

# School of Graduate Studies and Research



## PhD White Coat & MPH Pinning Ceremony

Friday, August 12, 2022  
9:00 a.m.

Cal Turner Family Center for Student Education  
Wells Ballroom

# ***BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH***



Dr. Bennett serves as Michigan State University's (MSU) vice president and chief diversity officer where he reports directly to the president and is a member of the executive leadership team. In this role, he partners with other senior leaders, deans, faculty, staff, students and alumni to advance the institution's diversity, equity and inclusion strategic priorities. Dr. Bennett is also a professor of medicine in the College of Human Medicine at MSU.

Prior to joining MSU, Dr. Bennett served as the inaugural associate provost for diversity and inclusion, and chief diversity officer at Northwestern University. Previously, he worked as associate dean of the Graduate School, and associate dean for diversity in the Division of Biology and Medicine at Brown University. In addition, Dr. Bennett held administrative appointments at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, and United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley. He has also served on the faculty at Harvard, Brown and Northwestern.

Dr. Bennett received a BS in biology and minor in Spanish from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University and earned a PhD in biomedical sciences from Meharry Medical College. Dr. Bennett completed postdoctoral research training in the Department of Pathology at Harvard Medical School and is an alumnus of the Harvard University Administrative Fellows Program, and Massachusetts Education Policy Fellowship Program.

# ***PROGRAM***

Processional.....	First Year Graduate Students
Invocation .....	Letha Woods, Ph.D., '01 Assistant Dean of Students and Professional Development School of Graduate Studies and Research
Greetings.....	James E. K. Hildreth, Ph.D., M.D. President and Chief Executive Officer Meharry Medical College  Nelson L. Adams III, M.D., '78 Chair, Meharry Medical College Board of Trustees
Introduction of Speaker.....	Merry Lindsey, Ph.D. Dean, School of Graduate Studies and Research
Keynote Address .....	Jabbar Bennett, Ph.D., '01 Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer Michigan State University
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Presentation of White Coats.....	Doctoral Faculty
Presentation of Pins .....	Public Health Faculty and Dean
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Oath of Commitment.....	Evangeline Motley-Johnson, Ph.D. Sr. Associate Dean, School of Graduate Studies and Research
Closing Remarks .....	Leah Alexander, D.PH., M.S.H.S.A. Director, Public Health Program School of Graduate Studies and Research

## *Recessional*

**PICTURES WILL BE TAKEN IMMEDIATELY AFTER CLOSING**  
**Cal Turner Family Center for Student Education**

***“Breakfast –Atrium, Harold D. West, Basic Science Center”***

# ***OATH OF COMMITMENT***

On this day I (**say your name**)

Solemnly swear to:

**P**ursue excellence in my studies and in my work; **L**isten to and respect my teachers; **A**pply the highest standards of ethics in my research; **C**onduct myself at all times with integrity, respect and dignity; **B**e kind, helpful and cooperative to my colleagues; **B**e an example for the next generation of graduate students; **P**rotect the college's property and its physical structure; **N**urture my dreams, and keep sight of my goals, in times of adversity; **R**epresent Meharry Medical College well and be an ambassador for the Institution; **A**spire for the benefit of mankind as a result of my work.

## **First Year Students**

### ***Doctor of Philosophy***

Claude Albritton  
Destiny Ball

Sydney Jamison  
Aralyne Johnson

Lincoln Liburd

### ***Public Health***

Ahsan Ali  
Mia Barber  
Sydney Batts  
Kendra Bettis  
Alexis Cunningham  
Kaylah Dowdell

Talwinder Gill  
Sariah Harris  
Elijah Johnson  
Tredarius Lassiter  
Ahmed Malazai  
Robyn McDaniel

Alisha Puri  
Doresha Robinson  
Maurice Swift  
Nyla Washington  
Jayla Williams  
Cassie Wormack

*"Worship of God Through Service of Mankind"*

