

CLEARY UNIVERSITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cleary University presents Summerfest at the Stadium Burgers, Booze and Beats

(HOWELL, MI) Burgers, Booze and Beats will highlight Cleary University's third annual Summerfest celebration, Friday, June 6, from 6 pm to 10 pm at Lake Trust Stadium on Cleary's campus in Howell.

Cost is only \$60 a person, or \$30 for designated drivers. Ticket price includes indulging in an assortment of creative sliders and everything delicious between two buns, sampling an array of boozy delights and signature cocktails (designated drivers can sip on unlimited soft drinks), and dancing to the musical beats of The Killer Flamingos performing on the Lake Trust Stadium stage. Country singer Kari Holmes kicks off the evening entertainment at 6:30 pm.

Summerfest is open to the entire community – 21 years of age and older.

Throughout the evening, guests can sample an assortment of burgers and other creative sliders served from food trucks including Tim's Gourmet Sliders, Griff's Grill and Hickory BBQ & Grill.

Tim's Gourmet Sliders in Detroit will elevate everyday sliders into extraordinary ones. Guests will savor these sliders one gourmet bite at a time.

Griff's Grill, known as the "home of the slider," is a local and family-owned establishment in downtown Howell serving irresistible and unique slider bites for all to enjoy.

Hickory BBQ & Grill in Brighton has won dozens of awards for the best hickory barbecue in Metro Detroit. Owner and Pit-master Dale Lockwood slowly infuses mouth-watering flavors into the most delicious, fresh meat using charcoal and hickory wood.

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Along with succulent sliders, guests can choose from more than a dozen festive and unique cocktails served by the Whiskey Chicks mixologists.

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Proceeds from Burgers, Booze and Beats will help support Cleary students needing financial assistance. The Gift of Graduation scholarship is used to help juniors and seniors who are close to completing their degree but have run out of funds.

“Education is one of the most powerful tools you can possess in your lifetime, but unfortunately, many Cleary students fall short of obtaining their degree because they face financial hardships,” explains Tom Egan, director of Development for Cleary. “With community support through events like Summerfest, Cleary can help these students complete their degree, and their dream of a college education.”

Here is the schedule for Summerfest at the Stadium:

- Stadium gates open: 6 pm
- Burgers and boozy cocktail tasting: 6 pm to 10 pm
- Beats of Kari Holmes: 6:30 pm to 7:15 pm
- More beats by headliner, The Killer Flamingos: 8 pm

Kari Holmes, a pop/country singer and songwriter, was named 2021 Entertainer of the Year at the Josie Music Awards. She's been described as a cross between Shania Twain for her looks, style and attitude; Taylor Swift for her writing abilities; and Carrie Underwood for her ability to belt out a tune.

The Killer Flamingos, Summerfest's headliners, are considered Detroit's biggest and best party band, providing unforgettable performances that have kept Detroit on the cutting edge of current music. The group has been performing for more than 30 years all over the Midwest. They will provide an explosive live show, packed with outstanding musicianship and high-energy.

To purchase tickets for Burgers, Booze and Beats, visit www.cleary.edu/summerfest2025/

For sponsorship information and VIP tickets, contact Katee Cole at kcole@cleary.edu.

Cleary University is located at 3750 Cleary Drive, off Grand River Avenue and west of Latson Road in Howell.

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Gift of Graduation funds pushed Julea Fisher over the graduation finish line.

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Last year, Cleary Senior Julea Fisher was “kicking it out of the park” with her education, soccer scholarship, resident assistant role and part-time receptionist position at Cleary, while maintaining a 3.5 GPA.

In almost an instant, it all started slipping away from her. Fisher was diagnosed with compartment syndrome, a medical condition that, if left untreated, could result in permanent injury. She had to quit the Cleary soccer team for good, interrupt her studies and request an absence from her job so she could concentrate on the pending surgery on both legs and her prognosis.

“I was struggling, and I was stressed; I couldn’t play soccer anymore, and I had no money to finish school. It was my dream to get my degree. I only had one semester to go. I was so close, but it seemed so far out of my reach,” she reflects.

That’s when she learned about Cleary’s Gift of Graduation, a scholarship Cleary awards to students like Fisher who face financial hardships at a critical time in their education – a few months before they can complete their final college credits and earn their degree.

Thanks to fundraising events like Cleary’s Summerfest as well as generous financial donations throughout the year from the community, Gift of Graduation funds can help Fisher and many other Cleary juniors and seniors complete their degree without interruption.

Fisher earned her bachelor’s degree in business communications from Cleary in December 2024. She applied for, and accepted, a full-time position at Cleary as its Enrollment Management Coordinator.

“I am so grateful for the Gift of Graduation and hope these funds continue to be available to help other students facing financial hardships,” Fisher says.

The Gift of Graduation provides desperately needed assistance to Cleary juniors and seniors who are close to graduation but short on funds. “Every student who is forced to leave school this close to graduation represents a major loss, not only for themselves, but for their family, prospective employers waiting to hire Cleary graduates, and the community,” reports Egan. “At Cleary, our goal is to help students bridge the gap for needed funding so they can cross that graduation finish line.”

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About Cleary University

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Founded in 1883, Cleary

University is a four-year, private, nonprofit university, offering undergraduate and graduate degrees from a unique Business Arts curriculum, and driven by a faculty of thought leaders with deep, practical experience in their industries. Providing on-campus and online education models, Cleary also offers a robust athletic program of 19 sports and a rich residence life with nearly 200 students living on the quiet, rolling 50-acre campus. Cleary graduates tend to land jobs faster than their peers and with higher earning salaries at the start of their careers.

Cleary University:

- #5 in the nation for best online business degree (University HQ)
- #4 in Michigan for Best Business College
- #1 in Michigan for ROI among private, nonprofit business schools
- #3 in Michigan for best average starting salary two years post-graduation (US Department of Education)
- One of the lowest tuition rates in Michigan among private colleges (#5)
- Ninth best university in the US for its MBA online leadership degree program (OnlineMastersDegrees.org)
- #9 in Michigan for its MBA online degree program (OnlineMastersDegrees.org)
- “Best for Vets College in 2022” by *Military Times*
- Gold Level Veteran-Friendly status three years in a row from The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA) for continued excellence in serving military-connected students in Michigan

To learn more about Cleary University, visit its website: <https://cleary.edu>.

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