

Central State University



2026 Baccalaureate Service

Five O'Clock p.m.

Friday, The Fifteenth of May

Two Thousand and Twenty Six

Paul Robeson Cultural & Performing Arts Center

Wilberforce, Ohio

Central State University
Baccalaureate
Prelude to the 139th Commencement

Justyn Fry
Interim Dean of Students
Presiding

Order of Service

Prelude..... **Robeson Chamber Winds**
Dr. Alvin Level
Director, Bands

Processional “War March of the Priests” by Felix Mendelssohn
Robeson Chamber Winds
Dr. Alvin Level

Invocation..... **Justyn Fry**

Call to Worship **Audience**

O come let us worship! As a participant in this hour of worship, I shall remember that this is God’s; I shall be reverent, silent, thoughtful, and leave here with a prayer to God for others, for myself, for the University and for the graduates of 2026 whose service this is.

O come let us sing unto the Lord! Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving.

Musical Selection..... “Blessed and Highly Favored” by The Clark Sisters
Pablo J. Oquendo, II
Class of 2026

Please stand during the Processional, Alma Mater, and Recessional.

Welcome	Aniyah Cavitt Class of 2026
The Occasion	Pablo J. Oquendo, II
Class Poem	Asia A. Kimpson Miss Central State University Class of 2026
Musical Selection	“Jesus is Real” by John P. Kee Central State University Chorus Dr. Jeremy Winston Director
Introduction of Speaker	Rylee Mays Mister Senior Class of 2026
Baccalaureate Address	Azariah Crosby Class Vice President Class of 2026
Seniors’ Performance	Praise in Motion Aleesha Evans Class of 2026 Devine Howard Class of 2026 Elizabeth Perryman Class of 2026
Remarks	Dr. Morakinyo A.O. Kuti President
Alma Mater	Audience
Benediction	Justyn Fry
Recessional	“Pomp and Circumstance” by Edward Elgar Robeson Chamber Winds

Audience will please stand during the Processional, Call to Worship, Alma Mater, and Recessional.

Azariah Crosby

Azariah Crosby is a senior from Merrillville, Indiana, majoring in Political Science. She is a proud member of True Foundation Baptist Church, where her faith has remained a guiding force throughout her academic and personal journey. After beginning her collegiate career at Tuskegee University, Azariah transferred to Central State University in 2024, where she continued to grow in leadership, service, and purpose.



During her time at Central State, Azariah has exemplified exceptional leadership as the Senior Class Vice President while actively engaging in organizations such as the Pre-Law Society and Mock Trial. She has dedicated herself to uplifting others through community service with Habitat for Humanity. Also tutoring her peers, all while maintaining academic excellence as a member of the Honors College, a four-time Dean's List scholar, and holding a 3.92 grade point average.

Following graduation, Azariah will relocate to Washington, D.C., where she will work on Capitol Hill. She plans to eventually return to Ohio to actively engage in state politics, continuing her commitment to advocacy, public service, and creating lasting change. She lives by the belief, "I am because we are," and strives to lead with purpose, integrity, and faith in all that she does.

Baccalaureate Reception

A reception will be held in the University Student Center,
Ballroom immediately following the program.

Acknowledgements

Ushers

Alma Brown
Lisa Dunn
Karen Franklin
Marilyn Stepney
Teresa Tweedie

Special Thanks

Central State University Chorus
Central State University Robeson Chamber Winds
Mike Hornick, Print Center

Commencement Ceremony

McPherson Memorial Stadium
Saturday, May 16, 2026
10 a.m.

Alma Mater

Lyrics by Dr. Charles H. Wesley
Music by Mrs. Annye R. Dawson '47

-I-

O Central dear, we sing of thee,
Maker of Men who're free.
We build in deeds thy greater name,
We spread thy lasting fame.

-Chorus-

O Central mine, we'll sing of thee
Truth and Right our song shall be.
Our Alma Mater guides us and it's great
For God, For Central, For State!

-II-

O Alma Mater, Hail to thee,
Builder of Women to be.
We build for thee in heart and mind.
We seek thy grace divine.

-Chorus-

-III-

O speak to us and we shall hear
Thy voice so near, so clear.
And as we sail the future's sea,
Through the years we'll sing of thee.

-Chorus-