Through the efforts of African American faculty and staff, the Vizuri Kabisa Unity Celebration was created to celebrate the accomplishments of African American students. In May of 1997, the first celebration was held with 120 students and guests in attendance. Swahili for excellence, the name Vizuri Kabisa was chosen to connect students, faculty, and staff to their African heritage while promoting the achievements of the students. This annual event is planned by the Cultural Centers and a committee of staff, faculty, and students.

Congratulations, Graduates!

Black Excellence has always been the root of progress and evolution. We defy expectations and demolish all barriers set before us. Your excellence is a demonstration that our graduates are excelling beyond statistics, beyond limitations, and beyond their wildest dreams. In Spring 2020, we mark the 24th year of the tradition of celebrating Black Excellence on the Hilltop and beyond.

On behalf of the USF’s community of students, staff, and faculty, we write this note to celebrate this significant milestone in your life. Graduation in our community is a symbol that goes beyond the degree. It serves as inspiration for future generations and as a tribute to the Black scholars that have paved the way. Most importantly, it cements your ability to succeed in spite of all the odds set to ensure the opposite. You did it! Take a deep breath and let that soak in.

You are an example of the Black Excellence that exists in our community, not because of the degree you received but because of who you are as an individual and the meaning your presence has given to the greater community beyond our campus.

We wish you all the best, we pray for your safety and your ability to thrive in all your future endeavors. Know that you do not stand alone; there is a community of Black folks rooting for you to continue to excel beyond expectations. Please stay connected. We want to celebrate any updates and continue to support you as you grow into your best self.

Best Wishes and Go Dons!

Vizuri Kabisa Planning Committee 2020
THANK YOU

Black Community Council
Cultural Centers

Dr. Mary Wardell-Ghirarduzzi, Vice Provost for Diversity Engagement and Community Outreach
Dr. Tyrone Cannon, Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs
Office of Marketing and Communication
Office of the Registrar
Office of the Assistant Vice Provost of Student Life

VIZURI KABISA 2020 PLANNING COMMITTEE
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Lester Deanes, Student Life
Shannon Gary, Student Life
Mike’l Gregory, undergraduate student
Yasmine Lelaind, undergraduate student
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