
**Nearly 30 Students From Dominica Earn Degrees at
Monroe University's Annual Commencement Ceremony
for Saint Lucia Campus Graduates**

*Graduate Merissa Gabory Had the Honor of Carrying
Dominica's Flag During Graduation Event's "Parade of Flags"*

CASTRIES, SAINT LUCIA, OCTOBER 18, 2026 -- Monroe University, the New York-based institution offering undergraduate and graduate degree programs from its campus in Castries, held its annual Commencement today for graduates from across Saint Lucia and the Caribbean region. Nearly 30 of the new graduates are from Dominica.

The joyful event took place at the Royalton St. Lucia Resort & Spa Auditorium in Gros Islet. Monroe President Marc Jerome and other senior University leaders joined local campus administration, faculty, and staff, as well as special dignitaries, at the graduation ceremony, which recognized and celebrated the academic achievements of 318 students in the Saint Lucia campus Class of 2026.

Following the ceremony, Marc Jerome, president of Monroe University, gathered all the Dominican students together for a celebratory photo; he's in the middle:



In addition to students from Dominica, Saint Lucia, and the United States, the graduating class included students from Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Nicaragua, Nigeria, St. Kitts and Nevis, Sint Maarten, and Saint Vincent & the Grenadines.

One student from each country proudly carried their nation's flag as part of the opening processional. The Dominica flag was proudly carried by Merissa Gabory, an undergraduate Accounting major who graduated with *summa cum laude* honors.

About the Commencement Ceremony

Professor Antonia Laurent-Goodman served as Grand Marshal for the opening processional. Nathalie Jolie-Fanis, faculty with the General Education department, served once again as emcee. Saint Lucia's national anthem, *Sons and Daughters of Saint Lucia*, was sung by Linda Berthier, an adjunct faculty member with our School of Allied Health Professions. Rohan Bennett, a member of the graduating class, sang *The Star-Spangled Banner*.

Among those offering welcoming remarks to the graduates and their guests were President Marc Jerome and Senior Vice President Dr. Alex Ephrem. Graduates were also honored to hear from The Honorable Kenson Casimir, Minister for Education, Youth Development, Sports, and Digital Transformation, who shared a wonderful congratulatory message on behalf of the Government of Saint Lucia.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Damian Eisenghower Greaves, a distinguished Caribbean scholar, educator, public health specialist and executive leader. His illustrious career spans the fields of education, government, parliamentary services, healthcare policy and administration, and cultural development.

Dr. Ernest Ottley, Dean of Academics in Saint Lucia, announced students earning academic awards. Dr. Jacinth Coultman, Vice President for Academic Affairs, proudly presented the graduates to President Jerome for the formal conferring of degrees.

In addition to those mentioned, the University community was joined at Commencement by a number of special guests and dignitaries, including: Governor General H.E. Felix Finistere and his wife Lady Selma Finistere; Her Excellency Lief Escalona, Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to Saint Lucia; Ms. Dina Melehi, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco; Dr. Winston Phulgence, Principal of Sir Arthur Lewis Community College; and Monsignor Patrick "Paba" Anthony, who gave the invocation.

About Monroe University

Founded in 1933, Monroe University is a recognized leader in urban and international education. The University is proud of its innovative programs to increase college access, affordability, and completion outcomes, especially among first-generation students, and for the national recognition it receives for its strong impact on graduates' social mobility.

Programs are offered through Schools of Allied Health Professions, Business and Accounting, Criminal and Social Justice, Education, Hospitality Management, Information Technology, and Nursing, as well as through its King Graduate School. Liberal arts and continuing education programs are also available.

The Saint Lucia campus, located on Vide Boutielle Highway in Castries, offers students a broad array of degree programs through its Schools of Allied Health Professions, Business and Accounting, Criminal and Social Justice, Hospitality Management, and Information Technology. The University had also operated the International Hospitality Training Institute in partnership with the Saint Lucian government to prepare local residents for entry level hospitality positions with cruise ships, hotels, resorts, and restaurants.

For more information and admissions criteria, please visit www.monroeu.edu.