



Spelman  
College.

Save The Date

# LAVENDER GRADUATION CEREMONY

A Celebration of our LGBTQIA+ Graduates

*Class of 2026*

May 1<sup>st</sup> 2026 6:30pm

Camille Olivia Hanks Cosby, Ed.D.  
Academic Center Auditorium

**\*Reception following ceremony\***



# *Lavender Ceremony History*

Lavender Graduation is an annual ceremony conducted on numerous campuses to honor lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and ally students, and to acknowledge their achievements and contributions to their respective college or university. The first Lavender Graduation Ceremony was created by Dr. Ronni Sanlo, a Jewish Lesbian, who was denied the opportunity to attend the graduations of her biological children because of her sexual orientation. It was through this experience that she came to understand the pain felt by her students.

Encouraged by the Dean of Students at the University of Michigan, Dr. Sanlo designed the first Lavender Graduation Ceremony in 1995, with three graduates. By 2001, there were over 45 Lavender Graduation Ceremonies at Colleges and Universities nationwide. Graduating students, including undergraduates and graduates, are invited to take part in the celebration, which occurs yearly and prior to campus-wide commencement events.

The Spelman College community is elated to celebrate our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual, aromatic graduates, and all those along the spectrum of gender and sexual identities with our 4<sup>th</sup> annual Lavender Graduation Ceremony. And Spelman College is excited to be a part of the handful of HBCUs who host Lavender Graduations yearly!

## *Audre Lorde* **AWARD**

*Awarded to a graduate of Spelman College for their public stance on gender equality and for advocating for LGBTQIA+ equity and issues.*



Mahalia A. Little is an Assistant Professor of Women's Studies and Black Queer and Sexuality Studies in the Comparative Women's Studies Program. As a 2013 cum laude graduate of Spelman College she is passionate about feminist pedagogy, media literacy, and the teaching of writing. Her work spans themes of Black feminism, Black sexuality studies, pop culture, literary studies, and interrogations of sexual violence.

