction"
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Ben Pogodzinski

McKea Cooper-Miller

B.A. 2010, Wayne State University
M.A. 2013, Marygrove College

Dissertation: "The Effects of Student-Teacher Relationships Between Black Women and Their Black Adolescent Girls on Adult Outcomes"
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Rema Vassar

Michelle Cureton

B.S.Ed. 2003, M.Ed. 2006, Wayne State University

Dissertation: "Reneging on the Promise: The Institutionalization of the Equity Administrator in Public and Private Schools (George Floyd and Beyond)"
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Sarah Lenhoff

Kierstin Fiscus

B.A. 2009, Washington State University
M.A. 2019, Eastern Michigan University

Dissertation: "Navigating Postsecondary Education: Exploring the Impact of Dual Enrollment of Rural Students' Postsecondary Pathways"
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Ben Pogodzinski

Althanie Gardner

B.A. 2002, M.Ed. 2008, Ed.S. 2012, Wayne State University

Dissertation: "There is no Transformation Without Trust: A Qualitative Study Examining the Relationship Between State Education Agents and School Leaders"
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Rema Vassar

Kimberly Hunter

B.A. 1999, Western Michigan University
M.A. 2001, University of Phoenix

Dissertation: "Examining the Use of Credit-Based Transition Programs (CBTP) Leading to Stem Degrees and Increased Access to Higher Education"
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Ben Pogodzinski

Tracye Johnson

B.S.Ed. 2000, M.Ed. 2002, Ed.S. 2015, Wayne State University

Dissertation: "Teacher Experiences: Barriers, Motivations and Success to Teaching in Carceral Spaces"

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Ben Pogodzinski

Kenya Maxey

B.A. 1997, M.Ed. 2005, M.Ed. 2017, Wayne State University

Dissertation: "A Case Study of a Campus Food Pantry, Community and Belonging"

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Carolyn Shields

Crystal Lee

B.A. 2002, M.Ed. 2008, Marygrove College
Ed.S. 2015, Wayne State University

Dissertation: "Parents' Experiences of Learning for Postsecondary Students with Profound Intellectual Disabilities in Detroit, Michigan During the Early Covid 19 Pandemic"

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Sarah Lenhoff
Awarded Posthumously

Rachel Pawlowski

B.A. 2003, M.A. 2008, Oakland University
Ed.S. 2018, Wayne State University

Dissertation: "The Association Between Mental Health, Stigma, and Academic Probation in Undergraduate Students"

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Ben Pogodzinski

Akelah Reese

B.S. 2013, M.A. 2018, Eastern Michigan University

Dissertation: "The 'I' Exists: An Exploration of Intersex Students' Experiences and Persistence Factors Throughout Their Collegiate Journey"

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Erica Edwards

Tuoanyene Sims

B.S. 1999, M.A. 2002, Central Michigan University
M.A. 2015, Wayne State University

Dissertation: "A Look at Black Student Success at Predominantly White Institutions Through the Lens of Student Success at Historically Black Colleges and Universities"

Dissertation Advisor: Professor Ben Pogodzinski



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Dr. Regina Baker, '75, '10, '21
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