



CHANCELLOR'S AWARD
— FOR —
STUDENT EXCELLENCE

APRIL 27, 2026

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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, 205 students from 64 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

SHOMARI AKIL JAMES, MBA
BUFFALO STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNUS
CO-FOUNDER, CHAIRMAN AND CEO
EQUITY NOW, INC.

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 27, 2026

Dear Awardees,

College is a time of academic and personal growth. It offers every student an opportunity to learn about the world, and to learn about themselves. As Chancellor of the State University of New York, I am immensely proud of every single student who has decided to take advantage of what SUNY is able to offer them. Each of our students represents the future of New York, and that is why I enjoy travelling throughout our state and visiting campuses to speak directly with students who are pursuing upward mobility through the affordable excellence of a SUNY degree.

To the families of our honorees: Thank you! We are here to celebrate the outstanding students that you have entrusted to us. It is my deepest hope that every student will use the education and experience SUNY provides to build better lives for themselves, for our communities, and for our entire state.

To our award recipients: Well done! Each of you earned the Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence because you stepped up, excelled academically, and served as leaders and examples on your SUNY campuses. This recognition is SUNY's way of acknowledging you, thanking you, and urging others to follow the example you have set. We expect great things from you, and with a SUNY education and your personal drive, we know you can achieve your aspirations.

With my sincerest congratulations

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read "John B. King, Jr.", with a stylized, flowing script.

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 niihtonha'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 niihtonha'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 niihtonha'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 niihtonha'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 niihtonha'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 niihtonha'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 niihtonha'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 niihtonha'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 niihtonha'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

Audrina Hill (She/Her/Hers)

*Liberal Arts Humanities &
Social Science
Queensbury, NY*

Audrina Hill is a first-generation college student from Queensbury, NY. Audrina enrolled at SUNY Adirondack in 2024 as a member of the Educational Opportunity Program. She graduated in December 2025 with an Associate of Arts in Psychology. She earned a 3.98 GPA, served as secretary of the Sustainability Club, and works part-time at the campus bookstore. Audrina has also volunteered as a jazz singer at the Frederick Allen Elks Lodge in Saratoga and the Strand Theater in Hudson Falls, raising funds for community organizations and local charities.

SUNY ADIRONDACK

Lucas VanDyke (He/Him/His)

*Criminal Justice: Police Science
Franklin, NY*

Lucas VanDyke is a first-generation college student from Franklin, NY. After graduating from a class of just 15 students, he enrolled at SUNY Adirondack in the fall of 2024 to study criminal justice: police science. While at SUNY Adirondack, Lucas was actively involved on campus. He served as a resident assistant, worked in the Student Life office, and acted as president of Pride. After graduating in December 2025, Lucas continues his education at SUNY Potsdam, where he is pursuing a bachelor's degree in criminal justice with

the goal of becoming a law enforcement officer.

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

Maurice Burbridge (He/Him/His)

*Communications
Bronx, NY*

Maurice Burbridge is an involved University at Albany student. He will graduate in May 2026 with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications and minors in Film Studies and Journalism. He works as a resident assistant, serves as a peer career advisor, and contributes to the Albany Student Press as a copyeditor. Maurice has conducted interviews with international, local, and campus figures and has represented the university newspaper at film festivals. He also serves as president and co-founder of the UAlbany Film Club and interns with Metroland Now.

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

Sophie Coker (She/Her/Hers)

*Political Science and Communications
Binghamton, NY*

Sophie Coker is a political communications student at the University at Albany with a passion for helping others find their voices. She works with the university's communications office highlighting student success. She also interned in Washington, D.C., with a nationally ranked PR firm. As the vice president of the SUNY Student Assembly, she coordinates large-scale conferences for leaders across the SUNY system and transformed the group's outlook on connectivity. Additionally, Sophie is an accomplished musician who

performs on trumpet and mellophone with the UAlbany Marching and Spirit Bands, as well as the Jazz Ensemble.

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

Halimah Lawson (She/Her/Hers)

*Criminal Justice
Bronx, NY*

Halimah Lawson is a first-generation college student majoring in criminal justice with double minors in political science. She will graduate in May 2026 with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and minors in Political Science/Law and Philosophy, maintaining a 3.93 GPA. She served as majority leader in a mock legislative session during a NYS Senate internship and is a peer mentor for Writing and Critical Inquiry. Halimah serves on the Rockefeller College Dean's Leadership Council and holds several prominent leadership roles across campus. She is the chief justice of the University at Albany Supreme Court, marshal of the Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law Fraternity, president of the National Black Law Students Association, and vice president of the Women in Law Association.

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

Massa Masri (She/Her/Hers)

*Honors Biology
Damascus, Syria*

Born in Damascus, Syria, Massa Masri moved to the United States in 2020 and became determined to use the opportunity to build a life centered on service. Fascinated by God's creation of the human body, she

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decided to pursue medicine, as it unites her scientific curiosity and her passion for helping others. Massa recently earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology with Honors, completing a pre-medical track and a minor in Business. While at the University at Albany, she conducted RNA research, served as a supplemental instruction leader in chemistry, and advanced representation for the North African and Arab community by co-founding the NAAS organization, among many other contributions.

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

Sean Millington (He/Him/His)

*Political Science
Troy, NY*

Sean Millington is a graduate of the University at Albany where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. He currently serves as a mayoral fellow for Albany Mayor Dr. Dorcey Applyrs. While at the University at Albany, he was deeply involved in student advocacy, serving as chief of staff to the SUNY Student Assembly and helping lead statewide advocacy efforts for SUNY students. He also served as president of the University at Albany College Democrats and as the undergraduate student representative on the University Council. In addition, Sean serves on the inaugural National Grid Foundation Youth Advisory Council.

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

Dominique Platt (He/Him/His)

*Forensic Chemistry
Kingston, Jamaica*

Dominique Platt came to the University at Albany in 2022 from Jamaica to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Forensic Chemistry. Dominique's 3.98 GPA and his position as an undergraduate researcher convey the story of a student focused on academics. Beyond his academic pursuits, he has demonstrated a strong commitment to his community through leadership and service. As president of Phenomenal Voices, he performs poetry and fosters creative expression among his peers. He also tutors in the Learning Commons and mentors fellow international students, offering guidance and support. Dominique embodies the spirit of a Great Dane by working hard, embracing opportunities, and remaining deeply engaged in his community.

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

Senbahavalli Ramasamy (She/Her/Hers)

*Biology
Albany, NY*

Senbahavalli Ramasamy, a member of the Honors College, is majoring in biology with minors in leadership and chemistry. She serves as president of Doctors4Hope and as secretary of the University at Albany's American Red Cross chapter. As an EMT, lieutenant, trainer, and certified CPR and Stop the Bleed instructor with the Five Quad Volunteer Ambulance

Service, she leads training initiatives and organizes annual intercollegiate EMS conferences to advance EMT education and patient care. In the RNA Institute's Dey Lab, Senbahavalli conducts research on immune and skeletal muscle pathology in Duchenne muscular dystrophy. Beyond her academic and service commitments, she works as a medical assistant and enjoys Indian classical and Kollywood dance.

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

Sanaa Woodley (She/Her/Hers)

*Political Science and Sociology
Bronx, NY*

Sanaa Woodley graduated from the University at Albany with a Bachelor of Arts earning a dual major in Political Science and Sociology and a minor in Africana Studies. She is deeply committed to advocating for equitable policy and justice. Throughout her academic journey, Sanaa has demonstrated exceptional leadership, public speaking, and organizational skills. In addition, she has also championed research on the history of Black-owned businesses in Albany and the implications of limited investment and interest in these businesses. Sanaa plans to either continue her education after graduation to pursue a master's in public policy or attend law school in New York.

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NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF CERAMICS AT ALFRED UNIVERSITY

Addison Yang (He/Him/His)

*Accounting and Business
Administration
Saugerties, NY*

Addison Yang is a senior at the University at Albany, pursuing a dual major in accounting and business administration. Following graduation, he plans to continue his studies with a graduate degree at the university. As a motivated and self-driven leader, Addison has been deeply involved both on campus and beyond. His experiences include interning at PricewaterhouseCoopers, competing in Deloitte Case competitions, and holding a variety of student leadership roles, including treasurer, community assistant, and Purple & Gold ambassador. Committed to lifelong learning, Addison strives to “unleash greatness” to make a meaningful impact on the world.

NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF CERAMICS AT ALFRED UNIVERSITY

Summer Aquino (She/Her/Hers)

*Studio Art
Alfred, NY*

Summer Escaño Aquino is an artist and researcher working at the intersection of art, science, and social inquiry. She is an immigrant from the Philippines and a full-merit scholar in the School of Art & Design at the New York State College of Ceramics. Her multidisciplinary practice spans ceramics, sculpture, performance, writing, and digital design. She is the co-founder of SOUP [ceramics]

and an active collaborator in community-based exhibitions and publications. Summer's growing national profile includes features in the Nasher Sculpture Center Magazine and PICNIC, highlighting her engagement with sustainability, technology, interdisciplinary research, and open-access artistic practice.

NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF CERAMICS AT ALFRED UNIVERSITY

Matthew Bittel (He/Him/His)

*Ceramic Engineering
Wellsville, NY*

Matthew Bittel, from Wellsville, NY, is pursuing his bachelor's degree in ceramic engineering with a minor in business administration. Matthew is an active student-athlete serving as captain for the DIII Men's Tennis team. He is also a member of Chi Alpha Sigma Honor Society and co-founder/president of Alfred University Mug Drop Club.

ALFRED STATE COLLEGE

Janiesha Dureny (She/Her/Hers)

*Building Trades: Building Construction
Sussex, NJ*

Janiesha Dureny is an accomplished student leader whose academic excellence, service, and involvement distinguish her as an outstanding nominee. She has earned multiple Dean's List recognitions, the James Koller Student Service Endowed Scholarship, and induction into the National Society of Leadership and Success. As captain of the Track & Field team, a SAAC representative, a student senate executive board member, a student

ambassador, and a student union lead, she exemplifies exceptional leadership, integrity, and initiative. Janiesha also contributes meaningfully to community wellbeing through her work supporting adults with disabilities at Aspire Supports, reflecting her compassion, professionalism, and commitment to uplifting others across every environment she serves.

ALFRED STATE COLLEGE

Jazz Jarbeck (They/Them/Theirs)

*Technical Communication and
Emergent Media
Hornell, NY*

Jazz Jarbeck is a driving force for scholarship, inclusion, and student leadership at Alfred State. As a multi-semester Dean's List honoree and recipient of the Robert E. Wood Jr. Memorial Endowed Scholarship, Jazz combines academic excellence with meaningful campus engagement. They serve as academic chair of the Greek Senate, president of Live to Fight, vice president of Records and Organizations for Student Senate, and vice president of Rainbow Union. As secretary of the ASC Film Makers Club and a published poet in Ergo, Jazz also contributes to the creative life of the campus. Their hundreds of service hours reflect a deep commitment to philanthropy, accessibility advocacy, and community outreach through Hornell Partners for Growth.

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BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

Carissa Bayack
(She/Her/Hers)

*English, Philosophy, Politics and Law
Middletown, NY*

Carissa Bayack will graduate with majors in English (Honors) and philosophy, politics, and law, along with a minor in human rights. Her thesis defines a new literary genre by analyzing the memoirs of wrongfully convicted individuals. Carissa has presented at several conferences, including the American Historical Association and Hartwick Sociology Symposium. As intern coordinator with the Upstate New York Policing Research Consortium (UNY-PRC), Carissa mentors new interns and conducts research on wrongful convictions. She serves as the managing editor of the Binghamton University Undergraduate Journal. After graduation, she will pursue a PhD in English, focusing on prison literature and carceral studies.

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

Abigail Connors
(She/Her/Hers)

*Philosophy, Politics, and Law
Montgomery, NY*

Abigail Connors graduated in August 2025 with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Politics and Law with a Public Policy concentration, maintaining an impeccable 4.0 GPA. Abigail is the recipient of the William Ziegler Scholarship and the New Jersey State Governor's Jefferson Award for youth volunteerism. She is continuing her graduate studies at Binghamton University to earn a master's degree in human rights. Abigail's academic

achievements are remarkable, but it is her unwavering commitment to public service, leadership, and campus involvement that truly sets her apart.

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

Rachel Liu
(She/Her/Hers)

*Biological Sciences
Staten Island, NY*

Rachel Liu is an impactful student leader and researcher at Binghamton University. She will graduate in May 2026 with a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences with a Chinese Studies minor. She has presented research internationally, leads the Alpha Phi Omega community service fraternity, and serves as a highly praised student employee and teaching assistant. Rachel is from Staten Island, NY and has been accepted to Binghamton's Baccalaureate Accelerated Track (BAT) Nursing Program which will begin in May 2026.

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

Amari Pavati
(He/Him/His)

*Classic Civilization and Geography
Austin, TX*

Amari Pavati is a graduating senior double majoring in geography and classical civilizations, with a minor in Judaic studies. His academic interests include the Jewish diaspora in Roman antiquity and Yiddish studies. Amari is the founding president of the New Yiddish Bund and has been an advocate for tenants' rights in Binghamton, NY. Originally from Austin, TX, he brings a strong commitment to both scholarship and community engagement.

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

Lauren Peralta
(She/Her/Hers)

*Integrative Neuroscience
Ronkonkoma, NY*

Lauren Peralta is a graduating senior majoring in integrative neuroscience with minors in writing and digital and data studies. Lauren actively participates in leadership positions in campus activities, is involved in research, and has increased DEI initiatives through her involvement in student association organizations. With a 3.81 cumulative GPA, Lauren will graduate with President's Honors, the highest level of academic honors within the Binghamton University Scholars program.

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

Rachel Pitt
(She/Her/Hers)

*Biological Sciences
New Paltz, NY*

Rachel Pitt will graduate in three years from Binghamton University with a degree in biological sciences, a 3.87 GPA, and departmental honors (thesis). She conducted fieldwork during the Marine Biology Intensive Field Course at the Chincoteague Bay Field Station in the summer of 2024. Ultimately, Rachel aims to earn a PhD and build her own academic research program studying interactions between plants, fungi and insects. Rachel exemplifies interdisciplinary excellence through her academics and research, musical acumen, and leadership.

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BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

Jaclyn Printz (She/Her/Hers)

*Biological Sciences
Old Bethpage, NY*

Jaclyn Printz is a graduating senior from Old Bethpage, NY, majoring with honors in biological sciences. She is a graduate of the First-year Research Immersion Program's Microbial Biofilms in Human Health research stream. She has continued her research experience focusing on filamentous fungal biofilms with the aim of understanding the phenotypes of these largely understudied organisms. Currently, Jaclyn serves as the lead peer mentor in the biofilms stream, assisting with course and lab sections. In addition, Jaclyn serves as the public relations chair for Gift of Life, helping to match potential stem cell donors with those in need.

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

Lotus Taylor (She/Her/Hers)

*Sociology
Pleasantville, NY*

Lotus Taylor, a service minded sociology major, is also pursuing a master's degree in administration and student affairs. She inspires her peers to realize the promise of equity in higher education through her work as DEI chair of Binghamton's Student Association, her leadership in SUNY alumni initiatives, and her involvement with the United States Student Association. Her impact is especially remarkable given that she has been on campus for less than two years, having transferred to Binghamton in 2024.

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

Amanda Treulich (She/Her/Hers)

*Integrative Neuroscience
Farmingdale, NY*

Amanda Treulich is a graduating senior with a 4.0 GPA in integrative neuroscience. She is an active leader in campus outreach, community-building, and research endeavors as president of the Speech and Debate club, a senior tour guide, a F.R.I. program mentor, a Mountainview College community assistant, a member of Explorchestra, a B-Healthy student assistant, and a neuroscience research assistant. Amanda is also a member of the highly selective Binghamton University Scholars Honors Program, reserved for the top 2% of entering students each year.

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

Deborah Zeleny (She/Her/Hers)

*Social Work
Brooklyn, NY*

Deborah Zeleny is a graduating senior with a 4.0 GPA in social work, complemented by an education minor and a pre-law concentration. As an immigrant, her resilience shapes a profound commitment to advocacy, service, and human connection. She approaches leadership with an open heart and steady purpose, believing in kindness as a catalyst for change and consistently fostering spaces of belonging grounded in equity and inclusion. Deborah is the recipient of the Voya Scholars for Mental Health Scholarship, the Pauline Weissman Memorial Scholarship, the

Constance Coiner Memorial Scholarship, and the Lois B. DeFleur Scholarship for Excellence in Leadership at Binghamton University.

SUNY BROCKPORT

Rylie DelVecchio (She/Her/Hers)

*Sociology and Social Work
Rochester, NY*

Rylie DelVecchio is an honors student double majoring in sociology and social work, with a minor in women and gender studies. As a participant in the SUNY Washington Internship Program, she interned with a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist at the Library of Congress, where she researched immigration trends and policy. Rylie has also served roles with the Rochester SAFE Court, Meals on Wheels, the United Nations Association of Rochester, and World Without Exploitation's Youth Coalition. For her honors thesis, she examined the work of Rochester's Police Accountability Board. She plans to pursue a career dedicated to researching and advocating for underrepresented communities.

SUNY BROCKPORT

Gavin Miller (He/Him/His)

*Political Science
East Amherst, NY*

Gavin Miller is an honors student at SUNY Brockport pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a minor in Economics (GPA: 3.78). His academic interests include democratic governance and international political economy. He has developed and presented

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policy proposals on IMF debt relief to senior diplomats and international policy leaders and has been selected to participate in competitive global democracy forums. On campus, Gavin serves as founder and president of the Brockport Political Engagement Club and as president of EuroSim. His public service experience includes congressional legislative research, campaign management for a successful local election, and community-based initiatives supporting immigrant integration and asylum advocacy.

SUNY BROCKPORT

Nicholas Pisano (He/Him/His)

*Mathematics
Binghamton, NY*

Nicholas Pisano, a first-generation college student majoring in mathematics, is a proud member of SUNY Brockport's Honors College. He conducts independent research, supports his peers as a tutor and teaching assistant across multiple courses, and serves as president of several student organizations while advocating for student voices on campus. Beyond academics, Nicholas volunteers with the Kiwanis Club of Brockport & Binghamton, engages in advanced mathematics study, and works in K-12 education as a substitute teacher. He plans to earn a doctorate in mathematics and pursue a career as a mathematics professor.

SUNY BROCKPORT

Sharvani Regmi (She/Her/Hers)

*Journalism and Broadcasting
Laliput, Nepal*

Sharvani Regmi is SUNY Brockport's first international student to serve as president of Brockport Student Government (BSG). She is a multilingual journalism and broadcasting major concentrating in multimedia journalism, with minors in digital marketing and public relations. Sharvani covered sports for the student newspaper and radio station, worked as part of Brockport Brand Builders and Talon TV, and served as an officer in the university's Society of Professional Journalists chapter. She has received awards from the New York State Broadcasters Association and the National Broadcast Education Association and aspires to become a broadcaster and content creator for international soccer.

SUNY BROOME

Alexander Asinovsky (He/Him/His)

*Mathematics
Oswego, NY*

Alexander "Sasha" Asinovsky is an engineering science major serving as the student trustee on the SUNY Broome Board of Trustees. As a member of Phi Theta Kappa, Alexander combines academic excellence with dedicated service, serving as a physics supplemental instructor and organizing campus-wide events such as the STEM Showcase. He applies his classroom theory to advanced projects, including the

design and fabrication of a microprocessor-controlled magnetic accelerator. After graduation, Alexander plans to transfer to a top-tier university to pursue a career in electrical engineering, with a focus on the defense industry.

SUNY BROOME

Johanna Pilny (She/Her/Hers)

*Engineering Science
Endicott, NY*

Johanna Pilny is an outstanding engineering science student at SUNY Broome, maintaining a 3.99 GPA and demonstrating a strong passion for STEM. She excels in advanced coursework, including linear algebra, Calculus II, and physics, pairing intellectual rigor with genuine curiosity. Johanna is also a dedicated campus leader. She serves as president of the Engineering Club, represents her peers as a student assembly senator, and supports fellow students as a supplemental instruction leader and peer tutor across multiple disciplines. As an undergraduate researcher, she has completed two summer research programs at Binghamton University focused on clean energy and has presented her work at several academic forums.

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

Annika Easaw (They/Them/Theirs)

*Politics, Philosophy, and
Economics
Global Gender Studies
Cortlandt Manor, NY*

Annika Easaw is an honors graduate of the University at Buffalo, completing a joint major in politics, philosophy,

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economics and global gender studies, along with a minor in social justice. They founded the Abortion Access Initiative, where they connect peers to reproductive health education and advocate for statewide legislation requiring public universities to provide abortion referrals. As a Community and Civic Engagement intern, Annika developed a Local Justice course and mentors students in community service. Their civic involvement also includes campaign work for local and state candidates, speaking alongside elected officials at advocacy events, and serving on advocacy boards focused on advancing equity and access.

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

Kymani Getfield (He/Him/His)

*Nuclear Medicine Technology
Kingston, Jamaica*

Kymani Getfield, from Clark Mills, NY, graduates with a Bachelor of Science in Nuclear Medicine Technology. Kymani is a University Honors College Scholar and has served in the United States Army National Guard. He has been a campus living community assistant, campus health educator, and an undergraduate research assistant. He conducted research in the Clark Laboratory, contributing to the development of a preclinical animal model of progressive supranuclear palsy-Richardson's syndrome (PSP-RS). He has been an active member of the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP), the Minority Association of Premedical

Students (MAPS), and the men's soccer club.

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

Amelia Kelly (She/Her/Hers)

*Chemical Engineering
Alden, NY*

Amelia Kelly, from Alden, NY, graduates with a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering and a minor in Biological Sciences. She is a scholar in the University Honors College. As the vice president of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, she founded the university's first ChemE Cube team. Amelia also served as the president of Engineering World Health, the outreach chair of Tau Beta Pi, a peer mentor, and a teaching assistant. Amelia conducts research in high-pressure computational materials chemistry in the Zurek Lab, where she investigates aluminum oxide under planetary interior conditions.

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

Cameron Kiner (He/Him/His)

*Public Health
Somerset, NY*

Cameron Kiner is a public health student at the University at Buffalo completing the 3+2 BS/MPH program. As an Honors College Scholar and inductee of Phi Beta Kappa and Delta Omega, he has demonstrated leadership in campus governance and community service. Cameron is a Leadership House graduate and has served as president of the UB Residence Hall Association. He also serves as a councilmember in his

hometown, representing thousands of residents. His work reflects a commitment to public health, government, and community service, leveraging policy, advocacy, and leadership to strengthen institutions and positively impact the lives of others.

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

Dylan Kleehammer (He/Him/His)

*Philosophy and Economics
Spencerport, NY*

Dylan Kleehammer of Spencerport, NY, graduates with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Economics. Dylan is an Honors College Scholar. He served as a lead diversity Advocate in UB's Intercultural and Diversity Center, an ambassador of Civic Engagement, and a community organizer with the Mississippi State Office of the Southern Poverty Law Center. He was also awarded the Empire State Service Corps' inaugural Leadership in Service Recognition Award. Additionally, he researched inclusive immigration and democratic revival, and was awarded the UB Excellence in Research, Scholarship & Creativity Award for his research on residential segregation and multidimensional conceptions of self-identity.

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

Katherine Kremer (She/Her/Hers)

*Music and Psychology
Youngstown, NY*

Katherine Kremer, from Youngstown, NY, graduates with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a Bachelor of Arts in Music. Katherine is

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a University Honors College Scholar where she also serves as an Honors College ambassador, peer mentor, and teaching assistant. She is a Phi Beta Kappa inductee and the president of UB's chapter of Psi Chi. She also participates in the symphony orchestra, works in the Office of Admissions, and serves as a College of Arts and Sciences research advocate. Additionally, Katherine conducts research on aggression in early childhood and is completing the Psychology Honors Program.

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

Abid Manzar (He/Him/His)

*Materials Science, Engineering
and Mathematics
Scranton, PA*

Abid Manzar of Scranton, PA, graduates with degrees in materials science and engineering and mathematics. A Presidential Scholar, he has maintained a 3.80 GPA while pursuing an accelerated and rigorous academic track. As an undergraduate researcher, he contributed to projects on protein structure and chemotherapy resistance in Dr. David E. Heppner's laboratory and at MD Anderson Cancer Center through the CATALYST program. Abid also demonstrated leadership on campus as competitive director for UB Esports and president of the NMDP chapter at UB. Motivated by the impact of cancer in his family, he plans to pursue a career that integrates biomedical research with clinical practice as an oncologist-scientist.

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

Aryan Mudgal (He/Him/His)

*Computer Science
New Delhi, India*

Aryan Mudgal, from New Delhi, India, graduates with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science. He conducts research on early detection models for fetomaternal hemorrhages to improve infant survival rates in high-risk pregnancies. As a SUNY Student Assembly delegate and Student Government senator, he managed over \$50,000 in club funds and advocated for a student grievance portal to improve communication between students and administration. Additionally, Aryan co-founded the nonprofit Clean Campus, leading volunteers across three universities in removing more than 200 pounds of waste, an initiative featured on Spectrum News.

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

Abdulfazl Mukumov (He/Him/His)

*Business Administration
Buffalo, NY*

Abdulfazl Mukumov of Buffalo graduates with a BS in business administration (financial analysis). Mukumov is an Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) scholar and a Western New York Prosperity Fellow, advancing regional economic growth through collaboration with business leaders and organizations across Western New York. He co-founded the Buffalo Global Shapers Hub, served as vice president of the UB Investment Club and was a participant in an immersive student-led mergers-

and-acquisitions initiative managing a \$230 million acquisition. An entrepreneur, Mukumov also founded a renovation company that supports local economic development.

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

Lauren Phung (She/Her/Hers)

*Environmental Sustainability and
Geographic Information Science
Brooklyn, NY*

Lauren Phung, from Brooklyn, NY, graduates with a Bachelor of Science in Geographic Information Science, a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Sustainability, and a minor in History. She is a University Honors Scholar, Phi Beta Kappa member, and Western New York Prosperity fellow. She was an Honors Colloquium teaching assistant, Geography Department Ambassador, and Student Engagement Ambassador. She completed an honors thesis on the geopolitics of deportation and has conducted transportation geography research in Vietnam. In the future, Lauren plans to contribute to a more equitable and sustainable world through a career in urban planning.

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

Lillian Radel (She/Her/Hers)

*Environmental Design and
Environmental Studies
Getzville, NY*

Lillian Radel, from Buffalo, NY, graduates with a double degree in environmental design and environmental studies. As a fourth-generation University at Buffalo student, she draws on

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her family's legacy to guide her studies and sense of purpose. She is a University Honors College Scholar, a two-time Western New York Prosperity fellow, a Tau Sigma Delta inductee, and a Be the Impact challenger. Lillian has earned nine microcredentials and thrives in experiential learning for its lasting impact. Following graduation, she plans to pursue a master's in landscape architecture and work in restoration ecology to help build a greener, more sustainable future.

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

Nicholas Reilly (He/Him/His)

*Chemical Engineering
Voorheesville, NY*

Nicholas Reilly, from Voorheesville, NY, graduates with a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering and a minor in Mathematics. He was selected as a 2025 Goldwater Scholar for his undergraduate research experience and is a member of the University at Buffalo Honors College. He has held positions as the president of the UB Chemistry Club, secretary of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers student chapter, and community service head for Theta Tau. Nicholas has worked with the Watson Lab since his first year, developing nanomaterials that can be applied toward environmental remediation.

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

Ishfar Shaan (He/Him/His)

*Biomedical Sciences
Clarence, NY*

Ishfar Shaan, from Clarence, NY, graduates with a

Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences and a minor in Public Health. As a Presidential Scholar in the Honors College, he conducted research on novel cancer therapies and first-authored a published abstract presented at the American Association for Cancer Research. He helped establish the Jacobs School of Medicine Undergraduate Student Club and now serves as its president. He also led the Bengali Student Association to its first International Fiesta victory. Ishfar has worked as a teaching assistant for both cell biology lecture and lab, as well as a medical assistant and nursing aide, and has volunteered in support of refugees and asylum seekers, all while building his own business.

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

Emaan Sohail (She/Her/Hers)

*Biomedical Science
Rochester, NY*

Emaan Sohail, from Rochester, NY, graduates with a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences. Emaan is a Presidential Scholar and Phi Beta Kappa inductee and serves as the president of the Pre-Dental Association and the co-founder of the University's Honors College Book Club. She has worked in the Office of the President and Alumni Engagement, the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, and as a pediatric dental assistant. In addition, Emaan served as an oral biology research assistant, mentor, and volunteer at non-profits, and co-published a paper on public policy through the Honors College on physician-

assisted suicide in New York.

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

Jess Williams (She/Her/Hers)

*Law and Political Science
Hilton, NY*

Jess Williams, from Hilton, NY, graduates with a Bachelor of Arts in Law and Political Science and is a University Honors College Scholar. She has minors in community organizing and development, nonprofit Leadership, and American Sign Language. She serves as president of Mock Trial and is the founder and president of UB's Friends Committee on National Legislation. She also holds the role of treasurer for the American Sign Language Honor Society. As a campus leader, she works as a Civic Engagement ambassador, an Alternative Break team leader, and a resident advisor. Jess also serves as the undergraduate director of the Buffalo Human Rights Center and as an undergraduate liaison to the Social Work Undergraduate Committee.

BUFFALO STATE UNIVERSITY

Joyce Assaf (She/Her/Hers)

*Biology
Mazraat El Teffah, Zgharta, North Lebanon*

Joyce Assaf, who taught herself English before enrolling at Buffalo State, maintains a 3.95 GPA in biology while conducting research in three laboratories under the mentorship of multiple faculty members. In 2025, she completed an internship at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, where she studied drug treatments

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for aggressive head and neck cancers. A multilingual scholar, Joyce works as a library assistant and tutors peers across more than 30 courses, including Arabic, French, biology, and chemistry. She serves on the Dean's Student Council for the School of Arts and Sciences and volunteers with churches and community missions, where she teaches languages, leads programs, and supports food and clothing drives.

BUFFALO STATE UNIVERSITY

Charvaye Hutchins-Carter (She/Her/Hers)

*Public Administration
Buffalo, NY*

Charvaye Hutchins-Carter is a certified birth doula who designed an individualized master's degree program to advance her goal of influencing maternal health policy and leading maternal health initiatives on Buffalo's East Side. An accomplished community health professional, she provides culturally relevant information, support, and advocacy to her clients. As a SUNY Diversity and Inclusion Graduate fellow, she researched complexities of health care policy administration and measures ensuring underserved populations receive quality care. She was selected for the 2025 Open-Buffalo-Emerging-Leaders-Program, has served on boards of local health organizations, is an associate preacher at Henry-Durham-Memorial-AME-Zion-Church, and represents graduate students as Senator-at-Large on campus.

BUFFALO STATE UNIVERSITY

Madison Sierra (She/Her/Hers)

*Political Science
Brooklyn, NY*

Madison Sierra is serving as a 2025 intern in the office of U.S. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, applying research to legislative work. As a member of Cornell's Road Fellowship Program, she partnered with the Partnership for the Public Good to co-author a legislative proposal supporting a poverty prevention plan, implement social media strategies, and co-host a podcast. She also interned with the Masten District Office of the Buffalo Common Council, assisting with district events and responding to constituent concerns. On campus, Madison has served as Moot Court Team Captain, Political Science teaching assistant, and campus events programmer for United Students Government.

SUNY CANTON

Natalie Baxter (She/Her/Hers)

*Health & Fitness Promotion
Glens Falls, NY*

Natalie Baxter graduates with a Bachelor of Science in Health & Fitness, with a minor in Applied Psychology. During her four years at SUNY Canton, she has been highly active on campus while maintaining a strong academic record. Natalie has been accepted into the Doctorate of Physical Therapy (DPT) program at Clarkson University and will begin her studies there next fall to further her education.

SUNY CANTON

Richard Haller (He/Him/His)

*Technological Communications
DeKalb Junction, NY*

Richard Haller, from Richville, NY, is a senior at SUNY Canton pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Technological Communications with a minor in Sociology. A dedicated scholar, Richard maintains a perfect 4.0 GPA and has earned numerous academic honors, including six President's List distinctions and multiple awards for highest GPA. Beyond academics, he has served as a presidential intern for the Sustainable Communities Hub and Mohawk Names Initiative, copy-edited the LGBTQ+ edition of Grassroots literary magazine, and completed three semesters as a News intern at North Country Public Radio. Richard is passionate about equity, cultural awareness, and community engagement.

CAYUGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Carissa Quagliata (She/Her/Hers)

*Information Technology
Ovid, NY*

Carissa Quagliata, from a rural town outside Ithaca, NY, will graduate from high school this spring and has concurrently earned an Associate of Science in Information Technology. She will continue her studies at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Driven by a commitment to social equity, Carissa aims to uplift those affected by economic inequality, helping others expand their knowledge, explore their interests, and

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creatively address modern challenges.

CAYUGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Jacob Soltero (He/Him/His)

*Media Arts and Audio Production
Auburn, NY*

Jacob Soltero is in his final semester at Cayuga Community College, completing a degree in audio production before continuing his studies at SUNY Oswego. Outside the classroom, he works in the tech office in the SOMA wing and has applied his skills to support numerous college productions requiring live sound, as well as contributing his expertise to the local community. He currently serves as president of Cayuga Records and the R.A.T. Guild.

CLINTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Jillian Bowen (She/Her/Hers)

*Human Services
Plattsburgh, NY*

Jillian Bowen exemplifies personal achievement and academic excellence. She began her studies at Clinton Community College pursuing an Alcohol and Substance Abuse Certificate and has since expanded her focus to a human services major. Committed to helping others, Jillian tutors classmates, donates to local food pantries, and serves the community as a drug prevention educator through Champlain Valley Family Services. She also works with K-5 students at a local elementary school as an instructor for the "Too Good for Drugs" program.

CLINTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Heidi Breyette (She/Her/Hers)

*Nursing
Morrisonville, NY*

Heidi Breyette has taken a nontraditional academic path to become one of the top-achieving students at Clinton Community College. She began her studies by earning a Human Services Certificate and later returned to pursue the rigorous nursing program, excelling despite balancing family, work, and school responsibilities. Heidi demonstrates leadership as a member of the Nursing Club and regularly contributes to community service projects. In recognition of her academic excellence and dedication, the selection committee proudly recommends her for the Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence.

SUNY COBLESKILL

Estelle Kotlowicz (She/Her/Hers)

*Animal Science
Bronx, NY*

Estelle Kotlowicz is an animal science major with a chemistry minor, pursuing honors requirements while maintaining a 3.57 GPA. She serves as president-elect of Tri-Beta Biological Honor Society, treasurer of Sigma Alpha Professional Sorority, and vice president of the Pre-Vet Club. Estelle has organized experiential learning opportunities for her peers through these roles, participated in the "Vets in the Wild" study abroad program in South Africa working with the

Hoedspruit Animal Outreach Program, and presented research on Flemish Giant Rabbit breeding at the SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference.

SUNY COBLESKILL

Paisley Nudd (She/Her/Hers)

*Agricultural Communications and
Agriculture Business
Troupsburg, NY*

Paisley Nudd maintains a 3.99 GPA while pursuing dual degrees in agricultural communications and agricultural business. She serves as president of the Agricultural Business Club and National Agri-Marketing Association, and as a resident assistant supporting students living on campus. Paisley completed a competitive internship with Farm Credit East, served as a social media intern for the Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge, and earned the prestigious American FFA Degree in 2024. As a student assistant in Campus Communications and Marketing during the College's rebranding effort, she consistently delivered work exceeding undergraduate expectations while building connections throughout New York's agricultural industry.

COLUMBIA-GREENE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Mackenzie Campbell (She/Her/Hers)

*Humanities and Communications
Hudson, NY*

Mackenzie Campbell is a creative and dynamic Dean's List student at Columbia-Greene Community College, majoring in arts and humanities and serving as the

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student representative to the College's Board of Trustees. In this role, she advocates for the student voice and contributes to institutional governance and strategic planning efforts that shape the future of the college. Mackenzie is also an executive board member of the Student Senate and a former student senator, supporting student engagement initiatives and collaborating with campus leadership to advance student-centered decision-making.

COLUMBIA-GREENE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Marissa Smith (She/Her/Hers)

*Social Science
Germantown, NY*

Marissa Smith is a psychology-focused student leader at Columbia-Greene Community College, pursuing an Associate of Arts in Social Science with a concentration in Psychology. She currently serves as president of the Student Senate, following previous roles as vice president of Programming and student senator. As a Dean's List scholar and recipient of the Leadership on the Horizon Award, Marissa has presented undergraduate research at the SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference and plays a key role in advocating for the diverse needs of the student body to campus leadership, peers, and donors. Her interests center on mental health, research, and student advocacy.

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

Trisha Bhujle (She/Her/Hers)

*Environment and Sustainability
Lewisville, TX*

Trisha Bhujle is a senior at Cornell University conducting research at the intersection of wildlife conservation and food systems, with a focus on human-wildlife conflict and its implications for food security and rural farmer livelihoods in the United States and Tanzania. Her grant-funded research has taken her to South Africa, Tanzania, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United Arab Emirates. On campus, Trisha holds multiple leadership roles at Anabel's Grocery, Cornell's student-run nonprofit that serves more than 600 students each week. She has also held leadership positions with the CALS Committee on Diversity and Inclusion and the Cornell NatureRx Steering Committee.

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

Lauren Chuhta (She/Her/Hers)

*Global Development and
Communication
Cambridge, MA*

Lauren Chuhta is a senior in Cornell's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Global Development with Distinction in Research and a Bachelor of Science in Communication. Her work focuses on agricultural

development, food systems, and impact evaluation, with research experience in Mali, Kenya, Greece, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Dominican Republic. Lauren has contributed to mixed-methods evaluations for international nonprofits, agricultural cooperatives, and youth development programs, and served as co-president of the Global Development Student Advisory Board from 2024 to 2025. As an Obama Voyager Scholar, she is committed to ethical development practice, science communication, and community-engaged research.

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

Judit Laidlaw (She/Her/Hers)

*Nutritional Sciences
Natick, MA*

Judit Laidlaw is a senior at Cornell University studying nutritional sciences with a passion for science and service. She conducts research on infant cognition and serves as a teaching assistant for upper-level courses in nutrition and anatomy. Outside academics, Judit dedicates herself to public service as a volunteer firefighter and EMT, mentoring new first-responders, and engaging in community outreach. Judit is also a black belt in Jiu Jitsu, a rugby player, and an artist. Through her work, she strives to serve her community, inspire healthier choices, foster learning, and make a lasting impact.

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NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF HUMAN ECOLOGY AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Jiayi Guo **(She/Her/Hers)**

Design and Environmental Analysis
Jinan, China

Jiayi Guo will graduate from Cornell University with a major in design and environmental analysis and a minor in healthy futures. She is passionate about designing and conducting translational research that supports healthier relationships between people and their environments. Her research experience includes studying young children's understanding of climate change and their behavior in playground settings. Beyond academics, Jiayi has served as a career assistant at the Human Ecology Career Exploration Center, co-led Ithaca's LEED for Cities Certification project, and been an active member of Cornell University Sustainable Design and the Amber Dance Troupe.

NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF HUMAN ECOLOGY AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Laurel Whidden **(She/Her/Hers)**

Global and Public Health Sciences
Park City, Utah

Laurel Whidden is a senior at Cornell University studying global & public health sciences, minoring in fine arts, anthropology, and inequality studies. Her work sits at the intersection of medical anthropology, climate justice, and arts-based public health. Laurel is the founder of Art4NthakaYathu (Art4OurLand), a youth-led climate justice initiative in

southern Malawi. She serves as vice president of Cornell's Global Health Student Advisory Board and has collaborated on international HIV/AIDS art activism with Through Positive Eyes and the UCLA Art & Global Health Center. She is passionate about social justice and building long-term, collaborative partnerships rooted in local knowledge and lived experience.

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

Robert Farbman **(He/Him/His)**

Industrial and Labor Relations
Woodbridge, CT

Robert Farbman is a transfer student in the Industrial and Labor Relations program, having joined in his sophomore year after beginning his studies at Fordham College at Lincoln Center. In addition to his major in Industrial and labor relations, he minors in law and society. Outside the classroom, Robert is involved in the Cornell Undergraduate Law Review, the ILR Peer Mentor Program, and Key Elements A Cappella. He has further developed his interest in law by serving as a labor law research assistant and collaborating with the Southern African Institute for Policy and Research in Lusaka, Zambia, where he studied children's rights.

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

Kamala Karuppiah **(She/Her/Hers)**

Industrial and Labor Relations
East Brunswick, NJ

Kamala Karuppiah is a graduating senior in the School of Industrial and Labor Relations. She has a minor in global health and health inequity. Kamala is pursuing a senior honors thesis focused on women re-entering the workforce. In addition, she has completed several co-curricular experiences that support her academic interests including the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Waterfront Commission of New York Harbor and the Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 1180. She has also been an active member of the Industrial and Labor Relations and Cornell community through various programs and activities.

NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Francesca Buchalski **(She/Her/Hers)**

Veterinary Medicine
Allentown, NJ

Francesca Buchalski is a member of the DVM Class of 2026 and a student leader with a record of academic excellence. She ranks in the top 5% of her class and has received multiple accolades recognizing her academic achievement and community engagement. Francesca has held several leadership roles within the college and has made significant

CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR STUDENT EXCELLENCE

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contributions to the College of Veterinary Medicine's living and learning community through her involvement and service. Following graduation, she will pursue an equine internship and plans to build a career in ambulatory equine medicine.

NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Viviana Maymi
(She/Her/Hers)
Veterinary Medicine
Tampa, FL

Viviana Maymi has demonstrated exceptional leadership throughout her DVM/PhD career at Cornell. Since fall 2020, she has served as publicity chair, social chair, and president of the Cornell chapter of SACNAS (Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in the Sciences), supporting students underrepresented in science through mentorship and professional development opportunities. As a DVM/PhD candidate, she has excelled academically, maintaining a cumulative GPA of 3.87 and graduating in the top 10% of her DVM class. As a woman of color in a predominantly white profession, Viviana is committed to mentoring and supporting students from underrepresented backgrounds.

SUNY CORNING COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Ava May
(She/Her/Hers)
Environmental Science
Corning, NY

Ava May is a dual-enrollment student at SUNY Corning

Community College who began college during her sophomore year of high school and will graduate in May 2026 with an Associate of Science in Environmental Science. She has pursued a rigorous STEM-focused curriculum in chemistry, biology, and mathematics while maintaining a strong academic record. Ava is actively involved in campus leadership and service through the Chemistry Club, Phi Theta Kappa, and academic tutoring. She plans to continue her education at a four-year institution, focusing on biochemical research.

SUNY CORTLAND

Mamadou Saliou Diallo
(He/Him/His)
Biomedical Sciences
Brooklyn, NY

Saliou Diallo is a biomedical sciences major and mathematics minor whose achievements span academic excellence, military service, leadership, and DEI advocacy. With a 3.5 GPA and more than 148 credits earned, he exemplifies intellectual curiosity and academic drive. Mamadou serves as a combat medic in the New York National Guard, participates in Cornell's ROTC program, and serves as a resident assistant and building manager on campus. He co-founded the Cortland Islamic Student Association, leads and mentors through multiple DEI organizations, and is deeply committed to service, community building, and inclusive excellence. Mamadou is an exceptional scholar and emerging leader.

SUNY CORTLAND

Nadya Grossman
(She/Her/Hers)
Political Science
Rhineback, NY

Nadya Grossman founded a law & politics club on campus. As the treasurer, she managed finances while providing students with a welcoming community that offers engaging club events. To broaden her classroom knowledge, she participated in the Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowship Program which included hands-on experience with data and statistical results. She also participated in an independent study that taught her how to write and structure a policy report. In pursuit of her career goals, she interned with a criminal defense attorney, and to continue learning about criminal law, she will work with the Federal Public Defender's Office in Washington, D.C.

SUNY CORTLAND

Joshua Osae
(He/Him/His)
Exercise Science
Valley Stream, NY

Joshua Osae is a graduating senior majoring in exercise science, a four-year member of the track and field team, and the current president of SUNY Cortland's Student Athlete Advisory Committee. He brought his academic and athletic leadership to SUNY Cortland from Valley Stream, NY and will begin a graduate physical therapy program after his May 2026 graduation.

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SUNY CORTLAND

Jared Simmons
(He/Him/His)

Biomedical Sciences
Skaneateles, NY

Jared Simmons, from Skaneateles, NY and graduated summa cum laude from SUNY Onondaga Community College with Associate of Science. He is currently a senior biomedical sciences major at SUNY Cortland (3.97 GPA). Jared earned the Outstanding Academic Achievement in Biological Sciences Award and has made the Dean's or President's List every semester. He earned recognition in an honor society (Phi Theta Kappa), served as a supplemental instruction leader, and participated in a Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program. Jared presented at two scientific symposiums. Outside the classroom, he manages livestock on his family farm, preparing for a career in veterinary medicine.

SUNY DELHI

Lauren Betsinger
(She/Her/Hers)

Event Management
Cobleskill, NY

Lauren Betsinger is graduating with honors from SUNY Delhi with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Event Management and an exceptional 3.98 GPA. As a dedicated and compassionate student leader, Lauren has served as a resident assistant and senior resident assistant, mentoring peers, supporting residential communities, and creating inclusive, engaging programs for students. She has also made an impact as

a peer tutor, helping fellow students develop academic and presentation skills. During her time at Delhi, Lauren has volunteered extensively through campus events, hospitality initiatives, and the Christian student club, BASIC. She is widely respected for her work ethic, leadership, and genuine commitment to helping others succeed.

SUNY DELHI

Emily Festenstein
(She/Her/Hers)

Criminal Justice
Rochester, NY

Emily Festenstein is graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice from SUNY Delhi, where they have distinguished themselves through academic excellence and inclusive campus leadership. Maintaining a 3.84 GPA, Emily balances rigorous coursework with meaningful service as a freshman orientation leader and campus tour guide. As president of the campus Pride Alliance, they are a passionate advocate for LGBTQIA+ inclusion and played a central role in establishing the annual Lavender Graduation Celebration, creating a lasting tradition that honors student achievement, identity, and belonging. Emily's leadership has had a measurable and enduring impact on campus culture, student recognition, and equity.

SUNY DOWNSTATE HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

Tobi Somorin
(He/Him/His)

Medicine and Public Health
Middletown, NY

Tobi Somorin has been driven by a passion to serve others

throughout his academic journey. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry from Stony Brook before pursuing an MD/MPH degree. After his third year, he completed research fellowships at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and SUNY Downstate, producing 12+ authored papers and over 70 presentations spanning reconstructive plastic surgery, health policy, and healthcare disparities. He championed legislation advocating for mandatory wellness days for 250,000 students. Honored with both Gold Humanism and AOA recognition, Tobi is pursuing a career in reconstructive plastic surgery with dedicated interests in health equity and global health.

SUNY DOWNSTATE HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

Isaac Vingan
(He/Him/His)

Medicine/Neural and Behavioral Sciences
Dix Hills, NY

Isaac Vingan is a ninth-year MD/PhD student at SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University and a graduate of SUNY Binghamton, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Integrative Neuroscience and served as captain of the varsity swim team. During his time at SUNY Downstate, he has distinguished himself through exceptional leadership, serving as president of the University Council, the Student Center Governing Board, and the MD/PhD Student Council. In these roles, he has enhanced the academic environment, led impactful campus-wide initiatives, and championed student advocacy during

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a critical period for the institution. He recently defended his PhD, which focused on hippocampal gene expression in memory recall, and will pursue residency training in neurology with an emphasis on clinical research.

DUTCHESS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Sara Boccassini (She/Her/Hers)

*Business Administration
Osio Sotto, Italy*

Sara Boccassini is a 22-year-old Italian international student majoring in business administration at Dutchess Community College. She works at the Center for Academic Achievement, tutoring her peers in Italian and Spanish. Sara maintains a 3.99 GPA and is actively involved on campus as vice president of Alpha Beta Gamma and treasurer of Phi Theta Kappa. She enjoys traveling, learning new languages, and connecting with people from diverse backgrounds. Passionate about dialect and business, Sara is considering a future career in this field.

DUTCHESS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Aimee Hina (She/Her/Hers)

*Computer Information Systems
Poughkeepsie, NY*

Aimee Hina is a computer information systems major at Dutchess Community College with a 3.72 GPA. She balances rigorous academics while working two jobs, including roles in the CSTEP department and as a direct support professional. Aimee serves as president of the Student Government

Association, previously serving as treasurer, and actively advocates for student needs alongside college leadership. She is involved in Phi Theta Kappa, serves as a CSTEP peer mentor, and sits on the Perkins Advisory Board. Honored with the Vanguard Award, Aimee is passionate about leadership, service, and using technology to create meaningful change.

DUTCHESS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Jennaliyah Waddell (She/Her/Hers)

*Liberal Arts and Science
Peekskill, NY*

Jennaliyah Waddell is a student at Dutchess Community College pursuing an associate degree in science. She graduated from Franklin D. Roosevelt High School in the top 10% of her class and has maintained a 3.5 GPA while at Dutchess Community College. During her time at the college, she has participated in several paid research opportunities, voted on grant applications with the YBCC, assisted students with financial aid applications and policies, served as an acting member of the student government executive board, and a mentor for incoming students in CSTEP. In and out of the classroom, she is creative, dedicated, and hardworking.

EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY

Lenti Aier (She/Her/Hers)

*Applied Behavior Analysis
Redhook, NY*

Lenti Aier is best described as a philanthropist and a woman of substance, as well as an embodiment of social welfare

and transformative impact in society. She is a distinguished leader who believes strongly in individual responsibility as a catalyst for meaningful social change, a conviction that led her to found the Act of Kindness Society (AOK). Throughout her career, Lenti has demonstrated a deep commitment to education, mental health, and community service. Her diverse professional roles include educator, school counselor, mental health advocate, special needs educator, postgraduate psychology teacher, BCBA candidate, and founder and president of the Act of Kindness Society.

EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY

Muhammad Amirul Islam Fahim (He/Him/His)

*Applied Behavior Analysis
Poughkeepsie, NY*

Muhammad Amirul Islam Fahim is a dedicated graduate student working towards a master's in applied behavior analysis. He also works as a registered behavior technician with extensive experience assisting individuals with autism and special needs. He is dedicated to promoting compassionate, evidence-based approaches. Muhammad's interests lie in functional assessment, behavior intervention, and enhancing clients' quality of life through skill development. He is committed to culturally responsive care and ethical service. Muhammad aims to empower individuals and families via collaboration, respect, and meaningful behavioral change. He aspires to advance his impact as a future board-certified behavior analyst.

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EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY

Jessica Nivens
(She/Her/Hers)

Addiction Studies
Schenectady, NY

Jessica Nivens is a passionate leader, community advocate, and student in SUNY Empire State University's Addiction Studies program. As the prevention director at New Choices Recovery Center, she leads innovative, trauma-informed programming that supports youth, families, and underserved communities across Schenectady. Drawing from lived experience and a commitment to equity, she creates accessible pathways to wellness, empowerment, and education. Jessica is also the founder of Strive18 LLC, where she uplifts individuals through financial literacy and mindset coaching. She is dedicated to transforming systems, amplifying marginalized voices, and building a future where every person has the tools to thrive.

EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY

Christol Wright
(She/Her/Hers)

Social and Public Policy
Rochester, NY

Christol Wright graduated in 2025 from Empire State University College with a master's degree in social and public policy. She is committed to public service and social welfare, focusing on policy-driven solutions that promote equity and access. Christol brings extensive experience in human services and civic engagement, including national service through Empire Corps, AmeriCorps National, and AmeriCorps

VISTA. She also represented the student body within her academic program, contributing to campus dialogue and advocacy. She aspires to continue serving in government and public-sector roles addressing critical social issues.

SUNY COLLEGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES & FORESTRY

Gabrielle Augustin-Orcel
(She/Her/Hers)

Environmental Studies
Brooklyn, NY

Gabrielle Augustin-Orcel is a senior, LSAMP scholar at SUNY College of Environmental Sciences & Forestry majoring in environmental studies concentrating in policy, planning, and law and a minor in environmental writing and rhetoric. She is an active presence on campus as a MOSA representative and a member of several student organizations, including SEEC, ESSO, and BSU. Gabrielle brings a dynamic range of professional experience, including an externship with PricewaterhouseCoopers and roles as a social media manager and research intern supervisor for From Soil to Boil, a nonprofit dedicated to supporting local agriculture in Saint Lucia. She plans to pursue a master's degree in sustainability and environmental justice and make an impact through research and advocacy.

SUNY COLLEGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES & FORESTRY

Raymond Bailey
(He/Him/His)

Conservation Biology
Coram, NY

Raymond Bailey is an outstanding student in the conservation biology major and an honors student. He is fascinated by multiple areas of biology but has a passion for crayfish and aquatic systems. Raymond's research project uses genetics and microscopy to investigate an unusual group of crayfish symbionts, and their occurrence as connected to environmental factors. He is a strong leader and actively involved in campus activities. His coordination of a fisheries conference at ESF will be a memorable highlight of his vision, energy, and collaborative nature for years to come. He is exemplary of student excellence.

SUNY ERIE

Duane Loyd
(He/Him/His)

General Studies
Buffalo, NY

Duane Loyd, Jr. has worked hard to integrate academics, leadership, and service during his time at SUNY Erie. As an Army veteran and professional in the medical field, he brings discipline, perspective, and real-world experience that positively affects the campus community.

CHANCELLOR'S AWARD

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SUNY ERIE

Emery Mauro **(She/Her/Hers)**

*Natural Science
Hamburg, NY*

During her two years at SUNY Erie, Emery Mauro has maintained a 4.0 GPA while working full-time and running a small business as a sole proprietor. Off campus, Emery volunteers weekends to tutor organic chemistry and biology (unaffiliated with ECC's tutoring department). On campus, Emery is a member of the Pre-PA Club, and part of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

SUNY ERIE

Ilmira Pazailova **(She/Her/Hers)**

*Business Administration
Ukraine*

Ilmira Pazailova is an international student from Ukraine pursuing a degree in business administration at SUNY Erie. Deeply committed to justice and to supporting underserved communities, she has actively sought opportunities both in the Buffalo area and in her home country to make a meaningful impact on the lives of marginalized individuals.

SUNY ERIE

Christopher Weber **(He/Him/His)**

*Natural Studies
Buffalo, NY*

Christopher Weber is a student who earned his Bachelor of Arts from SUNY Geneseo and later returned to college to pursue a career change as a physician assistant. He is the founder of the SUNY Erie Pre-PA Society, a volunteer with several

cancer-focused philanthropic organizations, and has contributed his time to service work at an orphanage in Indonesia.

FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE

Jannet Baires **(She/Her/Hers)**

*Criminal Justice: Law Enforcement Technology
Copiague, NY*

Jannet Baires is a graduating senior in the criminal justice: law enforcement technology program, with a minor in sociology, maintaining an impressive 3.83 GPA. She has distinguished herself through innovative research, leadership in data analysis projects, and active engagement within the campus community. As a first-generation college student, Jannet is driven to leverage her skills and knowledge to advance justice and make a meaningful impact through social research.

FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE

Bryan Cox **(He/Him/His)**

*Architectural Engineering Technology
Levittown, NY*

Bryan Cox is a first-generation college student at Farmingdale State College, where he is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Architectural Engineering Technology and Construction Management, with a minor in Economics, expected in May 2026. The son of immigrants from Peru, Bryan was raised in the New York metropolitan area and graduated from Holy Cross High School. A dedicated

scholar, he has earned Dean's List recognition while actively contributing to his campus community as a TRIO peer mentor and lead peer advisor, teaching assistant, and peer tutor. He further distinguished himself as a first-place team leader in the ASC Region 1 Design-Build Competition.

FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE

Raymond Howard **(He/Him/His)**

*Aviation Administration
Clayton, NY*

Raymond Howard is an aviation administration major at Farmingdale State College and has been a dedicated student-athlete since 2022, competing as a four-year member of the college's golf team. Known for his dedication, discipline, and leadership, he consistently excels both on the course and in the classroom. Raymond serves as a role model for his teammates, demonstrating sportsmanship, teamwork, and a strong work ethic. His commitment to balancing academics and athletics highlights his perseverance and character, making him a respected and inspiring member of the Farmingdale State College community.

FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE

Natasha Jones **(She/Her/Hers)**

*Business Analytics
Mastic Beach, NY*

Natasha Jones is a business analytics major with a minor in cyber security. She has demonstrated unwavering dedication to her education despite facing numerous

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personal challenges. Frequent family relocations created significant instability, requiring her to continually adapt to new communities, peer groups, and academic expectations. She also overcame temporary mobility challenges resulting from two separate accidents. Following high school, Natasha intentionally used a gap year to heal and prepare for college. During that time, she researched available resources at Farmingdale State College. Through this process, she discovered and joined the TRIO program, further reinforcing her commitment to academic success.

FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE

Joseph Rodriguez (He/Him/His)

*Professional Communications
Ronkonkoma, NY*

Joseph Rodriguez is a creative and dedicated student who has made a significant impact on the Professional Communications Department. In addition to excelling academically, he has pursued his own research projects and regularly supports classmates by sharing his photography expertise, including assisting with professional headshots. A United States Army Veteran, Joseph brings real-world experience, leadership, and discipline to the classroom, enriching discussions and collaborative work. His dedication, initiative, and practical knowledge position him to continue making meaningful contributions during his graduate studies and beyond.

FASHION INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Cecilia Garcia Pizales (She/Her/Hers)

*Advertising and Digital Design
Buenos Aires, Argentina*

An international student from Argentina and Presidential Scholar, Cecilia Garcia Pizales is pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Advertising and Digital Design, with minors in Art History, Multisensory Branding, and Digital Typography. Driven by a passion for emerging technologies in design, she serves as a master tutor in Digital Product Design, secretary of communications for the Advertising and Digital Design Club, and a tech aide at FIT's Center for Excellence in Teaching (CET). Cecilia is the inaugural winner of the 2025 Age of AI Hackathon; her project was featured in FIT's 2025 Gift of Making exhibition, and she has received multiple honors from The One Show's Young Ones competition.

FASHION INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Erin Jun (She/Her/Hers)

*Entrepreneurship for the Fashion
and Design Industries
Charlotte, NC*

Erin Jun is majoring in entrepreneurship for the fashion and design industries, holds an associate degree in fashion business management, and is pursuing double minors in economics and psychology. She serves as the co-director of the Community Outreach committee in Baker Scholars, senior resident assistant in Residential Life, and has been

on the Dean's List since the beginning of her academic journey at FIT. Creatively, Erin is a designer and entrepreneur, having a jewelry business. She works in the Baker School's Dean's Office while balancing industry internships. As a scholar and leader, Erin is a driven individual, committed to exploring her passions.

FASHION INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Jia Mei Lin (She/Her/Hers)

*Direct and Interactive Marketing
Brooklyn, NY*

Jia Mei Lin is a direct and interactive marketing student whose academic excellence and leadership have created measurable impact across FIT and the SUNY community. As president of NRFSA, she builds industry pipelines for students by partnering with various companies while overseeing organizational strategy and finance. Her research and consumer-insight work spans Borghese, Wavytalk, and SUNY OER Services, where she helped develop a data API now integrated into SUNY curriculum. Jia Mei strengthens campus engagement through student government and commuter advocacy. She has represented FIT in initiatives with H-FARM, UN Fashion Lifestyle Network, the RutgersxFIT Invitational on tariffs and more.

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FASHION INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Jasmine Llivicura-Molina **(She/Her/Hers)**

*Fashion Business Management
Long Island, NY*

Jasmine Llivicura-Molina is a first-generation college student majoring in fashion business management. She is a Social Justice Center Scholar, Presidential Honors Scholar, and Baker Scholar, and has earned a place on the Dean's List every semester since beginning at FIT. Jasmine has gained first-hand industry experience at Macy's, Rick Owens, Bleu Magazine, and Fashion Lab Agency, where she enjoys merging analytics and creativity. She was awarded the Jerome L. Greene Scholarship to study abroad at Polimoda in Florence, Italy. She uses fashion as a space to advance equity, storytelling, and representation.

FASHION INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Amayah Meas **(She/Her/Hers)**

*Textile and Surface Design
Columbus, OH*

Amayah Meas, a Presidential Scholar, is pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in textile/surface design. She previously earned an Associate in Applied Science in Fashion Business Management, graduating summa cum laude with three minors. Alongside her full-time studies, she has served as a peer mentor, volunteered with FABSCRAP, and competed as a student-athlete, earning the Scholar-Athlete Award for Cross

Country in 2023. Amayah has completed five internships, and her designs have been featured at The Museum at FIT, the FIT Institutional Repository, and the United Nations Headquarters. She also runs a small business where she screen prints original designs and upcycles textile waste into new products, participating as a student vendor at sustainability markets.

FINGER LAKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Teaghan Aroneseno **(He/Him/His)**

*Kinesiology and Human Performance
Hemlock, NY*

Teaghan Aroneseno is a driven and curious individual with a passion for learning and developing new skills. At the age of 24, he has explored a wide range of interests, from performing the lead role in a Shakespeare production to building custom framed homes. He approaches every challenge with dedication and consistently gives his best in all that he undertakes. Along the way, he has built meaningful personal and professional relationships, and as a leader, he fosters an inclusive environment that creates space for others and warmly welcomes all who become part of his work.

FINGER LAKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Isabella Hickman **(She/Her/Hers)**

*Liberal Arts and Sciences:
General Studies
Hopkinton, NY*

Isabella Hickman is a student at Finger Lakes Community College studying liberal arts and sciences, with the goal of becoming a forensic psychologist. She is the ninth of twelve children and lives in Colton, NY, where her family relocated after experiencing a house fire last year. In her spare time, Isabella enjoys playing the violin, which she has studied since the age of 13 through the Crane School of Music in Potsdam, NY. Isabella hopes to continue developing her musicianship.

SUNY FREDONIA

Sivan Adler **(She/Her/Hers)**

*Acting and Ethic and Gender Studies
Albany, NY*

Sivan Adler is double majoring in acting and ethnic and gender studies, with a minor in English. During her time at SUNY Fredonia, she has embraced opportunities that shaped her as a mentor, teaching assistant, and student leader. She edited and published her grandmother's Holocaust memoir, celebrated with a campus book launch. Sivan has also served on multiple Executive Boards across three student organizations and has performed in ten SUNY Fredonia productions. She is honored to be recognized for her contributions to the community and proud to

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represent SUNY and SUNY Fredonia.

SUNY FREDONIA

Alexander Scalcione (He/Him/His)

*Computer Science, Software Design
Endicott, NY*

Alexander Scalcione is a computer science major with a concentration in software development and minors in data science, statistics, and web programming. At SUNY Fredonia, he contributes as a tutor, tour guide, orientation leader, and lab proctor. He has worked as a cybersecurity technician in the Information Security Office, interned with the Office of Online Learning, and was selected as a top computer science student for a software development externship at Paychex. Alexander now interns at Avangrid, conducting advanced analytics in the utilities sector, and plans to pursue a master's degree in data science.

FULTON-MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Shianne Hopkins (She/Her/Hers)

*Human Services
Gloversville, NY*

Shianne Hopkins is a mother of three young children, and a native of Oklahoma. Shianne has resided in New York since September 2019 where she remained a Fulton County resident. Shianne is an Advocate for mental health and social needs throughout Fulton County, where she plans to remain long-term. Shianne is a local singer and Realtor, as well as a CASAC-T and certified breastfeeding counselor. Shianne serves as

the program manager for the Domestic Violence Program at The Family Counseling Center. After graduating from Fulton-Montgomery Community College, she plans to continue her education in social work to further expand her impact in the field.

FULTON-MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

James Phillips (He/Him/His)

*Human Services
Gloversville, NY*

James Phillips is a full-time adult learner at Fulton-Montgomery Community College who balances academic excellence, leadership and advocacy. He has spearheaded campus initiatives that build inclusive support for students in recovery and works as a professional peer at The Recovery Center. James has organized community-wide events and developed policy-changing proposals for Collegiate Recovery Programs, reflecting his commitment to equity, resilience, and systemic change. His goal is to expand recovery programs nationally.

GENESEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Hina Nakatani (She/Her/Hers)

*Theatre Arts
Hyogo, Japan*

Hina Nakatani embodies SUNY's qualities through academic excellence, leadership, service, and creativity. She earned a 4.0 GPA while completing two majors, theater arts and general studies, two micro-credentials, and

membership in the PTK Honor Society. Committed to growth, she proactively sought additional support to strengthen her English skills. Hina shows leadership as a resident assistant, GCC Dance Team member, and two-year ISO club officer, managing meetings, social media, and outreach. She volunteered with admissions as a translator during a recruiting event in Japan. Her contributions also include work in the SSC, providing peer support, participating in performances and dance, and designing promotional materials for ISO.

GENESEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Wyatt Parker (He/Him/His)

*Individualized Studies
Basom, NY*

Wyatt Parker, a Native American student of Mohawk (Akwesasne) and Tonawanda Seneca lineage, has overcome personal and systemic barriers to excel at SUNY Genesee Community College. He will graduate with a degree in individual studies focused on math and science, a micro-credential in engineering blueprint reading, and professional certificates in Industrial Electronics and Industrial Control Systems. As president of the Native American Student Group and a work-study leader in Admissions, he earned the 2025 Student Employee of the Year Award and mentors underserved students through EOP and AEOC, exemplifying resilience, inclusive leadership, and service across campus and surrounding communities.

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SUNY GENESEO

Grace Hubbel
(She/Her/Hers)

*Philosophy and Sociomedical Sciences
Rochester, NY*

Grace Hubbel is a graduating senior at SUNY Geneseo, originally from Rochester, NY. She is double majoring in philosophy and sociomedical sciences, with a minor in human development. She is deeply engaged in the intellectual opportunities fostered by a liberal arts education, drawing connections across disciplines in ways that inform her leadership, service, and independent research. At SUNY Geneseo, Grace has demonstrated strong leadership through initiatives focused on accessibility, inclusion, and civic engagement. Her work reflects a sustained commitment to public service, academic excellence, and the core values of a liberal arts education.

SUNY GENESEO

Griffin Lyons
(She/Her/Hers)

*Sociology and English Literature
Buffalo, NY*

Griffin Lyons is a double major in sociology and English literature at SUNY Geneseo, maintaining a 4.00 GPA. As an Honors Edgar fellow, Griffin conducts research on Afrocentric approaches to United States and Irish foreign aid. She has completed fieldwork in Dakar, Senegal, and presented her work at both the National Council for Black Studies and the National Conference on Undergraduate Research.

Her academic achievements have been recognized with several prestigious honors, including a \$5,000 Student Ambassadorship in Leadership grant. A member of Phi Beta Kappa, Griffin is also an active campus leader, serving as a Presidential Scholar and as the DEI Committee Chair of the Student Senate. She plans to pursue a career in research and academia.

HERKIMER COLLEGE

Jeremy Bell
(He/Him/His)

*Science
Northville, NY*

Jeremy Bell is a nontraditional, first-generation student balancing a full-time course load, extensive campus involvement, and family responsibilities. His daily commitment to education demonstrated what is possible for students returning to school later in life. Jeremy was a member and leader of Phi Theta Kappa, Outdoor Adventure/Green Club and Student Government, and completed the College Honors Program. He also served as a student ambassador. With numerous academic honors, he modeled that it is never too late to pursue a degree and is a powerful example of perseverance and success.

HERKIMER COLLEGE

Olivia Stromecki
(She/Her/Hers)

*Psychology
Chaffee, NY*

Olivia Stromecky is a first-generation student with a strong passion for leadership.

She served as Student Government secretary and later as Student Government president and student trustee, while also representing the college as a student ambassador and leading as captain of the women's bowling team, where she earned All-Region team honors. She is also an active member of Active Minds.

HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Frank DePalma III
(He/Him/His)

*Business Administration
Troy, NY*

Frank DePalma exemplifies excellence and perseverance through his academic achievement and campus involvement. As a business administration major, he has maintained a perfect 4.00 GPA while actively contributing to the campus community. Frank participates in multiple student clubs and serves as vice president of two them. He is also a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. In addition, he is also an EOP peer mentor and recipient of the EOP Career Development Scholarship. Overcoming significant personal challenges, Frank remains a role model to his peers and an invaluable presence on campus.

HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Molly Graiff
(She/Her/Hers)

*Early Childhood and Childhood Education Studies
Troy, NY*

Molly Graiff is an honors college student pursuing a

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degree in early childhood and childhood education at Hudson Valley Community College. She maintains a 4.0 GPA while actively engaging in campus leadership and service. Molly serves as a staff contributor for The Hudsonian newspaper, president of the Human Services Club, and co-president of the Phi Theta Kappa chapter. She also dedicates about ten hours each week to the Empire State Service Corps through the Basic Needs Corps and the K-12 Tutoring Corps. Molly consistently demonstrates exceptional organizational skills, initiative, and professionalism that far exceed typical expectations for a student intern.

HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Kercel Montes (He/Him/His)

*Humanities and Social Sciences
Albany, NY*

Kercel Montes exemplifies outstanding student leadership and service through meaningful involvement across campus and the community. Appointed to the HVCC Board of Trustees in 2025, he also serves as vice president of the Student Senate and vice president of the Black and Latino Student Union, demonstrating a deep commitment to inclusion and advocacy. Kercel consistently elevates student voices at SUNY Student Assembly meetings, Academic Senate, and during NYS Advocacy Day. Beyond campus, his work with Youth FX reflects a dedication to youth empowerment and community engagement.

Through sustained service and impactful leadership, Kercel has made a lasting contribution as a student leader.

HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Noah Renzi (He/Him/His)

*Mathematics and Science
Clifton Park, NY*

Noah Renzi approaches his academics with focus, dedication, and a clear commitment to education, driven by his goal of becoming a mathematics educator. Aspiring to teach at the high school or college level, he excels in challenging coursework and complex problem-solving. Noah actively supports his peers by organizing study groups and creatively breaking down difficult concepts, making him a trusted academic resource. He has completed rigorous honors coursework, including honors composition, public speaking, and cultural diversity in American society. His academic excellence is recognized through membership in Phi Theta Kappa, the National Collegiate Honors Council, and the Northeast Regional Honors Council.

JAMESTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Alexandria Goodyear (She/Her/Hers)

*Nursing
Hinsdale, NY*

Alexandria Goodyear is a second-year nursing student at Jamestown Community College, graduating in May 2026. Her passion for service, care, and traveling has taken

her from volunteering in Guatemala to supporting patients at the RAM clinic. As president of the Alpha Psi Omega PTK chapter and a dedicated peer tutor, she is committed to helping her classmates grow and succeed while giving back to her community. After earning her Bachelor of Science in Nursing through WGU, Alex plans to pursue her goal of becoming a certified registered nurse anesthetist.

JAMESTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Mufaro Malungisa (He/Him/His)

*Computer Science
Pretoria, South Africa*

Mufaro Malungisa is a December 2025 computer science graduate from Zimbabwe with a 3.76 GPA and a strong record of leadership, academic excellence, and service. He has held multiple leadership roles, including student trustee, resident assistant, student senator, vice president of the International Club, and basketball manager, amplifying student voices at the institutional level and promoting inclusive and supportive campus communities. As a Dean's List student and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society member, Mufaro has also completed internships in artificial intelligence and information technology. He is committed to using technology and leadership to create lasting impact as he continues his studies and enters the workforce.

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SUNY JEFFERSON

Tony Jin **(He/Him/His)**

*Mathematics/Natural Sciences and Physical Science
Adams, NY*

Tony Jin is an outstanding sophomore pursuing a double associate's major in mathematics and natural sciences/physical science-chemistry. Despite the responsibility of helping his parents run their family restaurant, he consistently demonstrates dedication, reliability, and academic excellence. Beyond coursework, Tony has worked in the JCC lab science area and is a math and chemistry peer tutor. He has participated in chemistry lab demonstrations during EDGE visits and National Chemistry Week. Tony also conducts experiments in the Chemistry Honors Research Program at Clarkson University. With a strong commitment to helping others learn, Tony plans to continue education in chemistry.

SUNY JEFFERSON

Ben Ramer **(He/Him/His)**

*Sports Management
Watertown, NY*

Ben Ramer is a sports management graduate from Jefferson Community College with a 4.0 GPA and a strong record of leadership, service, and civic engagement. He served as president of Phi Theta Kappa and the Business Club, and as vice president of the Student Government Association, where he represented student voices at both the campus and SUNY levels. Ben is a

Phi Theta Kappa Coca-Cola Scholarship recipient, a President's List honoree each semester, and an Outstanding First-Year Student Award recipient. Through community service, civic engagement, and entrepreneurship, Ben exemplifies academic excellence and student leadership at Jefferson Community College.

MARITIME COLLEGE

Emily Celentani **(She/Her/Hers)**

*Maine Environmental Science
Bayside, NY*

Emily Celentani was born and raised in Bayside, NY. She entered Maritime College in August 2021, completed Indoctrination, and joined the Regiment of Cadets while pursuing her Bachelor of Science in Marine Environmental Science and a Third Mate Unlimited Tonnage U.S. Coast Guard License. She became an active member of the Student Government Association and served in several leadership positions, including treasurer. Emily championed the development of large-scale programs focused on giving back to the community and played a key role in ensuring the campus established a permanent memorial to honor the September 11, 2001, Great Boat Lift.

MARITIME COLLEGE

Finnian Mahan **(He/Him/His)**

*Marine Operations
Rochester, NY*

Finnian "Finn" Mahan was born and raised in Rochester, NY. Entering Maritime College in August 2022, he completed

Indoctrination and joined the Regiment of Cadets while he pursued his Bachelor of Science in Marine Operations and a Third Mate Unlimited Tonnage U.S. Coast Guard License. He has served in various leadership positions in both the Regiment of Cadets and on campus and is a Midshipman in the Strategic Sealift Midshipmen Program. Finn, a consummate professional mariner, both underway and ashore, is a character-based leader whose leadership has ensured a legacy of leadership for his fellow students.

MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Eaindra Aung **(She/Her/Hers)**

*Liberal Arts and Science:
Mathematics and Science
North Dagon, Yangon*

Eaindra (Jen) Aung is a dedicated international student majoring in general science at Mohawk Valley Community College. Born and raised in Burma, she is a passionate advocate for international students and serves as president of the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society's Lambda Beta Chapter. Maintaining a 3.96 GPA, she has earned placement on the President's List every semester. Actively engaged in volunteering and community, she is a recipient of MVCC's PA scholarship and multiple scholarships for academic excellence. Jen plans to transfer to Binghamton University to pursue a career in neurosurgery.

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MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Rachael Sadlowski (She/Her/Hers)

Video Production
Ava, NY

Rachael Sadlowski is the president of the MVCC Film Club and a dual major in video production and digital media marketing, maintaining a high GPA while balancing multiple responsibilities. She gains hands-on experience as a technical media producer and a graphic designer at WKTV News Channel 2 and serves as a resident assistant at Mohawk Valley Community College, supporting and mentoring fellow students. Known for leadership, creativity, and dedication, she actively contributes to her community and campus while pursuing professional growth. Committed to excellence both academically and personally, Rachael strives to make a meaningful impact in her field and beyond.

MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Jalisia Burno (She/Her/Hers)

Liberal Arts
Rochester, NY

Jalisia Burno is a liberal arts major with a 3.70 grade point average. She serves as president of the Student Government Association, where her leadership and active involvement have been instrumental in developing and advancing new initiatives that promote student success. She is a servant leader who consistently empowers her constituents to take an active role in community service and civic engagement. Through

her inclusive leadership style, she encourages collaboration, fosters a strong sense of responsibility, and inspires others to contribute meaningfully to the community. Her efforts have strengthened student involvement and reinforced the value of service.

MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Cricket DeRue (He/Him/His)

Commercial Art & Illustration
Orchard Park, NY

Cricket DeRue is an emerging illustrator and Monroe Community College student with a 4.0 GPA whose work has been widely published and recognized. His art has appeared in multiple publications and has earned awards at on-campus art shows. His portfolio has been accepted into SUNY Oswego's BFA Illustration program, and he actively contributes to his community through tutoring, creative work, and advocacy within the neurodivergent community. Cricket is also a student leader on campus serving as the vice president of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Project.

MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Abigail Pottinger (She/Her/Hers)

Mechanical Engineering
Brooklyn, NY

Abigail "Abby" Pottinger is an exceptional mechanical engineering student whose academic achievement, leadership, and service embody SUNY excellence. She balances rigorous STEM

coursework with significant leadership roles as a senior resident assistant, student government senator, MCC Association Board & Finance Committee member, and former president of the Society of Women Engineers. As a student-athlete and active participant in Women of Excellence and the Black Student Union, Abby also leads major service initiatives and community outreach programs. She is an outstanding representative of Monroe Community College's mission and a deeply deserving nominee for the 2026 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence.

MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Margherita Rizzuti (She/Her/Hers)

Criminal Justice
Rome, Italy

Margherita Rizzuti is an international student at Monroe Community College majoring in criminal justice and international relations. She serves as vice president of the Student Government Association, where she supports student advocacy, campus initiatives, and effective communication between students and college leadership. In addition, Margherita is actively involved with First-Year Experience (FYE) and Student Life, contributing to campus programming, supporting student engagement, and helping new students successfully transition into college. She is passionate about leadership, public service, and international cooperation, and is

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committed to creating a more connected and supportive campus community.

MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Parker Werven (He/Him/His)

*Business Administration
Rochester, NY*

Parker Werven is an honors student, a proud member of Phi Theta Kappa, and Monroe Community College's Student trustee, the highest position a student can hold at the institution. Committed to academic excellence, Parker consistently pursues a rigorous course load each semester, intentionally strengthening his critical thinking, leadership, and analytical skills. Parker is a business major who is deeply committed to giving back to his community upon graduating with his MBA. He brings a strong sense of responsibility and purpose to his academic and leadership pursuits, consistently seeking opportunities to apply his skills in ways that make a meaningful impact on campus.

SUNY MORRISVILLE

Harper Callard (She/Her/Hers)

*Aquaculture & Aquatic Science
New Hartford, NY*

Harper Callard is an aquaculture and aquatic science student. During her time at SUNY Morrisville, she was a resident assistant and secretary of Conservation Tri-society. She was in the inaugural class of the Empire State Service Corps as part of the sustainability cohort, working to raise awareness

for sustainability and the natural environment. She was recognized with an award for advancing recycling initiatives and promoting access to reusable menstrual products for students at SUNY Morrisville.

SUNY MORRISVILLE

Ethan Unthank (He/Him/His)

*Automotive Technology
NY, NY*

Ethan Unthank was born and raised in Alphabet City, Manhattan. From an early age, his parents recognized his dyslexia and made sure he received the education and support needed to navigate academia successfully. Their encouragement helped him build resilience, confidence, and determination. He attended SUNY Morrisville, where he completed the Ford ASSET Program and earned a Bachelor of Technology in Automotive Technology. During his time there, he supported the Auto Club across multiple presidencies, founded the Welding Club, and participated in BASIC. Encouraged by supportive faculty and peers, he remained actively engaged on campus while continuing to grow both academically and personally.

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Kevin Courtois (He/Him/His)

*Business Administration
Hollis, NY*

Kevin Courtois is a student-athlete at Nassau Community College whose achievements reflect his outstanding intellect, campus involvement

and leadership. Described by a faculty member as a true "servant leader" and known for his ability to encourage community among his peers, he has promoted inclusion and equity as president of Haraya and the Access Club, campus organizations whose goals are to celebrate and advocate for students of color and those with disabilities, respectively. Kevin is also a member of Nassau Community College's soccer team, and his ability to balance the demands of his campus involvement, service, and academics is nothing short of impressive.

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Sydney Goodwin (She/Her/Hers)

*Liberal Arts
Wantagh, NY*

Sydney Goodwin is an accomplished honors student at Nassau Community College who has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement, leadership, and commitment to service. She was elected as a senator for the Student Government Association in fall 2024 and went on to serve as the public relations chairperson beginning in fall 2025. In addition, Sydney is captain of two Nassau Community College Esports teams and dedicated to the arts as a member of both Nassau Community College's Chamber Ensemble and Orchestra. She also volunteers at Nassau Community College's food bank, the NEST. Through her academic excellence, leadership and service, Sydney exemplifies the values of SUNY and Nassau Community College.

CHANCELLOR'S AWARD

FOR

STUDENT EXCELLENCE

AWARDEES

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Anaya Isaacs
(She/Her/Hers)
Communication Art
North Baldwin, NY

Anaya Isaacs is a Dean's List communication arts student who exemplifies academic excellence, leadership and campus/civic engagement. She is the recipient of numerous awards and scholarships in recognition of her academic achievements and has contributed to the community through campus activities, internships and volunteer work. As the creator and host of Through Urban Echo on 90.3 WHPC campus radio, Anaya created a consistent media platform that centers Black and Brown culture and produced an award-winning political podcast. Anaya also completed internships at the office of Congresswoman Laura Gillen (NY-04) and the Nassau County Department of Health.

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Luna Salinas
(She/Her/Hers)
Mathematics and Science
Hempstead, NY

Luna Salinas is an outstanding student at Nassau Community College who has been a model to her peers through her academic achievements, as well as her leadership and campus/civic engagement. A first-generation student, she is dedicated to academic excellence and the application of her scholarship beyond the classroom, and she plans to pursue a career in medicine. Described by one of her professors as a "gem

of a student" and a "gem of a person," Luna's roles include vice president of Nassau Community College's Student Government Association, fire medic/EMT, bilingual volunteer math tutor, and biochemistry researcher. Luna exemplifies a strong commitment to service.

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Maya Suzuki
(She/Her/Hers)
Liberal Arts
Hicksville, NY

Maya Suzuki is an exceptional student at Nassau Community College, distinguished by her outstanding academic and leadership achievements. As Student Government Association president, the highest-ranking student leadership role at the college, she has demonstrated remarkable dedication to campus advocacy. She is also the first Nassau Community College student selected for the 2025 U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship, and the only SUNY student chosen for the Hindi cohort, as well as the first community college student selected for the Japan U.S. Friendship Commission Summer Institute. Maya is a nationally recognized student leader committed to global education, public service, and student advocacy.

SUNY NEW PALTZ

Morgan Atwater
(She/Her/Hers)
Political Science
Brighton, NY

Morgan Atwater exemplifies a true student-athlete, excelling both academically

and athletically. A standout midfielder and team captain, she earned All SUNYAC First Team honors and was named the 2025 SUNYAC Midfielder of the Year. Morgan is a seven-time Academic Honor Roll recipient, IWLCA All Academic selection, a member of Chi Alpha Sigma Honor Society, and she received the prestigious Centrino Scholarship in 2024. Morgan has contributed to six major research projects through the Benjamin Center and IDMH and presented at the 2025 Student Research Symposium. She will graduate Summa Cum Laude this May then attend law school.

SUNY NEW PALTZ

Sanjay Basnet
(He/Him/His)
History
Kathmandu, Nepal

Sanjay Basnet is a distinguished student leader and history major. A consistent Dean's List scholar, he serves as chief justice of the Student Association, where he advances human rights education and civic engagement. Sanjay previously served as a senior senator, working on initiatives in women's health, sustainability, and diversity. Additionally, he serves as an orientation leader, peer mentor, and peer advisor, advancing student success across campus. As co-host of the Talkin' Transfer podcast, he amplifies the voices and experiences of transfer students. A member of Phi Alpha Theta, Sanjay aspires to become a human rights lawyer and to establish a free school in Nepal.

CHANCELLOR'S AWARD

FOR

STUDENT EXCELLENCE

AWARDEES

SUNY NEW PALTZ

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

Biochemistry
Little River, SC

Alex Loveday is a scholar of both the arts and sciences, excelling in SUNY New Paltz's rigorous biochemistry curriculum while pursuing a minor in music. He conducts organic chemistry research focused on designing and synthesizing new molecular receptors, presenting his findings at ACS conferences. A classically trained pianist, Alex has performed at venues such as Mohonk Mountain House and the Thessaloniki Concert Hall in Greece, and he co-founded the New Paltz Piano Club. Inspired by the loss of his father to an untreated medical condition, he plans to become a physician who advances medicine through scientific inquiry and humanistic creativity.

SUNY NEW PALTZ

Madeline Meyer **(She/Her/Hers)**

Psychology
Waterford, NY

Madeline Meyer is an exceptional student-athlete known for her intellectual curiosity, work ethic, and leadership. She is a four-year starter and all conference member of the SUNY New Paltz Field Hockey team while excelling in evolutionary psychology research. Madeline plays a central role in the New Paltz Evolutionary Psychology Lab and serves as an assistant for Evolutionary Studies. Her honors thesis was published in *Psychology Today*. She is vice president of Psi Chi, treasurer of the

Evolutionary Studies Club, and an Executive Board member of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC).

SUNY NIAGARA

Caitlin Cliffe **(She/Her/Hers)**

Psychology
Ransomville, NY

Caitlin Cliffe is a psychology major at SUNY Niagara with a 3.9 GPA and a record of academic, athletic, and community excellence. She has earned placement on the Dean's List and President's List and was named SUNY Niagara's Distinguished Student for 2025-2026. A member of the Women's Volleyball team, Caitlin was recognized as an NJCAA All-American Second Team honoree and Athlete of the Week. She is actively involved in community service through church volunteering, cancer fundraising initiatives, and her work as a lifeguard and swim lesson instructor. Caitlin is set to graduate in May 2026.

SUNY NIAGARA

Mary Dunn **(She/Her/Hers)**

Culinary Arts and Baking;
Pastry Arts
Dunkirk, NY

Mary Dunn is a dual-degree student in culinary arts and baking and pastry arts at the Niagara Falls Culinary Institute (NFCI), maintaining a 3.9 GPA and earning placement on the Dean's List and President's List every semester. A member of Phi Theta Kappa, Mary has earned Safety and Sanitation and TIPS certifications and received first place at the SUNY Niagara Student

Showcase for her bread display. She serves as Student Government Association vice president, has led the NFCI Club, and worked as a resident assistant and orientation leader. Mary is set to graduate in May 2026.

NORTH COUNTRY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Michael Campbess **(He/Him/His)**

Liberal Arts and Science: English
Saranac Lake, NY

Michael Campbell is an engaged community member who contributes to conservation efforts at The Wild Center in Tupper Lake, NY. He graduated in December 2025 from North Country Community College with a focus on English, producing work that reflects university-level rigor. A skilled creative and academic writer, Michael is well prepared to pursue his Ph.D. He will represent both this award and SUNY with distinction throughout his career while continuing to engage with diverse student populations.

NORTH COUNTRY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Thomas Peterson **(He/Him/His)**

Sports and Event Management
Tupper Lake, NY

Thomas Peterson has consistently demonstrated exceptional hard work, dedication, and integrity, not only within the Men's Basketball program, but across our entire athletic community. He is a natural leader with strong verbal and written communication skills. He excels in the classroom and in the community. Thomas has attained a 3.98

CHANCELLOR'S AWARD

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STUDENT EXCELLENCE

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cumulative GPA over three semesters.

SUNY OLD WESTBURY

David Garcia
(He/Him/His)

Physics
Mastic, NY

David Garcia is a senior at SUNY Old Westbury set to graduate in May 2026. He grew up on Long Island and earned his associate's degree in physics from Suffolk County Community College. At Suffolk County Community College, he served as president of the math club, and upon transferring to SUNY Old Westbury, he continued his leadership as co-president of the physics club. His collaboration with Old Westbury and Brookhaven National Laboratory led him to conduct ongoing physics research as a lab assistant. He plans to continue pursuing research in higher education, ultimately working toward his goal of becoming a nuclear engineer and contributing to changes in the current energy landscape.

SUNY OLD WESTBURY

Atika Naim
(She/Her/Hers)

Psychology
NY, NY

As the eldest daughter of Pakistani immigrants, Atika Naim rebuilt her life after a period of adversity and returned to her education with renewed purpose. She serves as a research assistant examining mental health stigma within Muslim communities. Fluent in five languages, Atika founded the Long Island Women's Book Club and the Young

Women's Hiking Club and previously served as vice president of a Muslim Girls' Youth Group. She also co-coordinates Awkward to Awesome, speaks on issues of immigration and community justice, and works in ABA as well as in roles as a teacher and functional coach. A Toastmasters Award recipient, Atika is a dedicated bridge-builder, fostering connection and empowerment across marginalized communities through peer support and transformative leadership.

SUNY ONEONTA

Isabella Harnett
(She/Her/Hers)

Geology
Scarsdale, NY

Isabella Harnett exemplifies SUNY Oneonta's tradition of excellence. As a geology major, she has earned Dean's and Provost's List honors, along with the QTZ Scholarship and the Van Benschoten-Rapoport Award. Her research spans volcanology and flood monitoring, including an internship at the Biological Field Station. Isabella demonstrates outstanding leadership as president of the Geology Club, a student director on the SUNY Oneonta Foundation Board, and a representative on the Student Association Council. After participating in Geofyrst as a first-year student, she returned as both a mentor and teaching assistant, reflecting her strong commitment to supporting future geoscientists. She is also a dedicated advocate for women in science, actively engaging in campus conversations that promote

and support their experiences in these fields.

SUNY ONEONTA

Rudy Hess
(She/Her/Hers)

Geology; Geography
Oxford, NY

As a double major in geology and geography, Rudy Hess has maintained a 3.64 GPA while excelling in rigorous coursework. She has conducted original research and presented her work at national geoscience conferences, further enriching her academic experience through multiple study abroad programs. Beyond the classroom, Rudy is actively engaged on campus, contributing to the Terpsichorean Dance Company and participating in sustainability-focused initiatives. She also represents student perspectives as a member of the Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Student Advisory Council and the Biological Field Station Internship Committee. The breadth and depth of Rudy's accomplishments make her a highly deserving candidate for this honor.

SUNY ONEONTA

Elisabeth Vogl
(She/Her/Hers)

Biology; Pre-Veterinary
Rochester, NY

Ellie Vogl's journey at SUNY Oneonta is marked by purpose, passion, and impact. As a biology (pre-veterinary) major with a perfect 4.0 GPA and an anticipated May 2026 graduation, she has transformed her transfer experience into one of remarkable achievement.

CHANCELLOR'S AWARD

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She has earned prestigious honors while consistently upholding the highest academic standards. Beyond the classroom and laboratory, Ellie demonstrates outstanding leadership through her involvement in student organizations, peer mentorship, advanced research both domestically and abroad, and a strong commitment to civic engagement and animal welfare. Her compassion, integrity, and drive distinguish her as a leader and a source of inspiration to the campus community.

ONONDAGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Vanessa Esposito (She/Her/Hers)

*Liberal Arts & Sciences:
Mathematics & Science
Montreal, Quebec*

Vanessa Esposito is a Bermudian/Canadian first-generation student in her second year at Onondaga Community College, dual majoring in mathematics & science and health science. She took a nontraditional path, earning her bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Maryland as a D1 student-athlete. Once she graduated, she worked in a hospital discovering her passion for healthcare, influencing her to pursue medical school. Following an open house at Upstate Medical University, she enrolled at Onondaga Community College to complete prerequisite courses and became part of Onondaga Community College's close-knit community. She hopes to attend Upstate Medical

School and give back to the Syracuse community that has supported her.

ONONDAGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Kathryn Morgan (She/Her/Hers)

*Human Services
Syracuse, NY*

Katie Morgan is a second-year human services student who returned to higher education after raising three daughters, all graduates of Onondaga Community College. At Onondaga Community College, she has served on the Student Advisory Board for the School of Health, Wellness, and Human Services, is a member of the Lillian Slutsker Honors College, and belongs to the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. She also served as an assistant at the Onondaga Community College Community Care Hub and has maintained a 4.0 GPA. Katie plans to pursue a master's degree in social work and hopes to empower others to recognize their worth and potential.

ONONDAGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Alicia Oberlender (She/Her/Hers)

*American Sign Language
Camillus, MA*

Alicia Oberlender is a third-year student at Onondaga Community College pursuing an associate degree in American sign language after earning a math & science associate degree in December 2024. She plans to transfer to a four-year institution to obtain a bachelor's degree in ASL-English interpreting

and become a professional sign language interpreter. Alicia actively serves her campus through multiple leadership roles, including her second consecutive year with the Student Government Association as student trustee and secretary. She is passionate about community impact, leadership, and student involvement.

SUNY COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

Claire Goucher 150 (She/Her/Hers)

*Optometry
Blue Bell, PA*

Claire Goucher, a Temple University graduate, is currently pursuing her doctor of optometry and master of vision science degree at SUNY College of Optometry. At SUNY College of Optometry, Claire served as the vice president of tutoring for the Beta Sigma Kappa Optometric Honor Society, designed study materials and led tutoring sessions, offered support to perspective students as a representative of the Office of Admissions, and completed a master's thesis research project in myopia development. Post-graduation, she will pursue advanced training in an ocular disease residency program.

SUNY COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

Stephanie Page Hazen (She/Her/Hers)

*Optometry
West Falls, NY*

Page Hazen, a member of the SUNY College of Optometry Class of 2026, dedicated her time at the college to leadership and community

CHANCELLOR'S AWARD

FOR

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engagement. She served as Student Council president, Beta Sigma Kappa treasurer, and Gold Key Club secretary. During her time at the college, Page received several honors, most notably the U.S. Navy Health Professions Scholarship Program. Following graduation, she will begin her optometry career serving in the U.S. Navy.

SUNY ORANGE

Maurice Davoren (He/Him/His)

*Political Science
Otisville, NY*

Maurice Davoren is a political science student and a member of the Suny Orange Honors Program. He has served in multiple student leadership roles, including student senator, Interim Student Senate president and the Student Senate president, and currently serves on the College's Shared Governance Executive Committee and Association Board. Maurice has been actively involved in campus governance, student advocacy and community engagement since 2024. Beyond campus involvement, he has participated in local civic efforts through political volunteering and poll work. Maurice is known for his reliability and commitment to service. He consistently balances academic responsibility with sustained leadership and community involvement.

SUNY ORANGE

Devshi Saxena (She/Her/Hers)

*Human Social Services
Goshen, NY*

Devshi Saxena, a sophomore at SUNY Orange, will

graduate in May 2026 with an associate of arts degree and honors program designation. An engaged and accomplished student, she has traveled extensively and is actively involved in a wide range of programs and activities both on and off campus. Devshi demonstrates strong analytical skills, a curiosity for diverse subjects, and the ability to listen thoughtfully and engage with new ideas, all underscored by a strong work ethic. Equally important, she embodies the personal qualities of compassion, integrity, and a sense of humor. Devshi plans to pursue a career in journalism.

SUNY OSWEGO

Oghenetega Adjoh (She/Her/Hers)

*Operations Management and
Information Systems; Finance
Bronx, NY*

Oghenetega (Tega) Adjoh is a double major in operations management and information systems, and finance, with a minor in economics, maintaining an outstanding 3.94 GPA. She has made extraordinary contributions through her leadership and deep commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ). Tega is a recipient of the SUNY ACT for Excellence and Student Initiative Scholarship and was selected to serve on the National Grid Foundation's inaugural Youth Advisory Council. She has held numerous leadership roles, including Student Association president, resident assistant, EOP peer leader, and treasurer of the SUNY Student Assembly.

Additionally, she is a Management Leadership for Tomorrow fellow and has completed internships with Deloitte and Noggin Guru.

SUNY OSWEGO

Daniel Hall (He/Him/His)

*Technology Education
Oswego, NY*

Daniel Hall, a technology education (B-12) major, has made extraordinary contributions to both campus and community, particularly in the areas of accessibility and sustainability. He developed a campus-community bicycle giveaway program, expanded the BikeShare program, and organized the institution's first Repair Café. Daniel has demonstrated strong leadership as president of the Oswego Technology Student Association, vice president of Team Mini, a student representative to his college's Faculty Council, and as a teaching assistant. He has earned top honors in manufacturing challenges at national and international conferences and designed a carbon-neutral sap-to-syrup processing system, which he has presented at multiple conferences.

SUNY OSWEGO

Emma Halsey (She/Her/Hers)

*Business Administration and
Information Science
Sandy Creek, NY*

Emma Halsey is a double major in business administration and information science, with a minor in computer science, maintaining an outstanding 3.96 GPA. She has distinguished herself

CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR STUDENT EXCELLENCE

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through an exceptional academic record, strong research acumen, and extensive leadership. Emma has provided exemplary leadership across six student organizations, including founding the Data Club. She was recognized as the 2025 Student Leader of the Year. Deeply committed to service, she volunteered weekly at the campus pantry and led numerous service initiatives. Emma also served as chief financial officer for the student-run café, worked as a tutor, and conducted multiple research projects that have made a meaningful impact on the community.

SUNY PLATTSBURGH

Alison Hebert (She/Her/Hers)

*Biological Sciences
Brushton, NY*

Alison Hebert from Brushton, NY, is majoring in biological sciences with minors in chemistry, criminal justice, and forensic science. She has received numerous scholarships and awards recognizing her contributions to fraternity and sorority life, as well as her commitment to community service. An Honors Program student and member of several honor societies, Alison is also actively involved in campus theater productions. Her strong commitment to community engagement and leadership development is reflected in both her academic achievements and her civic involvement.

SUNY PLATTSBURGH

Reg Sutphen (He/They)

*Theatre, Music, and Theatrical
Production & Technology
Oakland, CA*

Reg Sutphen is from Oakland, CA and is majoring in theatre, music, and theatrical production & technology. They are active members in many facets of our campus community and are well known as someone who leads by example and creates spaces where students can find community, belonging and support. They are in the Honors Program, a member of multiple honor societies, and have been the recipient of many scholarships and awards. In addition, they have played a pivotal role in the success of the campus' theatre department, partaking in fourteen productions over their college career.

SUNY POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

Amna Khan (She/Her/Hers)

*Biology
New Hartford, NY*

Amna Khan is a biology major with minors in chemistry and medical sociology at SUNY Polytechnic Institute, graduating in May 2026 with an outstanding 3.95 GPA. She conducts research in biomedical imaging and genetic disorders at the Masonic Medical Research Institute and has presented her work at regional and statewide conferences. On campus, she demonstrates exceptional leadership as president of the Muslim Student Association, senior senator in Student Government, vice president

of the Pre-Health Club, as well as serving as a peer tutor and microbiology teaching assistant. Beyond her academic and campus involvement, Amna works as a medical assistant and scribe, further strengthening her commitment to serving and improving her community.

SUNY POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

Joshua Slater (He/Him/His)

*Business Administration
Goshen, NY*

Joshua Slater is a driven scholar-athlete at SUNY Polytechnic Institute who completed his bachelor's degree in business administration in just three years while competing in three collegiate sports. He is currently pursuing a Master of Business Administration, which he will complete in one year, earning both degrees in an accelerated four-year timeframe. As a campus leader and award recipient, Joshua has successfully balanced rigorous academics, athletics, and professional experience while serving in leadership and coaching roles. He is also authoring a book about living with a rare bicuspid aortic valve, highlighting resilience, perseverance, and the pursuit of excellence in the face of medical challenges.

SUNY POTSDAM

Chase Bond (She/Her/Hers)

*Biology and Environmental
Science
Stanley, NY*

Chase Bond is deeply committed to our environment, inclusivity, and

CHANCELLOR'S AWARD

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sustainability. Her curiosity constantly pushes her to gain new skills and put them to use, while her creativity enables her to perceive of and explore lines of inquiry that elude other scientists. She is an accomplished undergraduate researcher with an expansive repertoire of projects and interests. Chase's dedication to expanding human knowledge of the natural world is a driving force behind her work.

SUNY POTSDAM

Molly Collins **(She/Her/Hers)**

*Music Education and Trumpet Performance
Pittsford, NY*

Molly Collins is pursuing degrees in music education and trumpet performance at SUNY Potsdam as a Presidential Scholar. She has held principal positions in the Crane Symphony Orchestra, Jazz Ensemble, Wind Ensemble, Mariachi and Latin Ensemble, was a member of the Frackenpohl Honors Brass Quintet and Giroux Honors Jazz Combo, performed with the Orchestra of Northern New York, and appeared at the International Trumpet Guild (ITG) and International Women's Brass Conference. Molly served as president of the Crane Student Association and NYSBDA chapter, Collegiate vice president of NYSBDA, and currently serves as events coordinator for the ITG Emerging Professionals Board.

PURCHASE COLLEGE

Kelley Bui **(She/Her/Hers)**

*Psychology
Clifton Park, NY*

Kelley Bui graduated from Purchase College, SUNY, in December 2025 with a 4.22 GPA, placing her among the top 1% of students. A meticulous and intellectually curious social psychology researcher, she has conducted complex studies on intersectional discrimination, co-authored a publication as an undergraduate, and served as a learning assistant for behavioral statistics. Kelley has held leadership roles in Psi Chi and the Psychology Club, fostering inclusive, dynamic learning communities. Recognized for her exceptional academic achievement, research skill, and service, she plans to pursue a PhD in social psychology in fall 2026.

PURCHASE COLLEGE

Victor Vyssotski **(He/Him/His)**

*Economics and Mathematics
Computer Science
Tarrytown, NY*

Victor Vyssotski is an exceptional double major in economics and mathematics/computer science with a 4.11 GPA, the highest in his department. A top scholar, researcher, and educator, he excels in advanced quantitative coursework, conducts ambitious empirical research, and tutors extensively on campus and beyond. Victor is a leader in student government, president of the Economics Club, and finance coordinator for PSGA, as well as a two-

time Scholar Athlete of the Year and captain for the Cross-Country team. Deeply engaged in the arts and community service, he exemplifies academic excellence, leadership, and service.

ROCKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Valery Dutan Guartan **(She/Her/Hers)**

*Humanities
Pearl River, NY*

Valery Dutan Guartan is a dedicated student leader graduating from Rockland Community College in May 2026 with a 3.74 GPA. She serves as vice president of the Student Government Association, is a member of the President's Society and President's Leadership Council and is an Honors Program Scholar. Valery is deeply involved on campus as a New Student Orientation leader and women's volleyball student-athlete. She has international academic experience at the University of Cambridge and a strong record of service, mentorship, and community engagement, exemplifying excellence in leadership and academics.

ROCKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Ariel Murtagh **(She/Her/Hers)**

*Behavioral Statistics
Humanities
Yorktown Heights, NY*

Ariel Murtagh is an Honors English student at Rockland Community College, distinguished by a 4.0 GPA, exceptional academic achievement, and vibrant creative leadership. As president of the Film and

CHANCELLOR'S AWARD

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Poetry Clubs and Editor of Impulse magazine, she fosters community, collaboration, and artistic expression on campus. Ariel is an award-winning scholar, Beacon Conference presenter, and accomplished actor featured in multiple stage productions. Beyond campus, she is an internationally published writer, advocate, and model. Known for her humility, intellectual rigor, and compassionate leadership, Ariel embodies excellence in scholarship, creativity, and service.

SUNY SCHENECTADY COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Yuliano Camarena
(He/Him/His)**
*Criminal Justice
Schenectady, NY*

Yuliano Camarena graduated from SUNY Schenectady County Community College in December 2025 with a major in criminal justice and has been accepted as a transfer student to the University at Albany, where he will pursue studies in law. Throughout his enrollment, Yuliano demonstrated exceptional academic achievement while balancing extensive leadership responsibilities within student government. His academic discipline, commitment to public service, and clear professional goals reflect a strong integration of scholarship, leadership, and service.

SUNY SCHENECTADY COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Kessa Cooper
(She/Her/Hers)**
*Hospitality and Tourism
Management
Trinidad*

Kessa Cooper is a dedicated student who has earned placement on the President's or Dean's List every semester she has been enrolled, all while balancing fulltime employment, fulltime parenting, and maintaining an outstanding 3.92 GPA. She is an active member of her church and regularly participates in charitable initiatives. On campus, she is involved in both the EOP and TRIO programs. As a first-generation college student, Kessa works tirelessly to show her son that a better life is within reach, while still ensuring he has the freedom to simply be a child.

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

**Norah Allam
(She/Her/Hers)**
*Biomedical Engineering
East Setauket, New York*

Norah Allam is a double major in biomedical engineering and applied mathematics, with a passion for tissue engineering, immunology, and regenerative medicine. She conducted advanced research at The Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, Maine, focusing on cardiac aging, and has previously worked in SBU labs on marine microbial ecology and nitric oxide signaling in neural tissues. As vice president of AEMB (Biomedical Engineering Honors Society) and a WISE Honors Program mentor,

Norah leads STEM outreach initiatives and promotes inclusivity. Pursuing a minor in studio art, she has also served as a commissioned artist for the campus beautification initiative, creatively merging scientific imagery with artistic expression.

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

**Ruthvick Bandaru
(He/Him/His)**
*Computer Engineering
Ronkonkoma, NY*

Ruthvick Bandaru is a computer engineering undergraduate at Stony Brook University, distinguished by his technical leadership and dedication to community. He founded and presided over the Artificial Intelligence Community (800+ members), making AI accessible to peers. As project manager for the SBU Robotics Team, he led them to qualify for the MATE ROV World Competition. Ruthvick has served as a teaching assistant for Embedded Systems (ESE 124/280) and as an Undergraduate College fellow, mentoring first-year students to foster a strong sense of belonging on campus. His work blends engineering with real-world impact, including designing autonomous UGVs for humane deer deterrence.

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

**Neel Chittur
(He/Him/His)**
*Applied Mathematics and Statistics
Albany, NY*

Neel Chittur is an applied mathematics and statistics major in the Honors College, on track to graduate with highest honors. A Division I cross country athlete, he

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contributed to the program's third consecutive conference championship and serves as vice president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, where he promotes student-athlete advocacy and campus engagement. He is a teaching assistant for Data Analysis and is completing a senior thesis in applied statistics. An active member of the Sigma Beta Honor Society, Neel is committed to service through regular volunteering and philanthropy. His data analysis internships have strengthened policy evaluation and supported operational decision-making for Albany County and the City of Albany.

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

Athena Choi (She/Her/Hers)

*Biochemistry
Queens, NY*

Athena Choi is a biochemistry major in the Honors College. Since fall 2022, she has conducted research in the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior, studying the molecular mechanisms of neuronal development. She has presented her work at the Society for Neuroscience conference and received multiple URECA research awards. Athena serves as an emergency medical technician with the Stony Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps in both instructional and leadership capacities. She volunteers at the Long Island State Veterans Home, supporting veterans with dementia, and at the Stony Brook Child Care Center. She is also actively engaged in campus education through her work as a tutor and teaching assistant.

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

Caden Deshommes (She/Her/Hers)

*Creative Writing and English
New York, NY*

Caden Deshommes began studying creative writing and literature at Stony Brook University in fall 2022, adding a concentration in filmmaking, and a second major in English in the pursuit of a multidisciplinary college career. She approaches her professional opportunities with the same goal of well-roundedness, serving as a resident assistant, writing teaching assistant, peer advisor, and intern for the College of Arts & Sciences.

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

Sophia Goodkin (She/Her/Hers)

*Psychology; Women's and Gender Studies
Jericho, NY*

Sophia Goodkin is a senior in the Honors College at Stony Brook University, double majoring in psychology and women's and gender studies. Through campus involvement and leadership, Sophia has remained committed to giving back to the campus community through her roles at the Center for Prevention and Outreach, the Dean's Student Leadership and Advisory Council, as a two-time teaching assistant, and as an intern at the Leonard Krasner Psychological Center. She intends to pursue a doctor of psychology degree in clinical psychology, focusing on clinical supervision and accessible mental health care for children and adolescents.

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

Lana Gouda (She/Her/Hers)

*Political Science and Economics
Queens, NY and Cairo, Egypt*

Lana Gouda is a senior at Stony Brook University, double majoring in political science and economics with a minor in philosophy. She is president of the Political Science Society and Pi Sigma Alpha, has worked as a teaching assistant for POL380: Middle East Politics, and was a research assistant for two semesters. Lana also held roles in the Office of Student Life, New Student and Transition Programs, the Academy of Civic Life, and the Undergraduate Colleges. As a Guiliano Global fellow and recipient of multiple Political Science Department awards, her academic interests include international relations, political economy, and artificial intelligence.

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

Manahil Kashif (She/Her/Hers)

*Biochemistry
Brooklyn, NY*

Manahil Kashif is a biochemistry major in the WISE Honors Program. She addresses schizophrenia through an integrated framework that combines molecular neuroscience investigation with advocacy aimed at improving care and access. Her work emphasizes impaired insight as a critical, underrecognized determinant of treatment engagement. She has presented her work at multiple conferences, and her advocacy efforts have been recognized with the Presidential Service

CHANCELLOR'S AWARD

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Award. Manahil serves as an organic chemistry teaching assistant and ASTC tutor; and is a Petey Greene tutor for incarcerated individuals. She plans to pursue an MD-PhD to bridge scientific inquiry, clinical practice, and advocacy.

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

Aman Mistry (He/Him/His)

*Biochemistry
Saint James, NY*

Aman Mistry is a biochemistry major in the Honors College and Bachelor of Science/Doctor of Medicine program. As a URECA fellow, he enjoys researching early developmental transcription factors in zebrafish in Dr. Ben Martin's laboratory. He is publishing a first-author paper and has presented his research at DBNY. As a student senator, he co-launched the SBU Dharmic Center as a prayer space for Dharmic religious students. He has co-founded the Scholars for Medicine Society and SBU's first Healthcare Innovation Challenge. Finally, he has served as an EMT for over two years and as a Board of Directors college representative at PJEMS.

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

Delaney Ortiz (She/Her/Hers)

*Nursing
Centereach, NY*

Delaney Ortiz is a first-generation college student dedicated to academic excellence, advocacy, and mentorship. She serves as president of the Pre-Nursing Society and is a consistent Dean's List scholar. She is

actively involved in Stony Brook Student Nurses' Association and volunteers with The Retreat, Ronald McDonald House Charities, and her church's children's ministry, while also working as a barista. She was the hand-selected nursing intern for Stony Brook University Hospital's Surgical/Trauma ICU, mentored new students as a commuter assistant, and promoted campus sustainability as vice president of Hidden Treasures. Delaney plans to become a NICU nurse and future neonatal nurse practitioner.

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

Patrick Serrentino (He/Him/His)

*Biology
Miller Place, NY*

Patrick Serrentino is a biology major with a specialization in neuroscience. His honors thesis work in the Maffei laboratory investigates fundamental mechanisms for taste learning and feeding behaviors. Patrick is the founder and president of the Stony Brook University chapter of the Little St. Nick Foundation, a nonprofit that provides support bags to children in local hospitals. In his free time, he serves as an EMT and is an avid runner, having completed his first New York City Marathon while fundraising for cancer research.

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

Shivani Shah (She/Her/Hers)

*Biology and Psychology
East Meadow, NY*

Shivani is an Honors College student at Stony Brook University with an exceptional commitment to research, leadership, and service. She is currently completing an Honors Thesis research project in Dr. James Konopka's lab, supported by a URECA grant. Shivani has presented research at university and SUNY conferences and is a published author in Microbiology and Molecular Biology Reviews. She participated in the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Summer Scholars Program, studying methods of host DNA depletion. Shivani is an EMT with Port Jefferson EMS and the Director of Camp Kesem on campus, supporting children affected by a parent's cancer.

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

Madelyn Stepski (She/Her/Hers)

*Creative Writing
New London, CT*

Madelyn Stepski is graduating from Stony Brook University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Creative Writing and a minor in English. She has been actively involved in a range of campus organizations and leadership roles, including the Academy of Leaders in Athletics, the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, Stony Brook's literary magazine, and the leadership team for Team IMPACT. As a Division I student-athlete, she serves as captain of the softball team

CHANCELLOR'S AWARD

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STUDENT EXCELLENCE

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and is a multi-time award recipient for both athletic and academic achievement. This year, she is completing her senior thesis, a book-length creative project.

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

Marko Zimic (He/Him/His)

*Chemical and Molecular
Engineering
Maspeth, NY*

Marko Zimic is a chemical engineering major with minors in chemistry and materials science. He has a deep interest in biophysics and materials research and works with Stony Brook's Endoh/Koga group, collaborating with Brookhaven and Oak Ridge National Laboratories. On campus, Marko serves as a CEAS lead peer mentor, president of the linguistics club, and a chemistry teaching assistant. He is a member of the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society. As an aspiring physician, he works part-time as a medical assistant and earned early admission to medical school through the Icahn School of Medicine's FlexMed Program.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Genevieve Burrell (She/Her/Hers)

*Sociology
Calverton, NY*

Genevieve Burrell, a sociology major, from Calverton, NY, has a 4.0 GPA and has earned Dean's List recognition every semester for the last two years. She serves as president of the Eastern Campus' Creative Writing Club, vice President of PTK, peer Mentor, Get There From

Here Scholar, and a nominee for the PTK All-USA/All-State Competition.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Muhammad Fahed Butt (He/Him/His)

*Computer Science
Lake Grove, NY*

Muhammad Fahad Butt, a computer science major from Lake Grove, NY, maintains a 3.9 GPA and has earned Dean's List recognition every semester for the past two years. He serves as vice president of Fellowship for Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), secretary of the Muslim Student Association, and a TRIO Student Support Services tutor, supporting peers in their academic success. Muhammad is an NSF I-SUCCESS Scholar and Frey Family Foundation Scholarship recipient, and he has demonstrated leadership and technical expertise as a team leader for Stony Brook University's Hackathon.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Caelan LaPrelle (He/Him/His)

*Marine Biology
Northport, NY*

Caelan LaPrelle, a marine biology major from Northport, NY, holds a 3.7 GPA and has earned consistent Dean's List recognition. As a Get There From Here Scholar, Caelan serves as president of the Campus Activities Board, acting president of the Honors Club, a peer mentor, a member of Phi Theta Kappa, and a committee member for the Campus Activities and Student Leadership

Development unit review. Caelan is a recipient of the Emerging Student Leader Award and a nominee for Phi Theta Kappa's All-USA and All-State Academic Teams.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Ivanna Moreno (She/Her/Hers)

*Radio, Television and Video
Brentwood, NY*

Ivana Moreno, a radio and television major from Brentwood, NY, has earned a 3.8 cumulative GPA and Dean's List recognition. She serves as vice president of Public Relations for Phi Theta Kappa, a mentor for the Broadcasters Club, a Spanish tutor in the World Language Lab, a Suffolk Radio host, and the director/producer of an original documentary exploring Caribbean identity and sociopolitical issues affecting Dominican and Haitian communities.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Jazel Negron (She/Her/Hers)

*Business Administration
East Northport, NY*

Jazel Negron, a business administration major from East Northport, NY, has a 4.0 cumulative GPA and has earned Dean's List recognition every semester for the last two years. Jazel serves as program coordinator for the Campus Activities Board (CAB), peer mentor, orientation leader, vice president of Fellowship for PTK, and a member of the Honors Program and Pi Alpha Sigma.

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SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Zander Pott
(He/Him/His)**

*Psychology
Centereach, NY*

Zander Pott, a psychology major from Centereach, NY, maintains a perfect 4.0 GPA and has earned Dean's List honors for the past two years. An engaged campus leader and dedicated scholar, he serves as vice president of service for Phi Theta Kappa and is an honors student, TRIO SSS tutor, peer mentor, orientation leader, and member of the Beacon Program.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Amelia Sivilli
(She/Her/Hers)**

*Liberal Arts: General Studies
Bay Shore, NY*

Amelia Sivilli, a liberal arts major from Bay Shore, NY, maintains a 4.0 GPA and has earned Dean's List honors every semester for the past two years. She has held leadership roles as secretary of the Business and Accounting Club, executive secretary of the Student Government Association, and director of Campus Life and College Committees. An active member of the Legal Studies Club, Phi Theta Kappa (Alpha Delta Gamma Chapter), and Pi Alpha Sigma, Amelia is on track to graduate with highest distinction.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**William Yeamans
(He/Him/His)**

*Adolescence Education: English
Mount Sinai, NY*

William Yeamans is an Adolescent Education-English major from Mount Sinai, NY, with a 3.6 cumulative GPA. He has earned Dean's List honors every semester for the past two years. William serves as president of the Society of Writers and editor-in-chief of Perspectives Literary Magazine, demonstrating strong leadership and commitment to literary scholarship. He is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa and Sigma Kappa Delta honor societies and contributes to campus life as an orientation leader and peer mentor. William is a nominee for Phi Theta Kappa's All-USA and All-State Academic Teams.

SUNY SULLIVAN

**Elizabeth Green
(She/Her/Hers)**

*Liberal Arts and Sciences
Monticello, NY*

Elizabeth Green is a second-year student majoring in liberal arts. She plans to study history upon transferring to a four-year institution and is currently exploring her career goals, including the possibility of becoming a teacher. Motivated to grow as a leader, Elizabeth is committed to making a meaningful impact on the student experience. She looks forward to learning from others and challenging herself in new ways.

TOMPKINS CORTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Cassie Hayes
(She/Her/Hers)**

*Sport Management
Richford, NY*

Cassie Hayes studied sport management at Tompkins Cortland Community College, where she earned a 3.853 GPA while balancing extensive leadership roles and work on her family's dairy farm. She served as vice president of the Student Government Association, a voting member of the Faculty Student Association, and a club officer. Cassie was actively involved in campus events, volunteering at New Student Orientation and December Graduation, and served as a student speaker at multiple programs. Beyond campus, she contributed to her community through initiatives such as the TC3 Blood Drive, Yards for Yeardeley, and the Binghamton Turkey Trot.

TOMPKINS CORTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Cody VanHubert
(He/Him/His)**

*Engineering
Cortland, NY*

Cody VanHubert has excelled academically and as a student leader at Tompkins Cortland Community College. He has maintained a 3.966 PA, earned the 2024 President's Citation, and is consistently on Dean's list. He served as the president of the Alpha Gamma Nu PTK Chapter, a math and science tutor, and worked as an admissions

CHANCELLOR'S AWARD

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ambassador for the college. Cody was involved in the TC3 Robotics club and participated as the Veteran student speaker for TC3's first Veterans Luncheon honoring faculty, staff, students, friends, and families for Veterans Day.

SUNY ULSTER

Aidan Banbury (She/Her/Hers)

*Individual Studies
Hurley, NY*

Since enrolling at SUNY Ulster in fall 2024, Aidan Banbury has demonstrated strong leadership as a student admissions ambassador and as Student Government president for the 2025 to 2026 academic year. A member of Phi Theta Kappa, he maintains a 3.8 GPA and is a President's List recipient, reflecting his strong commitment to academic excellence. Aidan is pursuing an Associate in Science in Individual Studies and plans to transfer to Siena College to major in political science. Following his undergraduate studies, he intends to attend law school and pursue a career in civil law.

SUNY ULSTER

Tuwana Leonard (She/Her/Hers)

*Individual Studies
Kingston, NY*

Tuwana Leonard, an individual studies major who earned a Certificate in General Management, is graduating with an Associate in Science while also completing a medical office assistant microcredential. She has recently earned certification as a Certified Clinical Medical Assistant.

Committed to academic excellence, Tuwana maintains a 3.2 GPA, is a Dean's List recipient, a member of Phi Theta Kappa, and serves as president of SUNY Ulster's Black Student Union. A community advocate based in Kingston, she inspires and uplifts those around her, including her family, through leadership grounded in resilience, purpose, service, and a commitment to lifelong learning, demonstrated by completing five credentials in three years.

UPSTATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

Jennifer Heritz (She/Her/Hers)

*Biochemistry and Molecular
Biology Urology
Roselle, NJ*

Jennifer Heritz is a PhD candidate in biochemistry and molecular biology and urology at SUNY Upstate Medical University. Her research focuses on intracellular stress signaling pathways in kidney cancer, with findings published in multiple high impact, peer-reviewed journals. In addition to her research, Jennifer has held elected leadership roles in graduate student government and national scientific organizations and is deeply committed to mentorship, teaching, and community outreach. Through campus service and STEM education initiatives, she supports trainee development and promotes equitable access to scientific education across her university and community.

UPSTATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

Mary (Maddy) Locastro (She/Her/Hers)

*MD/PhD
Marcellus, NY*

Akshay Patel is an MD PhD student whose accomplishments span academics, research, leadership, and campus engagement. He has demonstrated exceptional academic achievement, earning a 4.0 in the didactic PhD curriculum and election to Alpha Omega Alpha, the National Medical Honor Society. He has served as both president and vice president of the Upstate Student Government, including during the onset of the COVID 19 pandemic, providing steady leadership during a critical time. His research excellence has been recognized with the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award F30 Predoctoral Fellowship and the SUNY Graduate Research Empowering and Accelerating Talent Award. As a student, he has authored eight peer-reviewed publications, presented thirteen posters, and delivered thirteen oral presentations.

SUNY WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Ashley Cozayat (She/Her/Hers)

*Liberal Arts Social Science
Harrison, NY*

Ashley Cozayat is a member of the Honors College who has been named to the President's List for her

CHANCELLOR'S AWARD

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outstanding academic achievements. As co-vice president of Honors in Action for the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society, Ashley led a research project examining how parents' stories inspire first-generation students to pursue higher education, coordinating both research and a campus action. Previously, she served as a senator for the Student Government Association and completed the Commit to Change leadership development program. Ashley will graduate in May and transfer to pursue her bachelor's degree, majoring in economics, with the goal of pursuing law.

SUNY WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Cristina Hill **(She/Her/Hers)**

Business Management
White Plains, NY

Cristina Hill is a business management major and a member of the Honors Program. She currently serves as the New York regional president of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, where she leads service, advocacy, and student engagement initiatives across more than 50 chapters statewide. Cristina was also elected by her peers to serve as president of the Student Government Association, representing more than 10,000 students to SUNY Westchester Community College faculty, staff, and administration. In addition, she served as an orientation leader during summer 2025. Christina plans to transfer to a four-year institution to continue her studies in

business and leadership.

SUNY WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Diego Patiño **(He/Him/His)**

Cybersecurity
White Plains, NY

Diego Patiño is a cybersecurity major who maintains a perfect 4.0 GPA, earning him membership in the Phi Theta Kappa and Alpha Beta Gamma honor societies. As president of the Cybersecurity Club and lead technical assistant for the Cybersecurity Department, he has facilitated hands on learning experiences for students. Diego participated as a Summer Research Institute Scholar with Mercy University and earned Best Undergraduate Poster Presentation at the 2025 American Indian Science and Engineering Society Conference. He is a staff writer for The Viking News and will participate in an alternative spring break trip to Washington, DC in spring 2026.

SUNY WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Mia Perez **(She/Her/Hers)**

Liberal Arts and Sciences: Math and Science
Yonkers, NY

Mia Perez is a Latina student with a passion for science and engineering and a strong commitment to leadership and community. She is a founding member and current president of the Women in STEAM Club and serves as president of Westchester

Community College's Alpha Iota Omicron Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Mia completed the Commit to Change leadership development program and works as a peer science tutor for the TRIO program, supporting fellow students in their academic success. In addition to her achievements in STEM, she is deeply engaged in the arts, having choreographed and performed in several major campus productions. She also contributed to the launch of the "Dear WCC" initiative, helping lead research that assessed student belonging and success.

SUNY WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Tim Zaccheo **(He/Him/His)**

Liberal Arts and Sciences: Social Sciences
Cortlandt Manor, NY

Tim Zaccheo is a dynamic student leader and member of the college's Honors Program, currently serving as president of the Philosophia Honors Club. Dedicated to community service, he has organized multiple food and book drives. Tim is also a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, has served as an orientation leader, completed the Commit to Change leadership development program, and will participate in an alternative spring break trip to Selma, Alabama, in spring 2026. He aspires to graduate summa cum laude and transfer to pursue a bachelor's degree with a dual major in sociology and political science.



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