

Harambee Circle of Culture

Sephrine Achesah
Alison Bailey
Guy Banicki
Mildred Barnes
Adrian and Pamela Cooper
John Davenport
Ricardo and Carol Del Cruz
Shayla Dennis
Lucille Eckrich
Jamillah Gilbert
Angela Haas
Elaine Hardy
Beth Hatt
Pamela T. Hoff

Arlene Hosea
May Jadallah
Janice Jenkins-Jamison
Judi Khalilallah
Jonathan Lackland
Karla Martin
Lucrisha McAllister
Phyllis McCluskey Titus
Shantira Norris
Mohamed Nur-Awaleh
Stacy Otto
Tiffany Puckett
Diane Renn
Flourice W. Richardson

Benjamin Ryburn
Kwasi Sam
Lenford C. Sutton, Sr.
Daphyne Walker
Renee T. Watson
Janessa Williams
Tuwana Wingfield
Venus Evans Winters
Palmira Vilasanta

Sankofa Circle (Alumni Circle)

Karyn L. Aguirre '86
Whitney Mittons, '12
Reginald Georgia, '13
Janelle Love, '13

Yvonne Akinyi, '15
China Hawkins, '15
Poshlyn Nicholson, '15
Muriel Dorsey-Johnson, '15

Toni Wells, '16
Ariane Chew, '16
Brishaun Hamilton, '16
LaCrisha McAllister, '13

Umoja Planning Committee

Daniel Jackson
Sephrine Achesah
Tamekia Bailey
Angell Davis
Linda Tapley-Foster
Mesha Garner

Pamela T. Hoff, Co-Chair
Quanisha Kumi-Darfour
LaCrisha McAllister, Co-Chair
Mohamed Nur-Awaleh
Christa Platt
Flourice W. Richardson, Co-Chair

Lindsay Vahl
Hurdylyn Woods, Jr.
China Hawkins
Jessica L. White

Community Partners


Umoja Community Forum
Black Graduate Student Association
Black Student Union
Harambee Circle of Culture
Department of Educational Administration & Foundations
Department of English Studies
ISU Graduate School
Bloomington/Normal Branch NAACP
Office of the President
Dean of Students Office
Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs
Black Colleagues Association
Women's & Gender Studies
Neighbor-to-Neighbor Activity Club
African Community & Friends AVFAP

**From a Mighty Stock
We Come**

**5th Annual
UMOJA
BLACK GRADUATION CELEBRATION**

**Thursday, May 11, 2017
Center for Performing Arts 7:00 pm**

**Keynote Speaker: Dr. Renee T. Watson,
Associate Dean of Students**

 **ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY**
Illinois' first public university



5th Annual Umoja

BLACK GRADUATION CELEBRATION

The Illinois State University (ISU) Umoja: Black Graduation Celebration was born from the hearts and minds of African American students, faculty, alumni and staff. It arose from a desire to acknowledge and celebrate the unique educational challenges, experiences, struggles and successes of students within the context of African and African-American culture. Within this cultural context, the event serves individual, group and socio-cultural purposes. Primarily, the event seeks to create a unique and culturally rich space that celebrates the successful completion and the awarding of degrees to graduates with the support of their families, faculty and staff.

In addition, the event serves as unifying symbol of perseverance in the recognition of a shared socio-cultural, political and educational history. Conceptualized within the African American tradition of transformative resistance, the event seeks to foster and extend dialogues that promote selfdetermination as it relates to retention. Finally, the event seeks to expand and ignite a counter narrative that disrupts the prevalence of deficit thinking and theorizing in education.

Sankofa Circle



This year, we welcome back our ISU alumni to participate in our first Sankofa Circle.

The Sankofa Circle consists of alumni who continue to support, advocate and encourage current and future students to reach their goals.

"it is not taboo to fetch what is at risk of being left behind."

From a Mighty Stock We Come

Umoja: Black Graduation Celebration
Illinois State University

Program

Bibi wa Sherehe -Angell Davis, Umoja Planning Committee

Processional*

Justin Pickett, Israel Arts
Harambee Circle of Culture
Sankofa Circle [Alumni Circle]
2017 Umoja Graduates

Call to Order

Angell Davis

Libations

Dr. Mohamed Nur-Awaleh
Advisor of Black Graduate Student Association

Welcome

LaCrisha McAllister, President of BGSA
2017 Co-Chair Umoja Planning Committee

"Lift Every Voice"

Angelic Owens and Faith Overall
ISU student performance artists

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Flourice W. Richardson
2017 Co-Chair Umoja Planning Committee

Keynote Address

Dr. Renee Tamara Watson
Associate Dean of Students

Special Performance

Jamika Russell

Bestowing of Kente Cloth and
Certificate Presentation

Hurdylyn Woods, Announcer
Umoja Planning Committee

Dr. Pamela Twyman Hoff
Dr. Mohamed Nur-Awaleh

Black Colleagues Association Welcome

Karyn L. Aguirre '86
President, Black Colleagues Association

Closing Remarks

Dr. Pamela Twyman Hoff
Flourice W. Richardson
2017 Co-Chairs Umoja Planning Committee

Recessional

Justin Pickett, Israel Arts

*Please stand





Class 
of 2017

Umoja

BLACK GRADUATION CELEBRATION

Illinois State University

Doctoral

Danny L. Cochran
Christa D. Platt

Master's

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Alexis Brianna Beauford | Elizabeth Grace Mason |
| Chanel Akaila Carter | Sierra Rae Moore |
| Tiffany E. Fulford | James Ndone |
| Antishay D. Gardner | Theoneste Nzaranyimana |
| Nicole Jones | Indea Queen Powe |
| LaShawnda Kilgore | Augustine Sunday |
| Ashley Karnette Mahon | Jade Taylor Triplett |
| Yewande Alice Marquis | |

Baccalaureate

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Allyssa Adams | Breana Brown |
| Oluwabusayo Ajasa | Marquise Brown |
| Garry Allbritton | Eulalie K. Bufole |
| Danielle Alexander | Sharvelle L. Bullock |
| Brittany Marie Alston | Jada Caffey |
| Aliyah Denise Anderson | Aaliyah K. Carter |
| Ajah Lexi Aviles | William Carter |
| Gloria Dan-yare Avogo | DeAnna S. Chairse |
| Krystina Banks | Briana A. Chambers |
| Jeannette Bekofe | Courtney Marie Chavers |
| Caitlin Benavides | I-Kiel Coleman |
| Ronay P. Benion | Latezia Coleman |
| Brielle Bennett | Anne Craigen |
| Amber Blacke | Ericka Carolyn Crisp |
| Rashaun Blanchard | Natassia Dunlap |
| La'Nita Brooks | Diamond Edwards |

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kimberly Eichie | Coretta L. Jackson |
| Tara Flowers | Lizzie Jefferson |
| Anna Imani Fondren | Claire Johnson |
| Marixa Ford | Kadijah Johnson |
| Antonio K. Foster | Lashaun Johnson |
| Jenise Freemon | Laurien Je'Taun Johnson |
| Diamond Monet Frison | Brandi Jones |
| Raquel Cymone Fullerton | Jaylon Christopher Joyner |
| Daren Gardner | De-Aundra Kerby |
| Alexis Symone' Garrett | Bahiyyah Khalilallah |
| DeAsia Garrett | Destiny Kingcade |
| Jasmine Gaston | Christopher C. Lark |
| Rita Gebreselassie | Angela Miriah Lathan |
| Mosadi Imon Goodman | LaNaisa Lee |
| Brandi Green | Naja Letitia Rosie Lee |
| Richard J. Greenfield | Shaquan R. Leverston |
| Aarrius Greer | Janeil Lewis |
| Olivia Griffin | Nivia Janelle Lopez |
| Kyle B. Harbour | Symone Luckett |
| Elexis Hartell | Taylor Mechelle Lytle |
| Tillman Hatell, II | Takira Mack |
| Ryann Jaci Hemphill | Ashley Madison |
| Tatiana Shonique Henderson | Tytianna Mathews |
| Imani Henry | Darius Matthews |
| Candace C. Hinton | Taaliah Maxey |
| Rahgene Sheydon Hoard | Sylvia May |
| Christian D. Hobson | Taylor Denise McClain |
| Kyndle P. Hunter | Jordan McCoy |
| Ashley Makayla Hurley | Felicia McKay |
| Biruk Asrat Ijigu | Delane Mclurkin |
| Andreas Jackson | Raheem Mills |





*Class
of 2017*



Umoja

BLACK GRADUATION CELEBRATION

Illinois State University

Baccalaureate

Stephen J. Minter
Ashley Morrison-Sain
Natiera Robinson
Brigette M. Newson
Ashlee Nicole Ojediran
Samiat Omotunwashe
Reginald Osborne, Jr.
Victor Osuyak
Anjelic Owens
Jessica Mariah Patterson
Stasha Devin-Nicole Patterson
Nichole Faye Pearl
Patrick Perry
Nathaline Margareth Pheteau
Danielle Prude-Hines
Hakeem R. Richmond
Kena Ridley
Caprice Ushae Risby
Malcolm Ross
Kayla Russell
Ayanna Saffold
Danielle Latrice Simpson
Cheyenne Sims
Deja D. Sims

Shaina Small
Jasmin Smith
Tayler B. Smith
Oluwatomi Soyeye
Kourtney KD Spraggins
Jabria M. Stainback
Chari' Imani Stevens
Shantiana Stevens
Shaquita Sturgeon
Totiana J. Sudduth
Jasmine Tate
Divante Teague
Gabrielle Alexandria Telles
Amber Terrell
Kayla L. Thomas
Tara Thomas
Brandice Olivia Thompkins
Tiana Thompson
Marques C. Thornton
Jamal Towns
Alicia Walker
Laurielle Wandland
Robert Warnsley
Traneice C. Washington

Tiona A'Shaunte Dominique Watkins
Imani J. Weems
Joshua White
Porchia M. White
Latiesha B Whitsey
Kyle Williams
Kiah Wilson
Tazjere' R. Wilson
Damari O. Winfrey
Jasmine Witherspoon
Amelia M. Yarbrough
Joseph Young
Kokou M. Zikpi

