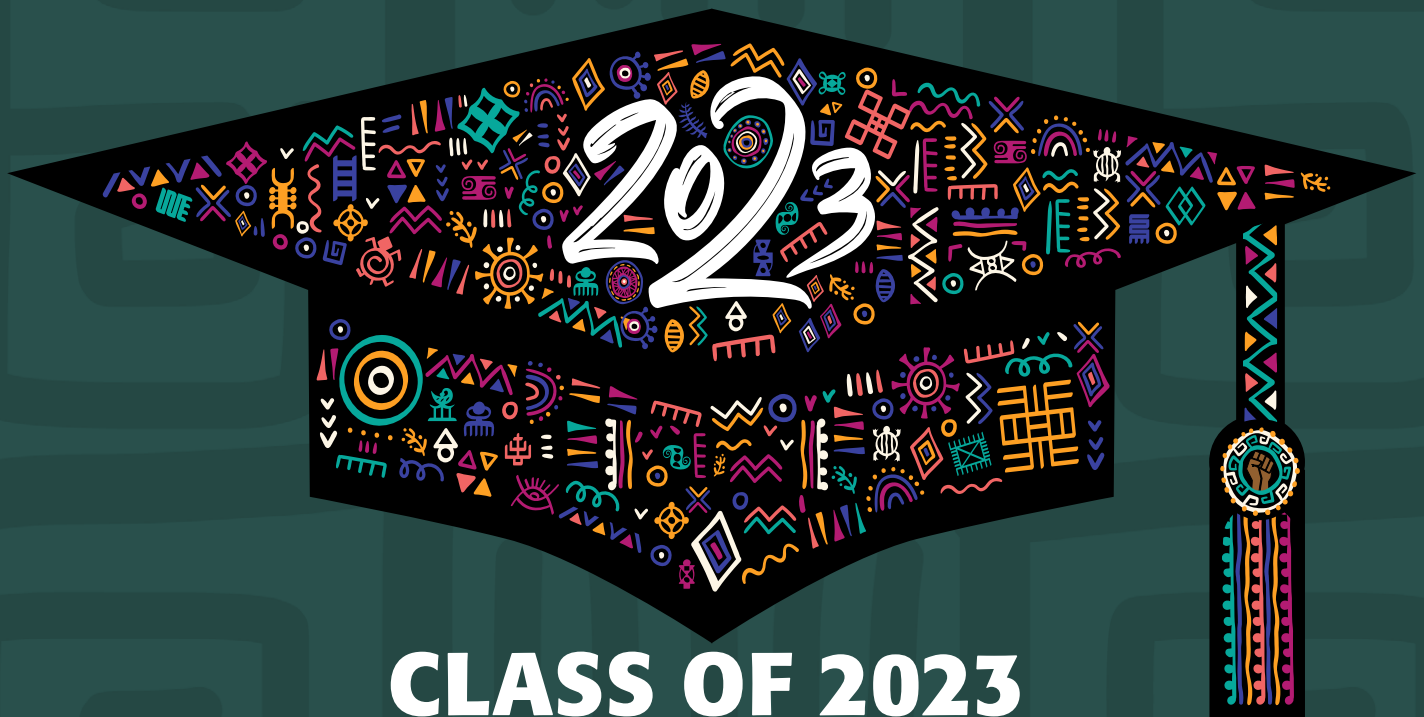


**Paul Robeson
Cultural Center**

RUTGERS
Student Affairs

**Center for Latino
Arts and Culture**

31ST ANNUAL
rites of passage
CEREMONY



CLASS OF 2023

MAY 10, 2023 - 3:00PM
Jersey Mike's Arena

31ST ANNUAL

UTES OF PASSAGE CEREMONY

ABOUT THE CEREMONY

The Rites of Passage Ceremony is a pre-commencement celebration to honor Black and Latine-identified students who through resolute persistence have successfully completed an undergraduate or graduate degree at Rutgers University. The event recognizes their accomplishments, hard work and dedication, while simultaneously acknowledging the accomplishments of their families and networks of support. Distinguished speakers, student awards, live performances and the incorporation of African culture and traditions, specifically the culminating Kente Stole presentation, all add to the vibrancy of this celebratory day. Welcome and congratulations!

THE RITES OF PASSAGE CHARGE

Delivered by Dr. Juanita Jones Daly, Class of '93, Rites of Passage Founder

I promise to dedicate my life to preserving our past,
uplifting the present and securing our future.

I will preserve the past by educating myself, my children and
and society about the greatness of our story.

I will uplift the present by utilizing my talents to improve the next
generation and assisting them with their struggles, which is ultimately our struggle.

I dedicate myself to these goals as I commence my new journey.



A Message from Francine Conway

Chancellor-Provost
Rutgers University–New Brunswick



Dear Rites of Passage Class of 2023,

Congratulations!

With talent, diligence, and a focus on your dreams—and with the loving support of your “village” of family and friends—you have earned something remarkable and life-changing: your degree from Rutgers–New Brunswick, a world-heralded center of academic excellence.

Take time to joyfully appreciate this hard-won and impressive achievement. And take a moment, as well, to remember each of the moments that made your Rutgers journey a memorable one. Each of you has touched the lives of others here—by helping a friend study or get through a hard time; by serving in a student organization or campus leadership role; by participating in research and scholarship that enhance the public good. You have contributed to the vibrant life of our campus community and will always be part of Rutgers’ evolving story.

Now it is time to join the ranks of Rutgers alumni who are thriving and making a difference across the United States and the world. As you do, know that Rutgers–New Brunswick is proud to have been your academic home, and will always welcome your engagement.

Together we are Scarlet Forever.

Sincerely,

Francine Conway, Ph.D.
Chancellor-Provost
Rutgers University–New Brunswick

A Message from Jakora Thompson

Director of the
Paul Robeson Cultural Center



Dear Rites of Passage Class of 2023!

You made it! You are here ready to close this chapter of your story as Rutgers students and join me on the other side as a Rutgers alumnus! Congratulations!

Being a part of the Rutgers community has afforded you the opportunities to strengthen your leadership capacities, research with renowned professors, and build a strong network of peers who are ready to change the world with you. I hope you are as proud of your accomplishments here at Rutgers as I am. Some of you have done things you could only have imagined, being the first in your family to attend college, get a Master's degree, or pursue a doctoral degree. For many, you may be the first to go boldly in the direction of your dreams. No matter what it is that you overcame, I am proud of you. Embrace this moment to feel seen for all that you've done and will continue to do.

I see the hard work that you all have done to collectively build community at Rutgers–New Brunswick to support each other both virtually and in person.

I see the work that you are doing to elevate the voices and experiences of those who have been systemically oppressed and disenfranchised.

I see how hard you've worked to get to this moment, navigating complex systems and rigorous coursework along the way.

I see and acknowledge the students serving in organizations who worked collaboratively to bring back some of the biggest events that Rutgers students look forward to every year.

As I look at all of you in this room today celebrating Rites of Passage, I reflect on the energy that you bring to the Rutgers community. Collectively, you bring some of the most vibrant and integral aspects of the student experience. As you embark on this next chapter, I want to remind you of the PRCC's commitment to being by your side! While the road will no doubt be rough at times, be optimistic, remember the skills you have learned, the bonds you have made, and the people who are rooting for you. I share with you this quote from Audre Lorde, "When I dare to be powerful - to use my own strength in the service of my vision, then it becomes less and less whether I am afraid." Do not be afraid, remember that you are not alone and that you have what it takes, or as Nipsey Hussle said, "It's not **ON** you, It's **IN** you!"

As you embark on your next chapter and all of the incredible opportunities that await, please always remember: **You are Black Excellence.** Don't let anyone else define you.

Congratulations Class of 2023!

In Unity,

Mrs. Jakora Thompson (*She/Her*)
Director, Paul Robeson Cultural Center

A Message from Carlos Fernandez

Director of the
Center for Latino Arts and Culture

Dear wondrous graduating class of 2023:

Just a few years ago, many of you arrived at Rutgers University with the hope and aspiration to acquire an exemplary education--the knowledge, skills and experience that would empower you to move forward in your life.

That educational journey has been transformative in many ways. Not only did you learn to study, work, and socialize in virtual, hybrid and in-person modes, you also reassessed your priorities and goals and incorporated your creativity and passion while completing your academic pursuits. The pandemic challenged us all, but we are coming out of it stronger, resilient and more determined than ever!

As administrators, we greatly value your involvement in student organizations and other extracurricular activities. We understand that it is through participation in college life that one applies the critical skills developed in the classroom and expands the leadership skills that support one's vocational and professional career.

Today, I salute all of you for your leadership and service to our community. As Scarlet Knights, YOU now exemplify the pillars of Rutgers excellence--innovation, scholarship, persistence and community engagement.

As you move forward into the world, may you return to your communities of origin and become paragons as innovators and hard working leaders that lift families and neighborhoods. May you move across the nation to pursue work and invest your acumen in the lives of your communities of choice. May you travel far, and learn new languages and experience and understand other places, people and cultures.

As you pursue your hopes and dreams, I know this:

I am certain that each one of you will change the world as we know it, making it better, more equitable and just! So as we say in Spanish, *Palante* (Forward)!

Dr. Carlos Fernandez (*He/His*)
Director, Center for Latino Arts and Culture



UTES OF PASSAGE

CEREMONY AGENDA

Procession of Graduates

Victor Marshall Hand & Drum Ensemble

Welcome

Faustina Owoh & Justin Miles

Greetings on Behalf of the Paul Robeson Cultural Center

Jakora Thompson, Director
Paul Robeson Cultural Center
Class of 2007

Libation

Professor Bill Davis, Africana Studies
Class of 1976 & 1979

Black National Anthem (Please stand if able)

Liberated Gospel Choir

Greetings on Behalf of the Center for Latino Arts and Culture

Dr. Carlos Fernandez, Director
Center for Latino Arts and Culture

Greetings from the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Dr. Salvador B. Mena
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Class of 2023 Student Speaker #1

Zacharias Lee

Student Performer

Andreas Damien Wetzel
Class of 2024

Class of 2023 Student Speaker #2

DeVonna Brockman

RAAA Rites of Passage Graduate Scholarship

Professor Denniston Bonadie,
Africana Studies and Rutgers African-American
Alumni Alliance (RAAA)

Presentation of Kente Stoles

Nicole Williams, Assistant Director
Paul Robeson Cultural Center

Joshanna Holyfield, Senior Program Coordinator
Paul Robeson Cultural Center

Lilian Agu
Paul Robeson Cultural Center
Class of 2025

Andrea Potesta-Oliva
Center for Latino Arts and Culture
Class of 2024

The Rites of Passage Charge

Dr. Juanita Jones Daly, Rites of Passage Founder
Class of 1993

Closing Remarks

Joshanna Holyfield, Senior Program Coordinator
Paul Robeson Cultural Center

Recessional

The Black National Anthem: “Lift Every Voice & Sing”

James Weldon Johnson (June 17, 1871 - June 26, 1938)

Lift every voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
Let us march on till victory is won

Stony the road we trod
Bitter the chastening rod
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died
Yet with a steady beat
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered
Out from the gloomy past
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast

God of our weary years
God of our silent tears
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way
Thou who has by Thy might Led us into the light
Keep us forever in the path, we pray
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee

Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee
Shadowed beneath Thy hand
May we forever stand
True to our God
True to our native land

Faustina Owoh – *Student Emcee*



Faustina Owoh is currently pursuing her Master's Degree in Political Science with a concentration in the United Nations and Global Policy Studies at Rutgers University–New Brunswick where she is specializing in Gender Equality, Human Rights and International Law. She serves as a student ambassador for her master's program as well. Faustina completed her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies with a concentration in International and Global Studies and a Certificate in Women's Leadership at Rutgers University in May of 2022. She was a panelist at the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights program titled "Mental Health in the Black Community: Recognition, Recovery, and Resilience". She was also a moderator for Rutgers Newark's School of Public Affairs and Administration symposium titled "A Rise in Justice: Conversations For All and Sundry".

Faustina is passionate about connecting with the world through languages and politics. She currently studies Greek, Egyptian Arabic, Igbo, and Spanish with the future hopes of becoming a polyglot. One of her favorite quotes is from Nelson Mandela where he says, "Because when you speak a language, English, well many people understand you, including Afrikaners, but when you speak Afrikaans, you know you go straight to their hearts." She sees understanding multiple languages as a way to connect with people in a way they understand, and a way, as Mandela said, to their hearts.

Faustina currently works as a paralegal for a tech company under an immigration attorney. Faustina aspires to be an International Human Rights Attorney, in hopes of fighting for the rights of women and children all over the world, specifically in the Global South Region.

Justin Miles – Student Emcee



Justin Miles is a rising senior majoring in Mechanical Engineering with a concentration in Aerospace Engineering. Born in Edison, NJ and raised in Glassboro, NJ, Justin is a driven and accomplished individual with a passion for leadership and a deep interest in empowering the younger generation. Outside of his academic pursuits, Justin is involved in many organizations on campus such as being the treasurer of The Delta Iota Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc, outing chair of Minority Engineering Educational Task (MEET), event planning chair of Black Student Union (BSU), and fundraising chair of West Indian Student Organization (WISO) where he has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills. Through his involvement, he has gained valuable experience in project management, event planning, and communication, but for him, the most rewarding part was being able to be a part of black organizations that created great college memories for students that will last a lifetime.

When not working towards his academic and extracurricular commitments, Justin enjoys working out, listening to music, motorcycle riding, and playing sports. Furthermore, Justin has started his own entertainment business, where he has put his organizational and leadership skills to use. This experience has allowed him to gain a better understanding of entrepreneurship, marketing, and business management. Currently, Justin looks forward to interning this summer at the Boeing Company in Alabama and then starting his three semester Co-Op with Delta Airlines in Georgia. Justin hopes these experiences will give him a first-hand look into the world of aerospace engineering and allow him to apply his knowledge in a practical setting.

After graduation, Justin hopes to continue to pursue his passion for engineering by working for a major aerospace company, and also plans to grow his entertainment business as he ventures out to different locations. With his strong work ethic and dedication to personal growth, there is no doubt that Justin will continue to achieve his goals in his life and career.

Zacharias Lee – Student Speaker #1



Zacharias Lee is a graduating senior at Rutgers Business School studying finance and philosophy. Hailing from Somerset, NJ, he is active on campus as President of the Black Business Association, a resident assistant, and a brother of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He is also a member of Cap & Skull, Beta Gamma Sigma, the Ron Brown Scholar Program, and is an Executive Leadership Council and James Dickson Carr scholar. Zacharias was the 2020 Champion of the Rutgers School of Communication & Information Public Speaking Competition, the 2022 Champion of the PRCC's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Oratorical Competition, and the 2022 Champion of the New Jersey Association of Alpha Phi Alpha Chapter's Belford V. Lawson Oratorical Competition, as well as the 2022 Outstanding College Brother of the Year.

Graduating with honors, Zacharias attributes much of his academic success to the summer bridge program, Business Student Transition at Rutgers (B-STAR). This award-winning program prepares incoming first-year students from historically underrepresented communities for college success through summer courses, program enrichment, and service-learning activities. With community at the center of all his pursuits, Zacharias seeks to create impact by supporting and uplifting the Black community through quality financial literacy education and access to capital.

Zacharias thoroughly enjoys playing and watching sports, journaling, reading, and the Marvel Cinematic Universe. Last fall, Zacharias studied abroad at John Cabot University in Italy. Upon graduation, he will be working in investment banking at PJT Partners in New York City.

Andreas Damien Wetzel – *Student Performer*



Andreas has been singing since his first solo performance of Michael Jackson's "Heal the World" at age 4. Growing up in central New Jersey, in a musical household, his passion for music was supported and nurtured through performing arts camps and classical music training. He has been in numerous choirs since a young age, progressing from church choir on to award-winning international touring choirs. To date, his music performance experience and music education in all styles has been influenced by institutions such as The American Boy Choir, Westminster Choir College, Berklee College of Music, and Musicians Institute. Currently, he is a member of the Rutgers Camden Gospel Choir under the direction of Professor Dionne Fields.

A proud Latino student at Rutgers University through the School of Management and Labor Relations, his interest is in socioeconomic justice and advocacy for U.S. worker rights. After some years working and living on the West Coast and then in Manhattan, Andreas returned to complete his degree at Rutgers and embraces being a nontraditional student who has learned there is not only one path in the journey to success, but instead to remember to listen to your heart, live your life for you, take guidance from loved ones, and never lose faith in yourself. It is Andreas' honor and a delight to perform the timeless classic, "At Last", from the legendary Etta James in today's ceremony.

DeVonna Brockman – Student Speaker #2



DeVonna Brockman is a senior receiving her Bachelor of Fine Arts in digital filmmaking from Mason Gross School of the Arts. She was born in Kansas City, Kansas, and raised in the suburbs of St. Louis and Chicago. In her pursuit of finding her perfect college, she felt a sense of belonging on the east coast and decided to settle down at Rutgers University.

As a transfer student whose first year here was during the pandemic, DeVonna wasted no time fitting four years' worth of Rutgers into two and a half. She involved herself in as many events and clubs as possible, turning strangers into friends wherever she went. During her Junior year, she joined F.A.C.E. Modeling Team, where she became the Fashion Coordinator on the executive board. She also served as Event Director on the e-board of BIPOC@MGSA where she curated events for black, indigenous, and students of color to come together and build a collaborative and expressive community.

Some other organizations that DeVonna was involved in were: Pretty Girls Sweat, Chi Alpha, Rutgers University Choir, and Liberated Gospel; she also took part in Twese and WISO's fashion shows and most recently became a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. While in film school, DeVonna has worked on 23 short films in her three years at Rutgers, including her most recent, *Tristan*, where she featured an all-black cast and crew. She has also created multiple films about Sickle Cell Disease, her chronic blood disorder that caused frequent hospitalizations. Her goal is to raise awareness and empowerment for this illness, which she is extremely passionate about because it affects people of African descent. DeVonna is proud of all she has accomplished while managing her Sickle Cell Disease, and especially, maintaining Dean's List status every semester. After graduating, she plans to explore multiple artistic avenues and work to create space for minority groups while pursuing a career in the New York film industry.

The Graduating Class of 2023

DOCTORAL CANDIDATES

Monique Coleman	Education, Culture, and Society	Steven Jones	Social Psychology
Minah Fagan	Doctor of Pharmacy	DiNai Parker	Social Work
Dana Michelle Harris	Higher Education	Merylou Rodriguez	Higher Education
Corina Hernandez	Education	Nayeli Salazar de Noguera	Urban Health Systems
Marquell Jackson-Clark	Pharmacy	Cynthia Nancy Sánchez Gómez . . .	Higher Education

MASTER CANDIDATES

Nadeen Abdalla-Ali	Global Sports Business	Shronda Glenn	Social Work
Yasmin Abdur-Razzaq	Communication, Information & Media	Kimberly Golden	Social Work
Latasha Adams-Graham	Health Administration	Christopher Gomez	Social Work
Qudry Adeyanju	Public Policy	Luisa Gomez Bustamante	Epidemiology
Antoinette Afriyie	Biomedical Sciences	Anthony Gordon	Biomedical Sciences
Michelle Agyemang-Amoako	Health Informatics	Adrian Guerra	Social Work
Yessenia Alvarez-Vera	Social Work	Alexandra Guerra	Social Work
Matthew Aramayo	Labor and Employment Relations	Khadijah Haraksin	Social Work
Kofi Awa	Mechanical Engineering	Rachel Herrera Gamino	Social Work
Daniel Banks	Social Work	Amaris Hinton	Master of Information
Rodas Dubie Bekele	City and Regional Planning	Danielle Hobbs	Biomedical Sciences
Gerardo Benavides	Public Policy	Ifeoma Iloka	Biomedical Sciences
Valkiria Bezerra	Clinical Social Work	Angelique Jeanty	Biomedical Sciences
Mickeala Bland	Social Work	Alima Kabore	Financial Analysis
Santiago Bohorquez Munoz	Social Work	Justin Kanski	Communications, Information & Media
Sisag Clio Bravo Idrobo	Visual Arts	Niasia Kennedy	College Student Affairs
Shakiera Brooks	Social Work	Nelgie Lauredent	College Student Affairs
Talisha Brown	Social Work	Courtney Laurore	Social Work
Ife Campbell	Human Resources Management	Joy Lewis	Social Work
Jessica Capron	Global Public Health	Madeline Liriano	Social Work
Kiyon Cho	English Education	Rhonda Lyles	Labor and Employment Relations
Dominique Cousin-Guerra	Social Work	Naiya Marshall	Social Work
Kimberly Crawley	Social Work	Hosanna Martin	Social Work
Kyreeh Crone	Global Sports Business	Tiffany Martinez	Social Work and Criminal Justice
Joshua Croom	Community Development and Housing	Mya McQueen	College Student Affairs
Victoria Cruz	Social Work	Stephanie Michael	Social Work
Chanel Davis	Social work	Jassadi Moore	College Student Affairs
Jasmine Daye	Social Work	Iman Mustafa	Social Justice and Advocacy
Mavis Dennis	Personal Care Science	Oliver Nicholson	Social Work
Kathleen Francois	Leadership Strategy and Data Analytics	Diana Nunez	Communication, Information & Media
Quira Galson	Social Work	Emily Odartei	Information Technology
Dawn Gandy	Adult and Continuing Education	Brandon Ordenez	Biomedical Sciences
Maureen Gichura	Public Health	Melissa Orellana	Social Work
		Jolene Preudhomme	Clinical Social Work

The Graduating Class of 2023

Stephanie Quito	Social Work	Jovanna Shaw	Clinical Social Work
Shari Raphael	Social Work	Demetrius Smith	Social Work
Chelsie Riche	Public Policy	Erik Sosa	Social Work
Margarita Rivas	Social Work	Stephanie Sosa	Social Work
Maria Robles	Human Resources Management	Ivanok Tavarez	Business and Science
Destiny Rodriguez	Social Work	Leah Thomas	Labor and Employment Relations
Cassandra Ross	Social Work	Nikita Tyndall	Biomedical Sciences
Jaya Russell	Social Work	Autumn Vilches-Cruz	Social Work
Catherine Sackey	Public Affairs and Politics	Imani Walker	Social Work
Laura E Sandoval	Public Policy	Tamika Washington	Human Resource Management
Jorge Santamaria	MCM - Digital Media	Charles Wilkinson	Social Work
Gianny Santana	Social Work	Shantasia Williams	Social Work
Myesha Sapp	Social Work	Shereese Williams	Business
Tracey Sarpong	MCM - Corporate Purpose & Social Impact	Fralinda Zazay	Public Policy

BACHELOR CANDIDATES

Dhestyknei Abdullah	Philosophy	Maame-Afua Ansah	Biological Sciences
Mariem Abid	Public Health	Joanna Aponte	Psychology
Yulenny Abreu	Criminal Justice	Elissa Aponte	Marketing
Joan Acorlor	public health	Alfred Arina	Industrial and Systems Engineering
Raul Acosta	Supply Chain Management	Angelica Armstrong	Electrical & Computer Engineering
Adeola Adebajo	Computer Science	Deszireh Arocho	Psychology
Sabainah Ademoji	Health Administration	Aminat Arowolo	Landscape Architecture
Abdullahi Adeyemo	Criminal Justice	Shawkia Arrington	Exercise Science
Temitayo Agbabiaka	Finance and Business Analytics & Information Technology (BAIT)	Wilson Arroyo	Public Health
Fafali Agboli	Computer Science	Irene Arroyo	Labor Studies and Employment Relations
Melanie Aguilar	Public Health	Audrey Asare	Public Health
Victor Aguilar	Environmental Policy, Institutions, and Behavior	Emily Avila	Marketing
Imtiyaz Ahmed	Packaging Engineering	Adriana Ayala	Human Resource Management
Olaolu Aina	Computer Science	Lailiana Azcuidiaz	Social Work and Criminal Justice
Olugbemisola Akinsiku	Public Health	Hailee Baez	Sociology
Duaa Ali	Sociology and Communication	Bryan Balarezo	Public Health
Sahar Ali-Jenkins	Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies and Political Science	Kacey Balseca	Animal Science: Pre veterinary Medicine
Karly Almanzar	Psychology	Jashar Banks	Psychology
Tabatha Almonte	Political Science	Naika Baptiste	Public Health
Katherine Altamirano	Biological Sciences	Ivanna Bardales	Communication
Marcela Alvarado	Biological science	Jennifer Barrantes Perez	Accounting and Finance
Juan Alvarez	Supply Chain Management	Hulms Barthelus	Biological Sciences
Zemzem Amduka	Psychology	Jacob Bean	Labor and Employment Relations
Jarin-Aminu Aminu	Biological Sciences	Anandita Beharrysingh	Biological Sciences
Alexis Amo-Krah	Psychology	Jessenia Bello	Biomedical engineering
Yvette Anning	Design/Visual Arts	Natalia Benejam	Marine Biology

The Graduating Class of 2023

Caprice Benifield-Sanchez	Information technology and informatics	Hansly Cenescar	Labor Studies & Employment Relations
Rashel Bernal Reyes	Public Health	Deydiry Chamba	Finance
Kyra Bernardez	Public health	Ishrrat Chameli	Communication and Psychology
Journey Berry	Geology and Geography	Rebecca Cherisier	Psychology
Kaziah Betts	Psychology	Diana Cifuentes	Labor and Employment Relations
Fatma Beye	Public Health	Mariah Clarke	Animal Science: Pre veterinary Medicine
Faith Birigeni	Biological science	Jhada Close	Political Science and Criminal Justice
Marietou Biteye	Biomedical Engineering	Joseph Cobo	Finance
Ebenezer Boah	Biological Sciences	Sophia Colon Marquez	Public Health
Agyeiwaa Boateng	Political science	Evelly Condis	Public Health
Gabriella Bobadilla	Psychology	Chloe Conover	Materials Science and Engineering
Ife Bolarin	Digital Filmmaking and Information Technology & Informatics	Daniel Contreras	Biological Sciences
Dayanara Bonilla	Psychology and Journalism	Melissa Cordova	Human Resources Management
Adrelle Bonnick	Nursing	Kamerin Correa	Latino and Caribbean Studies
Youvani Boyd	Biology	Gabriela Cortes	Mechanical Engineering
Kristen Brewer	Psychology	Tiffany Cospito	Leadership & Management
Angeles Britez	Communication	Nakisha Crippen	Healthcare Administration
Zenaya Brito	Journalism & Media Studies	Samara Cropper	Criminal Justice and Communications
Fanny Brito-Cruz	Public Health	Brandon Cruz	Journalism & Media Studies
DeVonna Brockman	Filmmaking	Corayma Cueto	Exercise Science
David Broderick	Information Technology and Informatics	Amber Dalmacy	Political Science and Sociology
Amaris Brown	BFA Design	Vanessa Darkoa	English
Jonson Buri	Supply Chain Management	Emili Darrow	Chemistry
Amber Burroughs	Journalism & Media Studies	James J. Davidson	Labor and Employment Relations
Feona Burton	Public Health	Eboni Davis	Human Resource Management and Psychology
Christina Caba	Human Resources Management	Amanda Dawson-Annan	Psychology
Axel Caballero	Supply Chain Management	Genaye Deal	Animal Science
sebastian cabrera	Psychology and Criminal Justice	Aaliyah Dean	Health Administration and Information Technology & Informatics
Myriam Cabrera	Chemistry	Emily DeBellis	Finance
Yaniessa Cainas	Public Health	Frank Deigh	Public Health
Jonathan Cajuste	Sociology	Tina DeLeon	Psychology and Criminal Justice
Melissa Calda	Criminal Justice and Psychology	Danelly DeLeon	Biological Sciences
Sekou Camara	Mechanical Engineering	Tenna Deleta	Psychology
Juno Campos	Criminal Justice	Tamara Delice	Finance and French
Kevin Cardona	Industrial and Systems Engineering	Hawa Diallo	Biological Sciences
Courtney Carr	Human Resource Management	Elvis Diaz	Supply chain management
Rachael Carrión	Human Resource Management and Labor Studies & Employment Relations	Bryan Diaz	Industrial and Systems Engineering
Lorenzo Castillo	Exercise science	Kimora Dimanche	Criminal Justice
Leonard Castillo	Cell Biology & Neuroscience	Christine Domercant	Industrial and Systems Engineering
Zhané Cave	Exercise Science	Odalís Dominguez Flores	Social Work
Beyla Cayenne	Public Health		

The Graduating Class of 2023

Dinae Dover	Public Health	Briana Gould	Human Resources Management and Information Technology & Informatics
Ogechi Ehiobuche	Applied Science in Engineering	Taylor Gravesande	Human Resources Management
Samuel Elesinmogun	Biological sciences	Jose Guanipatin	Electrical & Computer Engineering
Annmarie Elgendy	Exercise Science and Psychology	Téa Guarino	BFA Acting
Oluchi Emeana	Biological Sciences	Alexa Gudiel	Psychology
Ikoro Portia Enaohwo	Nursing	Alisondra Gutierrez	Political Science
Chidera Enweremadu	Biomedical Engineering	Anthony Haas	Marketing
Onuezue Erechukwu	Applied Science in Engineering	Sakaia Hadley	Biological Science
Shelly Escobal	Social Work	Skylar Hall	Psychology
Diana Estevez	Leadership & Management	Ahmad Hamdah	Biological Sciences
David Falana	Electrical & Computer Engineering	Hadassah Haricha	Biochemistry
Mobolaji Falowo	Business Analytics and Information Technology	Joshua Harmon	Biological Sciences
Victor Familia	Sport Management	Camryn Harrell	Computer Science
Anneury Familia	Human Resource Management	Kira Harris	Music Performance
Oyinkansola Fasasi	Biomedical Engineering	Aliya Harrison	Communication
Brandon Fernandez	Biological Sciences	Ivanna Heredia	Social Work
Vanessa Ferreras	Environmental and Business Economics	Gabriela Hernandez	Supply Chain Management
Maniyah Figueroa	Africana Studies	Karla Hernandez Herrera	Health Administration
Mya Fisher	Psychology	Celin Hidalgo	Astrophysics and Art History
Kayla Fisher	Biological Sciences	Jasmine Hoff	Communication
Eduardo Flores	Finance and Business Analytics & Information Technology (BAIT)	Marlon Howell	Finance
Olufemi Folarin	Exercise Science	Kerwin Ifill	Supply Chain Management
Alexandria Francois	BFA Dance	Arianny Isabel	Biological Sciences
Ashley Frankson	Biology and Psychology	Lise Jacques	Biological Sciences
Tamia Freeman	Biological Sciences	Silvia Jaramillo-Regalado	Mathematics
Keyshawn Frizzelle-Williams	Public Health	Destiny Jarvis	Journalism & Media Studies
Arlyn Fuentes Garcia	Accounting and Finance	Amanda Jean-Marie	Cell Biology & Neuroscience
Alexi Gaetán	Nursing	Teneesha Jenkins	Business analytics and information technology
Abigail Gamboa	Animal Science	Kenyon Jiles	Criminal Justice
Gabriel Garcia	Political Science and Economics	Andrea Jimenez	Political Science
Katherine Garcia	Political Science	Luisa Jimenez	Nutrition
Astrid Garcia Cotto	Biological Sciences	Angel Jimenez	Mechanical Engineering
Gabriel Garcia Perez	Biomedical Engineering and Exercise Science	LaRelle John	Psychology
Davina Garrett	Social Work	Gianni Johnson	Psychology
Ronique Gatewood	Communication and Political Science	Angela Johnson	Journalism & Media Studies
Dinaijah Gayle	Communication	Tequan Johnson	Information Technology & Informatics
Faizah Gibril	Biological Sciences	Zakiya Jones	Communication
Andrea Gil-Lopez	Computer Science and Political Science	Anthony Joseph	Psychology
Devin Glover	Journalism & Media Studies	Liala Joseph	Labor Studies and Employment Relations
Zoë Gold	Biological Sciences	Hannah Joyner	Social Work
Sebastian Gomez	Sport Management	Tamiyah Kelly	Psychology
Ammi Gonzales	History	Kenneth Kenou	Public Health
		Meryvn Keronche	Aerospace Engineering

The Graduating Class of 2023

Cheyenne Knight	Human Resources Management	Darielle Moore	Aerospace Engineering
Misty Lammons	Labor Relations	Isabel Mora	Social Work
Zacharias Lee	Finance	Estanli Mora-Vargas	Mechanical Engineering
Arllitzy Lezama	Environmental Science	Jainae Morton	Economics
Nick Lluen	Computer Engineering	Asiyah Muhammad	Biology
Jasmine Logan	Social Work	Dawa Muhammedsani	Civil Engineering
Dalvin Long	Communication	Jasmine Muhando	Biology
Chelsea Lopez	Health Administration and Sociology	Gabriela Mulkay	Biological Sciences
Ana Lopez	Biological Sciences	Jazziel Muñoz	Public health
Wanda Lopez-Cruz	Social Work	Taylor Muse	Psychology
Ronnie Macauley	Biology	Amira Mustapha	Public Health
Melissa Madrid	English	Beaman Negash	Electrical & Computer Engineering
Angel Maisonave	Animal Science	Abigaelle Nelson	Mechanical Engineering
Samantha Mangroo	Chemical Engineering	Jacinda Nembhard	Communication
Maria J. Marin	History and Political Science	Annette Netta	Social work
Denise Martinez	Psychology	Anel Nieto-Aguilar	Social Work
Savannah Martinez	Biological Sciences	Chiebuka Nnajiolor	Public Health
Laynerys Martinez Martinez	Psychology	daniella notghi	Public Health
Janis Martinez Lopez	Supply Chain Management	Joanne Novembre	Communication
Brandon Matchett	Industrial and Systems Engineering	Maytee Nuez Sanchez	Marketing
Hanna Mattanovich	Microbiology	Natalie Nunez	Social Work
Brittney Matthew	Information Technology Informatics and Art	Hope Nunez	Social Work
Miracle Matthews	Criminal Justice	Brittney Nunez	Information Technology & Informatics
Danielle McClendon	Political Science	Genesis Nunez	Biological Sciences
Marlowe McGee	Communication	Fechi Nwodili	Biological Sciences
Kayla McKinnon	Cognitive Science	Amanda Nyarko	History
Katherine Medina	Nursing	Nnadozie Obi	Mechanical Engineering
Mal Mehari	Cognitive Science	Kayla Ocasio	Public Health
Jennyfer Mendoza	Industrial Engineering	Alex Ochoa	Anthropology
Karly Suley Mendoza Díaz	Political Science and Spanish	Agujudah Okey-Uche	Healthcare administration
Jennifer Mendoza-Yanez	Biochemistry	Vivian Okoroanyanwu	Public health
Emily Menjivar	Biological Sciences	Yanique Okunola	Human Resource Management
Kelci Mensah	Computer Science and Cognitive Science	Almani Okuwobi	Evolutionary Anthropology
Aryana Mercado	Criminal Justice	Olubusayo Oluwagbamila	Biology
Nadege Mesidor	Journalism & Media Studies	Emmanuel Opoku	Biological Sciences
Hervluida Metellus	Biological Sciences	Melissa Ordonez	Finance
Alexandra Michel	Criminal Justice	Maria Ore-Onitolo	Exercise Science
James Mickens	Political Science	Easter Orelus	Labor & Employment Relation and Human Resources Management
Johnice Middleton	Exercise Science	Tabatha Ortiz	Psychology and Criminal Justice
Kimberly Miller	Health Administration	Jezebel Ortiz-Villaman	Nursing
Jaylin Monroe	Sociology	Chukwuyem Oruebor	Biomedical Engineering
Pedro Monroy-Polanco	Information Technology & informatics	Kamsiyochukwu Osigwe-Daniel	Electrical & Computer Engineering
Martin MONTANEZ	Criminal Justice	Ajibola Oyeniran	Exercise Science
		Claudia Pacheco	Exercise Science
		Kristal Palomino	Public Health

The Graduating Class of 2023

Haylee Pardo	Exercise Science	Jennifer Rivera	Political Science
Mario Pasquel	Political Science	Rayne Rivera	Planning and public policy
Angelica Pavesio	Cell Biology & Neuroscience	Ana Rivera	Finance and Supply Chain Management
Aliber Pedroza	Marketing	Ashlyn Riviere	Health Administration
Melanie Pelaez	Linguistics and Psychology	Ronnie Rodriguez	Supply Chain Management
Jennifer Penaranda	Electrical & Computer Engineering & Computer Science	Jason Rodriguez	Economics
Divon Pender	Human Resource Management	Samuel Rohwer	Political Science and History
Katherine Peralta	Linguistics	Precious-Janae Romain	Linguistics
Adams Perez	Electrical & Computer Engineering	Ariadne Romero	Biological sciences
Laura Perez	Criminal Justice	Daniel Rosario	English and Political Science
Laisha Perez	Communication	Jasmin Ross	Public Health
Kenneth Perez Samaniego	Information Technology and Informatics	Ajane Russell-Hopkins	Public Health
Steven Perez-Badillo	Mechanical Engineering	Kamille Sabio	Computer Engineering
Laurel Peters-Acceus	Public Health	Johanna Sailema	Biological Sciences
Kevin Phildor	Communication	Daniela Sanchez	Psychology
Kayla Pichiya	Biology	Noelia Sanchez	Exercise Science
Christian Pimentel	Criminal Justice and Political Science	Kaimya Sanders	Psychology
Dylan Poku	Material Science And Engineering	Sheyla Sandoval	Environmental Business Economics
Stephanie Pokuah	Public Health	Santou Sannoh	Psychology
Jahhad Price	Human Resource Management	Kimberly Santiago	Finance
Ana Principe	Political Science	Juan Santiago Barragan	Political Science
Caroline Prophete	Exercise Science	Deborah Sanya	Human Resources Management and Labor & Employment Relations
Caitkin Quayle	Information Technology and Informatics	Elyas Sanzar	Biomedical engineering
Brian Cesar Quezada	Mechanical Engineering	Esther Sarfo	Psychology
Jailene Quiles	Public Health	De'Avion Saunders	Human Resource Management and Labor Studies & Employment Relations
Angie Rahman	Leadership & Management	Margaret Schroeder	Public Health
Saida Ramirez	Finance	Alyssa Scott	Theatre Arts
Toni Ramirez	Cinema Studies	Damoni Shelley	Biological sciences
Alexia Ramirez Espana	Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies and Latin American Civilization Studies	Adonai Sheppard Sheppard	Biology
Jason Ramos	Landscape Architecture	Marcus Shipp	Psychology
Mateus Ramos	Exercise Science	Na'Imah Simmons	Evolutionary Anthropology
Makiah Ransome	Psychology	Destiny Smith	Psychology
Keenan Reid	Journalism & Media Studies	Zainudin Smith	Information Technology & Informatics
Jessica Reinoso	Information Technology and Informatics	Damilola Somorin	Applied Science in Engineering
Emily Resal	Biological Science	Marline Souffrant	Political Science and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Naya Ressaissi Vialva	Management and Labor Relations	Rachel-Gifty Stewart	Public Health
Andrew Reyes	Sport Management	Sky Stringer	Acting
Nicole Reyes	Marketing	Trinity Summiel	Exercise Science
Rocio Reyes	Leadership & Management	Ajali Surgeon	Biological Sciences
Willie Richardson	Finance	Gafar Tajudeen	Mechanical Engineering
Ayanna Richardson	Communication		

The Graduating Class of 2023

Ashley Tapia	Public health	Melvin Valdez Morel	Supply Chain Management
Amina Taslim	Cell Biology & Neuroscience	Daniela Vega	Journalism & Media Studies
Elias Taveras	Biotechnology	Noelia Velez	Social Work
Tawe Tawe	Biomedical Engineering	Kayla Ventura	Microbial Biotechnology
eka tawe	Biological Sciences	Michell Vergara	Psychology
Tiffany Tejeda Manzanares	Criminal Justice	Tahis Vigo	Communication
Rosa Teran	Applied Science in Engineering	Nadia Vincent	Human Resources Management
Mike Theka	Mechanical Engineering	Taylor Vincent	Aerospace Engineering
Vanessa Thomas	Environmental Policy, Institutions, and Behavior	Julia Vintimilla	Psychology
Hailey Thompson	Sociology	Leticia Vizcaino Blanco	Public Health
Inaya Thompson	Biological Sciences	Maya Walker	Human Resource Management
Christiana Thompson	Journalism & Media Studies	Patrice Ward	Management and Labor Relations
Robyn-Carley Tifaut	Biology	Kiara Warfield	Communication
Andres Torres	Biological Sciences	Cassidy West	Communication
Korayma Torres	Biological Science	Madison Wilson	Economics
Genesis Torres Arbildo	Electrical Engineering	Aaliyah Witherspoon	Biological Sciences
Stephanie Torres Berrios	Biological Sciences	Dahlia Woodley	Communication
Johanna Trinidad	Animal Science	Emmanuel Worede-Kal	Biology
Sofia Trujillo	Sociology	Bryant Yancha-Pazmino	Finance
Avery Turnbull	Computer Engineering	Kayonnah Yates	Labor Studies and Employment Relations
Stephanie Uche	Health Administration	Aaron Young	Communication
Sandra Ulokameje	Health Administration	Mark Youssef	Biological Sciences
Alia Underwood	Biological Sciences	Nikol Zemichael	Exercise Science
Fernanda Urrutia Mencia	Biological Sciences	Hailey Zito	Nursing
Sara Valderrama Tobon	Supply Chain Management		





31ST ANNUAL RITES OF PASSAGE

Graduation Planning Committee

Alexys Anderson - Program Assistant, Paul Robeson Cultural Center
Audrey Arias-Justo - Undergraduate Student, Center for Latino Arts and Culture
Bryanna Mason - Administrative Assistant, Paul Robeson Cultural Center
Carla Ortiz - Secretarial Assistant, Center for Latino Arts and Culture
Dr. Carlos Fernandez - Director, Center for Latino Arts and Culture
Fatiha Musum - Undergraduate Student, Paul Robeson Cultural Center
Jasmine Hoff - Undergraduate Student, Paul Robeson Cultural Center
Jakora Thompson - Director, Paul Robeson Cultural Center
Jassadi Moore - Graduate Intern, Paul Robeson Cultural Center
Joshanna Holyfield - Senior Program Coordinator, Paul Robeson Cultural Center
Nicole Williams - Assistant Director, Paul Robeson Cultural Center
Saskia Leo Cipriani - Assistant Director, Center for Latino Arts and Culture
Schundnax Emmanuel - Undergraduate Student, Paul Robeson Cultural Center
Silismar Suriel - Senior Program Coordinator, Center for Latino Arts and Culture

Special Thank You

Paul Robeson Cultural Center
The Center for Latino Arts and Culture
Rites of Passage Ceremony Volunteer Committee
Dr. Francine Conway and The Office of the Chancellor-Provost | Rutgers-New Brunswick
Vice Chancellor Mena and The Division of Student Affairs
The Cultural Center Collaborative
Mike Abdallah, Nelson Gonzalez, and The Students Affairs Marketing Team
Erin Rath, Assistant Director of Event Services - Institutional Planning and Operations
Tory Sharpless and Jersey Mike's Arena Staff
Andrea Potesta-Oliva & Lilian Agu, Graduate's Name Readers
Victor Marshall Hand & Drum Ensemble
DJ Moneta-Kai

Thank you to the students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members who contributed to the 31st Annual Rites of Passage Ceremony and to our continued efforts to strengthen and unify our Rutgers University family. The Paul Robeson Cultural Center and Center for Latino Arts and Culture appreciate your sustained support, advocacy and community!

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