



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION COMMENCEMENT

A VIRTUAL CEREMONY THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2021

WELCOME AND PRESIDING

Dean Jennifer King Rice, Ph.D.

ALUMNI REPRESENTATIVES

Barbara Friedlander, '85, M.A. '90, PRESIDENT
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COLLEGE OF EDUCATION ALUMNI NETWORK BOARD

KEYNOTE SPEAKER INTRODUCTION

Dean Rice

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Danette Gerald Howard, Ph.D. '07
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF POLICY OFFICER,
LUMINA FOUNDATION

DOCTORAL STUDENT SPEAKER

INTRODUCTION: Dean Rice
SPEAKER: Luanjiao Aggie Hu, Ph.D. '21

MASTER'S STUDENT SPEAKER

INTRODUCTION: Dean Rice
SPEAKER: Lekha Tantry, '20, M.Ed. '21

PRESENTATION OF DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Kimberly A. Griffin, Ph.D., M.A. '01
ASSOCIATE DEAN

DEAN'S REMARKS

Dean Rice

GRADUATE STUDENT NAMES' DISPLAY



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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MAY 2021 GRADUATES

CELEBRATING OUR 268TH COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



Danette Gerald Howard, Ph.D.

Danette Gerald Howard, Ph.D. is senior vice president & chief policy officer at Lumina Foundation, the nation's largest private foundation focused solely on increasing student access and success in postsecondary education. Dr. Howard oversees several of Lumina's key strategies to increase Americans' attainment of high-quality postsecondary degrees and credentials, including strategic work in both state and federal policy and efforts to leverage states as

the drivers of credential attainment. She also leads the Foundation's Equity First efforts to embed racial equity and justice in all aspects of Lumina's strategic work and operations.

Prior to joining Lumina, Dr. Howard served as Secretary of Higher Education in Maryland, leading the state's postsecondary education coordinating agency, the Maryland Higher Education Commission. As secretary she oversaw Maryland's statewide financial aid program, approved new academic programs and institutions seeking to operate in the state, and advised the governor and legislators on higher education policies and initiatives.

A nationally regarded analyst and thought leader, Dr. Howard previously served as director of research and policy analysis at the Maryland Higher Education Commission. She also held positions as the assistant director of higher education policy at the Education Trust in Washington, D.C., as a researcher at the University of Maryland, College Park, and as a student affairs administrator and admissions counselor at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

Dr. Howard earned her bachelor's degree, summa cum laude, from Howard University. She also received her master's degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and her Ph.D. in higher education policy from the University of Maryland, College Park. In 2015, she was honored for her outstanding success and national distinction in the fields of education and policy with Howard University's Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award. Dr. Howard currently serves as a member of the Howard University Board of Trustees, and as a trustee of the St. Vincent Hospital Foundation.

STUDENT SPEAKERS



LuanJiao Aggie Hu

LuanJiao Aggie Hu is graduating with a doctorate in the international education policy program. Originally from a rural village in South China, she proudly identifies as a person with a disability, an activist scholar, an international

and first-generation college student, a feminist, and a Terp. Hu has taught and published research on disability, gender, and education. She frequently shares her research on disabilities as an invited speaker at universities and organizations in different countries, including the United States, China, and South Korea. She is the founder of an international disability interest group that gathers scholars, graduate students, practitioners, and advocates from four continents. During her doctoral years at UMD, she was granted several competitive fellowships and awards for her research and advocacy, including the distinguished Asia Foundation Development Fellowship. She also gave a talk on disability and education at a TEDx Maryland conference in 2015.



Lekha Tantry

Lekha Tantry is graduating with a Master's of Education in curriculum and instruction through the Master's Certification (MCERT) program. In spring 2020, she graduated with a bachelor's degree in mathematics and a minor in Teaching English

to Speakers of Other Languages from the University of Maryland College of Education; she received University Honors for her performance. During her time as an undergraduate student, Tantry was involved in a number of activities, including Kappa Delta Pi, UMD's educational honor society, UMD Moksha, the university's competitive Indian classical dance team, and Alternative Breaks. She hopes to continue her study of math pedagogy as a high school math teacher in the years to come.