



**MOREHEAD STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

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**Rites of Passage  
Recognition Ceremony**

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**Wednesday, May 5  
5 p.m.**

# Your Success is Our Success



Dear Graduates:

Congratulations on reaching this milestone in your educational career! We are tremendously proud of each of you and your accomplishments during your time here at Morehead State University.

Our world is becoming more and more complex and complicated, and I challenge you to continue to learn, unlearn and relearn as new knowledge is discovered or created. If you choose to go into the world of work, you must never stop learning. Education is a lifelong process and much of it occurs outside of the classroom. Regardless of the path you choose, you must put your future in good hands – your own.

I wish you the very best of success and hope you will remember how important MSU was in achieving your goals.

Most Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph A. Morgan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Dr. Joseph "Jay" A. Morgan**  
*President*

# History & Significance of the Kente Cloth

When you hold a strip of Kente cloth in your hand, you hold a piece of rich West African culture and heritage. Kente is an Asante ceremonial cloth hand-woven on a horizontal treadle loom. Historical accounts trace its origin to the early weaving traditions of West African Kingdoms between 300 A.D. and 1600 A.D.

Kente, as we know it today, was developed in the country of Ghana during the 12th century A.D. One legend tells of two Asante men perfecting the art of weaving Kente by watching a spider weave its web. They reported their improvement to the Asante Chief, who adopted it as a royal cloth and encouraged its development as a cloth of prestige reserved for special occasions. It received its name from the term “kenten,” which means “basket” because of the cloth’s resemblance to the woven design of a basket. Kings, Queens and important figures of state in Ghana’s society wore the cloth during ceremonial events and special occasions.

Like most of Africa’s visual art forms, Kente is a visual representation of history, oral literature, religious belief, social values and political thought. Not meant to be used for commonplace activity or ordinary wear, Kente is reserved for very important social or religious occasions. It is often used as a special gift during such ceremonies as child naming, graduation, marriage and soul washing. Kente is also used as a symbol of respect for departed souls during burial rites and ancestral remembrance ceremonies. Its significance as symbol of gaiety and prestige is evident during community celebrations and festivals when people proudly wear the best of their Kente cloths to reflect the spirit of the occasion. Each of the symbols embossed on the Kente stole have significant meaning.



Diamond  
Wealth and Riches



Golden Key  
Knowledge



Golden Stool  
Leadership and Unity

# Fall 2020 & Spring 2021

## Rites of Passage Participating Graduates



### FALL 2020 GRADUATES

**CARLA CHAPPELL** is from Henderson and is the mother of Keileen Chappell and NiYa Davis. She graduated with a Doctorate in Adult and Higher Education Leadership.

**ANDREA MARTINEZ** is from Somerset and is the daughter of Sonja and George Martinez. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She was a Diversity Opportunity Scholar and was a member of Student Alumni Ambassadors, Student Nurses' Association and National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

**DIAMONIQUE MITCHELL** is from Lexington and is the daughter of Erica Mitchell and Aaron Dishman. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology with a minor in Social Work. She was a member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc.

**SHAE MIMS** is from Red Level, Alabama, and is the daughter of Harrison and Pearl Mims. She graduated with a Master of Arts in Communication.

### SPRING 2021 GRADUATES

**JAMES COPAS** is from West Portsmouth, Ohio, and is the son of Teresa Copas, Ruby Christy and Robert Christy. He will be graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Legal Studies with a minor in Photography. He is a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc.

**SHANNON GRABOWSKI** is from Nashville, Tennessee, and is the daughter of Shelly Wines and Paul Grabowski. She will be graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science. She is a member of the Honor Society.

**LANEA HAYDEN** is from Mount Sterling and is the daughter of Nena Donovan and Lamar Hayden. She will be graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science. She is a sports medicine trainer for the MSU Football Team.

**MARVIN ANTHONY HAYDEN** is from Lexington and is the son of Cassandra Bunton and Anthony Hayden. He will be graduating with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting. He is a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., the DREAMS program, National Pan-Hellenic Council, Black Student Union, Jesus on Our Side and the Accounting Club.

**ELIZABETH IGNACIO** is from Maysville and is the daughter of Ira Ignacio and Rodolfo Ignacio. She will be graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish with a minor in Business. She is a member of Delta Gamma, Sigma Delta Pi and the DREAMS program.

**JORDYN JACKSON** is from Lexington and is the daughter of Courtney Hill and Quincy Jackson. She will be graduating with Bachelor of Science in Animal Science. She is a member of the DREAMS program.

**WILLIE JONES** is from Sharpsburg and is the daughter of Eliza and William Jones and mother of Khreonna Jones, Kristen and Khristopher Gatewood. She will be graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Child Development.

**KEITH LONG JR.** is from Richmond and is the son of Keith and Tara Long. He will be graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Sports Management. He is a member of the DREAMS program and is on the Honor Roll.

**CHRIS MILLER** is from Shelbyville and is the son of Melissa Reynolds and William Miller. He will be graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology with a minor in Sociology. He is a member of Delta Tau Delta Fraternity and Student Support Services.

**CIERRA OVERSTREET** is from Mount Sterling and is the daughter of Robin the late Dimitri Overstreet. She will be graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Community Support Services with a minor in Social Work.

**VICTORIA RUSS** is from Meade and is the daughter of Anne Lewis Russ and Michael Russ. She will be graduating with Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology Mechanical and Manufacturing. She is a Kentucky NSF EPScOR Undergraduate Research Fellow and the recipient of Top Poster Award for two years for Kentucky NSF EPScOR Annual Super Collider.

**ABREONA WALKER** is from Louisville and is the daughter of Natascha Walker. She will be graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Music with a minor in Dance. She is a Resident Advisor (RA) in the Office of Student Housing and a member of the DREAMS program, Black Gospel Ensemble, Sigma Alpha Iota Music Fraternity and Delta Chi Xi Dance Fraternity.

**RICARDO WASHINGTON JR.** is from Cleveland, Ohio, and is the son of Pieper Barkley. He will be graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Strategic Communication. He is an alumni member of Pi Kappa Phi.

**Tia Williams** is from Toronto, Canada, and is the daughter of Trixie and Thane Williams. She is graduating with a Bachelor of Business Management in Business Management. She is a member of the Morehead State University Women's Soccer Team, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. Order of Omega and Smith College of Business and Technology Diversity and Inclusion Team.

**DaKorria Winstead** is from Owensboro is the daughter of Laronna Ison and Lamar Winstead. She is graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in University Studies. She is a member of the DREAMS program, National Collegiate Scholars and has served as the Vice President for J.O.Y and Treasurer for Women's Virtue.

# **SPECIAL THANKS**

**Student Activities**

**Division of Student Affairs**

**Office of Communications & Marketing**

**University Store**

**All Volunteers**



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