Welcome to the New Student Convocation

The New Student Convocation is a formal ceremony to welcome new students to the University of Wisconsin–Madison. During this program, you will be introduced to the legacies of our campus—past, present, and future.

Welcome to UW–Madison!

Program

Color Guard Presentation of Colors

National Anthem
performed by a cappella student organization: Redefined

Welcome and Introduction of the Platform Party from Provost Karl Scholz

UW Native Nations Welcome from Professor Brian McInnes

Vice Chancellor Lori Reesor

Student Speaker Marina Kerekes

Chief Diversity Officer LaVar J. Charleston

Chancellor Jennifer L. Mnookin

Sign Language interpretation provided by McBurney Disability Resource Center.

Speakers

JENNIFER L. MNOOKIN
Jennifer L. Mnookin is the 30th leader of the University of Wisconsin–Madison. She is a national expert on law, forensic science and evidence, and has deep experience as an innovative and talented administrator.

Prior to joining UW–Madison, Mnookin served as dean of the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law and Ralph and Shirley Shapiro Professor of Law. She first joined the UCLA Law faculty in 2005, she served as Vice Dean for Faculty and Research from 2007 to 2009, and Vice Dean for Faculty Recruitment and Intellectual Life in 2012–13. She became dean in 2015.
**KARL SCHOLZ**
Karl Scholz has served as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs since August 2019, after serving six years as dean of the UW–Madison College of Letters and Science. He served as interim chancellor of UW–Madison during the summer of 2022. Scholz is also the Nellie June Gray Professor of Economic Policy in the Department of Economics, which he joined in 1988. He writes on diverse topics including household saving, low-wage labor markets, and financial barriers to higher education.

**BRIAN McINNES**
Dr. Brian Waabishki-makwa McInnes is an associate professor in the UW–Madison School of Human Ecology, and the Leola R. Culver Professor in Nonprofits and Philanthropy. His current work focuses on traditional environmental knowledge, community-based language revitalization, and education anthropology. As a member of the Ojibwe and Potawatomi Nations, he has a deep interest in the preservation of Indigenous cultures and languages and is an accomplished speaker, presenter, and writer in English and Ojibwe. Dr. McInnes is committed to helping build a strong and inclusive future for all members of the UW–Madison community.

**LORI REESOR**
As UW–Madison’s vice chancellor for student affairs, Dr. Lori Reesor oversees student services that address health and well-being, identity and inclusion, advocacy, student leadership and community engagement. She is a Wisconsin native from Waukesha, a first-generation college graduate, and a proud Badger parent.

**MARINA KEREKES**
Marina Kerekes, a junior from Waterville, Minnesota, arrived at UW–Madison thinking she’d pursue a pre-law track. She soon switched to anthropology after becoming fascinated with primate behavior in an elective psychology course. She’s never looked back — this past summer, she spent several weeks in Costa Rica researching howler monkeys. On campus, Kerekes participates in the Wisconsin Speech and Debate Society and volunteers with a lab that studies primate behavior.

**LAVAR J. CHARLESTON**
Dr. LaVar J. Charleston is UW–Madison’s chief diversity officer, where he provides overall leadership for the university’s efforts to create a diverse, inclusive, and successful learning and work environment for all students, faculty, staff, alumni, and university partners. A Badger alumnus from Detroit, he most recently served as the inaugural associate dean for equity, diversity, and inclusion at the UW School of Education, where he is a clinical professor of higher education in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis (ELPA).
**UW Marching Band**

Anyone who has ever been a member of the Marching and Varsity Bands won’t hesitate to tell you that the four years they participated were some of the most exciting times in their life. There have been trips, concerts, exciting games, and innumerable special events. High points over the years include ten appearances in the Rose Bowl and performances in Tokyo, Tampa, San Antonio, Nashville, Tucson, El Paso, Birmingham, Shreveport, and New York City. Travel includes visits to Big Ten stadiums throughout the Midwest and Lambeau Field to perform during Green Bay Packers games. In Madison, the Marching Band performs weekly in Camp Randall Stadium for more than 80,000 fans during Badger football games. Keeping with tradition, up to 50,000 fans regularly stay after the conclusion of the games to enjoy the famous Fifth Quarter.

**Performer: Redefined**

Redefined is one of the leading student coed a cappella groups in the nation. Founded in 2001, the group performs frequently on campus, throughout the Madison community, and across the Midwest. In addition, Redefined has released eight studio albums and has performed for an episode of Dateline NBC.

**School Song**

“**VARSITY**

Varsity! Varsity!  
U-rah-rah! Wisconsin,  
Praise to thee we sing!  
Praise to thee,  
our Alma Mater,  
U-rah-rah! Wisconsin!

**Go Big Read 2022**

**HOW THE WORD IS PASSED A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America**  
By Clint Smith

A deeply researched and transporting exploration of the legacy of slavery and its imprint on centuries of American history, *How the Word Is Passed* illustrates how some of our country’s most essential stories are hidden in plain view—whether in places we might drive by on our way to work, holidays such as Juneteenth, or entire neighborhoods like downtown Manhattan, where the brutal history of the trade in enslaved men, women, and children has been deeply imprinted.

Go Big Read is UW–Madison’s common book program. Each year, the university selects a book with important themes for the campus community to explore. Students, staff, faculty, and community members can participate through special events and classroom discussions. You will receive a copy of *How the World is Passed* as you exit the Kohl Center.

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