

Celebrating Graduates Across Campus

Before tassels were turned and degrees were conferred at the official 2025 Commencement, celebrations were in full swing across the Clark College campus. In the weeks leading up to the big day, departments across campus hosted their own heartfelt ceremonies to honor the achievements of their graduating students.

Diversity Center | International Programs | BASTE | MESA

Diversity Center Graduation Reception



Vice President Vanessa Neal places a stole on a graduating student. Graduates were able to pick out a stole to wear at commencement.

The Diversity Center hosted its annual Graduation Reception on June 12, celebrating the hard work, perseverance, resilience, and achievements of graduating students. Each graduate was honored with a stole or cord representing their unique identity. As part of a touching tradition, students also selected a rose to present to someone who had made a meaningful impact on their journey—a powerful reminder that no one crosses the finish line alone.

The event included remarks from proud 2018 Clark alum, Ana Betancourt Macias, who shared her journey and how the Diversity Center connected her with the resources she needed to overcome obstacles and find her voice. She encouraged graduates to use their experiences to open doors for others and never stop believing that change is possible.



Chishayla Kimmons picks out a rose to present to her supporter, Rosalba Pitkin.

Chishayla Kimmons, who graduated with a degree in business and marketing, was the student keynote speaker for this year's ceremony. She gave a powerful speech about how everyone in the

audience represented both individuality and unity – every graduate, regardless of their differences, showed perseverance, determination, hard work, brilliance, and resilience. She closed with her personal motto: “Never give up while inspiring others.”

See more moments from this event on Flickr. Learn more about Clark's Diversity Center.

International Programs Graduation Celebration



All the students who came to support the new graduates.

The Office of International Programs honored 16 graduates from 12 different countries at this year's celebration. The event also highlighted this year's award winners, students who completed the Intensive English Language Program, and recognized the impact of the peer mentors – graduates Binh Ngoc from Vietnam and Huijun Tao from China – have had on their fellow international students.



Jody Shulnak, Director of International Programs, Huijun Tao, Binh Ngoc, and Maggie Li, International Programs Manager •

Jody Shulnak, Director of International Programs, and Maggie Li, International Programs Manager, presented each student with a stole that reflected their home country – a small token of their culture that they could carry across the stage as they entered the next phase of their journey.

Congratulations to the following graduates:

- **Maria Bassily**, Lebanon
- **Connor Doona**, England
- **Ngoc Hoang**, Vietnam
- **Mercy Kariuki**, Kenya
- **Veronica Muthoni Liebert**, Kenya
- **Shedrack Stanley Mollel**, Tanzania

- **Janista Namphochai**, Thailand
- **Binh Ngo**, Vietnam
- **Chawalit Pisonpoon**, Thailand
- **Ximing Rui**, China
- **Natalia Storojuc**, Moldova
- **Huijun Tao**, China
- **Isabella Wiebe**, Canada
- **Chengyuan Wu**, Taiwan
- **Marina Lvova**, Russia
- **Thi Bao Chau Truong**, Vietnam

See more moments from this event on Flickr. Learn more about Clark's International Programs.

Bachelor of Applied Science in Teacher Education (BASTE) Graduation Celebration



Graduates with BASTE faculty and staff front row: Professor Courtney Hoover, Program Manager Teresa Haye, Professor Dr. Donald Ludwig, and Professor Sarah Theberge.

Clark College proudly honored the second graduating cohort of the BASTE program with an exciting pinning ceremony – a meaningful milestone marking their transition from students to educators. Congratulations to this year's graduates as they get ready to step into classrooms with purpose and passion to inspire the next generation!



Graduates gathered in line before the commencement ceremony on June 18.

- Tylar Rothe
- Maddy Benaziz
- Kacia Brunelle
- Jayden Spies
- Miriam Abarca-Ugarte
- Breeana Bowman
- Robyn Develle
- Lorelei Stuben

Learn more about the BASTE program at Clark.

Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) Graduation & Scholarship Celebration



MESA's newest graduates stand with MESA Director Roman Lara Alvarado, *far left*, and Dean of WPTE/STEM Theo Koupelis, *far right*.

Congratulations to this year's MESA graduates and scholarship recipients, who were honored at this year's celebration! Scholarships are made possible through the generous support of the Taco Bell Foundation Community Grant.

Graduates/Transferring Students

- Jessica Nguyen
- Analyn Rose
- Seth Stigall
- Taylor Van Dyke
- Nicole Vara Madriz
- Johanna Wagner
- Kai Welch



Scholarship recipients with Mathematics Professor Paul Casillas, *far left*, and Dean of WPTE/STEM Theo Koupelis, *far right*.

MESA Scholarship Recipients

- Chelsey Kate Syrell Balao
- Avreet Kaur Dhami
- Oscar Garcia
- Stacy Madrigal
- Jessica Nguyen
- Victoria Quijada-Ic
- Maisy Sibayan
- Seth Stigall
- Thay My Tran

- Camille Villanueva
- Kai Welch

Learn more about the MESA program at Clark.

Relive the Excitement of the official 2025 Commencement

- Read more about on 24/7 Clark News
- Browse photos on Flickr
- Watch the official ceremony on YouTube!