



APRIL 2020

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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, 213 students from 64 campuses will receive this award.

Nominations are sought for students who have best demonstrated and been recognized for their integration of academic excellence with other aspects of their lives including leadership, campus involvement, community service, arts (creative or performing), athletics, and/or career achievement.



*a note from*  
THE CHANCELLOR

April 2020

Dear Students, Families, Faculty, Staff, and Friends:

Even though we are not able to celebrate this year's exceptional student awardees in person, it is my honor to recognize the 213 recipients of the 2020 Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence.

These student nominees are some of the most exceptional individuals across The State University of New York System. They excel academically and go to great lengths to give back to their campus and its community through their service. Among our more than 415,500 students system wide, these individuals serve as role models through their many roles: academics, athletes, volunteers, and innovators. Their many achievements are a testament to their drive and hard work, which is enhanced by the support of their family, friends, and campus community. Their success is a source of great pride for us all.

As we continue to adjust to these different times during the COVID-19 pandemic, the leadership skills these students possess can be used to support our communities and those who need them the most. As the country and New York State starts to rebuild, their many talents that led to them receiving this distinction will help us all get through this and come out even stronger.

On behalf of the entire State University of New York, I congratulate these outstanding students on their accomplishments, and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kristina M. Johnson'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'J' at the end.

Kristina M. Johnson, Ph.D.  
Chancellor

## SUNY ADIRONDACK

### Sara Kanampore

*Democratic Republic of Congo*

*Liberal Arts: Humanities and Social Science*

Sara was the recipient of the Norman R. McConney, Jr. Award for the Educational Opportunity Program for Excellence in October 2019, and made the Dean's List that same year. She is an active member of the Upsilon Beta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, and is a resident assistant on campus. She is a liberal arts major, with plans to become a social worker.

### Edward Ryan

*(Awarded posthumously)*

*Brooklyn, New York*

*Criminal Justice/Substance Abuse Services*

Edward began his studies at SUNY Adirondack in the fall of 2018, pursuing a degree in criminal justice/substance abuse. He was on the President's List every semester he attended. Edward received a training scholarship from Friends of Recovery NY to become a Certified Recovery Peer Advocate. His plan after SUNY Adirondack was to obtain CASAC and CRPA certifications.

## UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

### Michael Apollo

*New Rochelle, New York*

*Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity*

Through his inquisitiveness and enthusiasm, Michael connected two seemingly divergent disciplines—journalism and homeland security. He found experiential learning rewarding and pursued several opportunities, including post-Hurricane Maria service learning in Puerto Rico; an internship with the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C.; research in Taiwan; and an internship at NPR member station WAMC. Additionally, Michael was a contributing writer and photographer for the Albany Student Press, and served as president of University at Albany IAEM.

### Mumen Bishawi

*Poughkeepsie, New York*

*Accounting and Business Administration*

Mumen is a motivated University at Albany student with a proven record of success with academic excellence and campus involvement. He is passionate about his roles on campus, including serving as a Purple and Gold Ambassador, resident assistant, and president of Omicron Delta Kappa. Mumen also loves to serve his community and volunteer his time to help others. One of his proudest accomplishments is serving as a resident assistant and interning in Ernst & Young's IT advisory practice.

### Justin Camacho

*Bronx, New York*

*Biology*

Justin is a first-generation college student who has proven his scholastic abilities while playing a pivotal role in his community by serving as a first responder to the university. As a transfer student to the University at Albany, he holds membership to many nationally recognized organizations including Tau Sigma, Omicron Delta Kappa, and Phi Eta Sigma. Jason has been recognized for his work as a resident assistant, and has helped shape the student body at large.

### Katherine Gowing

*Houston, Texas*

*Political Science and Public Policy & Management*

Katie Gowing graduated summa cum laude (4.0 GPA) in political science and public policy in two and a half years while simultaneously competing on the University at Albany's women's soccer team. She interned at the Rockefeller Institute of Government, a prestigious public policy think tank, and has earned several awards from the University at Albany and New York State for her accomplishments and research on the politics of reproductive health.

### Alodie Keza

*Buffalo, New York*

*Public Policy & Management*

Despite experiencing displacement and homelessness at a young age as a refugee, Alodie emerged as a first-generation American, graduating with a bachelor's degree. During her time at the university, Alodie served in the student government, studied abroad in Cuba, mentored numerous peers, tutored several subjects, and was amongst SUNY's representatives in a Model EU conference in Brussels. Alodie has also been a recipient of the Spellman Academic Achievement Award and the Initiatives for Women scholarship.

### Heli Patel

*Paramus, New Jersey*

*Biology*

As an international student, Heli Patel experienced many challenges, which provided her opportunities to grow personally, professionally, and academically. She is the founder of University at Albany Students Stopping Trafficking of People, and serves as a resident assistant, STEM tutor, and peer advisor. Being an active leader on campus and volunteer at Albany Medical Center has helped Heli discover her love for helping others. She hopes to pursue a medical degree and give back to the global community.

### Danielle Rambuss

*Tonawanda, New York*

*Psychology*

Danielle has maintained exceptional grades while being actively involved on campus and within the community. She is the president of the Middle Earth Peer Assistance Program, a member of the Presidential Honors Society, a research assistant in multiple labs on campus, and she volunteers at Albany Medical Center. Danielle will be continuing her education at University at Buffalo's Jacobs School of Medicine after graduation.

## Max Sevor

*Brockport, New York  
Political Science*

Max is a dedicated student leader majoring in political science. Currently pursuing a master's in public administration, he serves as the aging committee clerk for the New York State Assembly and as a housing manager for Residential Life. Max was elected to the Student Association Senate, where he developed a \$25,000 scholarship program. He is also a Purple and Gold Student Ambassador, a brother of Alpha Phi Omega, and received the President's Award for Leadership.

## Victoria Tiranno

*Smithtown, New York  
Business Administration, Economics, and  
Financial Market Regulation*

Victoria has been an advocate for the world around her. Victoria founded a women empowerment organization and serves as the president of Alpha Phi Omega, the community service fraternity on campus. She also serves on the Advisory Board of the Center for Leadership and Service, through which she participated in a service project in Puerto Rico. Victoria has presented her research on emerging technologies, such as neuromarketing and blockchain, at conferences around the country.

## Jeremy Tu

*Brooklyn, New York  
Journalism*

Jeremy is journalism major with globalization and music minors. He has participated in and held leadership positions in the University at Albany's Taekwondo Club, Society of Professional Journalists, the Honors College (including the newsletter he co-founded), and A-Plus, while maintaining impressive academics. He is grateful for the people he has met and the opportunities he had in the last three years, knowing that these experiences will help him become an even better developing leader after his undergraduate career.

## Raul Vidal

*Long Beach, New York  
Social Welfare & Psychology*

Sebastian is a member of Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity, Presidential Honor Society, Psi Chi National Psychology Honor Society, and Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society. Sebastian is a resident assistant, while also serving as a peer career advisor, vice president of the Baccalaureate Social Welfare Association, and mentor for Big Brothers Big Sisters. He is published in the inaugural Social Work journal, and was sponsored on a 5-week summer internship in the Dominican Republic.

## ALFRED STATE COLLEGE

## Cassandra Robbers

*Alfred, New York  
Business Administration*

Cassandra "Sand" has been recognized as an Outstanding Adult Student both locally and regionally (Rochester Area Colleges) for her commitment to our college and local community. While at Alfred State, Sand earned recognition for her environmental campaign and her support of career development. She also served as a volunteer in our local hospital, as well as acting as a resource for art and poetry for our community members and children.

## Brianna Swartz

*Fort Plain, New York  
Architectural Technology*

Brianna has been recognized for her leadership roles on campus in Residence Life, Study Abroad, and Student Government. As a student leader, she's been an advocate for student development throughout her time at Alfred State. Brianna has been lauded for her investment in the local community through field-based research within the Appalachian region, as well as providing architectural design and assistance to communities in need through the campus's Southern Tier Architectural Resource Center (STAR).

## NYS COLLEGE OF CERAMICS AT ALFRED UNIVERSITY

## Thomasina Zaengle

*Cooperstown, New York  
Ceramic Engineering*

Ms. Zaengle has published [a journal article?], "The single step densification of nanocrystalline CeO<sub>2</sub> by the Cold Sintering process," and presented her research at the National Electronic Materials and Applications conference. She is the president of Keramos National Ceramic Engineering Fraternity, and is actively involved in Society of Women Engineering and Tau Beta Pi Engineering honor society. Her research at Alfred University and Penn State includes developing and characterizing new materials for ceramic applications.

## BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

## Madison Gowett

*Mechanicville, New York  
Biological Sciences*

Madison is a senior at Binghamton University studying cell and molecular biology. She has been involved in microbiology research since her freshman year, and plans to continue into graduate school to earn her PhD. While at Binghamton, Madison has acted as a peer mentor, teaching assistant, and an Education Opportunity program (EOP) tutor. Additionally, she has worked to start and run the American Society for Microbiology Club chapter on campus.

## Emily Jelen

*Stamford, Connecticut  
Art History and Biological Sciences*

Emily Jelen graduated from Binghamton University in December 2019 with a BA in biology and art history, pre-architecture. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and won Binghamton's President's Award for Undergraduate Student Excellence. She has been active in research in both biology and art history, presenting at the American Association of Physical Anthropology Main Meetings. Emily has been active on campus as a resident assistant, president of History Club, and teaching assistant.

**Shawn Lansing***Fonda, New York**Biological Sciences and Spanish: Language and Literature*

Shawn is a senior at Binghamton University, majoring in biological sciences and Spanish language and literature. He is a first-generation college student who credits much of his success at Binghamton to the support and guidance from TRIO Student Support Services. Shawn aspires to be a primary care physician, and will be applying to medical school this year.

**Liliana Martinez***Port Washington, New York**Latin American and Caribbean Studies; Spanish: Language and Literature; Philosophy, Politics and Law*

Liliana L. Martinez is the proud daughter of immigrant parents from Guatemala and El Salvador. She is from Long Island, New York, and is currently triple majoring in Latin American and Caribbean area studies; Spanish language and literature; and philosophy, politics, and law at Binghamton University. She serves as an intern for Senator Charles E. Schumer's Southern Tier office and as a residential assistant at her university. Upon graduation, Liliana will attend law school.

**Emily Mendelson***Aquebogue, New York**Business Administration*

Emily is a senior studying business analytics and women, gender, and sexuality studies. On campus, she is president of the Binghamton Speech and Debate Team, and works for the Binghamton University Scholars Program and the School of Management Career Services Office. She is passionate about her involvement in the Binghamton Human Sexualities Lab, where she pursues research about hookup culture on campus, focusing on consent, Title IX policy, and ways to prevent sexual assault.

**John Santare***Deer Park, New York**Biological Sciences and Comparative Literature*

John Santare is a senior at Binghamton University, pursuing a double major in biological sciences and comparative literature. John displays continuous involvement with a variety of organizations, including, but not limited to: the Student Association, the Roosevelt Institute, an on-campus lab, and Our Lady of Lourdes Memorial Hospital. As for future goals, he aims to enter the world of medicine after completing his degree at Binghamton University.

**Sean Velazquez***Sayville, New York**Anthropology*

Sean, a senior in Anthropology at Binghamton University, has been accepted into Binghamton's accelerated biomedical anthropology master's program. He has conducted and presented research on population genetics studies, retrospective reviews of cardiovascular surgery outcomes, and assessments on municipal park accessibility. Sean's dream is to improve the community health of underrepresented populations.

**James Wilkinson***Stillwater, New York**Integrative Neuroscience*

James is a first-generation, low-income college student studying integrative neuroscience at Binghamton University. Growing up with a chronic kidney disease and experiencing adversity, he has developed a passion for healthcare and helping those who are underserved. Currently, he works at TRIO Student Support Services and Lourdes Memorial Hospital in the Oncology and Hospice Unit, and expects to continue working with these populations.

**Daiki Yoshioka***Fujisawa, Japan**Philosophy and Comparative Literature*

Daiki graduated with a double-major in philosophy and comparative literature. He worked as a writing tutor for three years, presenting twice at the National Conference on Peer Tutoring in Writing. Passionate about social activism, Daiki also presented on LGBTQ rights in Asia-Pacific at the Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations. He worked for the SUNY Student Assembly, Friendship Ambassadors Foundation, and United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth.

**THE COLLEGE AT BROCKPORT****Nolan Coble***Angelica, New York**Physics and Mathematics*

Nolan Coble, a member of the Honors College, is majoring in mathematics and physics with a minor in computer science. He is the vice president of the Physics Club and a proud member of Brockport's Community Concert Band and Orchestra. He spent two summers participating in NSF research experiences, and is currently writing a journal article based on his research in machine learning for physics. He intends on pursuing a career in quantum computing research.

**Katelynn Demskie***New Paltz, New York**Political Science and Criminal Justice*

Kate has been very involved on campus throughout her whole experience at Brockport. She has held positions such as resident assistant, orientation leader, peer mentor, community ambassador, and vice president of Brockport's Student Government. She has not only contributed to the Brockport community, but also to communities around the country through multiple alternative breaks experiences. She has done all this while excelling academically, maintaining a GPA of 3.9 in the Honors College and completing two internships.

**Tyler Johnston***Rochester, New York**Biochemistry*

Tyler Johnston is a biochemistry major, minoring in pre-professional health and psychology. He is a member of the Honors College, a Black Scholar in the Urban League of Rochester, and a researcher in the Chemistry Department. While simultaneously demonstrating academic excellence on campus, he has shown a desire to serve the needs of his community through his volunteer work in hospice and local hospitals. Tyler will be attending medical school in September 2020.

**Tyler Laird***Alexander, New York**Exercise Science and Kinesiology*

Tyler, a four-year member of Brockport's football team, has participated in 14 semesters of independent research across three different labs. He has presented research at one national conference and three regional conferences. He was also employed as a tutor for nine courses, spanning three departments. Tyler has volunteered extensively at hospice, UMMC, SMH, as a coach for track, at Camp Good Days, and Habitat for Humanity. He is also a member of four scholarly clubs.

## Alysha Rios

*Bronx, New York  
Sociology*

Alysha Rios, a first-generation student, is majoring in sociology and minoring in social research methods. She has conducted multiple research projects on student engagement, making remarkable contributions on campus and beyond. As a McNair Scholar, she has worked on a podcast about sociological theory. Alysha has also supported fellow students as an orientation leader, intern in ASC, a tutor, president of the Organization for Students of African Descent, and dance coordinator for the African Student Union.

## SUNY BROOME COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Abigayle Bennett

*Bainbridge, New York  
Human Services*

Abigayle graduated high school and entered college at age 15. She's a member of Phi Theta Kappa, and has consistently been on the President's or Dean's List. In addition to academic excellence, Abigayle is the elected secretary for Student Assembly, editor and vice president of the Fulcrum Newspaper, president of the Art Club, a psychology tutor, and a notetaker. She was awarded the Involvement in Activism Award, multiple merit scholarships, and is a field advocate for many charitable organizations.

## Brittany Brainard

*Union Dale, Pennsylvania  
Physical Therapist Assistant*

Brittany is a hard-working, young woman. She is the mother of three very active boys, and is able to maintain excellent grades in a very rigorous program. Brittany is very committed to becoming a superior PTA. She can regularly be found in the lab studying and/or assisting her classmates. Brittany has incredible attention to detail and will be an excellent clinician. Her maturity and professionalism make her a standout in the classroom.

## Michelle Smetana

*Owego, New York  
Individual Studies*

Michelle is a diligent, hard-working, and compassionate individual, who has never let adversity or doubt hold her back from her goals. Despite numerous setbacks, she has always maintained an attitude of readiness to help those less fortunate, and has cultivated the work ethic to make all of her dreams possible. She is a unique and one-of-a-kind person who inspires those around her and brings out the best in others.

## BUFFALO STATE COLLEGE

## Rakia Akter

*Buffalo, New York  
Childhood Education*

Rakia Akter has participated in research, international experiences, and social justice initiatives. She conducted an analysis of classroom engagement techniques as part of a program in Myanmar, and earned a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship to identify strategies to support education of Burmese immigrants. Rakia was named an International Professional Development Schools (IPDS) Student Ambassador and a Social Justice Fellow for the Sofia's Legacy conference, sponsored by Buffalo State's Anne Frank Project and School of Education.

## Jennifer Briones

*Brooklyn, New York  
International Relations*

Jennifer Briones is a respected peer and civic leader. As chief justice of the United Students Government (USG) Judicial Council, she resolves issues related to USG-funded organizations. Jennifer serves as lead resident assistant for a residence hall, supervising first-year students and the paraprofessional staff. She conducted extensive research on open educational resources, and applies her knowledge of civic issues by helping clients of Jericho Road immigrant and refugee services prepare for the U.S. citizenship test.

## Bryanna Marshall

*Bronx, New York  
Speech-Language Pathology*

Bryanna S. Marshall has served as a peer mentor in the Academic Success Office, a student assistant in the Career Development Center, and a teaching assistant in the Buffalo State Child Care Center. She founded the college's chapter of a national speech-language and hearing association. Bryanna has also traveled to a school in Accra, Ghana, to study how cultural beliefs hamper the education of children with speech difficulties, and presented her findings at multiple statewide conferences.

## Esmeralda Sierra

*Ponce, Puerto Rico  
Public Administration*

Esmeralda Sierra has served as president of the college's chapter of the Global Society for Public Affairs and Public Administration and as senator of the Graduate Student Association. She participated in an academic trip to India to study non-government organization and international development. Esmeralda serves on the executive board of the Near East and West Side Task Force, the Hispanic Heritage Council of Western New York, and the Association for Multicultural Affairs in Transportation.

## UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

## Jonathan Bessette

*Johnson City, New York  
Mechanical Engineering*

Jonathan Bessette of Buffalo, NY, graduates with a bachelor of science in mechanical engineering and a fine art minor. He was selected as a Marshall Scholar Finalist, US-UK Summer Institute Fulbright Scholar, and Critical Language Scholar. Jonathan has been involved in a myriad of humanitarian research, entrepreneurship, and outreach. Examples include his work designing a novel, high-payload UAV; researching water quality in India; and extensive teaching experience both in Buffalo public schools and abroad.

## Fatak Borhani

Tabriz, Iran

Aerospace Engineering

Fatak Borhani of Buffalo, NY, graduates with a bachelor of science in aerospace engineering. He has been named one of Aviation Week 20 Twenties, Tomorrow's Technology Leaders. He has also been recognized with the MAE Undergraduate Researcher Award and has published a technical paper as an Advanced Honors Scholar. Fatak worked at NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory as a mechatronics engineering co-op, working on four spacecraft that will study Earth's climate change.

## Liam Christie

Elma, New York

Electrical Engineering

Liam Christie of Elma, NY, graduates with a bachelor of science in electrical engineering. He is currently an electrical engineering Undergraduate Research Scholar, with research involved in biometrics, microfluidics, and test phantoms. Liam is also a Western New York Prosperity Fellow, where he pursues his entrepreneurial goals for the Western New York region. His end goal is to lower the barrier to entry of point-of-care healthcare, making personalized medicine accessible to the entire population.

## Summer Davis

Ithaca, New York

Occupational Therapy

Summer Davis of Ithaca, New York, graduates with a BS/MS in occupational therapy and a micro-credential in interprofessional education. Davis is a University Honors College Scholar, Perry Scholar, and president of Pi Theta Epsilon, Tau Chapter. She has served as a teaching assistant, Honors College peer mentor, graduate assistant for Accessibility Resources, and student admissions recruitment specialist for the Office of Admissions. Outside of school, Summer interns at the Center for Assistive Technology.

## Megan Dwyer

Baldwinsville, New York

Biological Sciences

Megan Dwyer of Baldwinsville, NY, graduates with a bachelor of science in biological sciences. She is a University Honors College Scholar, and served the college as a teaching assistant and an academic assistant for the first-year residential community. Megan conducted research in the Department of Biotechnical and Clinical Laboratory Sciences, the Department of Biological Sciences, and at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center. She volunteers with Danceability, a movement program for individuals with special needs.

## Katherine Eaton

East Amherst, New York

Biological Sciences

Katherine Eaton of East Amherst, NY, graduates with a bachelor of science in biological sciences. She is a scholar in the University Honors College and the Biological Sciences Departmental Honors Program. An Evolutionary Biology Lab teaching assistant for three semesters, Katherine has taught upwards of 60 students. She has done research in biology and geology labs, emphasizing the study of how anthropogenic changes (climate change and overfishing) have impacted the evolution of aquatic organisms.

## Daniela Falcone

West Seneca, New York

Biochemistry

Daniela Falcone of West Seneca, NY, graduates with a bachelor of science in biochemistry. She is a University at Buffalo Honors College Scholar. Daniela has been a resident adviser for three years, an orientation team leader, and a teaching assistant in biology. Daniela traveled abroad to Panama during spring break 2019 to serve on a medical service trip. She also conducts research in a Biochemistry Research Laboratory, contributing to advancements in characterizing kidney cancer.

## Dennis Fedorishin

Buffalo, New York

Computer Science

Dennis Fedorishin of East Amherst, NY, graduates with a bachelor of science in computer science. He was selected as a Barry M. Goldwater Scholar, a nationally prestigious undergraduate scholarship. Dennis is currently a software engineer at ACV Auctions and a research assistant at the University at Buffalo, working at the forefront of artificial intelligence research. He has participated in numerous poster presentations, received personal project funding, and contributed to several patent and peer-reviewed publications.

## Arsh Issany

Great Neck, New York

Biomedical Sciences and Psychology

Arsh Issany of Great Neck, NY, graduates with a bachelor of science in biomedical science and a bachelor of arts in psychology. As a research assistant in the Department of Nuclear Medicine and the Maternal and Child Health Lab, Arsh contributed to multiple publications and grants. Arsh also founded the Buffalo Chapter of Volunteers Around the World, was vice president of Sub-Board Inc., and is the director of Student Affairs for the Undergraduate Student Association.

## Lisa Marcellus

Rochester, New York

Business Administration and Environmental Studies

Lisa Marcellus of Rochester, NY, graduates with a bachelor of science and a bachelor of arts in business administration and environmental studies. She is a University Honors College Scholar and Deans Scholar. Lisa is a resident advisor, teaching assistant, UB Speakers assistant for the Distinguished Speakers Series, president of the Buffalo Undergraduate Consulting Group, and Leadership House peer mentor. She also rebuilt houses in Puerto Rico as part of the SUNY Stands with Puerto Rico initiative.

## Jillian O'Shaughnessy

*Fairport, New York*

*Biotechnology and Spanish*

Jillian Paige O'Shaughnessy of Fairport, NY, graduates with a bachelor of science in biotechnology and a bachelor of arts in Spanish. She has been accepted into multiple medical schools. Along with conducting biotechnology research at UB, Jillian co-authored a Cambridge University Department of Genetics research publication. She is also president of UB Club Tennis, a medical assistant, teaching assistant, triathlon champion, and a Journey's End volunteer.

## Kathleen Ohman

*Spencerport, New York*

*Biological Sciences and Psychology*

Kathleen Ohman of Spencerport, NY, graduates with a bachelor of science in biological sciences and bachelor of art in psychology, along with a minor in public health. She is a University at Buffalo Presidential Scholar and Grace W. Capen Award and Scholarship recipient. Kathleen has worked as a research assistant in Exercise Science and Psychology labs, and received a grant from the Acoustical Society of America for her current independent research in mouse vocalizations.

## Alyssa Reese

*Hilton, New York*

*Biomedical Science and Social Sciences  
Interdisciplinary with a concentration in  
Legal Studies*

Alyssa Reese of Hilton, NY, graduates with a bachelor of science in biomedical sciences, bachelor of art in legal studies, and minor in Spanish. A University Honors College ambassador, she has been president of the Association of Pre-medical Students and Mock Trial, and a member of Royal Pitches A Cappella, Love Your Melon, Impulse Dance, and UB Band. She was involved in 10 research projects, and volunteers with a variety of non-profit organizations.

## David Tallents

*Fulton, New York*

*Mathematics-Economics, Political Science  
with a concentration in International  
Politics*

David Tallents of Fulton, NY, graduates with a dual bachelor of arts in mathematics-economics and political science, with a concentration in international politics and a minor in English. He is a University Honors College Presidential Scholar. An AmeriCorps alumnus, David also is a former Presidential Fellow for the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress, and he has published research on American foreign policy.

## COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY AT CANTON

## Debora Bartosova

*Teplice, Czech Republic*

*Veterinary Science Technology*

Debora is an active volunteer in Tau Phi Zeta (Veterinary Technology Honor Society-Alpha Chapter) at SUNY Canton, a volunteer in the SUNY Canton Veterinary Technician Association, and assistant captain in Czech National women's ball-hockey team.

## Tyler Bowman

*Gouverneur, New York*

*Criminal Investigation*

Tyler presented an honors research project "The Jinx; Robert Durst On Trial" at SURC (SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference), SUNY Adirondack, Spring 2019; was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa (honor society for A.A.S) and Alpha Phi Sigma (Criminal Justice Honor Society) at SUNY Canton; as well as being asked to attend the SUNY Canton Honors Convocation for freshman and sophomore years.

## CAYUGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Cassandra DiSanto

*Auburn, New York*

*Health Sciences*

Cassandra has been on the President's and Provost's Lists. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. She is also a Presidential Scholar, a member of the Honors Program, and recipient of five other college scholarships. Cassandra is a CRLA-certified Level 1 tutor and an intern/embedded tutor in anatomy and physiology. She has been accepted to Upstate Medical University's highly competitive Medical Imaging Science/Radiography Bachelor of Science program.

## Brittany Kulas

*Moravia, New York*

*Business Administration*

Brittany is a Presidential Scholar who has been on the President's List since her first semester at CCC. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, as well as a tutor in the Center for Academic Success and a note taker for the Office of Accessibility Resources. She is president of Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) Future Business Leaders of America, and received two college scholarship awards to business administration students.

## CLINTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Barbara Morales

*Morrisonville, New York*

*Nursing*

Barbara L. Morales is a returning student to college in Clinton's Nursing Department, where she has demonstrated academic excellence in one of the most rigorous and competitive programs offered on campus and in the SUNY System (ranked #3 in New York State). Barbara serves as vice president of Phi Theta Kappa Alpha Pi Tau Chapter. Most impressive is her volunteer experience in Honduras as part of the Global and Medical Brigades.

## SUNY COBLESKILL

## Jazmina Syed

*Schenectady, New York*

*Business Administration*

Graduating a semester early, Jazmina has a 3.96 GPA and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and Epsilon Pi Tau. She was awarded the competitive Future Forward Internship Academy (FFIA) position by New York State. Jazmina was a student athlete on the women's volleyball team, and participated in the honors program, DEI committee, student conduct review board, and was an active tutor and admissions ambassador. She was a leader in her community service work as well.

## COLUMBIA-GREENE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### Sean Berry

*Tivoli, New York  
Individual Studies*

Sean will graduate with a degree in individual studies. Currently, he serves as the Student Trustee on the College Board of Trustees. Sean is the captain of the men's baseball team, a student ambassador, and is a member of the Student Senate. Sean plans to transfer to complete a bachelor's degree program and pursue his goal of working in sports management.

## CORNELL – NYS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES

### Rosemary Glos

*Berkshire, New York*

Plant Evolution and Systematics  
Rosemary hails from a small, diversified organic farm in Berkshire, NY. She grew up in a close-knit community of farmers and artists who taught her to value inquiry, experimentation, and education. At Cornell, she is pursuing a concentration in plant evolution and systematics with a minor in botanical illustration. Together, these foci allow her to explore the taxonomy, identification, and origin of plants from both a scientific and artistic perspective.

### Amrit Hingorani

*Brooklyn, New York*

*Nutritional Sciences and Biological Sciences*  
Amrit Hingorani has displayed truly outstanding excellence in each facet of his diverse, expansive portfolio. An accomplished scholar, researcher, community member, teacher, and leader, he has made astounding use of his time at Cornell, excelling in each of his endeavors while earning the trust and respect of his peers, mentors, and mentees alike. Amrit's abilities, bolstered by seemingly boundless curiosity, energy, and altruism, point to a spectacular career in medicine and public health.

## CORNELL - NYS COLLEGE OF HUMAN ECOLOGY

### Talia Bailes

*Cincinnati, Ohio  
Global and Public Health Sciences*

Talia is a standout scholar, leader, teacher, performer, and member of her campus, local, and global communities. She approaches her multifaceted goals — as well as the good she might do in the process and aftermath of meeting those goals — with a deep sense of altruistic purpose that, with persistence, positivity, and an intradisciplinary perspective, have won Talia an impressive list of accolades related to academics, public service, and global health.

## CORNELL – NYS COLLEGE OF INDUSTRIAL & LABOR RELATIONS

### Malikul Muhamad

*Harrisburg, Pennsylvania  
Industrial and Labor Relations*

As a first-generation college student, Malikul transferred to ILR and immediately became involved in the life of the school. He serves as an ILR ambassador, an information session leader, and president of the ILR Global Affairs Club. He participated in the ILR Global Service Learning, spending six weeks applying classroom learning that impacted an organization in Mysore, India. Additionally, he is an ILR Global Scholar, an academic distinction awarded to less than five percent of his class.

## CORNING COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### Erin Shaut

*Painted Post, New York  
Liberal Arts: Mathematics and Science*

Erin Shaut is a sophomore at SUNY Corning Community College, graduating in May 2020. While pursuing her degree, she has served as a biology lab assistant, received the Presidential Scholarship, and has completed volunteer work to underdeveloped communities in Uganda. Her exemplary scholarship has earned her multiple scholarships, and she has served as a peer mentor for science students. Erin is also a volunteer for various organizations within the community and the campus.

## SUNY CORTLAND

### Asha Goldberg

*Brandon, Florida  
Early Childhood & Childhood Education*

Asha Goldberg truly exemplifies more than what this honorary denotes. Whether she is tutoring a young student, helping a peer, working to better a community, guiding others, or being a friend, her heart beats gratitude. Along with her academic excellence, creative spirit, empowering campus involvement, and aptitude toward her career goals, she has consistently given of herself to many. Asha embraces service leaderships, her smile is authentic, and she is very worthy of this honor.

### Alyson Nilsen

*Bohemia, New York  
Inclusive Education and Spanish with TESOL minor*

Alyson Nilsen has demonstrated excellence in academics alongside service to the campus and community. She is dedicated to becoming a truly inclusive educator, and has pursued additional academic study in Spanish, research opportunities, and volunteer positions in order to fulfill this goal. Alyson has excelled as a resident advisor, has been a leader in Cortland's Urban Recruitment of Educators (C.U.R.E.) Program, and has proven herself to be an accomplished teaching assistant, student researcher and campus employee.

### Kiley Stoj

*Orchard Park, Buffalo  
Anthropology and Biology*

Kiley graduates with degrees in anthropology and biology, and plans to pursue a doctorate in ethnobotany. Active in field work, Kiley studied milkweed hybridization at Cortland. She examined Mimbres dwellings in Arizona, and presented research at Society American Archeology National Conference. She participated in a conservation internship in India as well. Recognized for her academics, Kiley is a member of honors societies, a recipient of the Fulbright-Nehru Student Research grant, and was on Cortland's President's List. She also participates in rock climbing and community outreach programs.

## Breanna Washington

*Queens, New York  
Inclusive Education Childhood Social Sciences*

Breanna Washington is a scholar, leader, and champion for positive change. She demonstrated her commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion through Cortland's Urban Recruitment of Educators (C.U.R.E.) Program and leadership in multiple campus organizations. She participated in research focused on promoting positive representations of students with incarcerated family members, which she presented at a national conference. Breanna accomplished all of this while working as a resident assistant and maintaining a 3.87 GPA.

## SUNY DELHI

### Paige Keith

*Burnt Hills, New York  
Veterinary Science Technology*

A standout student, Paige has maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout her studies in one of the most rigorous programs at SUNY Delhi. Paige leads her peers through mentoring and tutoring. With a passion for large animals, she works at the college farm and is involved with Equine Club, educating the community on animal health. Paige also earned an internship at Cornell University working on two research projects. She is highly respected by faculty and peers alike.

### Arielle Moheimani

*Homer, New York  
Mechatronics Technology*

Arielle is graduating a semester early from the demanding mechatronics program with a 3.8 GPA. With plans to attend medical school, she is a disciplined student, peer tutor, and a role model for females in non-traditional careers. Arielle has excelled as a student-athlete and team captain in cross country and track and field, achieving a NAC championship last year. She also finds the time to volunteer for various efforts on campus and in the community.

## SUNY DOWNSTATE HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

### Ericka Boucard

*Brooklyn, New York  
Medical Informatics*

A Haitian immigrant, Ericka Boucard is a student in the Master of Science in medical informatics program and an alumnus of the diagnostic medical imaging program. She is currently a practicing medical sonographer. She has served as the chief administrative officer at the Brooklyn Free Clinic. Ericka is the SUNY Student Assembly representative for Downstate. She is a passionate leader, a student advocate, and is dedicated to providing service to those who are less fortunate.

## DUTCHESS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### Gabrielle Delpizzo

*Fishkill, New York  
Liberal Arts & Sciences - Science*

Gabrielle is a December graduate with an associate's degree in biology, she is a scholarship winner, and has a 3.46 GPA. She volunteers to help high school students learn aviation mechanics through an airplane restoration project, she's an ambassador for students with disabilities, and she's an assiduous chemistry lab assistant. Gabrielle volunteers as a lab assistant for young girls at Math and Science Matter's annual event, and tutors her peers at both of her campus jobs.

### Iridian Lucas-Garcia

*Rhinebeck, New York  
Liberal Arts & Sciences - Humanities and Social Sciences*

Iridian's immigrant experience empowered her passion for activism to serve immigrant families and promote social justice. She is a first-generation student who works two jobs paying for school, and is finishing two internships, while also earning academic honors; including honor society Phi Theta Kappa membership. As Dutchess Community College's SUNY Student Assembly representative, she raised issues impacting undocumented students, which led her to advocate for a "Know Your Rights" forum at DCC. She hopes to become an immigration attorney.

## Meghan Myler

*Poughkeepsie, New York  
Adolescent Education - Mathematics*

Meghan is driven to positively impact others. She volunteers for the John Flowers Foundation by providing services to the less fortunate. Meghan is a math tutor and mentor, strengthening math skills of students with various abilities. She has been a camp counselor for a Junior Fire Academy, and supervises high school culinary students during catering events. Meghan is consistently on the President's List, has a 3.94 GPA, and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa.

## Alyssa Poteet

*Hyde Park, New York  
Elementary Education*

Alyssa is a lover of learning, reading, and teaching. While attending Dutchess Community College, she has earned a 3.96 GPA and is a multi-award recipient for athletics and academics. She cherishes opportunities to coach new athletes, teach budding artists, and tutor young readers at her library's after-school programs. Knowing that a passion for learning is essential to a child's success, she aims to foster a love of learning in every child through her work.

## EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE

### Scott Dolphin

*Trumansburg, New York  
Learning and Emerging Technologies*

Scott Dolphin will graduate from the Master of Art in Learning with Emerging Technology (MALET) program this May with a 3.98 GPA. Scott's emphasis while at SUNY Empire has been in the use of cloud-based virtual reality in arts education. During his time in the master's program, he has developed a fully immersive intradisciplinary global art studies curriculum in virtual reality.

## Jennifer Edwards

*Johnsonville, New York  
Educational Studies*

After 19 years of raising six children and homeschooling them, Jennifer Edwards took the leap and applied to go back to college. In this time, she also started two free preschools for low income families, one award winning and with national recognition. She also hosts a monthly forum and teaches workshops for free at a public library for parents. Although mothering is her first priority, giving time and providing education to the community comes next.

## Brian Kerrigan

*New York, New York*

*Business, Management and Economics*

As a single father and 53 year old student, Brian Kerrigan has overcome dual diagnoses of 9/11 Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (World Trade Center North Tower) and acute Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) in order to complete his lifelong dream of attaining a college degree. As a student of SUNY Empire, he has dedicated himself to helping other students while coaching learning disabled kids in his neighborhood. He has maintained the highest academic standards while achieving a 3.96 GPA.

## Emily Perryman

*Buffalo, New York*

*Social and Public Policy, Nonprofit Management Certificate*

Emily has over 15 years of experience executing community relations, corporate communications, marketing, media relations, government relations, and digital strategy. She is also a social change activist, and helped co-found Unite by Night, a nonprofit focused on diversity and inclusion. Emily is a Board member of the National Federation for Just Communities of Western New York, and is incredibly active in her community. She is also a working mother of two young children under the age of six.

## COLLEGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND FORESTRY

## Jordan Jessamy

*New Milford, Connecticut*

*Environmental Science*

Born in Connecticut as the second oldest of nine children, Jordan works hard to not only leave a positive impression on the siblings who look up to him, but also to those he meets. Jordan's experience co-founding Taking Root Peer Mentorship Program, working with a Tiny Home for Good, and his research through Brookhaven National Lab are only some examples of how he hopes to improve the lives of others while bettering himself.

## ERIE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Kirsten Furness

*Williamsville, New York*

*Medical Assisting*

Kirsten is a non-traditional student in the medical assisting program. She has shown consistent effort and dedication to her chosen career throughout her semesters at SUNY Erie. However, more importantly, she has unselfishly chosen to reach out to assist her fellow students in their pursuit of a medical assisting degree as well. It is through Kirsten's desire and ability to help her fellow students that she has become an inspiration to those around her.

## Misbah Hussain

*Buffalo, New York*

*Natural Science*

Misbah is a student from Toronto, Canada, attending SUNY Erie for their natural sciences program. Misbah has been a part of music programs her whole life, and remains involved with the art in her post-secondary hobbies. Her passion for helping people continues to grow at SUNY Erie as she plans on continuing her academic career towards obtaining a doctor of medicine degree.

## Sean Matuszewski

*Cheektowaga, New York*

*Business Administration*

Sean graduated from SUNY Erie in December 2019 with an associate of applied science degree in business administration. During his time at SUNY Erie, Sean was a student ambassador and participated in the SUNY Erie Career Mentorship program to gain knowledge in the field of finance. Sean is active in his community, working with the Podhale Polish Parents and Youth Association. He is crucial to the development of this organization's goal of preserving Polish culture.

## Azimah Mohamd Jalil

*Buffalo, New York*

*Social Science*

Azimah is a social science major on the path to her career goal of becoming a nurse. She gives back to her community as a Board member of the Rohingya Culture Center of Buffalo, and works in her community to provide service to those who are limited with English. At SUNY Erie, she is the president of the Muslim Sister Association, treasurer of the English as Second Language Club, an orientation leader, and student ambassador.

## Lauren Ramsey

*Depew, New York*

*Humanities*

Lauren is a hard-working individual who loves to get involved and make a difference. She plans on procuring a bachelor's degree in philosophy and moving on to law school to study international law and practice human rights law. She is active in her community, working with the Girl Scouts of America, on STEM projects for underprivileged children through the Herschel Carrousel Factory Museum, and with AmeriCorps implementing STEM programs in low-income areas of Western New York.

## Jordan Reiner

*Holland, New York*

*Liberal Arts & Science - General Studies*

Jordan is an excellent student and currently holds a 3.88 GPA. He has received the Outstanding Academic Achievement Award, and was recognized for academic achievement each semester on the Dean's List. He held leadership positions as interim SGA president, president of the Film Club, SGA event promoter, and as the SUNY Erie mascot. Jordan enjoys volunteering his time to tutor fellow students, and was a member of the Men of Merit Program.

## FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE

## Nicholas Ferrigno

*Deer Park, New York*

*Computer Programming & Information Systems*

Nicholas has participated in numerous charitable activities in the community. He was the December 2019 class valedictorian. Nicholas has received multiple academic awards, and he is intellectually curious and engaging.

## Maria Turbi Henderson

*Brentwood, New York*

*Bioscience*

Maria is an amazing student who excels academically, and also dedicates herself to improving the lives of those she encounters. Maria not only has a 3.95 GPA as she completes her final semester, but she accomplished this while working close to full time as a physical therapy aide, volunteering at a nursing home, conducting research on cancer, and orchestrating numerous community service activities.

## David Ramirez

*Hampton Bays, New York*  
Computer Programming & Information Systems

David is exemplary academically and in his extracurricular activities. In his first semester, he helped expound upon the RAM Program's vision, and is an outstanding student amongst our first cohort, receiving a 3.96 GPA while being the main support for his family. David balances home life, work, college, and extracurricular activities, and was selected for a nationally competitive internship at Nature's Bounty Co., working on full stack development of a business-branded website and a business analytics project.

## Garrett Spurlin

*West Babylon, New York*  
Aviation Administration

Garrett Spurlin is a USMC Veteran. Garrett is the type of student a college hopes for; he is bright, confident, kind, respectful, and selfless. Repeatedly, he has gone above and beyond for our country, our school, and our student Veterans. As a professional who has had the privilege to work with most, if not all, of our student Veterans, Garrett is exceptional, in every way shape and form.

## FASHION INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

## Meredith Barnaby

*Plattsburgh, New York*  
Advertising Marketing & Communication

Meredith Barnaby is a student leader who is passionate about sustainability and building partnerships. She is an Excelsior and Presidential Scholar, member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, recipient of the competitive Jerome Greene scholarship, resident assistant, and Fourth Floor Fashion campus ambassador who maintains a 3.95 GPA. After studying abroad and completing three internships, she has dedicated herself to event planning for charitable organizations. Meredith's event repertoire includes FIT Gala and World of Children Awards.

## Andrea Billings

*East Orange, New Jersey*  
Production Management: Fashion and Related Industries

Andrea Billings is a persevering and dedicated student who contributes greatly to her campus community. As a full-time student, Andrea has balanced four leadership roles including: orientation leader, residential life community assistant, and gospel choir president. She studied abroad in Paris, and has interned with Kate Spade and the FIT/Infor Design Lab. Andrea is a Black Retail Action Group Scholar and recipient of Club President of the Year Award for '18-'19.

## Alin Intravisit

*Bangkok, Thailand*  
Fashion Business Management

Alin has left no stone unturned during her time at FIT. Academically, she is a member of the Presidential Scholars Program, and pursued four minors. A passionate business student, she was the president of the National Retail Federation Student Association, and won four business case competitions, all while building solid professional experiences with five internships in three different industries. She has been highly involved on campus, serving as a Cultural Fellow and an orientation leader.

## Daniella Koller

*Mamaroneck, New York*  
Fashion Design

Having previously studied biology, Daniella is passionate about design's intersection with science, innovation, and sustainability. Her work on Eco-Lastane for the BioDesign Challenge, contributions to Advanced Functional Fabrics of America coded design, and pursuit of knitted textiles have further cultivated these passions. In addition to receiving numerous awards and maintaining a 4.0 GPA, she has represented FIT through studying in England and India, presenting at NYCxDesign, volunteering at FabScrap, and serving on the Residence Hall Conduct Appeal Board.

## Michele Sparrow

*Pearl River, New York*  
Textile Development & Marketing

Michele has used the power of positivity to make the most of her time at FIT. As a first-generation college student, she has pursued a degree in textile development and marketing, and has attained three minors with a focus on the importance of sustainability within the fashion industry. She is the leader of FIT Hives, a senior RA, team manager for the FIT women's and men's tennis teams, and serves on FIT's Student Government Association.

## FINGER LAKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Justin Closser

*Rochester, New York*  
Horticulture

Justin Closser is a 29-year-old father, fiancé, and student, who has traveled a colorful road to get to where he is currently. After a deployment to Iraq, multiple food industry jobs, working construction, and even barbering, Justin has finally decided to make good use of his G.I. Bill. With ambitions of eventually becoming a college professor, Justin is a metaphorical sponge, soaking up all the knowledge and experience he can from FLCC and life.

## Rebecca Hazard

*Canandaigua, New York*  
Therapeutic Massage/Integrated Health Care

Rebecca is a certified farrier and blacksmith, who waited 50 years to go to college. Her academic successes in high school were many, but Rebecca chose to wander the world and learn new skills as they presented themselves along the way. A West Coast native, Rebecca came to Canandaigua six years ago. She chose Therapeutic Massage in order to shift from working with horses to working with humans.

## Sarah Middlebrook

*Clifton Springs, New York  
Psychology*

Sarah E. Middlebrook is a United States Navy Veteran. After the Navy, Sarah worked at Midlakes Education Center, where she worked with students who had autism. There, she discovered her passion for psychology. Sarah is now in her second year at Finger Lakes Community College, where she is pursuing an associate's in psychology. At Finger Lakes Community College, Sarah is the president of the Student Veterans Organization, and member of the logging sports team.

## SUNY FREDONIA

## Alyson Baumann

*North Tonawanda, New York  
Communication Disorders & Sciences*

A senior communication disorders and sciences major with a minor in psychology, Alyson is an outstanding leader both as an athlete and academically. She plans to pursue a master's in speech pathology, hoping to help those who have a hard time communicating find their voice. She would like to work with children with developmental disorders, and help individuals with speech impairments become comfortable and confident in themselves and their communication skills.

## Avril King

*Naples, New York  
Communication-Journalism and Public Relations*

A double major in journalism and public relations with a minor in English, Avril hopes to pursue a writing career. At SUNY Fredonia, she worked with several talented professors and students. She has been actively involved in clubs, and has taken classes that have helped her develop a passion for both inside and outside of her chosen field of study. She hopes to use her knowledge to someday work with non-profit organizations.

## Caroline Schettler

*Orchard Park, New York  
Acting, English, and Political Science*

A nontraditional college student, Caroline Schettler entered SUNY Fredonia as a dual BFA musical theatre and BA English major after dropping out of college. She graduates this spring with three degrees in acting, English, and political science, and an overall GPA of 3.9. Following graduation, she plans to relocate to New York City to begin work in the Broadway industry as a wig artisan. She also plans to pursue a graduate degree.

## FULTON-MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Tuyen Vu

*Ba Ria-Vung Tau, Vietnam  
Liberal Arts & Science: General Studies*

Tuyen Hoang Thanh Vu, Anna, an international student from Vietnam, has been very active on campus. She served as president for the Students of the World Club, and previously graduated with her General Education Certificate, and was also recognized as a distinguished graduate. Anna has received several FMCC scholarships, and served as a resident assistant on campus while finishing her associate's degree in general studies. Anna recently received a full scholarship to attend Texas Christian University.

## GENESEEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Anna Adams

*Menziken, Switzerland  
Digital Art*

Anna is an outstanding international student majoring in digital art. She is passionate, polite, and driven to reach her goals and to help others reach theirs. She is a volunteer tutor for English, astronomy, and art, and was the graphic editor of the New Courier. She was awarded the Certificate of Honors at the Scholars' Symposium for the best presentation. Anna is also a member of Phi Theta Kappa, and was on the President's List with a 4.0 GPA.

## Mackenzie Rose O'Brien

*Akron, New York  
Criminal Justice & Forensics*

Mackenzie O'Brien is a driven student, pursuing a criminal justice/forensics degree. She is a student, employee, and two-sport athlete. Mackenzie is a very passionate individual that continuously contributes to her local community. She is an outstanding athlete, all while maintaining a 3.85 GPA. Mackenzie is also a National Junior College Athletic Association Academic All American, a Region III Academic Team selection, and is president of Genesee Community College's LEADS program.

## SUNY GENESEEO

## James Canning

*Piffard, New York  
Applied Mathematics*

James Canning is an applied mathematics major with a minor in physics and the Honors Program. He is an accomplished percussionist, a talented programmer and IT assistant, and a fluent Spanish speaker. He worked for a year with a Non-Government Organization in Nicaragua, and has volunteered with the Bill Cook Foundation in Asia and South America. James has multiple research experiences, including with the NSA, where he will work after graduation while pursuing a mathematics PhD.

## Conlan Keenan

*Rochester, New York  
Communication*

A three-year captain of the Genesee men's ice hockey team, Conlan Keenan is a role model on campus and the Genesee community. A two-time All-American and the 2019 SUNYAC Herb Hammond Player of the Year, he is vital in the organization and implementation of the Annual Matt Hutchinson First Responder Walk and Pancake Breakfast. He has volunteered frequently throughout the Genesee community, served on multiple campus committees, and was a 2020 Hockey Humanitarian Award Nominee.

## Angel Qiu

*Dansville, New York*  
*Accounting*

Angel Qiu is an accounting major with minors in finance and mathematics, with 141 credits earned. She is a member of Beta Gamma Sigma—an international business honor society—and the Women in Business Club. Angel has worked with Geneseo's Student Managed Investment Fund program and at Geneseo's Office of the Registrar. She completed an internship in New York City, which yielded her a full-time audit position at KPMG in the financial services field after graduation.

## HERKIMER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Kristen Purcell

*Sauquoit, New York*  
*General Studies*

Kristen is the captain of the women's soccer team, was named the NJCAA Player of the Week twice, Region 3 Athlete of the Week three times, First Team All-Region, an NJCAA All-American, and a United Soccer Coaches Scholar All-American. Kristen also completed the college's Honors Program.

## HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Omsalama Ayoub

*Albany, New York*  
*Biological Sciences*

Omsalama Ayoub was born in Wad Madeni, Sudan, and moved to the States in October 2011. Omsalama attended KIPP: Tech Valley Charter school and the Doane Stuart School, which built the foundation for her work ethic, social values, and ambition. She is a biological sciences student and serves as the student trustee on the Board of Trustees, vice president of Scholarship for Alpha Xi Sigma of Phi Theta Kappa, and staff writer for the Hudsonian.

## Tajae Edwards

*Albany, New York*  
*Business Administration*

Tajae Edwards was born and raised in Kingston, Jamaica. In 2018, he was offered the opportunity to study in the United States. Since his enrollment at Hudson Valley Community College, he has maintained a 4.0 cumulative GPA. Some of his major accomplishments include: his role as secretary of the Student Senate, president of the Black and Latino Student Union, Faculty Student Association board member, and Phi Theta Kappa All USA semi-finalist.

## Kayla Mumtaz

*Troy, New York*  
*Liberal Arts*

Kayla Mumtaz is currently studying political science at Hudson Valley Community College, with the hopes of becoming a human rights attorney. Her hobbies include advocacy and helping others. Kayla is the third child of six and is the first to attend college. She is also a loving wife and mother to three children, ages five, three, and six months old.

## Jewel Winant

*West Sand Lake, New York*  
*Theater*

Jewel Winant is graduating with her associate's degree in theater arts. She maintained her 4.0 GPA while serving as an officer of Theater Club and ASL Club (which she helped establish), tutoring ASL for the CAAT Office and LAC, and performing in seven HVCC shows. She has also earned five theater awards, performed in Community Theater, wrote/directed a One Act, and served as costume designer/manager, stage manager, or assistant director for various HVCC shows.

## Jesse Yetto

*Pittstown, New York*  
*Physical Education Studies*

After laboring and prospering in the electrical trade, Jesse decided to return to school. Fulfilling his commitment to wellness and educating a healthy and independently thinking posterity, he majored in physical education. His past four semesters have been spent serving as vice president of Fellowship and Service of his Phi Theta Kappa Chapter, participating in Student Senate, and working full time as a counselor at Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth while maintaining a 4.0 GPA.

## JAMESTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Joana Leamon

*Silvers Creek, New York*  
*Media Arts*

Joana Leamon graduated with her associate of science degree for communication at Jamestown Community College in December 2019. Additionally, she will earn her AS degree for media arts and a Multimedia Production Certificate in May 2020. Joana attained the Dean's List every semester, and completed the Honors Program. She served as vice president of the Alpha Kappa Beta Honor Society, was named to the 2019 Phi Theta Kappa All-New York Academic Team, and was JCC's Scholars Day winner.

## SUNY JEFFERSON

## Rebekah Widrick

*Lowville, New York*  
*Accounting*

Rebekah represents outstanding academic achievement, and has been recognized through honors including President's List designation, an Honor's Program member, a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and the National Society of Leadership and Success. Rebekah's strong leadership skills led to her being selected to serve on the President's Advisory Council and as the student representative on the College's Board of Trustees, where she also serves on the Budget and Planning Committee.

## Sarah Wilder

*Copenhagen, New York*  
*Business*

Sarah is an outstanding student and individual. She has maintained a 4.0 GPA while being heavily involved in campus and community-related activities. She expanded her horizons by studying in Porto, Portugal, through a scholarship offered by SUNY Potsdam. Probably the most notable aspect of Sarah is her bright and positive personality. She has a strong work ethic, professional attitude, and perseveres through all challenges she faces. Sarah represents the highest level of academic achievement, carrying a perfect GPA every semester at Jefferson. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, the National Society of Leadership and Success, and the college's Honors program. She is vice president of the Business/Hospitality and Tourism Club, Athletic Board of Control, and Golf Team. In addition, Sarah was one of Jefferson's first students to participate in an exchange program with Universidade Portucalense in Portugal.

## SUNY MARITIME COLLEGE

### Austin Ford

*Baltimore, Maryland  
Marine Transportation*

Austin is a true student leader. As the president of the Student Government Association, his hard work builds momentum that brings everyone else along with him. A member of the College Council, Austin listens intently and offers well-thought-out comments and suggestions on institutional priorities. He also served on high-profile executive leadership search committees. Austin is a member of the Navy ROTC unit, and established the Humans Helping Humans Club, Maritime's premier service organization.

## MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### Annie Born

*Westernville, New York  
Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems and Engineering Science*

Annie Born is a graduating student in a dual-major of remotely piloted aircraft systems and engineering science. She is an enthusiastic advocate of everything science and tech. In between labs, she is a Presidential Scholar, club activist, and natural-born leader. Annie plans on pursuing her degree in aerospace engineering upon graduation, and one day hopes to be pioneering in research and logistics for spatial exploration.

### Joseph Gendron

*Sauquoit, New York  
Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems*

Joseph is a Veteran and returning student majoring in remotely piloted aerial systems. He is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, has made the President's List, is vice president of the Unmanned Aerial Systems Club, a member of the Scholastic Sporting Clays Club, and participates in Student Government. Joseph has been awarded scholarships, has interned for NYSDEC Urban Forestry Grant, and presented findings at the SUNY Applied Learning Conference. He also participates in numerous outreach initiatives.

### Kupr Kuprian

*Dolgeville, New York  
Theater*

After graduating from Mohawk Valley Community College, Kupr plans to transfer to Columbia University for his BA in theatre. While at Mohawk Valley, Kupr was an active student Trustee, News Writers Club founder, wrote/produced plays for Jump-Start Program and Honors Program, wrote/performed in Learning Commons commercial, Phi Theta Kappa vice president of Leadership, college senator, Teaching Assistant, and student employee.

### Mariam Muya

*Darsalam, Tanzania  
Human Services*

Mariam Muya was 12 years old when she first came to the United States and had never attended school. She was enrolled in ESL courses and within two years she learned how to speak, read, and write English. Currently, she is finishing her degree in human services and has done very well academically, while being very involved on campus and in the community. She is also the president of our Muslim Student Association.

## MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### Hillary Beaver

*Bloomfield, New York  
Dental Hygiene*

Hillary Beaver is a second-year dental hygiene student at Monroe Community College. She is president of the Student American Dental Hygiene Association. In the Fall 2019 semester, Hillary organized educational speakers for the program, conducted several fundraisers, planned an officer's trip to the New York State Empire Conference where she presented in a research poster competition, and volunteered with the House of Mercy Food Pantry and Rochester City Schools. Hillary's leadership traits are integrity and inspiration.

### Cielos Bernardez-Martinez

*Bronx, New York  
Liberal Arts - General Studies*

Cielos Martinez is a liberal arts general studies major at Monroe Community College (MCC). During Cielos's tenure at Monroe Community College, Cielos has been an exemplary student and student leader. Cielos has aspirations of going into the human services field, has maintained a high grade point average, and is a shining example of an MCC student.

### William (Liam) Golden

*Memphis, Tennessee  
Liberal Arts – General Studies*

Liam Golden is a student at Monroe Community College pursuing an associate's in liberal arts - General Studies. He has primarily focused his studies on political science and global and social studies. He has participated in the National Model United Nations Conference in New York City in 2019, helping his delegation win an honorable mention. He served in student government as the vice president of programming, and participates in Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

### Bridget Herald

*Ogden, New York  
Addictions Counseling*

A few years ago, Bridget suffered from a significant brain injury. Bridget had to relearn skills that are often taken for granted—reading, writing, and language. After years of hard work and resilience, she enrolled at Monroe Community College. Bridget served as the vice president of governance in student government, volunteered at the Hickok Center for Brain Injury, worked at her fieldwork placement site at East House, all while achieving academic excellence in her addictions counseling degree program.

### Oksana Vysochanska

*Honeoye Falls, New York  
Engineering Science*

Oksana is an engineering science major, graduating in May. She has held leadership positions in Student Government, including treasurer and vice president of governance. She is a student representative to Faculty Senate, Monroe Community College Association's Board of Directors, and the Facilities Master Plan Steering Committee. She has participated in research projects with Clarkson University and Brookhaven National Laboratory, and has presented at conferences. Oksana is an active volunteer with her church.

## Alec Waight-Morabito

Hornell, New York

Liberal Arts - General Studies

Alec received an associate's degree in liberal arts "with distinction" and an Advanced Studies Certificate with Thesis from Monroe Community College (MCC) Honors Institute in December 2019. He served in several different roles in Student Government, including president, and was very active with other organizations. He was on the Monroe Community College Association Board of Directors and the investment committee, as well as the student representative to Faculty Senate. He also volunteers with Dream Factory of Rochester.

## SUNY MORRISVILLE

### Nicholas DeVito

Averill Park, New York

Business Administration

Nick has been a member of three men's varsity teams at Morrisville: ice hockey, soccer, and golf, all of which he has excelled at while maintaining a 3.86 GPA. Upon graduation, Nick will have received two degrees: an AS in accounting and a BBA in Business Administration. Nick is also currently president of Delta Mu Delta Honor Society and captain of the Men's Ice Hockey Team, and a former president of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee.

### Jacob Lyon

Fairfield, New York

Criminal Justice

Jacob is a dedicated student-athlete and community member at SUNY Morrisville. He has maintained a GPA of 3.83, along with being a resident assistant, member of the football team, member of Alpha Phi Sigma Honor Society, and takes part in community service projects. Using the education he has obtained, Jacob has begun his career in law enforcement as a correctional officer at the Herkimer County Jail prior to graduating from college.

## NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### Sklyar Caruso

East Meadow, New York

Business Administration

Skylar is a Business Administration major whose friendly and outgoing personality has served her well as a valuable orientation leader, prospective student tour guide, and career success as a clown. She has been treasurer of Nassau Concerts, and is the recipient of the prestigious Richard Randall Scholarship. In addition, Skylar has worked at a real estate agency to advance her career. She has achieved all these accomplishments while dealing with severe dyslexia.

### Vincent Gatto

Garden City, New York

Liberal Arts

Vincent Gatto is a liberal arts major who currently is on the Dean's List, and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and the Carol Farber Honors Program. He is president of the Student Government Association, is a member of the International Students Association and Sustainability Club, and hosts a weekly radio show on the campus radio station, 90.3 WHPC. In his spare time, Vincent leads adventure activities expeditions in the Florida Keys.

### Bryce Mack

Uniondale, New York

Liberal Arts

Bryce is an honors student, maintaining a 3.72 GPA, who has held important leadership positions at Nassau Community College and within SUNY Student Assembly (SUNYSA). He has served as a senator, vice president and president of NCC, as well as serving on the Executive Committee of the SUNYSA. A champion of social justice, Bryce has lobbied NYS and Nassau County for fair student funding, participated in activities combating bias, bullying and discrimination, and food insecurity on the NCC campus.

### Emily Prunty

Bay Shore, New York

Photography

Emily Prunty is a photography major who presently serves as president of the Photography Club and officer of the PRIDE Club. She manages to be actively involved on campus in leadership roles, while working and maintaining a 3.96 GPA. She is the recipient of an internship of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in NYC. She also participates in community service at Cedar Grove Cemetery. Emily's hobby is sewing clothes from historical eras that can be worn today.

### Sade Robinson

Roosevelt, New York

Liberal Arts

Sade is a liberal arts honors and Phi Theta Kappa student with a GPA of 3.95. She currently serves as president of the NCC Women's Student Association, and is an advocate of gender equality and women's rights. Since joining New York Public Interest Research Group in 2018, she has been involved in efforts regarding climate change, homelessness, and transportation and tuition issues, and to register college students to vote. Sade is also very active in Planned Parenthood events and issues.

### Jessica Rudolph

East Meadow, New York

Business Administration

Jessica is a business administration student with a 3.55 GPA. She is captain of the Nassau Community College women's tennis team; vice president of the Honors Club; a member of the NCC Concert Band; and a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the honor society for community college students. In addition, Jessica has served as a summer arts and crafts camp counselor, teaches Israeli dance to children every Wednesday at Temple Beth Am, and works as a cashier.

## Sofia Stein

*New Hyde Park, New York*

*Liberal Arts*

Sofia is a liberal arts student, who is presently president of the Phi Theta Kappa at Nassau Community College, creative director of the Honors Club, and vice president of the Astronomy Club. She manages to be actively involved on campus in leadership roles, while working and maintaining a 3.93 GPA. Sofia is the recipient of several scholarships and awards, including the SUNY Empire State Diversity Honors Scholarship, NC Awards Full-Time Scholarships, and the Michael "Scooter" Fenrich Scholarship.

## Gabriela Torrente

*East Meadow, New York*

*Communication Arts*

Gabriela is a communication arts student with a 4.0 GPA. She is the president of Sigma Chi Eta (The Communications Honor Society), and photography co-editor of the student newspaper, Vignette. She is a peer mentor for the Honors Program, a conversation partner with the Language Immersion Program, and interned at the Central American Refugee Center. Gabriela has volunteered and engaged in activities for a number of causes that have benefited the college and surrounding community.

## Jason Ventura

*Glen Cove, New York*

*Liberal Arts*

Jason is a liberal arts major, who presently serves as the Student Government Association representative for the Nassau Community College Honors Club. Recognized on the NCC Dean's List, enrolled in the Carol Farber Honors Program, and a member of Phi Theta Kappa, Jason manages to be actively involved on campus, while working two jobs and maintaining a 3.95 GPA. He plays a pivotal role in the award-winning NCC Radio Station, 90.3 WHPC, and is a crisis hot-line counselor.

## SUNY NEW PALTZ

### Alyson Hummer

*Warwick, New York*

*Psychology*

Alyson is a psychology major and music minor who collaborated with SUNY New Paltz professors Dr. Peh, Kyaw Kyaw Naing and Dr. Meeker to create the first Burmese piano-percussion ensemble in the US. Alyson won the SURE and URETA awards to travel to Yangon, Myanmar, in 2020 to collect footage for her ethnographic film, "Growing Rhythm," which has been featured on the Association for Asian Studies blog. She performed her New York City debut at Roulette Intermedium.

### Benjamin Jay

*Merrick, New York*

*Management, Business Analytics, and Psychology*

Ben is a member of the Honor's Program, graduating with majors in business analytics, management, and psychology. He was inducted into the business honor society, Beta Gamma Sigma, and was selected to attend the National Association of College & University Residence Halls and Beta Gamma Sigma International student conferences. Ben has served as a welcome center greeter; student ambassador; resident assistant and student assistant; and as an intern at DREAM, a nonprofit educational program supporting underprivileged students.

### Jeremy Luna

*New York, New York*

*International Relations/Asian Studies*

Jeremy Luna was very active on campus, engaging in demanding leadership positions, including resident assistant, student ambassador, Campus Judicial Committee member, and many others. Passionate about intercultural exchange, he spent nearly two years overseas, where he gained fluency in Japanese through intensive coursework and internships at the United Nations and Sumitomo. Upon his return, he interned with the Department of State two times, and was subsequently hired as a diplomat in the U.S. Foreign Service.

## Majessa Pedrozo

*Mamaroneck, New York*

*Communication Disorders*

Majessa Pedrozo was in the Honors Program and received a BA in communication disorders with a minor in sociology. She maintained a 4.0 GPA while assuming leadership and service roles on and off campus. Majessa interned through the New York University Rusk Health Career Opportunity Program. She served as president of the National Student Language Hearing Association, and coordinated the Honors Program Peer Mentoring Program. This fall, she will begin graduate study in communication disorders.

## Philesha Teape

*Elmont, New York*

*Biology*

Philesha is an aspiring physician with many accomplishments. She is on the women's basketball team and was inducted to the Chi Alpha Sigma Honor Society. She is an active member of the AMP & CSTEP Community, serving as a mentor, genetics study group leader, and summer research intern. Philesha participated in an international research experience at Maastricht University in the Netherlands. In her spare time, she volunteers at a hospital helping take care of patients.

## NIAGARA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### Tayllor Clark

*Niagara Falls, New York*

*Culinary Arts*

Tayllor is a culinary arts major at Niagara County Community College, and currently holds a 4.0 GPA. She started this program in August of 2018, and will graduate in May of 2020. After graduation, Tayllor plans to attend SUNY Buffalo State or SUNY Fredonia to obtain an education degree and master's in education with hopes to become a culinary chef educator.

## Rachel Shanor

*North Tonawanda, New York  
Liberal Arts & Sciences*

Rachel is in the liberal arts & sciences and early childhood education programs, and currently holds a 3.96 GPA. Through her studies at Niagara County Community College, she developed a passion for teaching. She plans to pursue this career after graduating. Rachel is a student tutor in the Academic Center for Excellence, as well as a volunteer tutor for the University of Buffalo School of Engineering within the Buffalo Public School System.

## NORTH COUNTRY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Schuyler Cranker

*Saranac Lake, New York  
Math and Science*

Schuyler is incredibly bright, hard-working, and naturally inquisitive. Schuyler served as a senator in the Student Government Association for two semesters, and helped organize the local 2019 Climate Strike. He also works as a tutor in the NCCC Learning Assistance Center, and is always willing to share his genuine love for learning. Schuyler received two NCCC awards: Math & Science Award and History Award. He is also a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

## SUNY OLD WESTBURY

## Amelia Cariddi

*Seafood, New York  
Psychology*

Amelia Cariddi plans to graduate with a psychology major and social work minor. She is a member of the Honors College, captain of the softball team, founded the Old Westbury chapter of LoveYourMelon, and volunteers with numerous organizations. As a musician, Amelia has professionally recorded and released seven songs. Amelia has received many awards and scholarships, and has conducted research in disability and aging, stress levels and subjective age, and only children and narcissism.

## Priscila Ortega

*Amagansett, New York  
Politics, Economics and Law*

Priscila Ortega is a self-described activist "seeking opportunity when it is not there." She is highly motivated and leads by example. Priscila's campus and community advocacy includes representing the undocumented community, co-founding the Undocumented Student Alliance, and raising awareness of the plight of the immigrant community. As a politics, economics and law, major she has maintained academic excellence over four years, and is looking to further her education in the field of immigration law.

## SUNY ONEONTA

## Alexa Amalbert

*New York, New York  
Computer Science*

Alexa is a stellar student-athlete who consistently makes the Provost's List, has earned numerous awards for her GPA and basketball abilities, and is a member of multiple national honor societies. She serves on several campus boards and committees, and has worked for two years as a top-notch desktop support consultant with campus IT. Alexa has volunteered extensively in the local community and abroad, and she hopes to one day work for the FBI in cybersecurity.

## Daniel Ios

*Wappinger Falls, New York  
Business Economics*

Daniel is a model student-athlete and a leader on and off the soccer field. He is consistently named to the Provost's List, is a member of several national honor societies, and is active on numerous campus councils and boards, including Oneonta Players Reaching Other Students and the Student Athlete Advisory Council. Daniel dedicates any spare time he has to peer tutoring. After graduation, he will go to work as a Corporate Analyst at J.P. Morgan.

## Katherine Martinez-Munoz

*Hannibal, New York  
Biology*

Katherine is an exceptional student leader who excels in all she does. She is consistently recognized for her GPA, is an active member of multiple national honor societies and organizations, and has conducted important biological research in the Adirondack Mountains, Amazon Rainforest, and at Michigan State University. Katherine is a dedicated peer tutor, flautist, and volunteer. In 2019, she was one of eight students who traveled to Puerto Rico to help with hurricane cleanup efforts.

## Timothy Nolan

*Saratoga Springs, New York  
Psychology*

Timothy has set himself apart with his outstanding leadership skills, GPA, and involvement on campus. As president of SUNY Oneonta's Student Association, he is tireless in his pursuit to serve, clocking in more than 500 hours at events and in leadership roles. He is a member of several honor societies, was an orientation leader, and frequently volunteers in his hometown. In April, Timothy will present his psychology research at the Midwestern Psychological Association in Chicago.

## ONONDAGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Nidaa Aljabbarin

*Syracuse, New York  
Mathematics and Science*

As a result of numerous opportunities, Nidaa was determined to master the English language and graduate high school. She continuously strives to excel in academics throughout numerous experiences offered in the U.S. Nidaa realized that her future would focus on the medical profession. Nidaa's experiences led her down a path to becoming a genetic doctor, a profession she is currently working towards achieving.

## **Anna Madeline (Maddie) Bohrer**

*Skaneateles, New York*

*Humanities and Social Sciences*

Maddie is a dedicated and hard-working humanities and social sciences major. She strives to stand out and make a difference in all she accomplishes. Passionate about social justice and human rights, Maddie is strongly involved in volunteerism with a grassroots organization. She is involved on campus in many capacities and is always looking to do more. Maddie looks forward to transferring to a four-year institution to pursue international relations in the fall.

## **Colleen McGlin**

*New Hartford, New York*

*Computer Science*

Colleen is a returning student majoring in computer science. Colleen served in the United States Marine Corp, and is currently serving as a company executive officer in the Army National Guard. She was on the President's List every semester, and was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa with a 4.0 GPA. She volunteers at the local food bank, and serves as a student representative on Onondaga Community Colleges technology committee. Colleen plans on continuing her studies in cybersecurity at Johns Hopkins University.

## **Dawn Penson**

*Bridgeport, New York*

*Human Services*

Dawn is a 42-year old, blind mother of three. After losing her sight in 2012, she became passionate about advocacy for those who could not find their own voices. She is involved with the National Federation of the Blind, and is on the board for ARISE and OCC. Dawn is involved in numerous Program Advisory committees in the Syracuse community. She is actively involved with Student Government Association, Phi Theta Kappa, and completed a 100-hour internship with Office Accessibility Resources office.

## COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

### **Mackenzie Bradley**

*Briarcliff Manor, New York*

*Optometry*

Mackenzie received her bachelor's degree in molecular and cellular biology from the University of Connecticut before becoming an active member of the SUNY Optometry community. She has excelled in academics while also dedicating her time to serving the college community through her roles of class vice president, organizer of the annual Eye Ball, and clinical and academic tutor. Mackenzie's favorite optometric experience was providing free eye care to the underserved communities in Grenada through Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity.

## SUNY ORANGE

### **Giovanna Cala**

*Port Jervis, New York*

*Education*

Giovanna is pursuing an A.A. degree with plans to become a high school teacher in history and biology. She currently holds a 3.98 GPA, and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society. She has also been accepted into an Emerging Leaders Program and into the Honors Program at SUNY Orange. On campus, she is a student senator and served on three governance committees.

### **Chantal Fairclough**

*Newburgh, New York*

*Chemistry*

Chantal Fairclough is an active member of the SUNY Orange Honors Program, and received the Presidential Honors Program Scholarship for Outstanding Academic Achievement. She was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa, and served one year as a student senator and member of the Student Success Committee. Currently, she is an Honors Program Peer Mentor, works as a peer tutor, serves as secretary of the Multicultural Club, and is an active volunteer for the Liberty Partnership Program.

## **Jennifer Zimmerman**

*Walden, New York*

*Nursing*

Jennifer lived in New Paltz, and at 18, moved to Walden to attend the Nursing Program at SUNY Orange. Her mother passed away from cancer when Jennifer was in high school. The experience of caring for her mother during this difficult time solidified her faith in God and desire to become a nurse. While enrolled in a vigorous program, Jennifer worked between 30 and 40 hours per week as a CNA in two local hospitals.

## SUNY OSWEGO

### **Dylan DiGrazia**

*Amesbury, MA*

*Chemistry*

Dylan is a chemistry major with a 3.94 GPA. Dylan's research was presented at the National American Chemical Society, the Northeast Regional American Chemical Society, and the SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference. He is the recipient of numerous awards and scholarships, and is also a member of Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society. An engaged leader on campus, Dylan is president of the Outdoor Club and a member of the Chemistry, Astronomy, and Math Clubs.

### **Samantha Jenks**

*West Islip, New York*

*Psychology and Cognitive Science*

Samantha is a psychology and cognitive science major with a 3.94 GPA. She is the recipient of several academic awards, including the Empire State Diversity Honors Scholarship. Samantha was invited to research with a world-renowned neuroscientist at MIT in the summer of 2019, where she investigated feature-based attention in monkeys. Most recently, Samantha was published as a first author in the Journal of Psychiatric Research for her research on anxiety and specific identifiable biomarkers.

## Chanel Meyer

*Port Jervis, New York*

*Adolescence Education and Spanish*

Chanel is an accomplished Spanish educator with a 3.81 GPA. While studying abroad in Madrid, Spain, she served as a tutor and cultural ambassador, teaching English to Spanish children. She served as a teaching assistant while studying abroad in Guayaquil, Ecuador. Chanel was invited to participate in SUNY Stands with Puerto Rico, where she used her Spanish skills translating, and repaired homes and farms. She has been nominated for a Fulbright Award in Spain.

## SUNY PLATTSBURGH

### Kerri Corcoran

*Rockville, Maryland*

*Biochemistry*

Kerri is a two-sport athlete for women's ice hockey and women's lacrosse. She helped the women's ice hockey team become D3 national champions in 2019. Kerri presented her research at several regional and national conferences, including the Sigma Xi National Undergraduate Research Conference. She has served as an analytical intern at several firms, including AstraZeneca Global Technical Operation. Kerri has been on Dean's List every semester.

### Lam Dinh

*Bien Hoa City, Vietnam*

*Management Information Systems and Marketing and Business Administration*

Lam is a master certified tutor, Level III, in our Learning Center, and has worked there since her second semester. She serves as a resident assistant and orientation leader. Lam served as tutor-counselor for the Upward Bound Summer Institute. She is an officer of several student organizations, including being president of the American Marketing Association. Lam serves as a peer career assistant.

### Yusha Imtiaz

*Chittagong, Bangladesh*

*Biochemistry*

Yusha presented his research at several local, regional and national conferences including at the 102nd Canadian National Chemistry Conference in Quebec City. He serves as an officer of several student organizations including being President of the American Chemical Society and Vice President of the Plattsburgh eSports Club. Yusha has received numerous merit-based scholarships and grants.

## Danish Rai

*Sindh, Pakistan*

*Accounting and Business Administration*

Danish serves in many leadership positions on campus including being a resident assistant, president of the Accounting and Finance Association, an elected senator of the Student Association, and vice president for the South Asian Student Association. He has participated in five internships during his academic career including with Deloitte accounting firm. Danish served as a representative for the accounting major for a student advisory group.

## SUNY POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

### Gretchen Long

*Slingerlands, New York*

*Nanoscale Science*

Gretchen will graduate from SUNY Polytechnic with a B.S. in nanoscale science, with a concentration in nano bioscience and minor in applied mathematics. She has conducted research with Dr. Xie since the fall of her freshman year, and participated in summer internships at CNSE, the Harvard Stem Cell Institute, and Harvard Medical School & Brigham and Women's Hospital. Gretchen hopes to earn a Ph.D. in biological and biomedical sciences, and pursue a career in cancer research.

### Emma Vanderwerken

*Frankfort, New York*

*Community and Behavioral Health*

Emma is currently the president of the SUNY Polytechnic Student Government at Utica, and serves as the chair of Disability Services for the SUNY Student Assembly. As a community and behavioral Health major, she has earned a 4.0 overall GPA, while working within her field all four years of college. In addition, Emma is a volunteer at the Abraham House, and serves as a member of the SUNY EIT Accessibility Policy Implementation Team.

## SUNY POTSDAM

### Alex Hofler

*Holbrook, New York*

*Biochemistry and Mathematics*

Alex is graduating with a dual degree in biochemistry and mathematics, and currently holds a 3.94 overall GPA. She is the president of the chemistry club, as well as, vice president of the Gamma Sigma Epsilon Chemistry Honor Society. She aims to attend graduate school for biochemistry. Alex's career goals drive her to be a competitive student, and her passion for biochemistry has made her a mentor for other students in the chemistry department.

### Samantha McComb

*Ballston Spa, New York*

*Geology*

Samantha is graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in geology and minoring in geographic information science with concentrations in general and advanced honors. Her passion for learning and discovery enabled her to excel as a student. Samantha has achieved a 3.98 GPA while being a resident assistant, teaching assistant, research student, and club leader. She interned at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, and participated in Indiana University's rigorous geologic field camp.

## SUNY PURCHASE

### Britney Ditocco

*Mahopac, New York*

*Studio Composition and History*

Britney Ditocco will receive her B.A. and B.M. this May, and is a double major in history and studio composition with a combined GPA of 4.16. Whether researching roman history for her senior project or writing original music for her band, Britney is focused, disciplined, and enthusiastically striving to expand her knowledge in all her areas of study.

### Ilias Fourati

*Mount Kisco, New York*

*Chemistry and Piano Performance*

Ilias Fourati is an accomplished double major in piano performance and chemistry with a 4.13 GPA, and a competitive figure skater training with his partner for the 2022 Winter Olympics. Ilias' intellect, talent, and discipline has earned him numerous awards, including the American Chemical Society Award; the prestigious Presser Undergraduate Scholar Award; and with his skating partner, the 2019 Hungarian Senior Silver Ice Dance Medalists. In the fall, he will begin his master's in music.

## ROCKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### Matheus Bussolotti Damasceno Melo

*Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
Business Administration - Honors Track*  
Matheus came to Rockland Community College from the Favelas of Brazil, where he was the victim of crime and hardships. As soon as he landed at RCC, Matheus took advantage of every opportunity to become a model citizen and make an impact. A superior student with a 3.8 GPA, Matheus' story is the story of SUNY transforming individuals and communities.

### Thomas Leonard

*Stony Point, New York  
Liberal Arts and Sciences: Mathematics and Science Honors Track*  
Thomas is the epitome of a community college success story. After having social and academic struggles in high school, Thomas has served as a champion for Rockland Community College and the value of a community college education. Acting as the college's student trustee, he has worked on financial, legal, and other matters with the rest of the RCC Board while representing his fellow students. And, he has done this all while maintaining a 3.95 GPA.

### Austin Miller

*Millerton, New York  
Criminal Justice*  
Austin is a first-generation non-traditional student. Growing up in a small rural town, Austin joined the United States Navy upon graduating high school. After more than five years of service, in which he performed base security at numerous places across the United States, he came to RCC to start a new life. He has excelled beyond measure, achieving a 4.0 GPA while majoring in criminal justice.

### Alanna Wamsley

*Nanuet, New York  
Performing Arts MTH/Liberal Arts and Sciences - Humanities and Social Science Honors*  
Alanna is a remarkable student and performing arts champion at RCC. A student in countless RCC Performing Arts Department productions, Alanna is the president of the RCC Campus Players, a student group dedicated to the performing arts. She excels in the classroom with a 3.8 GPA in RCC's competitive Honors Program, and serves as a tutor in the RCC Tutoring Center.

## SUNY SCHENECTADY COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### Hannah Daignault

*Burnt Hills, New York  
Human Nutrition*  
Entering college with the goal of becoming a veterinarian, Hannah came to SUNY Schenectady to pursue a degree in science. After a recent summer internship at a veterinary hospital, she realized her real passion is helping people, and is now committed to a career in human medicine, specifically as a pediatric surgeon. Hannah is an active Phi Theta Kappa member, has a role in SGA, and tutors her peers in her spare time in the Learning Center.

## STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

### Isabella Bouklas

*East Setauket, New York  
Psychology and Sociology*  
Isabella graduated cum laude in December 2019 with majors in psychology and sociology and minors in philosophy and women's studies. At Stony Brook, she served the campus community through various leadership positions, including as a resident assistant, orientation leader, voter engagement intern, psychology research assistant, and campus director for the UN Millennium Fellowship. She hopes to follow her passions for education and improving the human condition by pursuing a career in academia, research, and advocacy.

### Brandon Catalano

*East Setauket, New York  
Biomedical Engineering*  
Brandon majors in biomedical engineering with a minor in electrical engineering. He has a passion for research, and received a URECA grant this past summer for his work on portable electrocardiography (ECG) in Dr. Wei Lin's Medical Instrumentation Lab. On the Dean's List every semester, he was inducted into Alpha Eta Mu Beta, the Biomedical Engineering Honor Society. He is an INSPIRE peer mentor, a member of marching band, and member of the robotics team.

### Danny DeGennaro

*Waterford, New York  
Electrical Engineering*  
Danny is an aspiring energy engineer, focused on implementing more renewables onto our power grid. He will be graduating from his electrical engineering program with honors, and holds minors in physics and writing and rhetoric. Danny is conducting research at Brookhaven National Lab. He is a lead tutor at the Stony Brook Academic Success & Tutoring Center, and is a member of the rugby team, competing both throughout the region and internationally.

### Udokama Ezewke

*Abuja, Nigeria  
Biochemistry*  
Udokama is a Nigerian-American majoring in biochemistry who aspires to become a surgeon, and is involved in teaching, mentoring, research, leadership, and service. She participated in faculty-mentored research, investigating the pathways of ions through the NMDA receptor. As a resident assistant, she works to educate others on social justice, diversity, and inclusion. She is also part of a non-profit organization currently establishing an after-school program for the empowerment of secondary school girls in Ghana.

### Claire Garfield

*Oneonta, New York  
Biology*  
Claire is a biology major and marine science, French, and chemistry minor, pursuing a career in chemical ecology. She is a tutor, a former TA, and is on the editorial staff of the Stony Brook Young Investigator's Review. Claire has been involved with research since high school. She has been inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, and named a Goldwater Scholar, DAAD-RISE fellow, and Marshall Scholar. Claire has also co-authored two papers.

### Marissa Kelberman

*Bolton, Massachusetts  
Political Science and Philosophy*  
Marissa graduated summa cum laude in December 2019 with majors in political science and philosophy and a minor in professional writing. Part of the Stony Brook's Division I soccer team, she helped her team make the NCAA Tournament twice in her career. Marissa volunteers for the local soccer club, campus children's hospital, as well as the on-campus food pantry. She also is involved in Peer Athlete Wellness Seminar (PAWS) and Student Athlete Advisory Committee initiatives.

## Ian Lesnick

Smithtown, New York  
Linguistics/TESOL, Spanish Languages & Literature

Ian is a proud Seawolf working towards his master's in teaching with two certifications: Spanish and TESOL. Equity, inclusion, and social justice are pivotal to Ian's work, on and off campus. From serving as USG director of Diversity Affairs and director for Camp Kesem at Stony Brook, to supporting students as a resident assistant and as president of the Honors College student advisory board, his on-campus experiences have shaped his future of helping and supporting others.

## Sishir Pasumarthy

North Attleboro, Massachusetts  
Biomedical Engineering

Sishir is an aspiring physician scientist in the Honors College who is majoring in biomedical engineering and minoring in nanotechnology studies. He performs research in Dr. Mei Lin Chan's osteoimmunology lab, and serves as president of Alpha Eta Mu Beta (International Biomedical Engineering Honor Society), vice president of Doctors Without Borders, student ambassador, and a genetic engineering TA. Sishir plans to earn his M.D./Ph.D. degrees to pursue a career in immunoengineering research.

## Nicholas Roig

Clifton Park, New York  
Biochemistry

Nick is an aspiring physician in the Honors College, majoring in biochemistry. He conducts mycobacterial research under Dr. Jessica Seeliger, and is a geriatric intern at Stony Brook Primary Care. Nick is passionate about student engagement, and has been a resident assistant in Roth Quad the past two years, additionally serving as the RA liaison for his Hall Council. He is also a runner, and competed in the 2019 Mohawk Hudson River Marathon.

## Chloe Savino

Garden City, New York  
Chemistry

Chloe is an aspiring physician in the Honors College, pursuing a degree in chemistry. She conducts research in Dr. Eszter Boros' laboratory, and has been published in the Journal of Medicinal Chemistry for her work in developing theranostic molecules for bacterial infections. Chloe demonstrates her passion for helping others through her roles as president of Project Sunshine Stony Brook, teaching assistant, undergraduate geriatric intern, and head of a water safety program for underprivileged girls.

## Caleb Sooknanan

Queens, New York  
Biomedical Engineering, Applied Math & Statistics

Caleb is a proud, first-generation Honors College student majoring in biomedical engineering, and applied mathematics and statistics. An aspiring physician, Caleb combines compassion, innovation, and leadership to enhance people's lives as the president of 3Diatics, a student-led organization dedicated to 3D printing toys for patients at Stony Brook Medicine. He has also conducted clinical imaging research at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and Stony Brook Medicine, where he currently shadows a gynecological oncologist.

## Jessica Tom

Flushing, New York  
Biology, Women's & Gender Studies

Jessica is an aspiring physician, majoring in biology and women's and gender studies. She is a student ambassador, a peer academic success coach tutor, and serves on the President's Council of Student Advisors. She is passionate about oncology, conducts research on chronic myeloid leukemia with Dr. Markus Seeliger, volunteers in the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit at Stony Brook Hospital, and has completed a clinical oncology internship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

## Peony Tse

Flushing, New York  
Social Work, Sociology

Peony is a proud first-generation student who is passionate about ensuring access to quality education around the world. Pursuing a B.S. in social work, a B.A. in sociology, and a minor in international studies, Peony is the New York district governor for Circle K International, a student ambassador, a Center for Civic Justice intern, a University Scholar, a 2019 Gilman Scholar, and a 2017-2019 JFEW SUNY Global Affairs Scholar.

## Jessica Vilas-Boas

Central Islip, New York  
Biochemistry

Jessica is a biochemistry major and aspiring structural biologist, researching a novel series of inhibitors related to FDA-approved leukemia drugs. She presents at national research conferences, serves as a CSTEP Advisory Board member, and is an INSPIRE peer mentor. Jessica is a member of the President's Council of Student Advisors, the Women's Leadership Council, and Women in Science & Engineering. A studio art minor, Jessica explores sociology and environmentalism in her photography and has exhibited at the Staller Center.

## SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### Sayra Alonzo Moreno

Riverhead, New York  
Liberal Arts Social Science Psychology

Sayra Alonzo Moreno, a liberal arts psychology major from Riverhead, New York, has a 3.7 grade point average and has earned Dean's List recognition every semester for the last two years. Sayra serves as president of Phi Theta Kappa, a peer mentor, and a Get There From Here Scholar.

### Annaliese Bronz

West Babylon  
Business Administration

Annaliese Bronz, a business administration major from West Babylon, New York, has a 3.9 grade point average and has earned Dean's List recognition every semester for the last two years. Annaliese serves as chairperson on the Finance Committee for the Student Government Association, vice president of Scholarship for Phi Theta Kappa, and a peer mentor.

## Sebastian Cwalinski

*Mastic Beach, New York  
Engineering Science*

Sebastian Cwalinski, an engineering major from Mastic Beach, New York, has a 3.9 grade point average and has earned Dean's List recognition every semester for the past two years. Sebastian serves as fundraising chair for Phi Theta Kappa, senator in the Student Government Association, and an intern for Brookhaven National Lab.

## Reynaldo Dallas

*Hampton Bays  
Hotel and Resort Management*

Reynaldo Dallas, a hotel and resort management major, has a 3.8 grade point average and has earned Dean's List recognition every semester for the past two years. Reynaldo serves as president of the Hotel, Tourism and Event Management Club, an intern for the Hyatt Place in Riverhead, and a volunteer for the Hampton Bays Ambulance Corp.

## John Carlos Duran

*Bay Shore, New York  
Liberal Arts General Studies*

John Carlos Duran, a liberal arts, general studies major, has a 3.7 grade point average and has earned Dean's List recognition every semester for the past two years. John serves as president of the Student Government Association, a peer mentor, and a member of the Orientation Planning Committee.

## Katarzyna Fialek-Yevtushenko

*Hampton Bays, New York  
Accounting*

Katarzyna Fialek-Yevtushenko, an accounting major from Hampton Bays, New York, has a 4.0 grade point average and has earned Dean's List recognition every semester for the last two years. Katarzyna serves as president of the STEM Club, treasurer of both Alpha Beta Gamma and Alpha Sigma Lambda, and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa.

## Domenica Jaramillo

*Brentwood, New York  
Business Administration*

Domenica Jaramillo, a business administration major from Brentwood, New York, has a 3.8 grade point average and has earned Dean's List recognition every semester for the past two years. Domenica serves as vice president of the Student Government Association, a peer mentor, and an Orientation Planning Committee member.

## Celine Marino

*Deer Park, New York  
Liberal Arts*

Celine Marino, a liberal arts major from Deer Park, New York, has a 4.0 grade point average and has earned Dean's List recognition every semester for the last two years. Celine serves as vice president of service for Phi Theta Kappa, senator in the Student Government Association, and an orientation leader.

## Shantell Monteith

*Bayshore, New York  
Liberal Arts General Studies*

Shantell Monteith, a liberal arts major from Bayshore, New York, has a 3.7 grade point average and has earned Dean's List recognition every semester for the last two years. Shantell has served as chapter chairperson of Sister 2 Sister, director of student engagement for the Student Government Association, and a peer mentor.

Erin Winn  
Patchogue, New York  
Business Administration  
Erin Winn, a business administration major from Patchogue, New York, has a 3.8 grade point average and has earned Dean's List recognition every semester for the last two years. Erin serves as president of the Student Government Association, president of the Honors Club, and co-chair of the College Association Advisory Committee.

## SUNY SULLIVAN

### Sarah Yousef

*Monticello, New York  
Biology*

Sarah is an exceptional student and leader. She is a biology major and has a 4.0 GPA. She is actively involved on campus, serving as vice president of the Business Club, student representative of the Curriculum Committee, and works as a peer tutor. In the summer of 2019, Sarah participated in the Baccalaureate Summer Research program and presented her research at the Annual Biomedical Conference for Minority Students in Anaheim, California.

## TOMPKINS CORTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### Lana Esho

*Nigeria  
General Studies*

Lana has excelled academically, while serving in multiple leadership roles on campus. She is the youngest Student Trustee on our campus in recent history, is a member and is on the executive board of Phi Theta Kappa, and serves in a leadership role in the Student Government Association.

### Casey Smith

*Candor, New York  
Business Administration*

Casey has been on the Dean's List consecutively while at TC3, while serving on the Executive Board of the Student Government Association. He is an involved member of the FSA Board of Directors, while maintaining employment and regular volunteerism.

## SUNY ULSTER

### Rodman Stout

*Stone Ridge, New York  
Liberal Arts Humanities & Social Sciences*

Rodman, an Early College and Honors Program student with an overall GPA of 4.0, is committed to SUNY Ulster's College community by serving as a student admissions ambassador, sharing her academic experiences with prospective students. A four-time President's List recipient, Rodman is a tutor in SUNY Ulster's Center for Academic Planning and Support in the disciplines of mathematics, statistics, and English, in addition to being a member of the Professional Ski Instructors of America.

## UPSTATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

### Jared Sweeney

*Troy, New York  
Medicine*

Jared Sweeney will graduate at the top of his medical school class. He was one of only two students in his class of 170 elected to both medical honor societies, AOA and the Gold Humanism Honor Society. Jared has authored several publications/abstracts, ranging from neurosurgical operative technique to molecular profiling of tumors. He is a gifted teacher, serving as tutor and teaching assistant in several basic science courses. Jared plans a career in academic neurosurgery.

## WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### Joel Andrade

*Irvington, New York*  
*Liberal Arts Social Science*

Joel Andrade is a member of the Honors College, and has earned sincere affection and respect of his peers and instructors alike. He is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, serves as the Student Government treasurer, is a member of the College's Faculty/Student Association Board of Directors, and vice president of the Philosophia Club. Even with his active involvement, he has maintained a 4.0 GPA.

### Bryan Goodman

*Valhalla, New York*  
*Liberal Arts & Sciences: Social Science*

Bryan is an active student leader on campus. He has an office in the two largest student organizations, serving as secretary of the Student Government and vice president of the programming board. Bryan is also a member the soccer team, works three jobs, and maintains a high GPA. His commitment to others is what makes him stand out, and no matter the task, you can count on him to get it done.

### Paulina Majerkiewicz

*Warsaw, Poland*  
*Business Management*

Paulina Majerkiewicz was born and raised in Warsaw, Poland. After graduating high school, she spent a year in Florida and New Jersey working as an au pair. In 2018, she moved to New York and continued her education at Westchester Community College. She is an active student leader in the community, serving as a senator of the Student Government and active with the Commit to Change Leadership program. She has maintained a 4.0 GPA.

### Alexender Meltzer-Werner

*Los Angeles, California*  
*Computer Science*

Alexender Meltzer-Werner had many personal challenges growing up. It was not until after he took a year-long trip with his father through Europe when he discovered his passion for higher learning. Alexender has been an active and involved student who demonstrated his high-quality leadership, intellect, and compassion for others. Notably, he served as the secretary of Student Government, and led the effort to have the college designated as a Voter Friendly Campus.

### Olivia Quinones

*New Rochelle, New York*  
*Digital Filmmaking*

While attending Westchester Community College, she has been an active member of the campus community. Notably, Olivia holds leadership positions in several major student organizations, including vice president of both the Westchester Events Board and the Student Government Association. Olivia has also served as an orientation leader. She is active in the Digital Film Club, and has won several awards for her film-making talents. Olivia's passion for helping others and supporting the community sets her apart.

### Hugo Rodriguez Espinoza

*Ecuador*  
*Paralegal Studies*

Hugo J. Rodriguez Espinoza is the son of an immigrant family. At age 19, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, serving four years in the Infantry and deploying overseas on two different occasions. During his enlistment, he was naturalized as a United States citizen, which in turn opened many doors that allowed him to pursue a higher education. His career goals are to become a lawyer and serve the people of the U.S.

### Rene Tenesaca

*Ossining, New York*  
*Liberal Arts*

Rene Tenesaca is the first in his family to go to college and graduate from high school. Rene is committed to a life of service and takes pride in being able to help others, as demonstrated through the many events he helped sponsor as vice president of Service for Phi Theta Kappa. Rene has also helped bring many community building programs to campus as president of the Westchester Events Board (WEB).



CHANCELLOR'S AWARD  
*for Student Excellence*

APRIL 2020

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