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## University of Minnesota, Morris to Celebrate 54th Commencement

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
**MORRIS**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[University of Minnesota, Morris to Celebrate 54th Commencement](#)

MORRIS, Minnesota (April 28, 2017)— Approximately 370 University of Minnesota, Morris students will receive their degrees at the 54th Commencement on Saturday, May 13. The ceremony will take place at 1:30 p.m. on the campus mall. All are invited to attend or to watch the event streamed online.

The Symphonic Winds, under the direction of Simon Tillier, director of wind ensembles and instrumental conducting, and the Concert Choir, under the direction of Bradley Miller, assistant professor of music and director of choral activities, will perform prior to and throughout the ceremony. Zoey Cook '17, Duluth, accompanied by Symphonic Winds, will sing the "The Star Spangled Banner."

Chancellor Michelle Behr will provide the welcome and recognition of special guests, and The Honorable Peggy E. Lucas, University of Minnesota Board of Regents, will give additional remarks. As the 2017 recipient of the Curtis H. Larson Award, Katherine Ledermann '17, Mahtomedi, will speak on behalf of the graduates.

[Ravi Norman '98 will be the Commencement speaker.](#) Norman is chief executive officer of Minnesota's largest minority-owned business, THOR Construction, and possesses more than 16 years of expertise in the areas of strategic management, organizational development, and commercial finance.

In recognition of the campus's origins as an American Indian boarding school, the Northern Wind Singers (Woodland Ojibwe) will perform a Native American Honor Song to recognize and pay tribute to the Class of 2017. Anishinaabe Language Instructor Gabe Desrosiers '05, Lake of the Woods, Ontario, Canada, is the lead singer and composer for the group and the keeper of the drum.

After the presentation of the candidates and conferring of degrees, University of Minnesota, Morris Alumni Association President Amy Doll-Wohlers '90 will welcome the new alumni into the UMMAA. A reception will be held in the Student Center's Oyate Hall following the ceremony.

Commencement guests are invited to view the 2017 Senior Art Exhibition, *SUMMATION*, in the Edward J. and Helen Jane Morrison Gallery before or after the ceremony.

In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held in the P.E. Center, and seating will be limited to five guest tickets per graduate, which will be mailed to graduates via their on-campus P.O. boxes. Accommodations for unticketed guests will be available in the Student Center's Edson Auditorium.

Commencement will be streamed online, beginning at 1 p.m. To learn more, visit [morris.umn.edu/commencement](http://morris.umn.edu/commencement).

[View this story electronically.](#)

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at [morris.umn.edu](http://morris.umn.edu) or call 888-866-3382.

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