



Spelman
College.

Save The Date

LAVENDER GRADUATION CEREMONY

A Celebration of our LGBTQIA+ Graduates

Class of 2026

May 1st 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 4th annual Lavender Graduation Ceremony. And Spelman College is excited to be a part of the handful of HBCUs who host Lavender Graduations yearly!



Lavender CEREMONY

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**SPELMAN COLLEGE
CAMILLE OLIVIA HANKS COSBY
ACADEMIC CENTER
FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2026
6:30PM**

