



Commencement Exercises 2021



Engaging, Enlightening and Empowering
Adults Since 1964



Commencement Exercises
July 25, 2021

To the Graduates of Union Institute & University

On behalf of the entire university community, welcome to Union Institute & University's 2021 national commencement ceremony. We have all come through unprecedented year in which the corona virus pandemic, social unrest and racial reckoning, climate change, and economic factors affected each of us in numerous ways. Yet, you, our graduates, persevered. You overcame many obstacles to reach your academic goals. We salute you!

This 2021 Commencement is truly a national ceremony encompassing graduates, faculty, and awards from across the nation and from each of our academic centers in California, Florida, and Ohio.

All of us at Union are proud of our 57-year history and our glorious mission to engage, enlighten, and empower highly motivated adults to pursue professional goals and a lifetime of learning, service, and social responsibility. Union Institute & University challenges minds, touches hearts, and transforms the lives of adults who view learning as a lifetime adventure and commitment to share with the world around them. These goals have never been more important and more meaningful.

For many of you, today represents the fulfillment of a lifelong dream. For others, today is a new beginning. For all of you, we hope Union Institute & University has played a transformative role in your education, your personal and professional growth, and your life.

We proudly send you along as elite ambassadors for our university, and count on you to bring our legacy of transforming lives and communities to life as you make a difference in all your endeavors.

President Karen Schuster Webb, Ph.D.
and Union Institute & University Board of Trustees

Union Institute & University Commencement Exercises

July 25, 2021, 2:00 pm

Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center, California

Call to Order	Beryl Watnick, Ph.D. <i>Faculty, Ph.D. Program, Chair, Educational Studies</i>
Vocal Selections	Maurice Griffin
Invocation	Rev. Willie Antoni Sinkfield, Ph.D., 2020 <i>Pastor/CEO Payne Chapel AME Church & Daniel Payne Christian Outreach Ministries, Nashville, Tennessee</i>
Welcome & Remarks	Nelson E. Soto, Ph.D. <i>Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs</i>
Introduction of the Speaker	Karen Schuster Webb, Ph.D. <i>President</i>
Commencement Address	Josefina Castillo Baltodano, J.D. <i>Trustee and Founder/Executive Director, Executive Leadership Academy, University of California, Berkeley</i>
Presentation of the Honorary Doctorate	Josefina Castillo Baltodano, J.D. Ciriaco "Cid" Pinedo, Ed.D. <i>Presented by President Webb and Sharon K.G. Dunbar, Chair of the Board of Trustees</i>
Presentation of the Dunakin Award	Sergeant Lucas Darland, B.S., 2021 <i>Presented by Brian Dragoo, M.A., CJM Faculty and Union B.S., 2008</i>
Presentation of Graduates	Provost Nelson E. Soto, Ph.D.
Reader of Names of Graduates	Allison Leggett, Ed.D. <i>Chair, B.S. Education & Major Chair, Master of Arts in Education Programs</i>
Conferral of Degrees	Dennis Tartakow, D.M.D., M.Ed., Ed.D., Ph.D. <i>Trustee and Alumna</i>
Closing Remarks	President Karen Schuster Webb, Ph.D.
Adjournment	Provost Nelson E. Soto, Ph.D.
Recessional	<i>Music provided by Robert Washington, DJ Nephew</i>

Union Institute & University 2021 National Commencement Speaker

Josefina Castillo Baltodano, J.D.

*Member, Board of Trustees,
Union Institute & University Founder and
Executive Director, Executive Leadership
Academy, Center for Studies in Higher Education,
University of California, Berkeley*



Josefina Baltodano currently serves at the University of California, Berkeley as senior associate, external relations for the Center for Studies in Higher Education. She is founding executive director of the Executive Leadership Academy (ELA), a program designed to provide critical insights and experiences to those seeking senior leadership positions in higher education, including provosts, presidents, and chancellors. Almost 400 alumni make up the ELA Alumni Network, and come from 37 states and 10 countries. Trustee Baltodano was highlighted in *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* as one of the “Top 35 Women in Higher Education” in 2019.

Previously, Trustee Baltodano served as the 12th president and first woman lay person at Marian University in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin until 2009. During her presidency, she led the transition as Marian grew from a college to university status, adding five new schools, and achieving accreditation for several programs. She also oversaw the conferral of the university’s first doctoral degrees.

Trustee Baltodano served on the Higher Education Resource Services (HERS) Board of Directors, the University of Wisconsin System President’s Council on Diversity, the Alta Bates Summit Foundation Board, and the Board of Directors of the American Council on Education (ACE) Women’s Network Executive Council. She also served as chair of the Board of Directors for the Alameda Health System Foundation, while simultaneously serving as campaign chair. In honor of her service, Trustee Baltodano was given the 2017 *Outstanding Fundraising Volunteer Award* from the Association of

American Fundraising Professionals, Golden Gate Chapter.

Under her leadership as campaign committee chair, the Alameda Health System Foundation received the largest institutional gift and the largest bequest in its history. Greatly surpassing the original goal, she spearheaded the capital campaign that supports the vital services and programs for the Alameda Health System. Through her dedication to providing world-class health care to the community, she serves as a shining example of a philanthropist with a driven mission of bettering her community.

Trustee Baltodano has served more than 20 years at UC Berkeley in administration and teaching positions, including development and leadership of the Academic Achievement Division (AAD), and teaching in the Ethnic Studies Department. She also served at Alliant International University where she was executive vice president for strategic planning and advancement and university professor. She also served at John F. Kennedy University, California as vice president for University Research, vice president for University Relations, and dean and professor, School of Management.

She also served as a commissioner for the American Council on Education Women’s Commission, the State of California Student Aid Commission (CSAC), and served on the Mills College Board of Trustees. Serving as a trustee for nearly a decade, she demonstrated her dedication to women’s issues and served on a very successful capital campaign.

Trustee Baltodano was also the founding chair of the Board of Commissioners of the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education and was national chair of the U.S. Department of Education’s Ronald McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program.

She has served on the Board of Directors for KQED and on the Board of Trustees for the San Francisco Ballet, assisting both in successful fundraising campaign initiatives. Currently a trustee at Union Institute & University, she also serves on the board of the

UC Berkeley Library Board, and as a high-performance executive coach and senior principal at Archer Martin and Associates, and presents on topics including interview techniques, transitional leadership; enrollment management; fundraising; board relations; community engagement; and entrepreneurial initiatives.

We are grateful for her presence today as the 2021 Commencement Speaker and are additionally honored to bestow upon her the university's highest honor, the Doctor of Humane Letters: *Honoris Causa*, recognizing her lifelong dedication to empower all through education and leadership. Her life's work reflects Union Institute & University's mission to engage, enlighten, and empower all to a life of learning, service, and social responsibility.

Bestowal of the Honorary Doctorate: *Honoris Causa*

2021 Recipients

Josefina Castillo Baltodano, J.D.

Ciriaco Q. Pinedo, Ed.D.

Dr. Ciriaco "Cid" Pinedo is president and CEO of Children's Fund, Inc., in Los Angeles, whose mission is to give vulnerable children support, opportunity, and hope by breaking destructive cycles through community partnerships. He is a respected executive, educator, and human services advocate. Additionally, he is well versed in the human services area, highly regarded for his social justice and community focus, and a sought-after speaker and presenter.

Prior to his appointment with Children's Fund, Dr. Pinedo served as president of the Hope through Housing Foundation, a national provider of life-transforming social services for one of the largest and most respected nonprofit community builders in the United States. Previously, he served as chief operating officer at National CORE, one of the nation's largest nonprofit developers of affordable housing. Dr. Pinedo also has extensive experience in higher education administration. He served in various roles with the Chaffey Community College District, including associate superintendent of Business Services and Economic Development, interim vice president of Administrative Services and External Relations, executive assistant to the superintendent/president, and executive director of Governmental Relations, Foundation, and Alumni Relations. During his tenure at Chaffey College, Dr. Pinedo was responsible for the direction of the college district's economic and workforce development programs as well as business services. He managed the district's \$230 million bond program and led the external relations functions for legislative, government, foundation, and alumni programs.

Dr. Pinedo has worked with educational, nonprofit, government, faith-based, and business organizations and is respected for his leadership and community building. He serves on various boards, including the Los Angeles County Fair Association, Funders Alliance of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, and the Riverside Art Museum

(future home of the Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art, Culture, and Industry). He is also an appointed commissioner to the San Bernardino County Housing Authority.

The son of Mexican immigrants, Dr. Pinedo grew up in El Monte, California and, like many Union graduates, was the first in his family to graduate from college. He attended Rio Hondo Community College, received his Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy at St. John's Seminary College in Camarillo, and his doctorate in Organizational Leadership and Management from the University of La Verne.

It is a distinct privilege to have Dr. Pinedo join us today and to bestow upon him the university's highest honor, the Doctor of Humane Letters: *Honoris Causa*, in recognition of his life of service and his work to transform lives and communities, in keeping with Union Institute & University's mission and vision.

Recent Recipients of the Honorary Doctorate:

Honoris Causa

2001 Portia Simpson Miller, B.A., 1997, *Former Prime Minister, Jamaica*

2003 Frances Hesselbein, *Chair, Leader to Leader Institute, Former CEO, Girl Scouts of America*

2005 Eugene P. Ruehlmann, Esq., *Former Union Trustee, Former Mayor, City of Cincinnati*

2006 Nancy Rudolph, B.A., 1998, *Photographer, Activist*

2008 David R. Gergen, J.D., *Professor, Kennedy School of Government, Political Analyst*

2009 Juana Bordas, M.S.W., *President, Mestiza Leadership International, Former Trustee*

2011 Cheryl M. Foley, J.D., *Former Union Trustee & Board Chair, Attorney, Servant Leader*

George Pruitt, Ph.D., 1976, *Former Union Trustee & Board Chair, President, Thomas Edison State College*

Lisa Lorimer Donahue, B.A. 1993, *Former Union Trustee & Board Chair, Entrepreneur*

2012 Lorraine R. Matusak, Ph.D., *Scholar, Leadership Expert, Educator, Advocate for Adult Education*

2013 Edward O'Neil Jr., M.D., *President & Founder Omni Med, ER Physician, Boston*

2014 Major General Sharon K. G. Dunbar, *Commander of the Air Force District of Washington Joint Base Andrews, Maryland (now retired) and Union Trustee & Board Chair*

2015 LaJune Montgomery Tabron, CEO, W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Jeffrey W. Foley, M.S., *Brigadier General, US Army (Ret), Leadership Development Consultant*

2016 Alma S. Adams, Ph.D., *U.S. Congressional Representative, North Carolina*

2018 Adrienne Lamar Snider, M.S. *Executive Director, Child Abuse Prevention Center*

2019 Roy Wilson, *Executive Director, Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Center, Oakland*

University Awards

Marvin B. Sussman Doctoral Award

Long-time Union doctoral faculty, Dr. Sussman established the Marvin B. Sussman Award before his death in 2007. The award honors a recent Union graduate whose doctoral dissertation is judged to be clearly outstanding in terms of originality, interdisciplinarity, social meaning, writing, and overall presentation. A committee of Union faculty and administrators nominate and select an annual recipient (s) based on the quality of research and the impact their studies will have upon the community at-large.

2021 Recipients

Larry Terrell Crudup, Ph.D. *Walk Together Children: Black Congressional Leadership-as-Social Ethic*

Dissertation chair: Dr. Christopher Voparil

Wilson Jordan, Ph.D. *Foregrounding the Racialized Body through Autoethnographic Reflections: Embodied Experience ~ a Foundation for Self-Reflective Academic Inquiry*

Dissertation chair: Dr. Loree Miltich

Brian Webb Award for Outstanding Master of Arts Thesis

The Brian Webb Award for Outstanding Master of Arts Thesis Distinguished by Academic Rigor and Creative Thinking was established by the faculty of Union's Master of Arts program in 2017. The award is given in memory of Dr. Brian Webb, who led the master's program from 2001 to his untimely death in 2014. A creative and interdisciplinary scholar whose first love was music, Dr. Webb inspired faculty and students alike.

2021 Awardees

Jennifer Fell, M.A., Health & Wellness

Neonatal Congenital Heart Disease and Human Milk: Measuring Staff Knowledge and Confidence When Assessing Infant Feeding Capabilities and Implementing Evidence-Based Feeding Recommendations

Terry Garrett, M.A., History & Culture

Reconstructing the Old Norse Religion through Original Sources

Sherisa Moore, M.A., Human Lactation Studies

Knowledge, Attitudes, Practices and Factors that Influence Breastfeeding for Black Women in the United States

Austin Ohm, M.A., Creativity Studies

Creativity and Well-Being

Kate Pond, M.A., Literature & Writing

'Sapience' The (Attempted) Making of a Modern Myth: Storybuilding as a Component of Social Justice

Woden Teachout, M.A., Education

Faculty Development as Parallel Play in the Sandbox: The Writing Across the Curriculum Online (WAC-O) Action Research Project

The Mark Dunakin Memorial Award Recognizing Academic Achievement and Service



*A portrait of Sergeant Mark Dunakin by
Valerie Stewart hangs in the lobby of the Sacramento Academic Center.*

Union Institute & University is honored to present the 11th Mark Dunakin Memorial Award to a recent graduate of Union Institute & University who has displayed extraordinary service and achievement throughout their undergraduate program.

The award is named for Police Sergeant Mark Dunakin, an 18-year veteran of the Oakland Police Department, assigned to the Traffic Division. He was a member of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office before joining the OPD as a patrol officer in 1991. As a sergeant, he served in criminal investigations and homicide, and taught academy recruits the intricacies of homicide and robbery investigations. He transferred to the coveted traffic motor squad in 1996.

On March 21, 2009, at the age of 40, Mark was one of the four Oakland police officers killed in the line of duty by a parolee. A

student and part of the UI&U family, Sergeant Dunakin had just completed requirements for his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Management at the time of his death. He was awarded his B.S. degree posthumously at the commencement ceremony in July 2009, the event he so looked forward to joining.

In honor of his service and sacrifice, Union Institute & University has designated the Mark Dunakin Memorial Award to be presented to a new graduate of Union Institute & University's Criminal Justice Management program who serves in law enforcement and who emulates Sergeant Dunakin's commitment to community service, academic success, and enthusiasm for Union's Criminal Justice Management program. The award honors graduates who possess certain criteria, including 1) academic excellence and achievement toward their degree; 2) earning the respect of his/her law enforcement peers; and 3) exemplifying the true meaning of being a law enforcement officer.

2021 Recipient

Sergeant Lucas Darland, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Sergeant Lucas Darland was nominated for the Mark Dunakin Memorial Award by his faculty.

A 21-year law enforcement officer, Sergeant Darland moved to California from Alaska in 1999 to pursue his career in law enforcement. He has served in several departments, including the Custody Division, Court Services Division, Patrol Division, and Detective Division, as a deputy and as a supervisor. As a detective, he investigated several cases for crimes against persons. It made him proud to know that he was the voice for the victims, who were unable to defend themselves. He was recognized for outstanding community service when he served as a deputy in the Santa Clarita Valley's Sheriff's Station, where he trained new deputies with the same

positive attitude and knowledge of the law that he projects daily. Sergeant Darland excelled academically at Union and as an ambassador for the CJM program, he has helped recruit many of his colleagues into the degree program. He is planning to pursue his master's degree (M.S.O.L.) and hopes to encourage others to further their education. Sergeant Lucas has also expressed a keen interest in one day joining Union as an adjunct faculty member. His passion to serve and his pursuit of higher education reflects the values embedded in the Mark Dunakin Memorial Award. Congratulations to Sergeant Darland.

Past Recipients

- 2011 Isabel Resendez, B.S., 2011**
- 2013 Frederick Henry Bobbitt Jr., B.S., 2013**
Tony Silva, B.S., 2013
- 2015 Ray Framstad, B.S., 2014**
- 2016 Detective Corporal Sergio Lepe, B.S., 2016**
- 2017 Sergeant Orrlando Mayes, B.S., 2017,**
M.S.O.L. 2019
- 2018 Sergeant Heather Forsythe, B.S., 2018**
- 2019 Officer Kyle Henricksen, B.S., 2019**
- 2020 Detective Sergeant Marya Mason, B.S., 2020**
Los Angeles Police Department
- Detective James Tidwell, B.S., 2020,**
Sacramento County Sheriff's Department

Faculty Awards

The Faculty Awards program, established by UI&U's Faculty Council, provides peer recognition for exemplary efforts and achievements in the areas of teaching, service, and scholarship. This program recognizes that all Union faculty members exhibit commendatory effort on behalf of their students and their professions, and provides an opportunity for faculty members to recognize, on a regular basis, exemplary efforts on behalf of their peers. The awards for Excellence in Teaching are made annually; the awards for Excellence in Scholarship and Excellence in Service are made bi-annually, in alternate years.

2021 Award for Excellence in Teaching

Tracy Neher, Ph.D.

Faculty, Bachelor of Science & Bachelor of Arts, General Education program

2021 Certificate of Distinction for Excellence in Teaching

Larry Hansen, M.P.A.

Faculty, Bachelor of Science, Emergency Services Management and Criminal Justice Management program

*Recipients of the Baccalaureate Degree
2020-2021*

Bachelor of Arts

Deborah Candler, B.A., *Psychology*
l'Easha Cornelius, B.A., *Psychology with a concentration in
Addictions Studies*
Ilea Lachele Dugger, B.A., *Psychology*
Anthony Andrew Ferguson, B.A., *Psychology*
Tina Leal, B.A., *Psychology*
Jill Pfitzinger, B.A., *Psychology*
Kathleen Shaw, B.A., *Psychology*
Keara Vogt, B.A., *Psychology*
Charlene Pearl Walters, B.A., *Psychology*

Bachelor of Science

Ivon Esmeralda Aguilar, B.S., *Child and Adolescent
Development*
Fareed Ahmad, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Yvette Ahumada, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Pasquale Aiello, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Francisco Albarran, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Jonathan Alfred, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Sergio Aloma, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Chris John Anderson, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Kristina Andreu, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Victor M. Arellano, Sr., B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Josiah Joel Arnold, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Darwin Yathiel Arroyo, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Yianni Athens, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*
Kenneth Au, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Ana Patricia Avila, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Francisco Avila, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Crystal Ayala, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Musa Ayoub, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Kelly G. Baker, B.S., *Maternal Child Health: Human Lactation
with a concentration in Pathway 2*

Sarah Bankhead, B.S., *Social Work*

Jacqueline Bannister, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

DeAughna Isis Barker, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Araceli Bautista Martinez, B.S., *Child & Adolescent
Development*

Benoit Baynum, B.S., *Secondary Education with a concentration
in English*

Gregg Beall, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Jeremie Bellendir, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*

Catherine Riley Bennett, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Abi S. Ben Sahile, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Richard Bessinger, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Betty Betancourt, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Rosario Betanio, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Delia Andreea Boboc, B.S., *Early Childhood Studies*

Zenia Bonales, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*

Crystal Boyd, B.S., *Business Management with a concentration in
Human Resource Management*

Robert Brandi, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Casey Brown, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Jeffrey Brown, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Daniel Cancilla, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Eliseo Cardenas, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*

Dominic Carillo, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Maria Carlos, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Shannon Carrig, B.S., *Business Management*

Richard Cartmill, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Alicia Castaneda, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*

Monica Ann Castaneda, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*

Alejandra Castro, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*

Jesus Castro, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Patti Burleson Cavazos, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*

Brandon Cecchettini, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Juana Jeical Cerqueda, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*

Courtney Kristin Cherry, B.S., *Maternal Child Health: Human Lactation*

Carmen Clayton, B.S., *Maternal Child Health: Human Lactation*

Michael J. Collins, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*

Eugene Contreras, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Brandy Cool, B.S., *Maternal Child Health: Human Lactation with a concentration in Pathway 2*

Karla Corbett, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Toni Carlene Cordell, B.S., *Business Management*

Carlos C. Cordero, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Sharon Crew, B.S., *Elementary Education*

Jacob Culwell, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Andrew Michael Dahring, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Lindsay Daniel, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*

Lucas Darland, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Debby Davila, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Gary Davis, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Michael Andrew Davis, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Allycia DeCaire, B.S., *Maternal Child Health: Human Lactation*

Manuel Delgado, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Adriana Gerardina Del Nogal-Corona, B.S., *Early Childhood Studies*

Phillip Grant De Ryck, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Sarah E. Devany, B.S., *Maternal Child Health: Human Lactation with a concentration in Pathway 2*

Steven Dexheimer, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Jaynelle Donadelle-Edgecombe, B.S., *Early Childhood Studies*

Janette Dumont, B.S., *Business Management*

Jessica Duran, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*

Jeffrey Eastman, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

David Ellwood, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Mario Escamilla, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Jennifer Esquivel, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*

Veronica Anna Farrulla, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Lisa Lynn Ferro, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Daniel Figueroa, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Eva Figueroa, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*

James Flaton, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Ricardo Flores, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Kevin Forehand, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Sam Furubotten, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Gregory Galvez, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*

Eliza Garcia, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*

Florentina Garcia, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*

Roel D. Garcia, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Saïdo Garcia, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Silvia Yvonne Garcia, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*

Rene Garza, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Gedam Gebremichael, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Jose D. Giron, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*

Trey Michael Glennon, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*

Maria Goddard, B.S., *Early Childhood Studies*

Jonathan Gong, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*

Maria Isabel Gonzalez, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*

Oscar Gonzalez, Jr., B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Ruben Gonzalez, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Ana Oralia Gonzalez de Hinojosa, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*

Richard Dameion Graham, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Grace Ann Green, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Christine Ann Greer, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Mark Guardado, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Marvin Guerra, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Raymond Steven Guerrero, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*

Alfonso Gutierrez, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Aaron S. Hague, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*

Julie Halford, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Aaron A. Hall, B.S., *Emergency Services Management with a concentration in Homeland Security*

Vincent Hall, Jr., B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Cecilia Hernández, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*

Claudia Hernandez, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Dionne Hernandez, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
William Easton Hertoghe, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
John Hess, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Joseph Heylen, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Danyelle Isabella Horta, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Agueda Horta-Aceves, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Juan Manuel Huerta, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Jared Hughes, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Jaime Ibarra, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Angela Beth Ingham, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Ramzes Jackson, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Tracey Anne Jacobs, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Latosha Belvia Jeudy, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Brittany Johnson, B.S., *Early Childhood Studies*
Timothy Kelly, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*
Jason King, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Alexander Grant Kleefeld, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*
with a concentration in Homeland Security
Adam Wolfgang Knabe, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*
Robert Knaggs, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*
Michael Knoke, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Ronald Kopperud, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Alfons Kunze, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Brandon Van Le, B.S., *Emergency Services Management with a*
concentration in Criminal Justice Management
Alan W. Leal, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Sondra Ann Ledesma, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Jonathan Daniel Lee, B.S., *Social Work*
Charles A. Lemke, Jr., B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Mark Lensing, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Ryan Lentini-Ley, B.S., *Emergency Services Management with*
a concentration in Homeland Security
Mario Lewis-Soper, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*
Maria Lievanos, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Jason Logas, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Margarita Lopez, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Mark Anthony Lopez, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
April Lopez Perez, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Jessica Lott, B.S., *Social Work*
Brandon Matthew Lowry, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Vanessa Luizaga, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Robert Lyman, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Kenneth J. Madan, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Rebeca Madrigal, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Jaime Magana, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Olivia Martinez, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Elizabeth Martinez Medina, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Jeffrey Massagli, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Elisa McCullough, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Kristin McDonald, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Jonathan McLaughlin, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*
Chad Medeiros, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Martha Melcon, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*
Marcy Mendez, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Veronica Mendoza-Leon, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Joseph Menendez, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Nathan Meyerdick, B.S., *Emergency Services Management*
Dana Scott Mikles, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Frendolyn Elaine Mills, B.S., *Early Childhood Studies*
Mustafa Mohammad, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Joseph J. Molettieri, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Margarita Molina, B.S., *Early Childhood Studies*
Phillip Monelo, B.S., *Business Management*
Gabriela Montes, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Rezi Montes, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Oscar Munoz, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Melina Lizette Munoz Gomez, B.S., *Child & Adolescent*
Development
Alma Murphy, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Gus Murra, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Edith Najera, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*

Sultana Nasira, B.S., *Child & Adolescent Development*
Alvaro Navarro, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Michael Nguyen, B.S., *Criminal Justice Management*
Yvonne Noel, B.S., *Early Childhood Studies*
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Jillian Renz, M.A., *Clinical Mental Health Counseling*
Rebecca Ann Slick, M.A., *Clinical Mental Health Counseling*
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Studies***

**Jeaninne Danette Wallace, Ph.D., *Ethical & Creative
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Museum Studies and Design Thinking*

*Boldface type indicates participation in the 2021 Commencement
Exercises.*

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by the Registrar.*

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Master of Arts Commencement Participants

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Success for African American Women*

Diyma Paola Murillo. *From Thoughts to Colors: Arts-Based
Therapy Sessions to Help Heal and Amplify Voices*

Master of Arts with a Major in Clinical Mental Health Counseling Commencement Participants

Rachel Alexandre. *The Effect of Childhood Trauma in Adulthood*

Natalie Michelle Brilz. *The Toxic Effects of Negative Self-Talk
and How to Counter Them*

Rebecca Ann Slick. *The Effects of COVID-19 on Domestic
Violence Rates*

Doctoral Dissertation Titles

Ph.D. Commencement Participants

Liz DeBetta. **Un-M-Othered:** *An Autoethnographic
Performance Narrative of Adoption and Patriarchy*

Wilson Jordan. *Foregrounding the Racialized Body through
Autoethnographic Reflections: Embodied Experience ~ a Foundation
for Self-Reflective Academic Inquiry*

Willie Antoni Sinkfield. *The Voice of One Crying in the
Wilderness: An Analysis of Black Preaching within the African
Methodist Episcopal Church as a Rhetorical and Stylistic Tool for
Leading Social Mobilization and Transformation*

Jeaninne Danette Wallace. *He Set His Face: The Political
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Edward Wingard, Ed.D.

The Academic Regalia

The colorful and distinctive garb at commencement ceremonies had its origin in the High Middle Ages, 12th and 13th centuries, when the university itself came into being. The nascent universities grew up in the shadow of the church and most of the knowledge they disseminated was theological or ecclesiastical. The cap, gown, and hood grew out of the clerical dress of that period.

The mortarboard descends from a favorite headdress of the medieval laity, the pileus, a close-fitting felt cap that was adopted by the Church in 1311 and became typical at the universities. Two varieties of the pileus survive: Cambridge and Oxford versions. The Cambridge tradition is a beret-like “soft cap” and the Oxford cap is a mortarboard.

The colorful academic hood is another medieval relic descended from cowls worn by monks to ward off cold drafts in English monasteries... The shorter, three-foot bachelor’s hood is rarely seen today; master’s hoods are three and one-half feet; and doctoral hoods are four feet and have panels at the side.

The Intercollegiate Code (see following) provides that a hood should be lined with the official colors of the institution conferring the degree, and the lining is worn exposed; hence, Union Institute & University hoods are lined with green and gold. The same code provides that the hood should be trimmed with the color indicating the discipline to which the degree pertains.

Both the gown and the hood indicate the degree and discipline earned. A bachelor’s gown falls in a straight line and has full bias-cut, pointed sleeves. A master’s gown is has long closed sleeves. A doctor’s gown has bell-shaped sleeves, velvet panels down the front and around the neck of the gown, and three velvet bars on each sleeve.

Agriculture	<i>Maize</i>
Arts, Letters, Humanities	<i>White</i>
Business Administration, Commercial Science	<i>Drab</i>
City and Regional Planning	<i>Brown</i>
Communication and Information Studies	<i>Gray</i>
Dentistry	<i>Lilac</i>
Economics	<i>Copper</i>
Education, Pedagogy	<i>Light Blue</i>
Engineering	<i>Orange</i>
Fine Arts, Architecture	<i>Brown</i>
Forestry	<i>Russet</i>
Human Resources Management	<i>Dusk</i>
Home Economics	<i>Maroon</i>
Journalism	<i>Dark Crimson</i>
Labor and Employment Relations	<i>Peacock Blue</i>
Laws	<i>Purple</i>
Library Science	<i>Lemon</i>
Medicine	<i>Green</i>
Music	<i>Pink</i>
Nursing	<i>Apricot</i>
Oratory	<i>Silver Gray</i>
Pharmacy	<i>Olive</i>
Philanthropy	<i>Rose</i>
Philosophy	<i>Blue</i>
Public Administration	<i>Peacock Blue</i>
Public Health	<i>Salmon</i>
Physical Education	<i>Sage Green</i>
Science	<i>Golden Yellow</i>
Social Service	<i>Citron</i>
Surgical Chiropody	<i>Nile Green</i>
Theology and Divinity	<i>Scarlet</i>
Veterinary Science	<i>Gray</i>

Union Institute & University

Mission

Union Institute & University educates highly motivated adults who seek academic programs to engage, enlighten, and empower them to pursue professional goals and a lifetime of learning, service, and social responsibility.

Spanning from Florida to California and around the world, with headquarters in Cincinnati, Ohio, Union Institute & University is a private, non-profit, accredited university with a mission to serve adult learners around the world in a vibrant learning environment that combines the very best of independent studies with expert faculty guidance and support services.

Union Institute & University marked its 50th anniversary year in 2014, and stands among a small group of private, non-profit American colleges and universities that primarily serve adult learners. Among the university's many distinctions: The average age of Union undergraduate learners is 39; doctoral learners are 48 years old on average; 32 percent of UI&U learners identify themselves as members of racial or ethnic minority groups; UI&U ranks among top U.S. colleges and universities for conferring doctoral degrees in all disciplines to African Americans, according to *Black Issues in Higher Education*; and UI&U is classified as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI).

More than 20,000 alumni represent wide-ranging career fields including 28 college and university presidents, thousands of professors in all disciplines, best-selling authors, including Clarissa Pinkola Estes (*Women who Run with the Wolves*) and creative artists in every genre, corporate executives and nonprofit leaders, healthcare and wellness experts, licensed psychologists and counselors, organizational and human resource professionals, multicultural scholars and clergy, law enforcement officers and public administrators, and elected officials at

every level of government, including the U.S. Congress and the former Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Honorable Portia Simpson Miller.

Guided by the university's mission, six core values form the foundation for learning: academic excellence, creative and critical thinking, theory and practice, social justice, diversity, and integrity. Currently, 1,000 undergraduate and graduate students from across the country and many countries abroad engage in online, independent distance studies with brief residences, or enroll in online or hybrid courses through academic centers in Cincinnati, Ohio; Hollywood, Florida, and Los Angeles and Sacramento, California.

The university's official seal includes the UI&U symbol, wherein the flame at the top represents educational discovery and enlightenment. The flower portion symbolizes the personal attention and care that Union gives to students and alumni. The double line of the base indicates Union's foundational history and legacy within higher education. Surrounding the mark are the words, Engage, Enlighten, and Empower, the underpinning of Union's mission, as well as the date of the university's founding in 1964. The university's mace features the seal, as does the presidential medallion.

As a cutting-edge leader in connecting education to values, Union Institute & University is dedicated to help individuals recognize their leadership qualities and motivate them to use those capacities for both community and self-improvement. A continuing commitment to innovative and creative approaches to adult learning serves UI&U graduates well as they prepare to use their education to make a difference in their lives, their communities, and the world.



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