



University of Fort Lauderdale
Commencement Ceremony May 22, 2026
The Faith Center • Fort Lauderdale, Florida



University of Fort Lauderdale
Commencement Ceremony 2026
The Faith Center • Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Gregory Reed, MFA - photographer
gregf@gfrphotography.net



ACADEMIC PURPOSE STATEMENT

The academic purpose of University of Fort Lauderdale is to provide, through appropriately credentialed faculty members, relevant courses and programs for motivated individuals. Faculty members will use academic study, research and missions to accomplish the academic purpose.

The rationale of University of Fort Lauderdale is to provide quality education for an ethnically and culturally diverse student population by equipping them with the capability to become productive citizens who continuously contribute to a global and rapidly changing society.

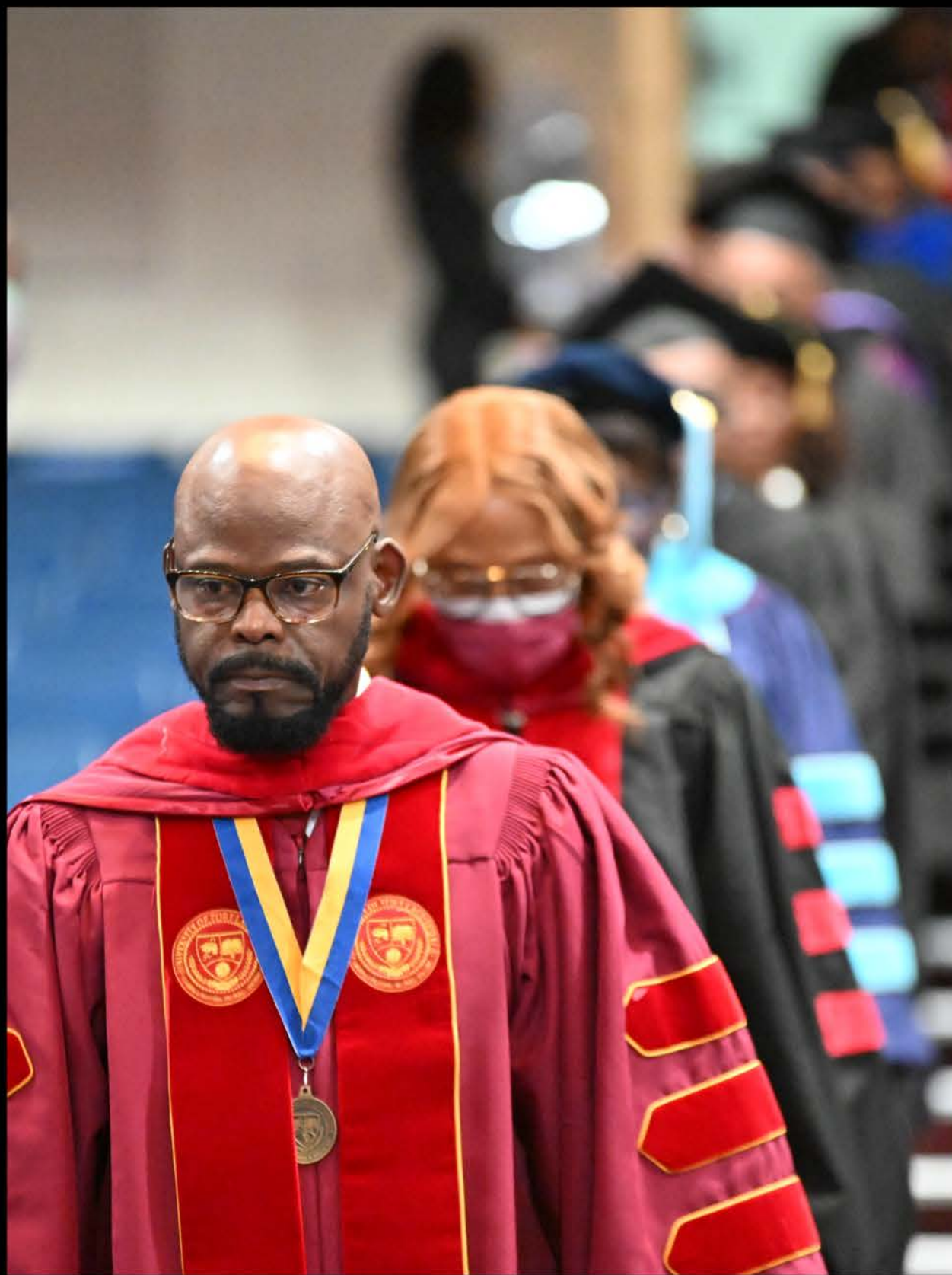
Through academic excellence, the university shall continue to maintain an innovative Christian learning environment, which encourages and prepares its graduates to assume leadership roles in the community, the state, the nation and the world.



PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

The philosophy of University of Fort Lauderdale is that higher education is the catalyst to fully equip leaders to achieve the mission set forth. The belief is that excellence in education will bring about superior leaders, and these achievers are essential to reach and restore the world for Christ.

The University defines higher education as the advancement of scholastic study, research, and professionalism that extends beyond secondary education. Academic goals at associate's, bachelor's, master's or doctoral levels are designed to advance knowledge in general, specialized, and creative areas of study. It is the distinction, integration, and competence in these areas that distinguish the University.



Processional



DR. HENRY B. FERNANDEZ
Chancellor

An anointed speaker, accomplished author and entrepreneur, Henry B. Fernandez answered the call of God on his life in 1985 when he moved from Brooklyn, New York, to Fort Lauderdale, Florida. In 1988, he became an ordained minister.

In July 1991, Fernandez began to demonstrate his faith in God and a commitment to “walk by faith” in every area of life when, along with his wife, Carol, he founded the Plantation Worship Center in the cafeteria of a local elementary school in south Florida with only 11 members. Now known as The Faith Center Ministries, the church makes its home in the former Sunrise Musical Theater where its more than 10,000 members embrace a mission of “Reaching the World for Jesus.”

Gifted with a strong ability to deliver the Word with clarity and in a practical manner, Fernandez flows in a strong prophetic anointing as he teaches. A visionary who believes it is God’s will for everyone to prosper and be in health; Fernandez is



DR. DEBORAH A. HECTOR President/CEO

With over two decades of experience in the higher education field, Dr. Deborah Hector has played an integral role in assisting thousands of students in achieving their educational goals. She has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to student success and institutional leadership which was demonstrated in various areas of higher education. Prior to entering the educational field, she has worked with the Department of State at the United States Agency for International Development/US Embassy in Kingston, Jamaica. She also worked for several years, in various capacities, at the Ministries of National Security and Justice in Jamaica.

Dr. Hector is passionate and motivated in helping others in achieving their academic goals. In her current role, Dr. Hector has focused on enhancing student success and institutional growth. Her extensive background in student services and admissions has equipped her to lead the university through strategic initiatives aimed at improving educational outcomes and community engagement. Her leadership reflects a commitment to higher education and student development, underscoring her dedication to fostering academic excellence and institutional advancement.

Her passion for education can be observed in her own academic achievements. Dr. Hector holds a Doctor of Education in Higher Education Administration with a focus on Organization Leadership; a Master of Science in Change Leadership, a Master of Science in Higher Education: Online College Teaching; a Master of Science in Human Resource Management; and a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology. In addition, she is a member of the Kappa Delta Pi and Sigma Beta Delta International Honor Society. Dr. Hector has also been a member of The Faith Center Ministries in Sunrise, Florida since January 2000 and has served as an ordained Minister since 2006.

A native of Jamaica, Dr. Hector resides in Tamarac, Florida with her husband, Robert and their son, Brian.









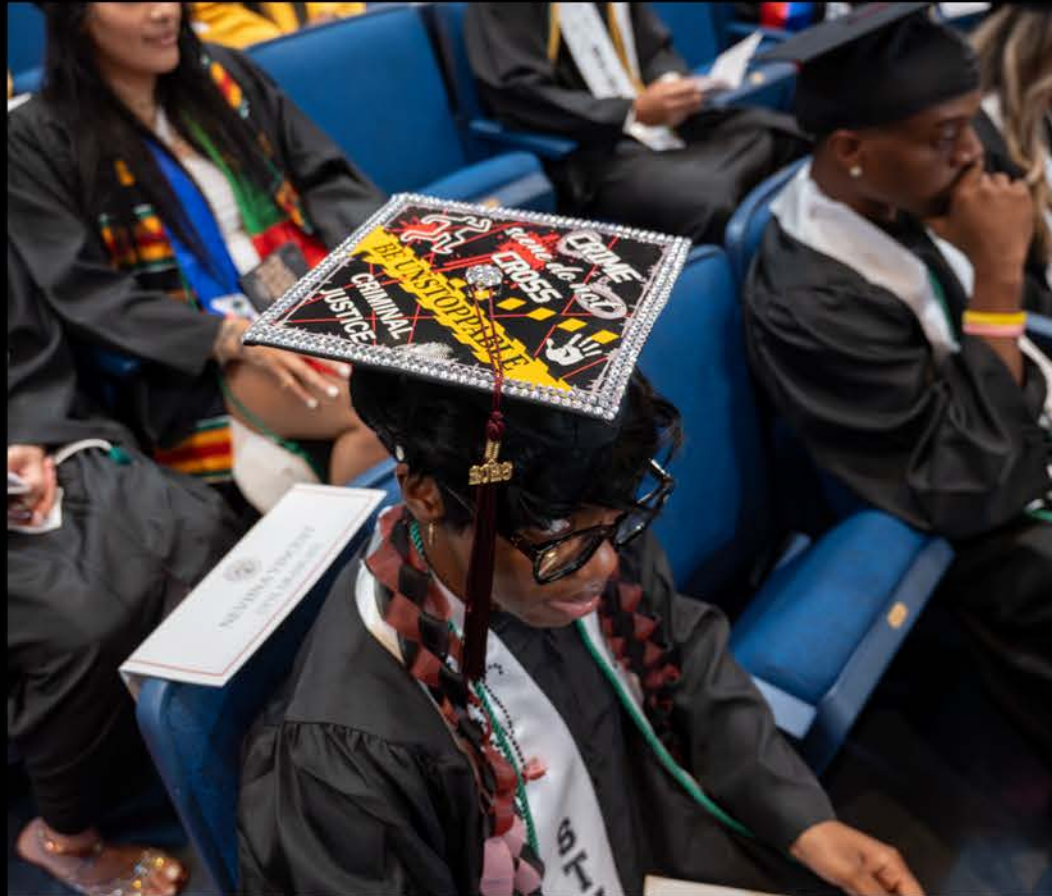
University of Fort Lauderdale
The Place Where Change Happens
954-484-7728
<http://www.ftl.edu>



















THESE ARE THE MOMENTS THAT WILL BE CARVED INTO YOUR RECOLLECTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR EXPERIENCE AND MAKING YOUR OWN MARK.

HEALTHY TO LIVE YOUR PURPOSES TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR EXPERIENCE AND MAKING YOUR OWN MARK.

WE WILL MAKE GREAT THINGS HAPPEN ACCORDING TO YOUR VISION AND A HISTORY OF PROGRESS.

LET THE JOURNEY OF EXPERIENCES THAT MAKE YOU BETTER, WISER AND STRONGER. SPENDING YOUR TIME WITH US IS THE BEST INVESTMENT YOU CAN MAKE.

UNIVERSITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

UNIVERSITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

UNIVERSITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

UNIVERSITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

UNIVERSITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

UNIVERSITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

UNIVERSITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

UNIVERSITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

UNIVERSITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

UNIVERSITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

UNIVERSITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

UNIVERSITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

UNIVERSITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE











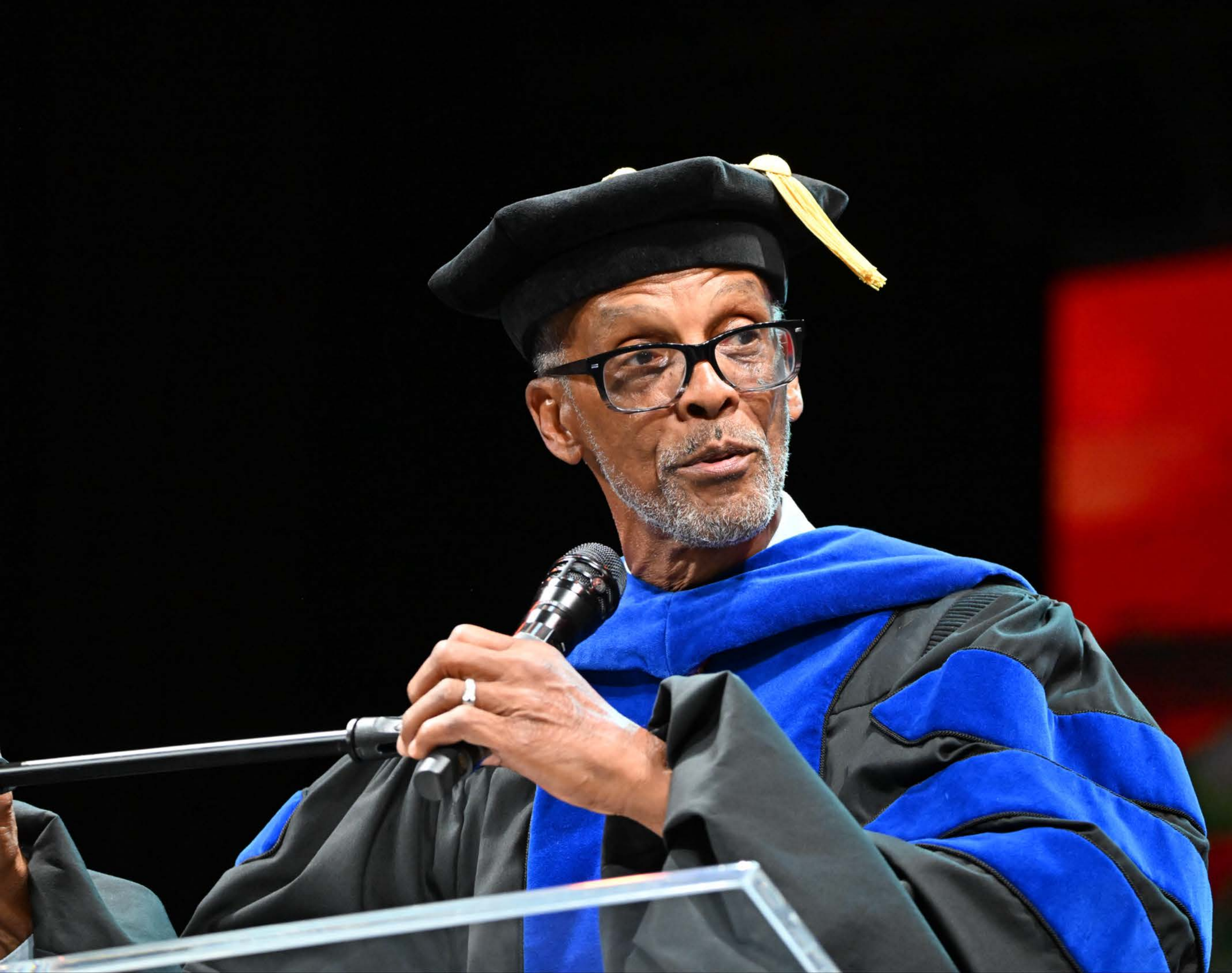
2026 Class
Valedictorian
Ms. Isabella Roraff













UNIVERSITY OF PORT LAUDERDALE
1500 UNIVERSITY BLVD
PORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33455



UNIVERSITY OF PORT LAUDERDALE
1500 UNIVERSITY BLVD
PORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33455
904-777-7228
www.upl.edu



Commencement
Speaker

Broward
County State
Attorney

Mr. Harold F. Pryor

























































congrats
GRAD

