



CHANCELLOR'S AWARD
— FOR —
STUDENT EXCELLENCE

APRIL 29, 2025

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CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR STUDENT EXCELLENCE

The Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence acknowledges students who have received recognition for distinguished achievements. It is the highest honor bestowed upon a student by the University. This year, 193 students from 63 campuses will receive this award. Nominations are sought for students who have best demonstrated the integration of SUNY excellence within many aspects of their lives, including academics, leadership, campus involvement, community service, and the arts (creative or performing).

WELCOME & REMARKS

DR. JOHN B. KING, JR.
CHANCELLOR

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

DEREK PETERSON
STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY ALUMNUS
FOUNDER & CEO, SOTER TECHNOLOGIES

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

We recognize that the venue in which we are celebrating sits on the traditional homelands of the people of the Mohicans. The land is both seized and occupied territory of the Mohican People. We honor the Indigenous caretakers of these lands and waters, the elders who lived here before, the Indigenous today, and the generations to come.

We recognize, support, and advocate for Indigenous individuals and communities. By offering this Land Acknowledgement, we support Indigenous autonomy and will work to hold ourselves more accountable to the needs of American Indian and Indigenous peoples.

a note from THE CHANCELLOR

April 29, 2025

Dear Awardees,

As Chancellor of the State University of New York, I have the privilege of spending time at all 64 of our SUNY institutions across our great state. During each visit, my favorite part is sitting down and listening to you, our students. You are the reason we are here. You are the reason I wake up each morning continuing to believe in the transformative power of higher education. We are here for you, and we are here to always support you. Your success is our success and the success of the state we all call home. You are here today because you have dedicated your time at SUNY to building the future you envisioned and desired for yourself.

To our students' family and friends, please take a moment to reflect on how proud you are of the person we celebrate today. College can be challenging and requires significant sacrifice. Through perseverance and hard work—all the long hours studying in the library, preparing for a group project, or engaging in an internship or intensive research—those sacrifices have paid off.

To this year's awardees, I extend my heartfelt congratulations. Today, we honor you with the highest recognition given to a SUNY student, acknowledging your dedication and your excellence. We are proud of all that you have achieved here at SUNY. We are rooting for your future success.

With my sincerest congratulations,



John B. King, Jr., J.D., Ed.D.
Chancellor
State University of New York

We recognize that the venue in which we are celebrating sits on the homelands of sovereign Indigenous nations with rich histories and cultures that continue today – both within New York and beyond. The land is both seized and occupied territory of the Munsee Mohican People and the Kanien'kehaka (Mohawk) people, who are part of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy.

We honor the Indigenous caretakers of these lands and waters, the elders who lived here before, the Indigenous today, and the generations to come. We recognize, support, and advocate for Indigenous individuals and communities. By offering this Land Acknowledgement, we support Indigenous autonomy and will work to hold ourselves more accountable to the needs of American Indian and Indigenous peoples.

The Thanksgiving Address comes from the Haudenosaunee people, also known as the Iroquois Confederacy or Six Nations. It reflects their relationship of giving thanks for life and the world around them.

The Thanksgiving Address, Ohen:ton Karihwaterhkwen: "Words Before all Else"

Kionkiohkwa
sewatonhosii os onen
onketasewah Ohen:ton
Karihwaterhkwen

Akwe:kon enska
entitewahwehnon:ni ne
onkwa'nikon:ra tanon
teiethinonhwera:ton ne
onkwehshon:ah tanon
lethi'nisténha Onhóntsa,
tho niohtonha'k ne
onkwa'nikon:ra. Tho

Akwe:kon enska
entitewahwehnon:ni ne
onkwa'nikon:ra tanon
teiethinonhwera:ton
ne Ohneka'shon:a
tanon kentsion'shon:ah,
tho niohtonha'k ne
onkwa'nikon:ra. Tho

Akwe:kon enska
entitewahwehnon:ni ne
onkwa'nikon:ra tanon
teiethinonhwera:ton ne
tsi Shonkwaientho:wi
tanon kaien'thohshera,
tho niohtonha'k ne
onkwa'nikon:ra. Tho

Akwe:kon enska
entitewahwehnon:ni ne
onkwa'nikon:ra tanon
teiethinonhwera:ton ne
ononhkwa'shon:ah tanon
kontirio, tho niohtonha'k
ne onkwa'nikon:ra. Tho

Akwe:kon enska
entitewahwehnon:ni ne
onkwa'nikon:ra tanon
teiethinonhwera:ton
ne okwire'shon:ah
tanon otsi'ten'okon:ah,
tho niohtonha'k ne
onkwa'nikon:ra. Tho

Akwe:kon enska
entitewahwehnon:ni ne
onkwa'nikon:ra tanon
teiethinonhwera:ton ne
kaie:ri nikawera:ke tanon
ionkhisho'thokon:'ah
ratiwe:ras, tho niohtonha'k
ne onkwa'nikon:ra. Tho

Akwe:kon enska
entitewahwehnon:ni ne
onkwa'nikon:ra tanon
teiethinonhwera:ton ne
kiehkehnekhka karakhwa
tanon ahsenthenhnekhka
karakhwa, tho niohtonha'k
ne onkwa'nikon:ra. Tho

Akwe:kon enska
entitewahwehnon:ni ne
onkwa'nikon:ra tanon
teiethinonhwera:ton ne
otsistanohkwa'shon:ah
tanon kaie:ri niionkwe:take,
tho niohtonha'k ne
onkwa'nikon:ra. Tho

Akwe:kon enska
entitewahwehnon:ni ne
onkwa'nikon:ra tanon
tentshitewanonhwera:ton
ne Shonkwaia'tison.

O:nen
wakwarihwaientakwen
nowa wehniserateh toka'
taniseke nekoha ne'e i:se
ki isohta's aesenterion
sewahson tho niohtonha'k
ne onkwa'nikon:ra

We bring our minds
together as one and give
thanks to the people and
mother earth; now our
minds are one.

We bring our minds together
as one and give thanks to
the waters and the fish; now
our minds are one.

We bring our minds
together as one and give
thanks to the plants and
the food plants; now our
minds are one.

We bring our minds
together as one and give
thanks to the medicines
and the animals; now our
minds are one.

We bring our minds together
as one and give thanks to
the trees and the birds; now
our minds are one.

We bring our minds
together as one and give
thanks to the four winds
and the grandfather
thunders; now our minds
are one.

We bring our minds
together as one and give
thanks to the sun, and
grandmother moon; now
our minds are one.

We bring our minds
together as one and give
thanks to the stars and the
four beings; now our minds
are one.

We bring our minds
together as one and give
thanks to the creator; now
our minds are one.

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AWARDEES

SUNY ADIRONDACK

Tyrese Brown (He/Him/His)

*Liberal Arts Mathematics
and Science
Spanish Town, Jamaica*

Tyrese Brown moved from Jamaica in 2022 and enrolled at SUNY Adirondack as a TRIO participant in spring 2023 to pursue becoming an orthopedic surgeon. Achieving a 3.9 in Liberal Arts Mathematics and Science and earning numerous academic awards, he will graduate in May 2025. He is the elected Student Trustee on the Board of Trustees and serves on the Faculty Student Association Board as a member of the Adirondack Housing Association Committee. He is a Tutor and Lab Assistant for the Biology Department. He volunteers at Glens Falls Hospital and with the local Youth Action Board while working part-time at a local restaurant.

SUNY ADIRONDACK

Data Murdie (They/Them/Theirs)

*Broadcast Media Productions
Ballston Spa, NY*

Data Murdie lives in Rock City Falls and self-identifies as a queer, transgender, first-generation college student. They earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in Broadcast Media Production in August 2024 with a 3.93 GPA and now pursue a Bachelor of Arts in Human Development and Family Resources at SUNY Plattsburgh at Queensbury. They were active in Phi Theta Kappa as Secretary, TRIO SSS as a Peer Mentor, the Adirondack Broadcasting

Association as President and Theatre Club. They are a regular radio host on the college radio station WGFR 92.7FM. Data was selected as the Class of 2024 Commencement Speaker.

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

Cathrina Aris (She/Her/Hers)

*Public Health
Brooklyn, NY*

Cathrina Aris graduated from the University at Albany with a Human Biology degree and will earn a Master's in Public Health, specializing in Epidemiology. A Research Associate for an NIH-funded Maternal Program focused on Maternal Health, Cathrina also Interned at the New York City Department of Mental Health. Certified in Maternal and Child Health, Cathrina is a Certified Peer Educator delivering educational programs on behavioral health issues. Cathrina was Lead Author of an article in Minority Mental Health, was a student member of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Board and recipient of the Residence Life All-Star Award.

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

Audrey Coons (She/Her/Hers)

*Human Biology
Rochester, NY*

Audrey Coons, a member of the Honors College, is enrolled in the Human Biology program with a minor in Medical Anthropology. A Research Assistant in the RNA Institute, Audrey has written research papers on antiviral pathways and myotonic dystrophy. Audrey currently serves as the President of the campus volunteer ambulance service Five Quad, as well as the Pre-

Physician's Assistant Club. An EMT and Certified CPR Instructor, Audrey organized a Mass Casualty Incident Drill involving police and medical providers. A member of the Musical Theatre Association, Audrey served as Social Media Manager and appeared in the musicals "Footloose" and "Chicago."

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

Shoshanna Kusa (She/Her/Hers)

*Digital Forensics and Cybersecurity
Queens, NY*

Shoshanna Kusa is a double major in Digital Forensics and Cybersecurity. She was a Research Fellow at the Virtual Institute of Cyber Operation and Research and conducted research on identifying cybersecurity issues related to drone swarms in the military. Shoshanna completed two Internships with the Griffiss Institute, U.S. Air Force, working on Crowd Sourced Flight Data and Critical Vulnerabilities. A Peer Mentor in Writing in Critical Inquiry, a University Tutor, Treasurer of the Cyber Defense Organization, Shoshanna was an Assistant for two Living Learning Communities, Leadership and Engineering, and was a Student Assistant in the Office of Student Engagement.

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

Thilanka Munasinghe (He/Him/His)

*Information Science
Panadura, Sri Lanka*

Thilanka Munasinghe is a Ph.D. student in Information Science, focusing on machine learning. Thilanka has published over 20 research

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papers in peer-reviewed journals and international conferences addressing critical topics including climate resilience, disease forecasting and quantum machine learning. A Visiting Research Student at the MIT Media Lab, Thilanka was an Intern at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center and collaborated with Oak Ridge National Laboratory on the impact of climate on crop production and disease spread. A contributor to the open-source projects such as the MIT App Inventor, Thilanka has also Mentored underrepresented students in writing research papers.

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

Oroboghene Obara-Ogbovoh (She/Her/Hers)

*Public Policy and Management,
and International Affairs
Elmont, NY*

Oroboghene Obara-Ogbovoh is in a combined program pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Public Policy and Management and a Master's in International Affairs. Oroboghene is a published researcher analyzing the New York State opioid epidemic and assisted with research focused on tracking results of U.S. school board elections over 30 years. Oroboghene served as Model Legislative Session President of the State Senate Session Assistant Program, is a recipient of two U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarships to learn Arabic in Morocco and served as Vice President for the African Student Association and Treasurer of Students in International Affairs Association.

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

Leah Punnoose (She/Her/Hers)

*Biology
Guilderland, NY*

Leah Punnoose is a Biology major with a minor in Business. Leah conducted research in the BioNano Lab of the RNA Institute focused on DNA nanostructures and was published in the journal Chemical Communications by the Royal Society of Chemistry. A Tutor in Biology and Organic Chemistry, Leah is also Founder and President of Operation Smile, President of the Pre-Dental Society and Co-Programming Chair of ASIA. A Blood Donor Ambassador and volunteer for the Red Cross, Leah is a Literacy Volunteer and a Patient Ambassador at St. Peter's Hospital.

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

Mauricio Rodríguez (He/Him/His)

*Psychology
New York, NY*

Mauricio Rodríguez, a member of the Honors College, is a Psychology major with minors in Sociology and French. Mauricio is a Research Assistant in the Weight and Eating Disorders Lab, the Randall Industrial Organization Psychology Lab and the Cognition and Language Lab. Mauricio is an Honors College Ambassador, a Peer of Experience and Training (P.O.E.T.) and a Mentor with Understanding, Seniority and Expertise (M.U.S.E.) in the Honors College, a Tutor in Psychology, Sociology and Statistics and served as a Hotline Assistant for Middle

Earth. A lead presenter or co-presenter, Mauricio has presented at eight local, regional and national conferences.

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

Krystyna Rybka (She/Her/Hers)

*Behavioral Neuroscience
North Yarmouth, ME*

Krystyna Rybka is a Ph.D. student in Behavioral Neuroscience. She has conducted critical research on sex differences in the regulation of the stress response. Krystyna has published extensively, earned numerous academic honors and presented her findings at prestigious conferences such as the Society for Neuroscience. A dedicated Mentor and Advocate for diversity in STEM, she Co-Founded the Graduate Gathering of Life Sciences and serves as Executive Chair of Women in Neuroscience and STEM NOW. Upon graduation she will be a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Ophthalmology at Tufts Medical Center in Boston.

NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF CERAMICS AT ALFRED UNIVERSITY

Roque Santiago (He/Him/His)

*Material Sciences
Engineering and Physics
Canisteo, NY*

Roque Santiago is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree with a primary major in Materials Science and Engineering and a secondary major in Physics. He is an active student-athlete in football, was a CSC Academic All-District team member and serves on the team's Leadership Council. He is a

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member of the university's Honors Program, President of the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society and a Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society member.

NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF CERAMICS AT ALFRED UNIVERSITY

Emily Woo (She/Her/Hers)

*Studio Art
New York, NY*

Emily Woo is a ceramic sculptor pursuing her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with graduation expected in May 2025. Her practice intertwines ceramics, neon and wood to explore the Asian American experience, particularly the interplay of her Chinese and American identities. Woo has exhibited widely, including a solo show *Yellow Peril* at the Robert C. Turner Gallery and at Alma's during the 2024 National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts convention. She has also curated group exhibitions and completed residencies, among them at the Watershed Center for Ceramic Arts.

ALFRED STATE COLLEGE

John "Jack" Christie (He/Him/His)

*Architecture
Geneseo, NY*

Jack Christie is a rising architect with a 3.88 GPA in Alfred State's Bachelor of Architecture program. Earning an Associate degree at 17, he has since received multiple honors, including induction into Tau Sigma Delta and AIA Rochester Scholarships. As a three-term President of the American Institute of Architecture Students Chapter, he

organized firm tours, workshops and international trips. He led Alfred State's first-place ASC Design-Build Team and explored urban design solutions in his thesis on autonomous vehicles. Through the STAR (Southern Tier Architectural Resource) Center, he provides design services to local organizations, blending innovation and community impact to shape the future of architecture.

ALFRED STATE COLLEGE

Alyssa James (She/Her/Hers)

*Graphic and Media Design
Pittsford, NY*

Alyssa James is a standout student at Alfred State, excelling in Graphic and Media Design and Digital Media and Animation with a 3.85 GPA. A seven-time Dean's List Honoree, she balances academics, leadership and athletics. As Campus Recreation Staff Lead and Career Development Center Intern, she drives engagement and inclusivity. A record-holding swimmer and Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference Champion, she also volunteers with the ACE Mentorship Program and Special Olympics. A skilled designer, she creates impactful media for campus and community organizations. With her blend of creativity, leadership and service, Alyssa is set to make a lasting impact in her field.

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

Kelcie Alba (She/Her/Hers)

*Japanese Studies and
Political Science
Islip Terrace, NY*

Adopted into a family of fellow adoptees, Kelcie Alba from Islip Terrace embraced resilience and committed to supporting others facing poverty and domestic violence. A senior double-majoring in Japanese Studies and Political Science, she is passionate about foreign affairs and fostering connections, driven by her commitment to creating opportunities and making a positive global impact. She uses her platform to advocate for others on and off campus, to spread cultural awareness and to promote equity and inclusion, all while steadily achieving academic excellence.

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

Iris DeFino (She/They)

*Political Science
Ridgefield, CT*

Iris DeFino is a Binghamton University Scholar with a 3.93 GPA, majoring in Political Science. She excels in research, activism and leadership. Her dedication to social justice is evident through her Legal Internships, advocacy and teaching. Iris's intellect, resilience and commitment to equity and inclusion make her an exemplary candidate for the Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence.

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BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

Brian Keeling (He/Him/His)

*Anthropology
Palos Hills, IL*

Brian Keeling is a graduating doctoral student in Paleoanthropology, the study of human origins. His research examines the relationship between bone structure and function in Neanderthals relying on microCT scans, 3D models and sophisticated statistical analyses. His work has been published in a peer-reviewed academic journal and he has collaborated and co-authored several publications with European researchers focusing on the analysis of human fossils. Brian has participated in archaeological fieldwork in France and Spain for the past three years and has just completed a Fulbright grant, living and researching in Spain.

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

Kate Langsdorf (She/They)

*Asian and Asian American Studies
and Philosophy, Politics and Law
Clinton, NY*

Kate Langsdorf is an exceptional scholar with a 3.89 GPA, dual majors in Asian and Asian American Studies and in Philosophy, Politics and Law. She is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society and a Binghamton University Scholar. Her achievements include original research, study abroad, leadership roles and campus contributions in the arts and academics. She is also a recipient of a Critical Language Scholarship from the U.S. Department of State. Kate exemplifies academic excellence, leadership and creativity.

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

James Lynch (He/Him/His)

*Political Science and Geography
Pearl River, NY*

A dual citizen of Ireland, James Lynch is a first-generation American and first-generation college student who brings an international perspective to his work as a Mentor, Scholar and Researcher. He has demonstrated exceptional academic performance, maintaining a 3.89 GPA as he pursues majors in both Political Science and Geography. He was awarded the Alfred Bick '74 and Elisa Bick Geography Scholarship. As a U.S. Department of State Gilman Scholar of the Netherlands, he now hopes to continue studies abroad post-graduation in public policy and urban planning.

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

Joelle Sacks (She/Her/Hers)

*Psychology and Spanish
South Salem, NY*

Joelle Sacks is a double major in Psychology and Spanish and a Binghamton University Scholar with a 3.9 GPA. Joelle excels in research, clinical psychology and the arts. Her Honors Thesis exploring situational variables and sexual consent scenarios is important work with real-world application. Joelle's publications and leadership roles in campus organizations demonstrate her resilience, academic rigor and dedication to service.

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

Stephanie Shen (She/Her/Hers)

*Accounting
Brooklyn, NY*

Stephanie Shen will graduate in May 2025 as an Accounting major and PriceWaterhouseCoopers Scholar. She was born to immigrant parents and attributes their work ethic as motivation in her pursuit of a higher education degree. Her excellence in many facets of her career at Binghamton has earned her a future position as a Portfolio Management Assistant at J.P. Morgan Asset Management.

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

Eric Talbott (He/Him/His)

*Chemistry
White Hall, MD*

Eric Talbott is a graduating senior majoring in Chemistry. An exceptionally talented researcher, Eric has received the nationally competitive Barry S. Goldwater and Beckman Scholars Fellowships to advance his research. He has presented his work at national and international Chemistry conferences and co-authored three publications, including one as first author. Aside from his research prowess, Eric works to bring the joy of science to young people in multiple outreach organizations and serves his peers as a Research Mentor and Teaching Assistant.

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Shruti Venkatesh **(She/Her/Hers)**

*Integrative Neuroscience
Vestal, NY*

Shruti Venkatesh is a senior graduating with an Integrative Neuroscience major and Anthropology minor and a perfect 4.0 GPA. She is a significant researcher in multiple fields of inquiry and has been supported in her research as a recipient of the highly competitive Beckman Scholar Fellowship, and she has served as an important campus leader in a number of capacities. Shruti will be attending Upstate Medical School in the fall.

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Sarah Zarembor (She/Her/Hers)

*Business Administration
Springfield, NJ*

Sarah Zarembor is a recent Business Administration graduate of Binghamton University with Honors and now a graduate student pursuing an MBA. Sarah has made an impact on the Binghamton campus for her academic strength, campus engagement and support for the arts, specifically music. As a PriceWaterhouseCoopers Scholar and in many other roles, Sarah has proven a creative leader on campus and in the Binghamton community.

SUNY BROCKPORT

Allison Blum (She/Her/Hers)

*Physics
Brockport, NY*

Allison Blum is a senior Physics major with a minor in Mathematics. She has pursued her goal of becoming a research

astrophysicist by completing three summer Research Internships, including prestigious placements at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory and the University of Hawaii. Allison is President of the Physics Club and passionate about fostering academic success. In addition to her work as a Teaching Assistant, she founded the STEM Friends Science Outreach Club which has presented to over 100 school students and earned campus recognition. Allison's achievements exemplify the excellence celebrated by the SUNY Chancellor's Award.

SUNY BROCKPORT

Brady Guy (He/Him/His)

*Social Studies Adolescence
Education
Baldwinsville, NY*

Brady Guy is an Exception and Accelerated Social Studies Adolescence Education major who has distinguished himself through campus service and leadership. As a scholar, Honors Mentor and Resident Assistant, he emphasized the importance of learning, of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and of service on campus and beyond. This was evident in his Honors Thesis on wartime Japanese internment and its contemporary relevance to American race relations. Guy's passion for learning and collaboration informed his service as an Honors College Peer Mentor Coordinator and as a RA for the Teachers of Tomorrow Living Learning Community.

SUNY BROCKPORT

Sophia Siracuse **(She/Her/Hers)**

*Addictions and Behavioral Health
and Criminal Justice
Walworth, NY*

Sophia Siracuse is a senior at SUNY Brockport and will be graduating in May 2025. She is a double major in Addictions and Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice. Having grown up in the Rochester area, her experiences at Brockport have deepened her commitment to supporting the community. Through coursework, hands-on experiences and meaningful mentorship, Sophia has developed a strong desire to address mental health and substance use challenges. Inspired by her undergraduate education, she plans to pursue a Master's in Mental Health Counseling and work in Rochester to make a positive impact on the community that helped shape her journey.

SUNY BROOME

Wilber Granados **(He/Him/His)**

*Health Studies
Bayshore, NY*

Wilber Granados is a second-year Health Studies student with hopes of getting into a four-year Dental Hygiene program. He currently serves as the Student Assembly Vice President of Administrative Affairs, a Resident Assistant, the Health and Human Services Club President, Love You Like a Sisters Club member and Previous EOP Peer Mentor. Wilber also is a full-time Assistant Manager at Pollo Campero Restaurant on Long Island.

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SUNY BROOME

Hiba Khan (She/Her/Hers)

*Independent Studies
Medinah, Saudi Arabia*

Hiba Khan was born in Karachi, Pakistan and raised in Medinah, Saudi Arabia. She moved to the United States in January 2023 and started her studies at SUNY Broome in the spring semester. She has served as a Resident Assistant and worked in the Admissions Office. She also joined the SUNY Broome Student Assembly as a Senator for her first semester and went on to be Vice President of Student Affairs and a Student Trustee.

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Maymuna Akter (She/Her/Hers)

*Biomedical Sciences
Buffalo, NY*

Maymuna Akter graduates with a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences and a minor in Nutrition. Akter, a University Honors College Scholar, is a first-generation Bangladeshi American immigrant and the first in her family to attend college. Maintaining a GPA over 3.9, she has balanced part-time jobs with leadership roles, as a Founder of the UNICEF Unite Club, a Teaching Assistant and a Research Assistant in multiple labs. She participated in the CSTEP Summer Research Internship and presented at the statewide CSTEP conference. A certified EMT, she is committed to breaking barriers through education.

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

Ricardo Castillo (He/Him/His)

*Law and Criminology
Farmingdale, NY*

Ricardo Castillo graduates with a Bachelor's degree in Law and Criminology in May 2025. Castillo is a University Honors College Scholar, a Pride of New York Scholarship recipient and was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society in April 2024. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the UB Spectrum student newspaper and a Resident Assistant for Campus Living. He won Outstanding Oral Advocacy as a Discover Law Scholar in 2023, co-founded a pre-law club, spearheaded community service for his fraternity and was a Teaching Assistant.

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

Emily Dickey (She/Her/Hers)

*Political Science
Lancaster, NY*

Emily Dickey graduates with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a minor in Communications. She completed Internships within Senator Charles Schumer's Buffalo office and Congressman Joseph Morelle's Washington, D.C., office where she contributed to effective communication between elected officials and the community they represent. She worked for the Erie County Democratic Committee as Volunteer and Intern Coordinator and Office Manager, contributing to the community at the governmental and grassroots level. She is an advocate for Type 1 Diabetics, working with elected officials to increase access to affordable healthcare.

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Ava Fetzner (She/Her/Hers)

*Environmental Engineering
Erie, PA*

Ava Fetzner, an Honors Scholar and Western New York Prosperity Fellow, graduates with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering. She was a Zero Waste Student Assistant for the University Sustainability Office. Ava was also a Student Leader and Teaching Assistant for Freshmen Engineering Principles, Project Lead for Engineers for a Sustainable World and Empire State Service Corps student with the Tool Library. Ava was a Research Assistant in Waste at UB and a National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates Fellow at Washington State University. She won Pitch for a Purpose and was a Finalist in Panasci Entrepreneurship competition with the UB CoLab.

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Tyler Herman (He/Him/His)

*Economics, Political Science
and Theatre
Hamburg, NY*

Tyler Herman graduates as a triple major with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Economics and Theatre. Tyler is an Honors Scholar and has been active with the Student Association throughout his time at UB. He has conducted research across all three disciplines, in addition to serving as a Stage Manager in the Theatre Department. Tyler has interned in Washington, D.C. with Senator Charles Schumer, has been a longtime employee of the university's Admissions Office and can be seen in the

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community as a youth hockey official.

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Noor Ismail (She/Her/Hers)

*Biological Sciences and Business Administration
Pittsford, NY*

Noor Ismail is in her last year at the University at Buffalo, studying Biological Sciences and Business Administration with a concentration in International Business. Noor aims to further her knowledge of the intersection between health and business, primarily through her work as Director of Media Communications for the SUNY Student Assembly and as a member of the New York Birth Control Access Project Associate Board. After completing her undergraduate studies, she hopes to apply to medical school and pursue an MD/MBA in the future.

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Joan Liu (She/Her/Hers)

*Biochemistry
Queens, NY*

Joan Liu graduates with a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and is recognized as a University at Buffalo Presidential Scholar. She leads impactful research at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, advancing pancreatic cancer treatment. Joan has demonstrated exceptional leadership as President of the Hong Kong Student Association, increasing membership by 900% and spearheading the university's largest cultural event, International Fiesta, attended by 2,000-plus individuals as International Council Coordinator. With

various clinical experiences and hospice volunteer work, Joan is driven by a passion for healthcare innovation and cultural empowerment, poised to make a significant impact.

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Fatima Makama (She/Her/Hers)

*Public Health
Niagara Falls, NY*

Fatima Makama graduates with a Bachelor of Science in Public Health with minors in English and Biological Sciences. She is a John Lewis Young Leaders Fellow at the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Human Rights and a Research Assistant in the Maternal and Child Health Research Program. She has served as Vice President of Islamic Relief, Public Health Ambassador and Researcher in the Honors College Think Tank. She volunteers in the community as a Rape Crisis Advocate and a Clinic Volunteer. She is also a member of the New York Birth Control Access Project Associate Board.

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Ella Markham (She/Her/Hers)

*Biomedical Engineering
Syracuse, NY*

Ella Markham graduates with a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering. Ella is a Tau Beta Pi member, Presidential Scholar and University Honors College Scholar and has maintained a 4.0 GPA. She performs Engineering education research and works as a Student Leader in freshman Engineering courses. She is a Women in Science and Engineering STEM Outreach

Program Mentor and Honors College Peer Mentor. She Co-founded and is the Treasurer of UB Spikeball Club. She has studied abroad in Romania and New Zealand and worked at a local Buffalo hospital as a biomedical technician.

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

Laibah Mir (She/Her/Hers)

*Philosophy, Politics and Economics
Buffalo, NY*

Laibah Mir will graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Politics and Economics. Laibah is a University Honors College Scholar who was selected as the University at Buffalo's second Key Into Public Service Scholar by the Phi Beta Kappa Society. She published a policy proposal from her work in the Honors College ThinkTank and is conducting graduate-level research in Critical Race Theory for an educational journal. Laibah serves as President of UB's Muslim Students Association and an Intern for the Women's Peace Network, a global nonprofit documenting political and gender-based violence in Myanmar.

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

Fiona Serrano (She/Her/Hers)

*English, History and Global Gender Studies
Shirley, NY*

Fiona Serrano graduates with a Bachelor of Arts in History, English and Global Gender and Sexuality Studies. Serrano is a University Honors and Ronald E. McNair Scholar. She is the Ambassador for both the History Department and the Honors College. Additionally,

CHANCELLOR'S AWARD

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she serves as President of the Undergraduate History Association. She also sits on the Academic Integrity and Academic Grievance Committees. Serrano has conducted several archival research projects, resulting in awards, including a National Prize from Phi Alpha Theta.

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

Hewad Shaheed (He/Him/His)

*Biomedical Sciences
Rochester, NY*

Hewad Shaheed graduates with a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences. A University Honors College Scholar and Phi Beta Kappa Inductee, he has served as a Teaching Assistant, Medical Assistant, STEM Tutor and Volunteer for asylum seekers and refugees. He has been Vice President of the Muslim Students Association, Founder and President of the Organization of Afghan and Persian Students and an Islamic Relief Executive Board member. His publications with MD Anderson focus on ethnic and racial disparities in cancer care, and research experiences investigating diagnostic tests for Sjogren's syndrome and children's healthy eating behaviors.

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

Akshay Tiwari (He/Him/His)

*Biomedical Sciences
Tonawanda, NY*

Akshay Tiwari graduates with a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences. A Pride of New York and Honors Scholar, Akshaw Co-Founded UB's Hindu Students Council, serving as Event Coordinator and Vice President, and served as Vice President of UB's

Association of Pre-Medical Students. Simultaneously involved in two labs, his research spans behavioral medicine to pharmacology, contributing to studies on maternal smoking cessation and neural regeneration in multiple sclerosis. He served as a Teaching Assistant for multiple introductory-level Biology courses and as a Science Ambassador taught scientific concepts to underrepresented and underfunded high school students in Buffalo.

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

Alika Turton (She/Her/Hers)

*Political Science
Jamaica, NY*

Alika Turton graduates with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a concentration in American Politics and Public Affairs and minors in Communications and Strategic Media Messaging. Alika is a first-generation college student in the Educational Opportunity Program. She is the UB Council Student Representative and worked with the university's seven student government presidents to award over \$240,000 to student clubs for event programming and journal publications. She has been a SUNY Student Assembly Advocate, UB UNICEF UNITE Creative Director and UB EOP Student Ambassador, and she represented UB in regional and national student leadership conferences.

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

Constance Yap (She/Her/Hers)

*Health and Human Services: Child and Family Studies and Biomedical Sciences
Clarence, NY*

Constance Yap graduates with a Bachelor of Arts in Health and Human Services: Child and Family Studies and a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences. She is a Presidential Scholar at the University at Buffalo Honors College. She performs Inorganic Chemistry research with Dr. Janet Morrow, synthesizing and analyzing potential alternative MRI contrast agents, and is an Evolutionary Biology Lecture Teaching Assistant and Honors College Ambassador. Yap is the Vision Possible Buffalo Co-Director and volunteers at Oishei Children's Hospital and with Spirited Athletes Bold at Heart adaptive skating. She plans to attend medical school and become a pediatrician.

BUFFALO STATE UNIVERSITY

Imran Fazal(He/Him/His)

*Social Work
Arakan State, Myanmar*

B Imran Fazal, a stateless Rohingya refugee from Myanmar, is a human rights activist and aspiring social work professional. He worked as a Reporting Fellow with the Pulitzer Center and has lobbied extensively on refugee issues. He serves as a Rohingya American Council Board member and founded Rohingya Empowerment Community Inc. to provide case management and citizenship classes. At Buffalo State, he earned an Undergraduate Summer

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Research Fellowship to conduct a survey of local refugee resettlement agencies and resettled people. He will present his findings at the 2025 National Conference on Undergraduate Research and Buffalo State's Student Research and Creativity Conference.

BUFFALO STATE UNIVERSITY

Lorinda John (She/Her/Hers)

*Hospitality and Tourism
Gowanda, NY*

Lorinda John is an accomplished business owner and entrepreneur who has distinguished herself as an Indigenous Private Chef, award-winning Cultural Bearing Artist and Junior Compliance Analyst with Seneca Holdings. Her LoMade Meals, which creates culinary menus and experiences highlighting Indigenous culture, serves elders in the Seneca community as well as high-profile events hosted by the Buffalo Bills, Buffalo AKG Art Museum and others. She received the Creatives Rebuild New York Fellowship for Emerging Artists and established the Aurora Treasures Art Studio. She also volunteers with World Central Kitchen, traveling domestically and internationally to prepare fresh meals during times of crises.

BUFFALO STATE UNIVERSITY

Sophie Tversky (She/Her/Hers)

*Creativity and Change Leadership
Melbourne, Victoria*

Sophie Tversky has a 4.0 GPA in her Master's degree program while working full time as a Lead Consultant

with Nexus Communications in Toronto, Canada. She assumed several major leadership roles in 2024, including Program Facilitator for the CREA Conference in Italy, Europe's largest creative problem-solving and innovation conference; one of 20 Emerging Female Leaders in the Executive Leaders Mentoring Program hosted by International Women's Forum Canada; and member of the Organizing Committee for MindCamp Canada, the nation's largest and longest running creativity conference. She has been instrumental in recommending further improvements to the distance learning experience at Buffalo State.

SUNY CANTON

Sarah Balcom (She/Her/Hers)

*Health and Fitness Promotion
Lacona, NY*

Sarah Balcom entered the SUNY Canton Physical Therapist Assistant program in fall 2021, graduating in spring 2023 with a 4.0 GPA. She became a licensed PTA in July 2023. Sarah entered the Health and Fitness Promotion program in fall 2023 while continuing to work as a PTA. She is a four-year member of the college Volleyball Team and a two-year member of the Softball Team, receiving numerous athletic recognitions. Sarah received a Presidential Internship in fall 2024 as a Lab Assistant in the HEFI program. Sarah plans to pursue a Physical Education degree at SUNY Cortland starting in fall 2025.

SUNY CANTON

Sonia Wilson (She/Her/Hers)

*Healthcare Management
Patchogue, NY*

Sonia Wilson is a senior pursuing a degree in Healthcare Management with a strong academic record and a GPA of 3.7. Sonia has excelled in coursework including Health Services Management, Public Health Issues, Management Communications and Legal and Ethical Issues in Healthcare. Sonia has also gained valuable experience through an Internship at a New York-Presbyterian Outpatient Women's Health Center. Driven by a passion for helping others, Sonia aspires to a career in hospital leadership upon graduation.

CAYUGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Jorge Jimenez (He/Him/His)

*Liberal Arts for Humanities and
Social Science
Bronx, NY*

Jorge Jimenez is in his final semester of his liberal arts degree at Cayuga Community College. His academic excellence and leadership are demonstrated through his memberships in various Honor Societies and have earned him recognition on the Academic Honors lists of the college. He is the Captain of the Men's Basketball Team, a member of the Student Government, a Student Leader Ambassador and a participant in the Education Opportunity Program (EOP). After earning his Associate degree, he plans to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Sports Management and a Master's degree in Public Relations or Business.

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CAYUGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Julia Wilson (She/Her/Hers)

*Business Administration
Auburn, NY*

Julia Wilson is a student who is always looking for opportunities to be involved on campus. The opportunity of becoming a Tutor allowed her to help her peers succeed, which has been a highlight of her time at Cayuga. She would not be the student she is today without the help of her fellow students, professors and the various services Cayuga has to offer, especially the tutoring services. The entire learning experience holds more importance to her than her grade point average. That being said, her GPA shows some reflection of her dedication, which she takes pride in.

CLINTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

David Macalpine (He/Him/His)

*Human Services
Danville, NH*

David Macalpine is an Army veteran who will complete his Associate degree in Human Services in May 2025. He is the Vice President of the Student Senate, the Student Trustee on the Board of Trustees and works as a Work-Study Student while maintaining at 3.9 GPA.

CLINTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Leticia Reynolds (She/Her/Hers)

*Nursing
Plattsburgh, NY*

Leticia Reynolds achieved success in the rigorous, acclaimed Nursing degree

program with a 3.8 GPA. Leticia serves the campus in leadership roles as President of the Nursing Club and Vice President of Membership in Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Leticia graciously volunteers her time tutoring peers and sharing her experience and insights at College Information Sessions for prospective students interested in a career in Nursing. She is also active in community participation in relief disaster food drives and local food banks, collecting children's books for the local Journey into Reading Literacy organization, and an organizer for campus events encouraging physical activity and personal health.

SUNY COBLESKILL

John Christopher (He/Him/His)

*Fisheries and Aquaculture
Bethlehem, NY*

Graduating with a 4.00 GPA in Fisheries and Aquaculture, John Christopher has earned multiple honors, including the President's List in each of his semesters, the Outstanding Student Award in his major and the Academic Achievement Award for highest GPA in his major. As a Teaching Assistant and President of the American Fisheries Society Student Chapter, his efforts have increased engagement and access to professional opportunities for his peers. His leadership in conservation work, research collaborations and work with the U.S. Geological Survey and SUNY Research Foundation speak to his passion for environmental stewardship and embody the values of SUNY Cobleskill.

SUNY COBLESKILL

Cristian Gilces (He/Him/His)

*Business Management
Queens, NY*

Cristian Gilces is a dedicated student leader and peer role model at SUNY Cobleskill, having served as SGA Treasurer and President, managing significant budgets and advocating for student interests. He has enhanced opportunities for underrepresented students in agriculture as Chapter President MANRRS, the National Society for Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences. His efforts on behalf of his fellow students include increased accessibility to hygiene products and increased awareness and engagement with DEIJ-focused events. Cristian Mentors high school students as part of SUNY's Empire State Service Corps and serves as the Village of Cobleskill's First Liaison of Student and Community Engagement, strengthening ties between students and the community.

COLUMBIA-GREENE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Jayden Cross(He/Him/His)

*Social Science
Pittsfield, MA*

Jayden Cross has served on the Executive Student Senate as the Treasurer and Vice President of Programming. He volunteered at all the open houses, giving tours and speaking to attendees. He has achieved academic success on the President's List and the Dean's List while serving as the Campus Photographer. He also volunteered to photograph

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Student Empowerment Day, started the Art of Deliberate Discourse Debate Club and has been an advocate in the hiring process of two higher level management personnel.

COLUMBIA-GREENE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Chloe VanWagner (She/Her/Hers)

*Individual Studies
Germantown, NY*

Chloe is an exemplary student leader. She earned her way onto the President's List three times and the Dean's List twice. Chloe has served on the Student Senate since 2022, most recently as Vice President and Student Trustee, and she's actively involved on the Columbia-Greene Community College Association. Chloe is an employee of the Office of Student Engagement and a Peer Tutor in the Student Success Center. In spring 2023, she earned the College Life Leadership Award. She is projected to complete an Associate in Arts degree in spring 2025.

NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Eliot Dugan(He/Him/His)

*Food Science
Brooktondale, NY*

Eliot Dugan majored in Food Science and Technology with a minor in Nutrition and graduated from Cornell in December 2024. Eliot is a military veteran, an accomplished student, a natural leader and a team player. As a critical thinker, he is eager to learn and demonstrated his passion for research as an Honors Thesis

Undergraduate Student Researcher.

NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Farzan Hussainzada (He/Him/His)

*Global Development
Kabul, Afghanistan*

An international student from Kabul, Afghanistan, Farzan Hussainzada in his final undergraduate semester as a Global Development major with minors in Law and Society and Policy Analysis and Management. Inspired by several Internships in New York, San Francisco and Washington D.C., he has plans to become an immigration lawyer. Farzan is a Cornell Traditions Fellow, P3 Scholar, recipient of the Barber B. Conable Award, Co-Founder and President of the Organization for Afghan Students and Vice President of Finance for the International Student Union.

NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Emily McFadden (She/Her/Hers)

*Plant Science
Geneva, NY*

Emily McFadden is a senior majoring in Plant Sciences. She is an exceptional student, outstanding researcher, emerging leader and active member of the community. She has maintained a remarkably high level of scholarship. In addition to working in several research labs, serving as a Teaching Assistant for Soil Science and studying abroad in Patagonia,

she led a field experiment at research stations in New York and Wisconsin in 2023 and 2024 for her Honors Thesis Research Project.

NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF HUMAN ECOLOGY AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Esha Shakthy (She/Her/Hers)

*Nutritional Science
Cary, NC*

Esha Shakthy graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nutritional Sciences in December 2024. Esha is passionate about serving her community as an EMT-B with Cornell EMS and Crisis Counselor with CrisisTextLine. Esha served as External Vice President for the pre-health sorority Rho Psi Eta and conducted Wet-Lab and Translational Research as a Rawlings Scholar and Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research Scholar. As Public Relations Chair for Teszia Dance Troupe and Fundraising Chair for BigRedThon, Cornell's dance marathon, she combined her love for dance and healthcare. Esha aspires to champion health equity through a career in medicine.

NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF HUMAN ECOLOGY AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Promise Woods (She/Her/Hers)

*Human Development
Bowie, MD*

Promise Woods is a first-generation college student studying Human Development with a minor in Health Equity. Her primary mission is to diversify medicine and provide patient-centered, equitable healthcare, especially for underserved communities. Promise is a

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dedicated student-athlete and CPR Instructor passionate about community service, specializing in volunteer work for youth and unhoused populations. She is a leader on campus as a College Ambassador, Residential Advisor and Primary Research Assistant. She also demonstrates collaborative skills working on a four-person team as an EMT-B and with other teaching staff as a Teaching Assistant.

NEW YORK STATE SCHOOL OF INDUSTRIAL AND LABOR RELATIONS AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Alex Herazy (He/Him/His)

*Industrial and Labor Relations
Arlington Heights, IL*

Alex Herazy is a senior majoring in Industrial and Labor Relations and minoring in Law and Society. Alex has left his mark on ILR through his involvement and engagement in many activities and programs across the school and university. Alex is both strong academically and an active participant in out-of-class experiences. His time as a student is marked by academic conferences, in research and writing, and in public service. Alex is a positive contributor to campus and a leader among his peers.

NEW YORK STATE SCHOOL OF INDUSTRIAL AND LABOR RELATIONS AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Shruthisri "Sri" Ravisankar (She/Her/Hers)

*Industrial and Labor Relations
San Jose, CA*

Sri Ravisankar has been involved in various out-

of-class activities that underline her commitment to making the ILR School a better place. She has taken leadership roles in the ILR Global Affairs Club and as a Peer Mentor and Admissions Ambassador. She has taken full advantage of all the ILR School has to offer including the Global Service Learning and Credit Internship programs. Seeing the value in these experiences, she encourages younger students to participate as well.

NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Maryna Mullerman (She/Her/Hers)

*Veterinary Medicine
Brooklyn, NY*

Maryna Mullerman is a student leader with a record of academic excellence. She is ranked in the top third of her class and has held leadership positions in the college through which she has worked to enhance the living and learning environment for her peers. Maryna has represented the college as an Ambassador at national conferences and has led initiatives to educate youth about Veterinary Medicine as a career with the goal of diversifying the profession. As a Ukrainian immigrant she is engaged in volunteer efforts to support refugees from this immigrant community.

NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Alexandria Yiambilis (She/Her/Hers)

*Veterinary Medicine
Langhorne, PA*

Alexandria Yiambilis is an outstanding member DVM Class of 2025. She has excelled academically, consistently performing at the top of her class and ranking first or second among 117 students every year of her program and will be graduating second in her class. She has received college and national scholarships and awards in recognition of her academic excellence and leadership. Alexandra has been engaged in activities to enhance the co-curricular offerings for DVM students. She has also worked tirelessly as a student leader to enhance student life and well-being for DVM students at Cornell.

SUNY CORNING COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Alex Hunt (She/Her/Hers)

*Mathematics and Science
Corning, NY*

Alex Hunt is a driven and enthusiastic student who is excelling in her Chemistry courses. She is also involved on campus and taking advantage of opportunities to develop valuable skills, build relationships and create lasting memories. Alex has a clear plan to transfer to a four-year university to earn a degree in Chemistry and Forensic Science, which will provide her with a unique set of skills and knowledge that can be applied to various career paths, such as forensic chemist, crime lab analyst,

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research scientist, toxicologist and environmental chemist.

SUNY CORNING COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Jethro Savain (He/Him/His)

*Automotive Technology
Elmira, NY*

Jethro Savain's remarkable leadership, unwavering commitment to community service and fervent dedication to promoting diversity distinguish him as an exemplary candidate for the Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence. His influence within the college community transcends his official ambassadorial role. He has inspired and motivated countless students through his actions and initiatives. Jethro truly embodies the core values of campus involvement, civic engagement, diversity and leadership. His passion for helping others, paired with his own personal journey, uniquely positions him to create a lasting and meaningful impact on our college community.

SUNY CORTLAND

Vincent Aquino (He/Him/His)

*Psychology
Uniondale, NY*

Vincent Aquino, a Psychology major, is an inspirational leader, accomplished student and fabulous representative of SUNY Cortland. Vinny is the university's Pride Club President where he leads with a calm and welcoming presence. He has led many meaningful efforts from Pride Homecoming events to establishing Pride's annual fall trip to the outdoor campus at Raquette Lake. After

graduation, Vinny plans to pursue a Master's in Social Work and Public Health with a long-term goal to advocate for individuals from multiple minoritized groups.

SUNY CORTLAND

Khyla Diggs (She/Her/Hers)

*Adolescent Education – Social
Studies and History
Middletown, NY*

Khyla Diggs, a senior Adolescent Education and History major, is an aspiring educator specializing in urban education. As a first-generation college student, she has demonstrated academic excellence while immersing herself in campus life through leadership in clubs, organizations and on-campus employment. After graduation, Khyla plans to pursue a Master's degree in Special Education, driven by her commitment to addressing resource and funding disparities in urban schools. She recognizes that insufficient funding in urban schools causes a shortage of Special Education educators, leaving some students without the support they need and deserve.

SUNY CORTLAND

Hunter Martorella (He/Him/His)

*Early Childhood and
Childhood Education
LaFayette, NY*

Hunter Martorella is an Early Childhood and Childhood Education major with a minor in Psychology. Following his undergraduate studies, he plans to pursue a Master's degree in School Counseling. At SUNY Cortland, he has taken on a variety of leadership

roles such as positions in Student Government, holding Executive Board positions in four different clubs, helping to facilitate a COR 101 class, and taking on campus employment, fieldwork and internships. His commitment to student learning extends beyond the Cortland community as he works in positions to positively impact students all around New York State.

SUNY CORTLAND

Riley Meckley (She/Her/Hers)

*Adolescent Education –
Social Studies and History
Port Jefferson, NY*

Riley Meckley has a deep passion for teaching and inspiring the next generation. While combining her extensive and diverse accomplishments across campus and community, Riley has demonstrated a strong foundation in leadership, academic accomplishment and campus involvement. Since setting foot on campus, she has developed a connection with students, faculty and advisors across many disciplines. In addition to her History Certification, Riley has taken steps outside of her curriculum to get certified as an American Sign Language Teacher.

SUNY DELHI

Albert Osterman (He/Him/His)

*Sustainability
Hastings-on-Hudson, NY*

Albert Osterman is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Sustainability. He is known on campus as a respected student leader with the ability to energize and inspire fellow students with his thoughtfulness

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and determination. Besides excelling in his studies, he serves the SUNY Delhi campus through leadership roles in the Student Senate, the Residence Hall Association, his fraternity and a number of committees and student clubs. He was also elected as the AG and Tech College Sector Representative on the SUNY Student Assembly Executive Board. Albert has received several honors and awards for his many contributions on campus.

SUNY DELHI

Julia Rios (She/Her/Hers)

*Applied Communications
Somers, NY*

Julia Rios is a powerhouse student leader at SUNY Delhi with an impressive record of accomplishments from academic excellence in the Applied Communication Bachelor's program to Disability and DEI advocacy, Community Service, Student Government and Peer Mentoring. Always willing to serve and volunteer her time, Julia has collaborated with fellow students and college leadership on wide-ranging initiatives to improve student success and make a positive mark on campus. She is the Student Senate President and a member of the College Council, among other roles, and is widely respected for her commitment and compassion.

SUNY DOWNSTATE HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

Faisal Elali (He/Him/His)

*Medicine
Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, NY*

Faisal Elali, a first-generation

Lebanese American, has held multiple leadership and volunteer roles, including being a Tutor for Underclassmen, Student Ambassador Admissions Coordinator, Student Research Lab Coordinator and Team Leader, Journal R, IT Director of the Brooklyn Free Clinic and Student Interviewer for Downstate's Asylum Clinic Chapter. He has represented Downstate globally through dozens of research publications, posters and abstracts, earning recognition and awards.

SUNY DOWNSTATE HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

Jennifer Wang (She/Her/Hers)

*Medicine
Dix Hills, NY*

Jennifer Wang, a fourth-year medical student, is a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha and Gold Humanism Honor Societies. Dedicated to advancing Dermatology, Jennifer has made significant contributions to the field through her research on light-based therapies and the representation of skin of color in clinical trials. Jennifer's leadership extends to community service, including dedicating time to the Anne Kastor Brooklyn Free Clinic and serving as a Mentor to high school and medical school students. Her dedication to diversity is highlighted through her research and community outreach efforts.

DUTCHESS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Katelyn Oles (She/Her/Hers)

*Visual Arts
Hyde Park, NY*

Katelyn Oles is a Visual Arts major with a passion for learning reflected by her 4.0 GPA. She has achieved President's List four consecutive semesters and received the Katula Memorial Scholarship while working part-time on campus. Her artworks have received the First Place Presidential Recognition Awards three times. She won in the Poetry Category of the Denton Writing Contest and took part in the DCC-Vassar Exchange Program. She volunteers in her community and contributes her artistic talents on campus. She is currently working on a project with DCC's Pantry.

DUTCHESS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Rahim Sow (He/Him/His)

*Business Administration
Hopewell Junction, NY*

A CSTEP Business Administration and Liberal Arts student with 3.72 GPA, Rahim Sow has an intense curiosity to learn. He earned 21 college credits in high school. He is a Phi Theta Kappa member, earning President's List honors while Tutoring math students. Rahim is the President of SGA, the Founder of the Investment Club and a member of the Speech and Debate Coalition. Rahim was awarded the Dr. David Conklin Scholarship for Leadership. He championed campus debate on freedom of speech. He would like to transfer to Georgetown and become an

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investment banker. Rahim proudly serves his community as a New York National Guard Soldier.

DUTCHESS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

KarissaLee Thompson (She/Her/Hers)

*Human Services
Hyde Park, NY*

An adult learner who returned to college after a seven-year hiatus, KarissaLee Thompson earned a 4.0 GPA in three consecutive semesters, earning placement on the President's List while being dual-enrolled for her Bachelor's degree in Addiction Studies at Empire State College. Karissa earned her CASAC-T, is set to complete her Bachelor's in summer 2025, and has applied to the Master's program for Social Work at Adelphi University. Karissa is a single mother to a college student, juggling a full-time job as a Peer Recovery Advocate and a part-time job as a waitress, all while prioritizing her education and community involvement.

EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY

Jason Fishner (He/Him/His)

*Educational Leadership
and Change
Delhi, NY*

Part of the Empire State University community since 2008, Jason completed an MBA and two Graduate Certificates through SUNY Empire before becoming the first student admitted to the inaugural Doctoral Program, earning his Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and Change. Admitted to SUNY through the Educational Opportunity Program, Jason

attributes his success to this chance. He holds a Bachelor's, Master's and Graduate Certificate from three other SUNY campuses, earning all but his Bachelor's while working full-time. Outside his role as Director of Residence Life at SUNY Delhi, he dedicates time to Shriners International, Scouts BSA and SUNY Residence Life and Housing Administrators.

EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY

Cibeles Garcia (She/Her/Hers)

*General Studies
Brooklyn, NY*

Cibeles Ann Garcia is an exceptional undergraduate Psychology student and President of the Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society, Omega Tau Chapter. A visionary leader, she has championed initiatives enhancing student vitality and campus engagement. Some initiatives include Founding the Mental Health and Psychology Committee, the Volunteer Initiative Newsletter and the Mental Health Initiative Newsletter and Seasonal Series Toolkit, each fostering diversity, equity, inclusion and mental well-being. She prioritizes active listening for cross-functional team building, and her intrinsic passion for student advocacy creates transformative leadership opportunities. Cibeles' dedication inspires a lasting positive impact across our campuses, and crucially, post-graduate success.

EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY

Robin Hodges (She/Her/Hers)

*Business Management
Buffalo, NY*

Robin Elizabeth Hodges

is a U.S. Navy Veteran and dynamic leader with a distinguished career spanning military intelligence, business and community service. As Chief Operations and Impact Officer of the African American Veterans Monument, Robin honors the legacy of Black veterans through impactful initiatives. Pursuing an MBA in Project Management at SUNY Empire with a 4.0 GPA, she also serves as Vice President of the Student Veterans and Military Club, advocating for veteran success. A passionate Alzheimer's advocate and dedicated mother of three, Robin exemplifies resilience, leadership and a commitment to empowering others while driving meaningful change.

EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY

Miyagi Scott (Them/They/Theirs)

*Business, Management and
Economics
Hudson, NY*

Miyagi Scott is a Business Management major at Empire State College with a 3.8 GPA and a passion for sustainability, leadership and community impact. They have been on the Dean's List every year and are a proud member of the Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society. Miyagi has demonstrated excellence through their work as a Youth Engagement Specialist, where they mentor and empower older youth in foster care, and as the Founder of Queer Outdoor Adventures, foster inclusive spaces for LGBTQ+ individuals. Their dedication to academic achievement and social change reflects their commitment to creating a better future.

CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR STUDENT EXCELLENCE

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SUNY COLLEGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES AND FORESTRY

Eden Gardner (He/Him/His)

*Environmental Studies
Queens, NY*

Eden Gardner is the President of the ESF Student Assembly, the SUNY Student Assembly Director of Sustainability, Founder and serves as President of the ESF Pre-Law Society and previously served as the Chair of Community Engagement for the SU Student Association. Eden currently works as a Student Project Coordinator in the Office of Sustainability and sits on the SUNY Sustainability Advisory Council. In these roles, Eden has helped to develop ESF and SUNY's Sustainability and Climate Action Plans. Upon graduation, Eden plans to work in the sustainability field for a few years before becoming an environmental lawyer.

SUNY COLLEGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES AND FORESTRY

Abhinaya Polaka (She/Her/Hers)

*Environmental Science
Proddatur, India*

Abhinaya Polaka's advocacy for the environment is evident. As an ESF student, Abhi has excelled in all facets. Abhi is described as "a powerhouse academic, student-leader, environmental steward, and an all-around great person... who embodies the ESF spirit. She is a hard worker, a proponent of sustainability and the environment, ... her viewpoint as an international woman of color in STEM is unique and needed. She has been an

integral part of ensuring that other international students have what they need to thrive here" A faculty member adds "As an international student, Abhi has flourished at ESF."

SUNY ERIE

Gloria Bernard (She/Her/Hers)

*Social Science
Buffalo, NY*

Gloria Bernard is a first-generation nontraditional student who has worked diligently for the past several years on her Human Services Certificate. A single mom, Gloria has balanced the care for her daughter with her studies and the several jobs she's held to complete her education. After a long-term bout of houselessness, Gloria has moved into an apartment and is looking forward to the upward mobility that her Certificate will provide.

SUNY ERIE

Bridget Calhoun (She/Her/Hers)

*Business and Public Service
Buffalo, NY*

Bridget Calhoun is a dedicated full-time student at SUNY Erie Community College, working toward an Associate in Applied Science degree in Business Administration and an Entrepreneurship Certificate, with aspirations to open a business in the health and wellness field. She balances the demands of academic excellence, parenting, and community service all while navigating life as a disabled veteran.

SUNY ERIE

Cameron Loyd (He/Him/His)

*Liberal Arts and Science -
General Studies
Buffalo, NY*

Cameron Loyd has been SUNY Erie's Student Trustee for the past two years, shepherding the student body through challenging times for the college, fiscally and socially. He has been at the forefront of advocating for student issues while also maintaining outside employment and being the caretaker for his ailing mother.

SUNY ERIE

Kavon McKay (He/Him/His)

*Information Technology
Buffalo, NY*

Kavon McKay is the first in his family to go to college. A senior Information Technology student, he has been heavily involved at the college and in the outside Buffalo community. In addition to being a full-time student and the President of the South Campus Student Government Association, Kavon works part time and spends the rest of his waking hours as the caretaker for his elderly grandmother and his sick mother.

FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE

Alexa Gutterson (She/Her/Hers)

*Business Management
Plainview, NY*

Alexa Gutterson graduated in December 2024 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Management. She has been involved in the campus community as a Global Ambassador in the Study Abroad Office and

CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR STUDENT EXCELLENCE

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President of the Women in Business Club. Alexa serves as a member of the School of Business Student Advisory Board. She continually demonstrated strong leadership skills and an awareness of the importance of inclusivity.

FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE

Sherin Joseph (She/Her/Hers)
*Computer Science
Farmingdale, NY*

Sherin Joseph is an exemplary student who graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science in December 2024. She has been an active member of the ACM-W Supporting Women in Computing Club, serving as President in 2024. Sherin participated in a 12-month-long Break Fellowship program called Break Through Tech A.I., hosted by Cornell Tech. Additionally, she was selected for an Internship at Memorial Sloan Kettering during the summer of 2024.

FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE

Jairo Orozco (He/Him/His)
*Applied Psychology
Hewlett, NY*

Jairo Orozco is an Applied Psychology major, specializing in Industrial/Organizational Psychology with a minor in Sports Management. A dedicated researcher, he has contributed to projects at institutions such as Mt. Sinai and the University of California, Irvine, while presenting findings at national symposia. As Student Government President, he represents over 10,000 students, fostering

leadership and inclusion. Beyond campus, Jairo serves as a youth leader, mentoring young adults and promoting community engagement through service and advocacy.

FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE

Vito Postiglione (He/Him/His)
*Visual Communications: Art and Graphic Design
West Islip, NY*

Vito Postiglione is expected to receive his Bachelor of Science in Visual Communications in Art and Graphic Design in May 2025. Vito is a Student Content Producer for the Marketing and Communications Department, capturing events and ceremonies across campus. He is a Senator for the Student Government Association, Public Relations Co-Chair for SGA, President of the Art and Design Club and Vice President of the Robotics Club

FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE

Julia Seitz (She/Her/Hers)
*Professional Communications
Melville, NY*

Julia Seitz is an accomplished digital storyteller who earned her Bachelor of Science in Professional Communications in December 2024. She has marketed for her college, led student organizations on campus and has industry experience, serving as an Enterprise and Rockettes Marketing Strategy Student Associate at Madison Square Garden Entertainment. Julia plans to continue her academic career by pursuing a Master's degree in Digital

Journalism. Julia received campus recognition for her contributions with the 2024 Phenomenal Womyn Award and the 2024 New York State Business Plan Competition Qualifier.

FASHION INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Nicholas Alexis (He/Him/His)
*Advertising and Marketing Communications
New York, NY*

Nicholas Alexis is an Advertising and Marketing Communications student minoring in both Creative Technology and Creative Entrepreneurship. He has been on the Dean's List since 2023 and is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Nicholas Co-Founded the FIT Boxing Club, is Chief of Staff for the Student Government Association and Co-Founded a podcast to showcase student work. His leadership earned him the 2023 UCE of FIT Leadership Award.

FASHION INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Kira Cunningham (She/Her/Hers)
*Fashion Design
Memphis, TN*

Kira Cunningham is a Bachelor of Fine Arts Fashion Design student specializing in Knitwear. She is an active member of the FIT community, holding several student leadership positions within the Black Student Union, as a new student Orientation Leader of the Student Government Association. Within all her involvement, she advocates for inclusion and collaboration. As a

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student designer, she creates size-inclusive, sustainable-focused pieces inspired by her experiences as a Black woman from the South. Kira's work celebrates diversity, artistry and innovation, shaping her vision as a leader and advocate in the fashion industry and at FIT.

FASHION INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Ezra Idrizi (She/Her/Hers)

*Fashion Business Management
New York, NY*

Erza Idrizi is a first-generation student pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Fashion Business Management with three minors. She is a member of the Presidential Scholars Program and a Dean's List honoree. Erza is an active leader, engaging in various initiatives that bridge her academic and extracurricular pursuits. Erza leads by example, exhibiting an openness to new experiences and perspectives. She values the opportunity to apply classroom learning to real-world situations, making meaningful impacts in the community. She is passionate about education and sustainability and is committed to academic excellence and an interdisciplinary approach to learning.

FASHION INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Julia Nordahl (She/Her/Hers)

*Fashion Design
Brooma, Sweden*

Julia Nordahl is an international student pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Fashion Design, with minors in Economics and Ethics and Sustainability. Julia

has remained on the Dean's List for her academic career and is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. She was a One Atmosphere 33 Research Fellow and is a member of the Sustainability Council at FIT. Using her studies and experiences, Julia continues to contribute to the FIT and global community through her commitment to reframe the impact of fashion and related industries. Julia is dedicated to being involved in campus extracurricular initiatives focusing on sustainability.

FASHION INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Kevin Santana (He/Him/His)

*Entrepreneurship for the Fashion and Design Industries
Bayside, NY*

Kevin Santana is a first-generation college graduate pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Entrepreneurship for the Fashion and Design Industries. A Dean's List honoree and Student Tour Guide, Kevin leads initiatives in health and wellness. He is a 2025 PETE Prize participant, focusing on adaptive children's wear, and a 2024 Genspace Scholar for research on air purification via bio-printed materials. He founded a boxing organization at FIT, engaging over 1,000 students through partnerships with Equinox, Amazon Prime and Bumble. Kevin has also collaborated on sustainability-focused projects, served as an Orientation Leader Coordinator and supported Giving Day through FIT's Philanthropy Committee.

FINGER LAKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Vanessa Gonzalez (She/Her/Hers)

*Chemical Dependency Counseling
Santa Ana, CA*

Vanessa Gonzalez, who is from Southern California, raised herself and her younger sibling after her father was deported and her mother and half-siblings were largely absent. Despite an abusive home and language barriers, she focused on school. After being outed as queer and kicked out at 15, Vanessa couch-surfed until enlisting in the Marines at 17, gaining custody of her sibling after boot camp. She served four years as a motor transport mechanic. Personal adversities gave her a passion for supporting veterans' mental health. Now, with her wife and child, she advocates for veteran recovery, hoping to work for the VA or DEA.

FINGER LAKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Misty Hall (She/Her/Hers)

*Liberal Arts and Sciences
Shortsville, NY*

Misty Hall is an aspiring Labor and Delivery Nurse Practitioner who hopes to end the stigma of women's health. Though her academic experience has been anything but normal, it has not stopped her from blazing her own trail. Misty is an active member and volunteer in the Civil Air Patrol Auxiliary to the U.S. Air Force and has risen to the rank of Cadet Lieutenant Colonel.

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SUNY FREDONIA

Taylor Kelly (She/Her/Hers)

*Music Education
Bellport, NY*

Taylor Kelly is a Music Education student passionate about making music accessible for all students. As a first-generation college student, she is dedicated to breaking barriers to Music Education and ensuring all students can explore their musical potential. Taylor aspires to teach middle school band and holds leadership roles in the National Association for Music Education and the New York State School Music Association where she advocates for Music Education, including at NAFME Hill Day in Washington, D.C. After graduation, she aims to pursue regional leadership opportunities.

SUNY FREDONIA

David Sudbrink (He/Him/His)

*Public Accountancy and Finance
Ten Mile, TN*

David Sudbrink is a double major in Public Accountancy and Finance. He is a member of Fredonia's NCAA DIII Men's Ice Hockey Team and has successfully balanced his academics, athletics, and other extracurricular activities. He maintained a 4.0 GPA making Dean's List every semester and was the recipient of several academic awards and scholarships. David was also involved with Fredonia's Accounting Society, serving as a Vice President and Program Chair, the university's Judicial Board and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program. He has

accepted a full-time position with Deloitte starting in the fall of 2025.

FULTON-MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Jaseiry Lamboy-Rosado (She/Her/Hers)

*General Studies
Amsterdam, NY*

Jaseiry Lamboy-Rosado obtained an Associate of Arts degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences in December 2024 with the aspiration to transfer to SUNY Cobleskill and pursue a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Management. While at FMCC, she has explored opportunities to become active with campus activities and tutoring students with different majors. Peer Tutoring and Mentoring her fellow students have given her the chance to meet new people and offer help to students. Being involved on campus through CSTEP, TRIO and other clubs has opened many doors for exposure to different career paths that she will explore.

FULTON-MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Badjo Alexandra Naomie (She/Her/Hers)

*Computer Science
Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire*

Alexandra Payne, an international student from Cote d'Ivoire, is pursuing a Computer Science degree. Drawing inspiration from her Ivorian roots, Alexandra is a problem-solver and uses technology to address real-world challenges. Her dedication extends beyond academics, as she actively contributes to her community through leadership and service. She aspires to make

a meaningful impact by leveraging technology to solve pressing issues and help others achieve their goals.

GENESEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Ayaka Hibino (She/Her/Hers)

*Tourism, Hospitality and Event Management
Omihachiman, Shiga, Japan*

As an international student from Japan, Ayaka Hibino graduated from GCC in fall 2024 with an overall GPA of 3.90. She has always been focused on her academics as well as extracurricular activities. She served as Vice President of the Student Government Association, President of the International Student Organization, President of Phi Theta Kappa and President of the National Society of Leadership and Success. Ayaka was the innovator of the Cultural Fusion Festival where the college celebrated the diverse cultures of our international students. She was accepted into the Disney College program for the spring 2025 semester.

GENESEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Ruby Hoyt (She/Her/Hers)

*Biology
Brockport, NY*

Ruby Hoyt consistently exemplifies SUNY excellence through her remarkable achievements in academics, leadership and athletics. She is a Biology major with a 3.74 GPA. As a standout student-athlete, she was named to the Region 3 Women's Soccer All-Region Team and Mid-State Athletic Conference, and she earned Academic

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All-Conference, All-Region and All-American honors. Her exceptional performance on the field and in the classroom demonstrates a strong commitment to academic and athletic excellence. She actively contributes to the campus community by serving as the Secretary for the Athletic Leadership Committee, Phi Theta Kappa and the National Society of Leadership and Success.

SUNY GENESEO

Joseph Vogt (He/Him/His)
History and Adolescent Education
Penfield, NY

Joe Vogt represents the best of SUNY and NCAA Division III student-athletes. Joe has excelled at every level, graduating in 2025 as a leader with the Knights' Student-Athlete Mentor (SAM) program, SAAC representative and one of the best defenders to ever play for the SUNY Geneseo Men's Soccer Team. Joe started in all 74 Geneseo Men's Soccer games played since the 2021 season, earning 2023 SUNYAC Defensive Player of the Year and Empire 8 Defensive Player of the Year in 2024. He is a three-time First-Team All-Conference Honoree (2022-24) and two-time First-Team All-Region Honoree (2022 and 2024).

HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Ryan Connors (He/Him/His)
Business Administration
Clifton Park, NY

Ryan Connors, an Honors College student studying Business Administration, has made a significant

impact on campus over the past two years. As Student Senate Vice President and Student Trustee, he has increased student engagement, fostered transparency and built strong relationships with both students and administrators. Ryan's leadership and dedication have earned him the respect of the HVCC Board of Trustees, where he contributes valuable perspectives to improve the college. His efforts have been crucial in enhancing the campus community and ensuring HVCC's continued success.

HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Erin Satterlee (She/Her/Hers)
Theatre Arts
Schenectady, NY

Erin Satterlee is an extraordinary, beloved member of our Theatre Arts Program. Her love of learning and dedication to her studies is inspiring and impactful. Her outlook, joy, conviviality and care make her a delight to be around, and her curiosity, intellect, mature understanding and fierce willingness to embrace challenges infuse others with excitement, willingness and confidence. Erin has excelled in all her creative work. She takes courses very seriously, and with pleasure, and fully engages each topic and experience.

HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Austin Shulkin (He/Him/His)
Applied Science and Business Administration
Kinderhook, NY

Austin Shulkin is a friendly and extremely capable student leader and entrepreneur. He leads the student body as its President and the Investment Club as its Executive. He has launched three successful businesses, competed and won in the JPGA, performed with his troupe against 500 acts at the State Competition, won Regional Business Plan competitions and is a volunteer firefighter.

HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Katherine Ziegler (She/Her/Hers)
Engineering Science
Burnt Hills, NY

Katherine Ziegler is an Honors College student studying Engineering Science. Katie takes her academics seriously but also finds the time to balance her schoolwork with extracurricular activities. She is a standout on the HVCC Women's Tennis Team. Katie is also a talented vocalist, accomplished cellist and community theater participant. She is passionate about building a strong, inclusive community and has done exceptional volunteer work with the elderly and the special-needs population.

JAMESTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Abigail Hill (She/Her/Hers)
Nursing
Wellsville, NY

Abigail Hill, an aspiring registered nurse, is dedicated to making a positive impact in healthcare and her local community. Since joining

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JCC's Nursing Program, she has consistently made the Dean's List and was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa in September 2023. She has served as the Olean campus Health Center Assistant since 2022, building strong relationships with students and staff. After graduation, Abigail plans to work at her local hospital and pursue a Bachelor's degree in Nursing.

JAMESTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Ayomideji Israel-Akinbo (He/Him/His)

*Engineering Science
Makhanda, South Africa*

Ayomideji Israel-Akinbo, a Nigerian born in Colombia who resides in South Africa, will graduate in May 2025 with an Associate in Science degree in Engineering Science. Throughout his studies, Ayomideji has maintained a strong academic standing with a 3.94 GPA and Dean's List honors. He is a member of the Jamestown Community College's Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and holds the role of Secretary. He also serves as the Student Trustee, Peer Career Assistant in Career Services and a Resident Assistant. Previously, he served as Student Senate Treasurer, Vice President of the International Club and Treasurer of the IMPACT and Tech Clubs.

SUNY JEFFERSON

Karyschmary Melendez-Aristud (She/Her/Hers)

*Business Administration
Theresa, NY*

Kary Melendez-Aristud is a business major and well-

rounded student leader and academic scholar. She holds a 3.78 GPA and has earned Dean's and President's List recognition every semester. Kary has immersed herself in numerous campus activities as a Business and Leadership Skills Club member and Social Media Manager, Jefferson's Tau Xi Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa member, Honors Program student and Communications Office employee. She demonstrates the potential and spirit to achieve her goals, balancing academic excellence with meaningful contributions to her campus and community.

SUNY JEFFERSON

Malena Stevenson (She/Her/Hers)

*Natural Sciences, Allied Health
Biological Sciences (concentration)
and Business Administration
Chaumont, NY*

Malena Stevenson is an all-around outstanding student as her academic excellence, athletic achievements and campus involvement have proven. She is a dual major in Natural Sciences AS and Business Administration AS and plans to pursue a career in Dietetics. Malena excels with a 3.88 GPA earning Dean's and President's Lists recognition every semester. Her multitude of soccer awards include Academic All-American, NJCAA Region III All-Region 1st and 3rd Team, and MSAC All-Conference Team. She supports her peers as a STEM Tutor, European Excursion Club Officer and campus events volunteer. Malena is a true inspiration to her entire campus community.

SUNY MARITIME COLLEGE

Erik Areklett (He/Him/His)

*International Transportation
and Trade
Redding, CT*

Erik Areklett is set to graduate in May 2025 with a Bachelor of Science in International Transportation and Trade while also earning his Third Mate Unlimited Tonnage U.S. Coast Guard License. He has maintained a near-perfect 3.93 GPA and has received numerous awards and recognitions, including the Marine Society of New York Hap Parnham Scholarship (awarded for the highest navigational grades in the graduating class), the Anthony Marino Scholarship (awarded by the CCICII), the Connie Scholarship Award and the IANA Scholarship Award. Additionally, Erik is an active New York City NROTC - Strategic Sealift Officer Program member. Erik received the highest rank attainable as a member of the Regiment of Cadets -Regimental Commander. In this role, he serves as the highest-ranking cadet officer, overseeing the entire regiment of cadets while acting as a strong advocate for their advancement. His leadership skills, professionalism and commitment to excellence have made him a role model for all. Erik is also a Faculty Student Association Board member, an Eagle Scout and a black belt in Taekwondo.

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SUNY MARITIME COLLEGE

Mariela Castillo **(She/Her/Hers)**

*Marine Environmental Science
Hopewell Junction, NY*

Mariela Castillo will complete a Bachelor of Science in Marine Environmental Science in May 2025. Mariela is an active member of the Marine Biology Club and holds numerous positions throughout the college. She has earned awards for her excellent effort in the classroom, received the OBMG Scholarship for hard work and strong community presence and was the Student Worker of the Year in recognition of her excellent work ethic. Mariela is a traditional student who works with the Student Affairs Office to ensure the student population is heard and valued. She is a helper at heart and is dedicated every day to making the lives of her classmates better.

MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Alyssa Fitzpatrick **(She/Her/Hers)**

*Graphic Design and Photography
Copenhagen, NY*

Alyssa Fitzpatrick is a Photography and Graphic Design student with a 4.0 GPA. She is a member of the Women's Soccer and Basketball Teams, and Photography and Ski Clubs. Alyssa is a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, has made the President's List and is a recipient of the Wilcox Exceptional Student Scholarship. In addition to striving to be her best academically, Alyssa is an active member of the campus

community and is often seen photographing sporting events as she continues to cultivate her career. Her creativity, eagerness to learn and her gregarious personality make her a standout individual.

MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Haf Sar (She/Her/Hers)

*Business Administration
Myanmar and Malaysia*

Haf Sar is a passionate Business Administration student maintaining a 3.46 GPA. Born in Myanmar and raised in Malaysia, she brings a multicultural perspective to her learning and leadership. As Vice President of Fellowship for Phi Theta Kappa, Haf fosters connection and teamwork among members. Her dedication to equality is reflected in her research on challenges faced by women of color in starting businesses in the United States. Haf plans to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and aspires to start a business that drives economic growth while creating opportunities for individuals from all backgrounds.

MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Alexander Evans **(He/Him/His)**

*Business Administration:
Accounting
Baldwinsville, NY*

Alex Evans is a dedicated Business Administration: Accounting student who exemplifies excellence through his remarkable achievements in academics, leadership and community

service. Maintaining a stellar GPA, Alex is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and the National Society for Leadership and Success. He works as a Career Peer Advisor and Senior Resident Assistant for the Residence Halls. Alex's commitment to civic engagement shines through as a member of the Conduct Board and an Eagle Scout, demonstrating a passion for service to his college and community. Alex embodies the SUNY values of innovation, diversity and excellence.

MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Judi Razafintsalama **(He/Him/His)**

*Communications and
Public Media Relations
Antananarivo, Madagascar*

Judi Razafintsalama is a Communications major with a 3.6 GPA. He is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and has been on the Dean's list every semester. Judi is the President of the MCC Global Union and has created vibrant cultural events for the college community. He has organized and volunteered many fundraisers to help international countries who experienced tragic events.

MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Angelo Romero (He/Him/His)

*Liberal Arts Social Sciences and
Global Sciences
Rochester, NY*

Angelo Romero is a Political Science student and President of the Student Government Association. He has been involved with

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the organization for three years and previously held the roles of Vice President of Governance and Elections Coordinator. In addition, Angelo is a Community College Representative in the SUNY Student Assembly and a Phi Theta Kappa member. He is on track to graduate with honors in spring 2025.

MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Mara Waynick (She/Her/Hers)
Liberal Arts and Sciences
Carlsbad, CA

Mara Waynick is the President of the Alpha Theta Iota Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Mara is a passionate advocate for education and aspires to teach biology and chemistry after completing her studies at St. John Fisher University, something inspired by her work as the Lead STEM Supplemental Instructor at MCC. Her long-term goal is to transition into executive leadership within higher education, where she hopes to make a lasting impact on students and institutions alike.

MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Oleksandra Zakharchyshyn (She/Her/Hers)
Liberal Arts Adolescence Education
Ukraine

Oleksandra Zakharchyshyn is a dedicated student recognized for academic excellence, leadership and community service. She serves as Treasurer of the Global Student Union and Chair of the Phi Theta Kappa Alpha Theta Iota Chapter, fostering peer collaboration

and growth. Additionally, she is actively engaged in community service and is the Secretary of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, Branch #120, located in Rochester, while volunteering at the Ukrainian Cultural Center. Oleksandra's commitment to academic success and service exemplifies the values of the SUNY Chancellor's Award, inspiring those around her.

SUNY MORRISVILLE

Laura Bedell (She/Her/Hers)
Business Administration
New Hartford, NY

Laura Bedell is a Summa Cum Laude December 2024 Business Administration BBA graduate. Throughout Laura's time at Morrisville, she was part of the Women's Soccer Team for four years, Captain in her senior season and an active member of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee for three years. She participated in fall leaf cleanups, food drives and clothing drives. Laura is currently pursuing a job in real estate.

SUNY MORRISVILLE

Vidya Jawahir (She/Her/Hers)
Nursing
Oxford, NY

Vidya Jawahir's journey to SUNY Morrisville has been unique and exhilarating. It started after the birth of her second child when she experienced a difference in maternal care versus her hometown in the Bronx. As a mother of two children, a growing farm business and boundless sacrifices, her passion is to offer knowledge, diversity and experienced skillsets to the

care of patients. Attaining her Nursing degree will propel her dream to make a difference

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Fabiya Amin (She/Her/Hers)
Criminal Justice
Hicksville, NY

Fabiya Amin is a dedicated student whose goal is to become an attorney to represent those who have experienced injustices. As the first from Nassau Community College to join the Nassau County Bar Association Pre-Law Society, she has gained mentorship from prominent attorneys and participated in bar classes. Fabiya was an Intern with the Nassau County Police Department, where she helped recruit within diverse communities and gained hands-on experience in law enforcement. On campus, she is active in the Paralegal Society and Japanese Culture Club and was recognized for her teamwork and sportsmanship as a member of the Women's Soccer Team.

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Jordon Groom (He/Him/His)
Liberal Arts
Glen Cove, NY

Jordon Groom is an Honors student who exemplifies academic excellence, leadership and a commitment to service. Elected Student Trustee for the 2024-2025 academic year, he also serves on numerous committees of key importance to the college, requiring him to work effectively with students, faculty and administration. As a Student Aide in the college's Office of Workforce

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Development he has made noteworthy contributions to the functioning of that department. He seeks ways to improve the campus community and make a positive impact on his peers, balancing multiple roles while maintaining sharp focus on his academic responsibilities.

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Alexus Heiserman (She/Her/Hers)

*Art
Hicksville, NY*

Alexus Heiserman is a first-generation student who embodies resilience, leadership and determination in both her academic and personal life. Through her commitment to excellence, she has navigated the challenges of higher education and continuously strives to give back to her community. Passionate about the arts, she mentors aspiring young artists and writers through her work at the Park Avenue Armory, offering guidance and support as they develop their creative talents. Her dedication to fostering growth in others reflects her belief in the power of education and the importance of giving back to the next generation.

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Rajiv Vakani (He/Him/His)

*Food and Nutrition
Williston Park, NY*

Pursuing a new chapter after a successful career in finance, Rajiv Vakani embodies the spirit of lifelong learning and a dedication to service to others, evidenced by his

outstanding scholarship and contributions to the communities to which he belongs. He believes in "the power of collective action to create meaningful change," and his accomplishments clearly reflect this philosophy.

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Cheryl Verity (She/Her/Hers)

*Physical Therapist Assistant
Baldwin, NY*

Cheryl Verity's academic journey at Nassau Community College, which began in the spring semester of 2001, is a testament to perseverance, dedication and a commitment to excellence. An outstanding student in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program, she has been described as "exceptional" and "exemplary" and is known for fostering a sense of community and purpose among her peers and for her volunteering for various worthy causes close to her heart.

SUNY NEW PALTZ

Luke Anderson (He/Him/His)

*Business Management and
Theatre Arts
Forest Hills, NY*

Luke Anderson is a Business Management and Theatre Arts Performance dual major. Luke has been awarded the Dr. Beverly M. Brumm Endowed Scholarship in 2024 and the Mildred and Louis Resnick Scholarship in 2023 and 2022. In the School of Business, Luke was inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma International Business Honors Society in 2024 and is the current Director of Marketing of SUNY New Paltz Management Association.

SUNY NEW PALTZ

Corey Carter (He/Him/His)

*Computer Science
New York, NY*

Corey Carter arrived at SUNY New Paltz in fall 2020 as a first-generation college-bound Educational Opportunity Program and AC² Honors student majoring in Computer Science. Throughout his tenure, he gave back to the SUNY New Paltz community as an EOP Peer Ally, Community Mentor and a Lab Proctor. For his Honors Thesis he analyzed how to improve the university's Brightspace platform, providing our campus with computer software improvements.

SUNY NEW PALTZ

Leona Omosore (She/Her/Hers)

*Sociology and Black Studies
Lindenhurst, NY*

Leona Omosore is a motivated student leader and passionate activist. She is dedicated to promoting cultural awareness and supporting the diverse student population. Through her roles as Senior Resident Advisor, President of the Black Student Union and President of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, she promoted inclusivity and advocated for social justice and equity. Her leadership focused on empowering students and promoting their overall well-being.

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SUNY NEW PALTZ

Katarina Xie (She/Her/Hers)

*Communication Disorders
Flushing, NY*

A native of Queens, Katarina Xie is a Communication Disorders major with a passion for her field. Katarina serves as President the National Student Speech, Language and Hearing Association and Social Media Coordinator of the Audiology Club. She was an Intern at NYU Rusk Rehabilitation Center during her time as a student and has published her work on the media representation of Alzheimer's disease in New Voices, New Visions magazine.

SUNY NIAGARA

Joseph Fantrazzo (He/Him/His)

*Fine Arts
Sanborn, NY*

Joseph Fantrazzo is a Fine Arts major who will graduate May 2025 and plans to transfer to SUNY Buffalo State. With a 3.93 GPA, Joseph has been an exceptional student, excelling in all his academic and studio course work while also working outside of the school to help pay for his education. Joseph has been actively involved through art on campus with exhibitions, volunteer work and our community-based holiday card competition. Joseph is dedicated to the growth of the arts in his community.

SUNY OLD WESTBURY

Michael Costarelli (He/Him/His)

*Politics, Economics and Law
Farmingville, NY*

Michael Costarelli's journey has taken him from very difficult childhood circumstances to distinguishing himself in the Army and as an Emergency Medical Technician for the New York Fire Department. After years of community service, he entered Old Westbury to realize his desire to enter the law profession and has achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.92. Michael has received numerous honors for his work in the professional field, serving as an Intern in Suffolk County and participating in multiple Honor Societies.

SUNY OLD WESTBURY

Timothy Coventry (He/Him/His)

*Media and Communications
East Northport, NY*

Timothy Coventry has been an active member of the campus since September 2023. Currently Timothy balances a part-time job at Apple, a 24-hour-a-week Internship at MSNBC in New York City and the remaining time on campus. Timothy is a news anchor at OWR (Old Westbury Web Radio) who hosts "The Global Report with Tim Coventry," a weekly show covering U.S. and global news. Timothy is also a news anchor for the MIC, hosting the show OW Speaks, exploring politics, the economy, entertainment and culture. That show earned him his first FOLIO Award for "OW Speaks: Israel-Palestine Conflict."

SUNY ONEONTA

Aaron Paul (He/Him/His)

*Adolescence Education:
Social Studies
Harriman, NY*

Aaron Paul is a stellar student leader and champion for diversity, equity and inclusion. An Adolescence Education: Social Studies dual major minoring in African American History, he is a Dean's List student and Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society member. Aaron has served as a Teaching Assistant in History courses, presented his research on campus, and Mentored Peers through Access and Opportunity Programs, Kings of Excellence and as a Resident Advisor. As President of the Association of Secondary Educators, he champions professional development for future educators. Aaron is a proud Student Association Senator and Associate Justice, and an Alpha Phi Omega (National Service Honor Society) member.

SUNY ONEONTA

Emily Petramale (She/Her/Hers)

*Adolescence Education:
Mathematics
Chester, NY*

Emily Petramale is a standout leader and mathematician with a rigorous three-year graduation plan. A dual major, she's a Provost's List Honoree, Pi Mu Epsilon Honor Society member and Susan Sutton Smith Award recipient. Emily conducted a four-semester study on the mathematical game Rithmomachia, presenting her research and preparing a co-authored article for publication. A

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Student Supervisor in the Office of Admissions, Vice President of the Association of Secondary Educators and a Peer Mentor, Emily supports prospective students, underclassmen and future educators. Her dedication extends beyond campus as a food pantry volunteer and paraeducator, inspiring and empowering young learners.

SUNY ONEONTA

Fernando Tejo (He/Him/His)

*Adolescence Education –
Social Studies
Germantown, NY*

Fernando Tejo is a hardworking student leader committed to uplifting underserved communities and inspiring through education. A dual Adolescence Education: Social Studies major with a minor in African American History, he continually makes the Dean's List and EOP Honor Scroll, is a member of Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society and is President of the Africana and Latinx Studies Club. A proud participant in the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP), Fernando supports migrant students as an Ambassador and Mentor and completed an Internship with the state's Migrant Education Program. He is also a Kings of Excellence Mentor and dedicated member of the Oneonta State Emergency Squad.

ONONDAGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Karar Abed (He/Him/His)

*Liberal Arts and Sciences:
Mathematics and Science
East Syracuse, NY*

Karar Abed moved from Iraq to the United States with his

parents and three younger siblings seeking a brighter future. Karar vowed to create that future by learning languages, overcoming obstacles and inspiring others. He realized that a better tomorrow isn't given but created — through love, sacrifice and hope. Driven by this belief, Karar aims to become a cardiothoracic surgeon, tackling critical health issues like heart disease and cancer. He is transferring to SUNY College of Environmental Sciences and Forestry where he will major in Biochemistry. His journey will continue fueled by a relentless desire to help those in need.

ONONDAGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Mohammad Sharif Jafari (He/Him/His)

*Liberal Arts and Sciences:
Mathematics and Science
Syracuse, NY*

Mohammad Sharif Jafari is a dedicated and ambitious student completing an Associate degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences: Mathematics and Science. He is an active leader in organizations like the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Lillian Slutzker Honors College and the campus-wide Unity Day Committee. Recognized with awards for academic excellence, civic engagement and storytelling, Sharif performed poetry for the Narratio Fellowship at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Sharif has a passion for community service, promoting diversity and supporting minority communities. He is fluent in multiple languages and

proficient in public speaking and STEM disciplines.

ONONDAGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Heather Patrick (She/Her/Hers)

*American Sign Language
Marion, MA*

Heather Patrick started at Onondaga Community College at the age of 27 and studied American Sign Language. Heather has autism and during her time at OCC became a student leader and advocate. She served as an officer for two clubs, founded a club, served on the Unity Day Committee, served on the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Council, and was OCC's Student Disability Ambassador to SUNY. Heather is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and served as a Chapter Officer. She graduated Magna Cum Laude in December 2024.

SUNY COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

Brandon Cohenmehr (He/Him/His)

*Optometry
Los Angeles, CA*

Graduating with a Doctor of Optometry degree at age 21, Brandon Cohenmehr makes history as the institution's youngest graduate. Before Optometry school, he served as a member of the Board for Tutors at Reach and Doctors at Reach, organizing tutoring services and health fairs for underserved communities. While maintaining top-tier grades, Brandon developed a passion for medical eye care and fitting specialty contact lenses. He enjoys scholarly

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engagement and research and was selected as an ABB Optical Poster Challenge Honoree to present a clinical case report to a large audience. He is committed to making a lasting impact as a clinician while expanding access to quality eye care for underserved communities.

SUNY COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

Kendra Kim (She/Her/Hers)

*Optometry
Allston, MA*

Kendra Kim, a Boston University graduate, is currently pursuing her Doctor of Optometry degree. She has demonstrated leadership as President of the Student Chapter of the American Academy of Optometry and Beta Sigma Kappa and was awarded membership in the Gold Key Honor Society. She has received numerous scholarships and was named a CooperVision Best Practices Student Honoree in 2024 for her academic excellence and community involvement. Kendra will graduate with a Cornea and Contact Lenses Microcredential and pursue a Residency in Ocular Disease and Cornea/Contact Lenses at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, with goals of contributing to contact lens innovation and the pharmaceutical industry in the future.

SUNY ORANGE

Sara Calle Alvarado (She/Her/Hers)

*Adolescence Education 7-12 Earth
Business Administration
Middletown, NY*

Sara Calle Alvarado is a Business Administration major with a 3.34 GPA

and Dean's List honors. As an active member of the International Club, Mi Gente Club and Business Club, she has demonstrated leadership as a Secretary, supported fundraising initiatives and represented diverse cultural perspectives. She has contributed to campus life by raising \$4,000 for World Central Kitchen and participated in conferences and financial committees. Additionally, her Internship with Adelante Student Voices has fostered skills in leadership, balancing priorities and networking. Her dedication to academic excellence, leadership and service makes her a standout student at SUNY Orange.

SUNY ORANGE

Brianna Reid (She/Her/Hers)

*Natural Sciences and Mathematics
Chandler, AZ*

Brianna Reid serves on multiple committees and goes above and beyond the call of the average student. She is vocal, passionate and confident, and she cares about serving her student body and the SUNY Orange community. As Senate President, she did all she could to improve the college experience. Brianna participated in the SUNY Mosquito Surveillance Project and was a Summer Youth Counselor in the Middletown Enlarged City School District in the summers of 2022 and 2023. Brianna is a Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society member.

SUNY OSWEGO

Halle Collins (She/Her/Hers)

*Cinema and Screen Studies and
Creative Writing
Brentwood, TN*

Halle Collins, a double major in Cinema and Screen Studies and Creative Writing with a minor in English, has a 4.0 GPA. Transferring as a junior, Halle has provided extraordinary leadership in civic engagement and the arts. Halle has served in multiple roles in the Student Association and was an Intern at the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C. She Interned twice with Vote Oswego, which led to an opportunity to participate on a panel at the White House. She provided leadership to many arts organizations including Women in Entertainment, the Great Lake Review and the university newspaper.

SUNY OSWEGO

Sky Minkoff (They/Them/Theirs)

*Linguistics
Seneca Falls, NY*

Sky Minkoff, a major in Linguistics with a minor in English, has a 4.0 GPA. Sky, a nontraditional student, has an extraordinary academic record, transformative leadership style and unwavering dedication to DEIJ. Sky's experience as a neurodivergent student who experienced barriers, prompted them to Create and Coordinate a Peer-led Academic Program for Neurodivergent Students. Additionally, they are a Tutor for numerous subjects, a Teaching Assistant and the recipient of two Dean's Writing Awards and three scholarships. Through an

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independent study, Sky is supporting the language retention of the Onondaga Eel Clan to protect native histories, stories and culture.

SUNY OSWEGO

Layla Sprague (She/Her/Hers)
Biology and Physics
Walton, NY

Layla Sprague, a double major in Biology and Physics with a minor in Chemistry, has a 3.99 GPA. As a first-generation student, Layla has an impeccable academic record, impressive research acumen and extensive campus and community involvement. She has received five scholarships and participated in research projects in two different disciplines, Biology and Physics. She received two grants to support her research and has presented four times. Her deep commitment to community is demonstrated through her service with the Red Cross, YMCA, STEAM Day for elementary students and involvement in the Del Sarte Dance Club.

SUNY PLATTSBURGH

Lauren Gonyo (She/Her/Hers)
Business Administration and Nutrition
West Chazy, NY

Lauren Gonyo came to SUNY Plattsburgh in August 2022 as a transfer student. She is a Nutrition major with minors in Chemistry and Psychology. Lauren prides herself on her role as a Captain on the nationally ranked Women's Rugby Team and is an artist whose drawings have been published in North Star Magazine. Lauren has been a gymnastics coach at our local studio since she was 14 years

old. She will be attending Quinnipiac University in May for the Pathologists' Assistant Graduate Program.

SUNY PLATTSBURGH

Sascha Menn (She/They)
Anthropology
Plattsburgh, NY

Sascha Menn transferred to SUNY Plattsburgh in 2022 from High Point University in North Carolina. She will be graduating in May 2025 with a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology, with minors in Archaeology and Biological Anthropology. She has been academically successful as well as active in the campus community. She is in the Honors Program, reinstated the Amnesty International Club on campus and was an Officer in the Anthropology Club.

SUNY POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

Lucas Nowlan (He/Him/His)
Network and Computer Security
Marlborough, MA

Lucas Nowlan is a student and activist in his local community. Serving as a Bunk-In Firefighter and EMT at Maynard Fire Department, Lucas was dedicated to making an impact. On campus, he served as Director of Community Outreach for two years and Chief Justice for another two. Throughout his time, Lucas has dedicated hundreds of hours toward providing meals, food and clothing to homeless individuals in the area, often spending sleepless nights at the homeless shelter reversing overdoses and stopping fights.

SUNY POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

Ryan Primus (He/Him/His)
Computer Science -BS/MS
Goshen, NY

Ryan Primus is a senior student-athlete who will graduate in May with a Master's degree in Computer Science, specializing in AI and Modeling. In his time at Poly, he has conducted both undergraduate and graduate research, maintained President's List status, been the starting goalkeeper of the Men's Soccer Team and is a proud representative of the BS/MS Program and CSTEP. He has presented his published research at EWSN '24 in Abu Dhabi, with hopes to continue his research and education at a respective Ph.D. program. Primus is currently a machine learning engineer intern at ANDRO Computational Solutions.

SUNY POTSDAM

Casey Asaro (He/Him/His)
Music Performance and Psychology
Waterford, NY

Casey Asaro is set to graduate this May and is eager for what lies ahead. Having majored in both Music and Psychology as well as completing a College Counseling Center Internship, he wants to use the skills he has learned to help others in the Counseling profession. Throughout his college experience he has taken the most pride in the connections he has made with others through academic ensembles. He believes that music has a unique ability to bring people together in a common goal and wants to emphasize the power of unity in his future career.

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SUNY POTSDAM

Eve Borrelli (She/Her/Hers)

*Art History
Pittsford, NY*

Eve Borrelli is honored to receive the SUNY Chancellors Award for Student Excellence. Throughout her time at SUNY Potsdam, she has served on the Student Government Association executive board as the Comptroller, Treasurer, and President. She has worked hard to promote civic engagement on campus, educating first-time voters and showing students the power that their voice has. She plans to go on to earn a degree in Urban Planning and Historic Preservation, working to make Revolutionary War homes livable again.

PURCHASE COLLEGE

Medha Chandwani (She/Her/Hers)

*Chemistry and Visual Arts
Sharon, MA*

Medha Chandwani is an exceptional student, double majoring in Chemistry and Visual Arts, with a stellar 4.16 GPA. Admitted through the SUNY Upstate Medical Program, she has exceeded academic expectations, earning an A or A+ in all courses. Her senior project explores canola and corn oil blends in resin projection, blending both fields of study. Medha has been a dedicated Learning Assistant for multiple chemistry courses, helping many students succeed. Beyond academics, she served as Pre-Med Club President, establishing a shadowing program at White Plains Hospital, and contributed to the Food Recovery Network, focused

on reducing food waste and insecurity.

PURCHASE COLLEGE

Carver Fell (He/Him/His)

*Psychology
Carmel, NY*

Carver Fell, a top-performing Psychology student at Purchase College since fall 2023, has demonstrated exceptional academic excellence, leadership, and research skills. Holding a 4.12 GPA, faculty praise his maturity, analytical thinking, and dedication, particularly in research on cognitive development and social issues. Carver has served as a Learning Assistant, Psi Chi President, and Vice President of the Psychology Club. Additionally, his internship at the Career Development Center showcases his leadership. His achievements make him a deserving candidate for the Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence.

ROCKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Rhishma Ashtonl (She/Her/Hers)

*Nursing
Middletown, NY*

Rhishma Ashton a recent graduate of Rockland Community College, having completed her degree in Nursing with a GPA of 3.63. Offered a job immediately following graduation at Helen Hayes Hospital. Rhishma is highly organized, ethical, and committed to patient confidentiality and safety. She is compassionate, patient-focused with excellent communication and interpersonal skills. While at RCC, Rhishma participated

in numerous events and organizations including the Student Government Association, the Student Activity Board, the President's Society, and the National Society of Leadership and Success.

ROCKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Ronny Sanchez (He/Him/His)

*Math and Computer Science
Suffern, NY*

Ronny Sanchez, part of the Sam Draper Honors Program currently pursuing an Associate of Science Degree majoring in Math and Computer Science. Ronny's career aspirations are to pursue a teaching role. He is proficient in both written and verbal communication in Spanish language skills. Ronny is a collaborative team member who thrives in dynamic and demanding settings. He is known for approaching students with a friendly and supportive approach. He is excited about innovative teaching concepts and theories to real-world classrooms.

SUNY SCHENECTADY COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Jasmatie Lutawan (She/Her/Hers)

*Computer Networking and Repair
Guyana*

Jasmatie Lutawan is an international student at SUNY Schenectady studying Computer Science and Computer Networking and hopes to transfer to a four-year college for fall 2025. Jasmatie would like to eventually pursue a career in computer programming

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and seeks out opportunities to develop her skills in this area. Jasmatie is extremely dedicated to not only her studies but the campus community as a whole. Jasmatie currently is a Student Worker in the Career Transfer Services Office and is a very conscientious individual who takes pride in her work and strives to do her best in all that she does.

SUNY SCHENECTADY COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Latasha Rivera (She/Her/Hers)

*Paralegal
Schenectady, NY*

Latasha Rivera exemplifies excellence, not only as an accomplished student but as a caring and compassionate human being. She excels in many areas of her life and does so with hard work, drive, and humility. She will graduate in May 2025 with an AAS in Paralegal Studies and a cumulative GPA of 3.6, no small feat for a working mother of five children. Latasha is an intelligent and outstanding member of our campus community. She shares her energy, experience, compassion and dedication to serve others as a testament to her exemplary character.

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

Rachel Alexandre (She/Her/Hers)

*Globalization and International
Relations and Political Science
Sparkill, NY*

Rachel Alexandre majors in Globalization and International Relations and Political Science with a minor in Creative Writing

and Literature. She studies French, German, Spanish and American Sign Language, and has a passion for learning languages. She was awarded the Obama-Chesky Voyager Scholarship for Public Service, worked with the United Nations in Geneva, studied Hellenistic culture in Greece and supported international business development at the Canadian Consulate. This summer, she will work on sustainability initiatives in Tanzania and launch a U.S.-based program promoting diverse stories through film. Passionate about advocacy and the arts, she seeks to inspire change through creative storytelling.

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

Cailey Bobadilla (She/Her/Hers)

*Applied Mathematics and Statistics
Nesconset, NY*

Cailey Bobadilla is a University Scholar majoring in Applied Mathematics and Statistics with a minor in Information Systems. As an Intern at FreedomCare, she applied data-driven strategies to enhance patient care. On campus, she serves as a Lead Tutor at the Academic Success and Tutoring Center, a Peer Mentor for the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences and a Teaching Assistant for two Applied Mathematics courses. Cailey is also an Officer for Women in Business and a member of the Integrating Population Health Informatics VIP team. She plans to pursue graduate studies and a career in Data Analytics.

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

Laci Burton

*English
North Babylon, NY*

Laci Burton is a University Scholar majoring in English with minors in Gender and Sexuality Studies as well as Writing and Rhetoric. She works as a Senior Writing Tutor and International Affairs Coordinator for the Stony Brook Writing Center. She promotes undergraduate research in the Humanities through her involvement in the CAS Dean's Advisory Council and the English Department Advisory Council. Laci was awarded a URECA Grant to support her independent archival research at the Library of Congress and participated in the National Humanities Leadership Council.

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

Brianna Charvez (She/Her/Hers)

*Mass Communication and
Sociology
Ozone Park, NY*

Brianna Charvez is a first-generation college student pursuing degrees in Mass Communication and Sociology with minors in Women's and Gender Studies and Health, Medicine and Society. She is a Resident Assistant, President of Jubilé Latino and a researcher studying the intersectional effects of abortion access. Brianna also works at the UNITI Cultural Center, promoting inclusivity and cultural awareness. Passionate about equity in women's and LGBTQ+ health, she aspires to combine academia and advocacy to

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amplify marginalized voices and advance social justice through education and media.

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

Anood Cheema (She/Her/Hers)

*Globalization Studies and International Relations and Economics
New York, NY*

Anood Cheema is a first-generation college student double majoring in Globalization Studies/International Relations and Economics. She has been extensively involved on campus and served multiple e-board positions including Vice President for Brooklogue: Stony Brook University Undergraduate Journal for Humanities and Social Sciences, Co-Founder of the Peace Action Chapter, President of the NAACP Chapter as well as Founder and President of International Law Society. She also worked as a Student Intern at the Center for Civic Justice, Student Assistant for Visa and Immigration Services and was elected as Senator for Undergraduate Student Government.

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

Peter Gillespie (He/Him/His)

*Biology (Interdisciplinary)
Holmes, NY*

Peter is a versatile student who is committed to the betterment of his community through service and research. He Coordinates Fundraising for Stony Brook's Chapter of Project Sunshine to support recreational activities for hospitalized children and is a Lead Volunteer in providing rides to patients with cancer in the Road to

Recovery Program. Peter also contributes to research focused on identifying biomarkers for Alzheimer's disease in minority communities to increase the accuracy and access to screening for underserved communities. He has been inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society.

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

Peter Joyce (He/Him/His)

*History and Political Science
Northport, NY*

Peter is a History and Political Science double major in the Honors College who has held leadership positions with College Democrats and the Model UN, Environmental Club and Debate Clubs, while also working in the Student Government. He has also been a Resident Advisor and a Coordinator for Student Engagement. His experiences have given him a strong passion for higher education, which he wants to pursue as a career.

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

Anushri Kulkarni (She/Her/Hers)

*Biomedical Engineering
Mumbai, India*

An international student from India majoring in biomedical engineering, Anushri Kulkarni aspires to serve her community through engineering and medicine. As a resident assistant, volunteer EMT, and the President of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), Anushri enjoys making a difference in her campus community. Under the guidance of Dr. Eric Brouzes, Anushri is completing an honors thesis based on her microfluidics

research. Anushri has also worked as a teaching assistant, peer-mentored international students, and conducted clinical research as an academic associate in the Department of Emergency Medicine at Stony Brook University Hospital.

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

Avi Nessim (He/Him/His)

*Biology and Psychology
Atlantic Beach, NY*

Avi is double majoring in biology and psychology and is committed to the Jewish concept of "repairing the world." He works tirelessly to create positive change. Through research, he has been uncovering robust sex differences within the brains of Alzheimer's disease patients since his freshman year and has presented his findings at conferences worldwide. He also serves as the President and Founder of SBU's Leukemia and Lymphoma Society chapter in memory of his grandfather, whom he lost to leukemia. Through his vision, Avi has raised more than \$11,000 since early 2024.

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

Aman Rahman (He/Him/His)

*Health Sciences and English
Farmingville, NY*

Aman Rahman is a poet, educator, and community healthcare worker born and raised on Long Island. Published in Mizna, Consequence, Narrative and elsewhere, his poetry has earned him a URECA Summer Award, an Islamic Scholarship Fund Media Award and a semifinalist place for the Adroit Prize. He

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is currently Managing Editor of Sandpiper Review, Stony Brook University's premier undergraduate literary magazine. Interested in the intersection of public health and the medical humanities, he Interned at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and currently works in HIV prevention at Stony Brook Children's Hospital.

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

Daniel Razgonyaev (He/Him/His)

*Chemical and Molecular Engineering
Brooklyn, NY*

Daniel Razgonyaev is a pre-medical student in the Honors College majoring in Chemical and Molecular Engineering. A dedicated researcher, he has conducted materials science research with proteins and bacteria at Brookhaven National Laboratory and presented his work at the 2024 American Chemical Society national conference. Passionate about humanitarian efforts, Daniel led a team that raised thousands of dollars to purchase medical equipment for children's hospitals in Ukraine and Eastern Europe through his organization American Students for Health. On campus, he has served as a Chemistry and Organic Chemistry Teaching Assistant, and off campus he works as a gastroenterological medical assistant.

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

Aryan Sharma (He/Him/His)

*Biology and Psychology
Centereach, NY*

Aryan Sharma is an aspiring

physician in Stony Brook's Honors College double majoring in Biology and Psychology and is in the MBA Fast Track program. He conducts glioblastoma research in the Tsirka Lab, has published his work and twice received URECA summer funding. On campus, he serves as Vice President of Clubs and Organizations for Undergraduate Student Government, Events Coordinator for Watsi and is a STEM Mentor and Teaching Assistant. Aryan is an Emergency Medical Technician for the Village of Port Jefferson, a Medical Assistant for Stony Brook Medical Associates and volunteers for the Crisis Text Line.

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

Hailee Shehu (She/Her/Hers)

*Mechanical Engineering
Lindenhurst, NY*

Hailee Shehu is a proud first-generation Mechanical Engineering student in the Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) Honors Program. She is President of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) SBU Student Chapter, a Co-Founder of the 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization Lindenhurst Launchpad, a Robotics Instructor for high school students and a Mentor for first-year Stony Brook undergraduates. Hailee is a recipient of the Stony Brook Foundation Trustee Scholarship and a member of the Tau Beta Pi and Pi Tau Sigma Engineering Honor Societies.

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

Zain Zaidi (He/Him/His)

*Chemistry - Chemical Physics
Coppell, TX*

Zain Zaidi is a Chemistry major specializing in Chemical Physics who does research in Theoretical Chemistry, has presented posters at local and national conferences and was awarded the national Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship. Zain has served as a Teaching Assistant and Tutor and is an Executive Board member of the Stony Brook Chapter of Society of Physics Students where he has been instrumental in securing funding and national award recognition for SPS's contributions to community outreach, research and mentorship programs. Zain will be graduating in three years' time.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Eva Vyolet Denis (She/Her/Hers)

*Philosophy
Port Jefferson Station, NY*

Vyolet Denis, a Liberal Arts Philosophy major, maintains a stellar 4.0 GPA and has earned Dean's List honors every semester for the past two years. She serves as Editor-in-Chief of Ammerman's literary arts publication, Perspectives, and is an active member of the Honors Club, Student African American Sisterhood (SAAS), Peer Mentor-Orientation Leader program, SCCC's Conduct Board and the Alpha Zeta Nu Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa.

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SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Udya Dewanamuni (She/Her/Hers)

*Physics
Ronkonkoma, NY*

Udya Dewanamuni, a Physics major, holds a 4.0 GPA and has earned Dean's List honors every semester for the past two years. She serves as Vice President of Leadership for PTK, a Senator in Student Government, President of the Math Club, STEM Scholar and Chemistry and Physics Tutor. Her interdisciplinary research in Physics, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry and Computer Science reflects her dedication to academic rigor, innovation and learning through mentorship.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Julia Heller-Bomba (She/Her/Hers)

*Creative Writing
East Northport, NY*

Julia Heller-Bomba, a Creative Writing major, holds a 3.6 GPA and two years of Dean's List recognition. She is President of the Woman's Club, Vice President of Leadership for Phi Theta Kappa, a member of the Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society and a recipient of the TRIO Student Support Services Scholarship. Julia's nomination for the prestigious PTK All-USA/All-State competition highlights her outstanding academic and leadership achievements.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Carolina Hernandez Alvarez (She/Her/Hers)

*Accounting
Riverhead, NY*

Carolina Hernandez Alvarez, an Accounting major with a 3.9 GPA, has earned Dean's List honors every semester. A dedicated member of the Honors Program, she has been recognized with the Honors Program Academic Excellence Award, Outstanding Service Award and the Emerging Student Leader Award. Carolina serves as President of the Latin Elite Club and the Campus Activities Board (CAB). She is also a Peer Mentor and an ESL Student Tutor.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Nina Kezys (She/Her/Hers)

*Psychology
East Northport, NY*

Nina Kezys, a Psychology major, boasts a 4.0 GPA and Dean's List recognition for the past two semesters. She was nominated for the prestigious PTK All-USA/All-State competition, highlighting her academic and leadership excellence. A Women's Soccer Team player, Nina is Vice President of the Rotaract Community Service Club, Vice President of Membership for PTK Honor Society and a member of the Honors and Psychology Clubs. As a Peer Mentor, she oversees the Grant Campus Food Pantry. Nina has also represented SCCC in a Holiday Video and a News 12 interview on food insecurity.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Carolina Leon Cadena (She/Her/Hers)

*Engineering Science
Commack, NY*

Carolina Leon Cadena, an Engineering Science major, has an impressive 3.9 GPA and has consistently earned Dean's List recognition for the past two years. Carolina's leadership and dedication are evident through her roles as President of the Disney Club, Vice President of Public Relations for Phi Theta Kappa, Peer Mentor, Orientation Leader and Get There From Here Scholar. She also contributes to student success as a library assistant at the Academic Learning Center.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Dominic Llivicura Quinche (He/Him/His)

*Business Administration
Mastic Beach, NY*

Dominic Llivicura, a Business Administration major, maintains a 3.7 GPA and has earned Dean's List honors for two years. A Get There from Here Scholar, Dominic serves as SGA Vice President, an Orientation Leader and a member of the Honors Program, PTK, the Finance Committee, Art, Rotaract and the Business and Accounting Club. He holds a VITA/TCE Certification, allowing him to assist low-income, disabled and elderly individuals with tax filing.

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SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Nancy Lorme (She/Her/Hers)

*Accounting
Holtsville, NY*

Nancy Lorme, an Accounting major, has a 3.6 GPA and consistent Dean's List honors. She serves as President of PTK, Rotaract Club and Student African American Sisterhood. She's a member of the National Association of Black Accountants, SGA Finance Committee, Conduct Board and Business and Accounting Club. A Get There From Here Scholar, Nancy also serves as an Orientation Leader, Peer Mentor and a volunteer at the Food Pantry.

SUNY SULLIVAN

Adrienne Lee (She/Her/Hers)

*Computer Graphics and
Graphic Design
Cochecton, NY*

Witnessing the challenges of the pandemic, Adrienne Lee's family sought a quieter life and relocated from suburban Westchester County to a farm in rural Cochecton. Being one of the few Asian Americans in this community, Adrienne embraced the cultural and household differences, using those differences to establish her sense of identity, strong work ethic and creative skill set. Now, she balances her academic life with her farm responsibilities of daily feedings, barn upkeep and general property duties. Impressively, Adrienne has been on the President's List every semester and has maintained a 4.0 GPA.

TOMPKINS CORTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Kylie Golden-Appleton (Any)

*Social Sciences
Ithaca, NY*

Kylie Golden-Appleton studied Social Sciences at Tompkins Cortland and earned a 3.96 cumulative GPA while balancing countless student leadership roles. She served as the President of the Student Government Association, Vice President of the Faculty Student Association, Resident Assistant, and club Officer. She won the New Student of the Year Award for 2023-2024 and volunteered at New Student Orientation and December Graduation, serving as the Student Speaker for multiple events. In addition to their leadership roles, Kylie planned and facilitated a campus-wide blood drive and served on the Campus Voting Coalition and Sustainability groups.

TOMPKINS CORTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Haichuan Gu (He/Him/His)

*Liberal Arts and Sciences:
General Studies
Chicago, IL*

Haichuan Gu has excelled academically and as a student leader at Tompkins Cortland Community College. He has maintained a 4.0 GPA, earned the 2024 President's Citation, been consistently on Dean's list and was the top-scoring individual for the 2023-2024 NYSMATYC Math League. He is a Resident Assistant and Math and Science Peer Tutor. In addition to these achievements, he volunteers at the Panther Pantry and is involved with several campus

clubs and organizations, including Active Minds, Global Initiatives and the Student Government Association.

SUNY ULSTER

Gia Pfleger (She/Her/Hers)

*Liberal Arts Humanities and Social
Science: Adolescence Education
7-12: Social Studies Concentration
Campbell Hall, NY*

A Humanities and Social Science major focusing on Adolescence Education 7-12: Social Studies Concentration, Gia Pfleger is committed to academic excellence as a recipient named to the President's List for multiple semesters with an overall GPA of 3.8. Graduating in May 2025, Gia plans to pursue a double major in Education and Political Science when she transfers to SUNY New Paltz. She hopes to use her degrees by mentoring students and making a difference in society through teaching.

SUNY ULSTER

Deli Smith (They/Them/Theirs)

*Individual Studies
Boiceville, NY*

Deli Smith started their journey at SUNY Ulster in fall 2023 as a full-time student and has contributed as a Student Trustee for the 2024-2025 academic year. A positive and encouraging role model for their peers, Deli is a member of Phi Theta Kappa with an overall GPA of 4.0 and is committed to academic excellence as a President's List recipient. Completing their Associate degree in Individual Studies, Deli will be attending SUNY Oneonta in the fall to major in Media Studies with a plan

CHANCELLOR'S AWARD

FOR

STUDENT EXCELLENCE

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to obtain a Master's degree in Communication and to work in the music industry.

UPSTATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

Allysa Kemraj (She/Her/Hers)

*Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Ph.D.
Roselle, NJ*

Allysa Kemraj's passion for robust and meaningful change is reflected in her impact. Allysa has held positions in multiple facets of the Upstate community, ranging from student government to volunteering with local Syracuse organizations. Beyond her leadership roles, her academic and research achievements have positioned her as a stellar scientist. As a recipient of the prestigious NIH F31 Fellowship, Allysa has excelled academically and professionally, establishing herself as a distinguished researcher. She has represented Upstate on the global stage, presenting her research at domestic and international conferences. Allysa exemplifies a standard of excellence in leadership, research and civic engagement.

UPSTATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

Akshay Patel (He/Him/His)

*MD/Ph.D.
Norristown, PA*

Akshay Patel is an MD/Ph.D. student whose achievements span academics, research, leadership and campus involvement. His academic performance has been stellar, with a 4.0 in the didactic Ph.D. curriculum and election to AOA, the national medical honor society. He served as elected President and Vice President of Upstate Student Government, including during

the initial COVID pandemic. He received a prestigious Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award F30 Pre-Doctoral Fellowship and a SUNY Graduate Research Empowering and Accelerating Talent (GREAT) Award for his research, and has published eight peer-reviewed publications, presented 13 posters and given 13 oral presentations as a student.

SUNY WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Ana Da Rosa (She/Her/Hers)

*Liberal Arts and Sciences:
Childhood Education
Taquara, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil*

Ana Da Rosa moved from Brazil to continue her education in the United States and pursue her dream of becoming a special education teacher. Ana is a member of the SUNY WCC Honors Program, is the Co-Vice President of Honors in Action for the WCC Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society and was a Kathryn W. Davis Global Community Scholar. She was selected for the prestigious Exploring Transfer program at Vassar College and as a participant in WCC's 2025 Alternative Spring Break program focused on mass incarceration in the United States.

SUNY WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Josiah Farrell (He/Him/His)

*Liberal Arts and Sciences: Social Sciences (Honors)
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago*

Josiah Farrell is an international student from the beautiful twin islands of Trinidad and Tobago. He is a member of the college's Honor College and was named a 2024 Pulitzer Center Fellowship Grantee.

As Phi Theta Kappa Co-Vice President of Honors in Action, Josiah facilitated an art exhibition for women with autism to tell their stories. Josiah's was also selected as a Trip Coordinator for a 2024 Alternative Spring Break trip to Florida where students immersed themselves in hurricane disaster relief. Josiah completed the Mindful Warrior program and serves as a Staff Writer for The Viking News, the student newspaper.

SUNY WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Ray Katz (He/They)

*Communications and Media Arts
Mount Vernon, NY*

Ray Katz is a passionate student who excels academically, having earned membership in the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Ray is also an active student leader, serving as the Station Director for POWER 88.1, the student-run radio station. Ray completed the Commit to Change Leadership Development Program and served as an Orientation Leader during the summer of 2024, helping to welcome and transition new students. As a senior staff writer for The Viking News, Ray has written articles about LGBTQ+ rights, women's issues, and media literacy. Ray plans to pursue a career in radio.

SUNY WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Adiel Vanegas-Robles (He/Him/His)

*Cybersecurity
Yonkers, NY*

Adiel Vanegas-Robles is a dedicated student leader who is passionate about Cybersecurity. As President of the Cybersecurity Club, Adiel fosters collaboration

CHANCELLOR'S AWARD

FOR

STUDENT EXCELLENCE

AWARDEES

and innovation in addressing emerging cyber threats. He is the recipient of the National Cyber League Games Scholarship and the PepsiCo Uplift Scholarship for his academic and professional excellence. He served as an Orientation Leader and completed the LatinXcellence Leadership Development Program. Adiel participated in two different Alternative Spring Break programs where he engaged in service-learning and volunteer initiatives focusing on unsheltered people and mass incarceration in the United States.



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