



# CHANCELLOR'S AWARD for Student Excellence

April 2, 2014



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Dear Students, Family, Faculty, and Friends,

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to recognize some of the most gifted and talented students at SUNY. The achievements of these students reflect their impressive hard work and dedication, as well as the support provided by their families and friends and SUNY's world-class faculty.

The State University of New York is proud to be not only the largest comprehensive public university system in the nation but also New York's leading economic driver and partner in creating better opportunities and a better quality of life for all New Yorkers. SUNY's relationship with its communities in every part of the state is so important to our state's vibrancy — and it is exceptional students like those we are honoring today who will be instrumental in building a better, stronger, healthier New York in the years to come.

The students we recognize today have combined outstanding academic excellence with significant contributions to their institutions and communities. We are extremely proud of their achievements, and I know I can speak on behalf of the entire State University of New York system when I congratulate each of you on your distinguished achievements and wish you the best of luck in the years to come.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nancy L. Zimpher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "N" and "Z".

Nancy L. Zimpher  
Chancellor



## **WELCOME**

**Tremayne T. Price**  
Student Trustee and  
President of the Student Assembly

## **REMARKS**

**Dr. Nancy L. Zimpher**  
Chancellor

## **PRESENTATION OF AWARDS**

The Chamber Singers from SUNY New Paltz  
are the featured performers for today's event.

RECEPTION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CEREMONY

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## SUNY ADIRONDACK

**Karen Cosey**

Greenwich, NY

Communication &amp; Media Arts

Karen was recognized for superior academic achievement by the NCJAA for softball and tennis. Karen was a tutor and interned for the women's tennis team head coach.

**Gabriela Hernandez Caprini**

San Jose Villanueva, Spain

Management, Marketing &amp; Entrepreneurship

Gabriela volunteered to teach Spanish to children at the Saratoga Public Library and students with special needs at the Accessibility Services Office. She also co-founded Hola Amigos Spanish Art Camp.

## UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

**Umaru Barrie**

New York, NY

Human Biology &amp; Chemistry

Umaru founded the Sankofa Africa Organization and Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students. He presented on his research at the Annual Biomedical Conference for Minority Students, and volunteered and recruited at Refugees and Immigrant Support Services at Emmaus Church.

**Kathryn Fanning**

Manlius, NY

Biology

Kathryn published an article in the Journal of Neuroscience and volunteered at the Veteran Affairs Hospital in Syracuse. She was named Most Valuable Player of the women's cross country team.

**Brittany Frederick**

Bronx, NY

History

Brittany volunteered at the Albany County Hall of Records. She was a resident assistant and served as assistant treasurer for the Antigua and Barbuda Council of Organizations.

**Sarah Gauthier**

Schenectady, NY

Social Work

Sarah founded Trans\*Action, a student organization representing the transgender community, founded Transgendered Awareness Week, and served as the equity and diversity chairperson for Middle Earth Peer Assistance Program.

**Kelsey Hanson**

Clifton Park, NY

History

Kelsey served as president of Pi Sigma Alpha, was a member of the Rockefeller College Dean's Leadership Council, and won three America East Conference Championships in the pentathlon.

**Brian Junquera**

Scotia, NY

Political Science

Brian interned at the National Center for Security and Preparedness. He served as associate justice for the Student Association and was a member of Rockefeller College Dean's Leadership Council.

**Margaret Levine**

Delmar, NY

Music

Margaret interned at Universal Republic Records, was a teaching assistant for Music Theory I-IV, and choreographed for the University Dance Council for five semesters.

**Temitope Omoladun**

Staten Island, NY

Biology

Temitope received the Katherine Vario Scholarship. She served as vice president of the Sankofa Africa Organization and was a member of Omicron Delta Kappa.

**Kimberly Segura**

Albertson, NY

Public Policy

Kimberly founded and served as a member of Rockefeller College Dean's Leadership Council, was a resident assistant, and interned at the New York State Assembly.

**Steven Valentine**

Staten Island, NY

English &amp; Sociology

Steven served as president of the Phenomenal Voices Performing Arts and Community Service Organization. He served as the director of marketing of the Student Association, and was a teaching fellow at the Break-through Collaborative Organization.

**David Wiegmann**

Breese, IL

Human Biology

David served as captain of the men's basketball team and was an executive board member of the Student Athletic Advisory Board Committee. David also interned at Albany Bone and Joint Center.

## ALFRED STATE COLLEGE

**Joshua Altemoos**

Buffalo, NY

Information Technology

Joshua served as president of the Student Senate, student director of the Auxiliary Campus Enterprise Services Board of Directors, and director of information services & technology for the SUNY Student Assembly.

**Rachel Howard**

Pittsford, NY

Veterinary Technology

Rachel served as president of the Veterinary Technology Club and was a supplemental instructor for Anatomy & Physiology of Large & Small Animals. Rachel volunteered weekly at the Hornell Humane Society.

**Carley Youngman**

Spencerport, NY

Architectural Technology &amp; Construction

Management Engineering Technology

Carley served as team captain of the Design Build Team at the American Schools of Construction Region 1 Student Competition, where the team placed second. Carley was also a project intern at LeChase and served as captain of the volleyball team.

## NYS CERAMICS AT ALFRED UNIVERSITY

**Eric Teller**

Granville, NY

Glass Science Engineering

Eric presented at the Material Science and Technology Conference. Eric represented the campus on the American Ceramic Society's President's Council of Student Advisors. He served as vice president of the Outdoors Club.

**Gavin Tougher**

Delmar, NY

Sculpture

Gavin served as president of the Reusable Materials Depot, curated three art exhibitions in the Robert C. Turner Student Gallery, and displayed works in ten different exhibitions.

## BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

**Tiffany Choi**

Forest Hills, NY

Management

Tiffany served as founding president of the Women in Business Advisory Board, was a member of Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society, and organized events for numerous community groups, such as the YWCA and the Girl Scouts.

**Dana Hall**

East Northport, NY  
Psychology

Dana served as vice president of the Student Psychology Organization, editor-in-chief of the Undergraduate Psychology Review, and head student researcher in the Environmental Neuropsychology Lab.

**Jin Woo Lee**

Suffern, NY  
Mechanical Engineering

Jin Woo conducted research on the "Sterilization of Catheters Using Optically Heated Gold Nanorods." He served as vice president of Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society, and played cello with the Binghamton University Symphony Orchestra.

**David Lui**

Flushing, NY  
Computer Science & Mathematical Sciences

David interned at IBM in software development and was a member of the team that won IBM's 2012 Smarter Cities Mobile App Challenge. He is co-founder and served as chief technology officer of a financial startup, DowRisk.com.

**Mallory Mecca**

Wappingers Falls, NY  
Economics & Sociology

Mallory served as director of the Binghamton High School Mentoring Program for at risk high school students. She received the President's Award for Undergraduate Student Excellence and conducted research in sociology on "Bombs and Books: The Militarization of the University."

**Benjamin Nicholson**

London, England  
English & Philosophy

Benjamin was the leading point scorer for the men's soccer team. He was a charity event organizer for the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, and was a community soccer coach.

**Arielle Nissenblatt**

White Plains, NY  
Geography

Arielle was a teaching assistant at Zhenjiang International School in China and served as president of Gamma Theta Upsilon Honor Society. She co-authored a paper on the reflections of students in Binghamton's first collaborative online international course.

**Tasfia Rahman**

Brooklyn, NY  
Anthropology, Latin, & Medieval Studies

Tasfia participated in the Fulbright Summer Institute at Durham University and served as editor-in-chief of Binghamton Prospect Magazine. Tasfia conducted research and authored a paper on the Pan-Arab Movement.

**Nicole Santalucia**

Binghamton, NY  
English Literature and Rhetoric & Composition

Nicole founded Binghamton Poetry Project, where she was a workshop leader and program director. She served as the poetry editor for the Harpur Palate Literary Journal and taught a fifth grade class after Hurricane Lee.

**Kaitlin Toporowski**

Saugerties, NY  
Nursing

Kaitlin served as a nurse intern at the Albany Stratton VA Medical Center. She volunteered for A Horse Connection in Rhinebeck, and served as an executive board member of the Nursing Student Association.

**THE COLLEGE AT BROCKPORT****Jonathan Allentoff**

Pittsford, NY  
Interdisciplinary Arts for Children

Jonathan founded and served as music director and president of the Brockport Symphony Orchestra. He was certified as music educator by the National Association for Music Education, and was recognized by the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers.

**Joseph Jackson**

Spencerport, NY  
Computer Information Systems

Joseph served as a computer information systems program scholar. He also founded a personal e-business, and served as the webmaster for the Student Government.

**Mackenzie Meyer**

Livonia, NY  
Biological Sciences

Mackenzie served as president and vice president of the Biology Honors Program. Mackenzie received the United States Presidential Volunteer Service Award, and was an Ann and Allegra Ford National Scholar.

**Elizabeth Morgan**

Owego, NY  
Psychology

Elizabeth interned at St. John of God Hospital in Dublin, Ireland. She received the Psi Chi/APS Undergraduate Research Award for Summer Research and co-presented research at a national conference.

**Cullen Wegman**

Rochester, NY  
Art

Cullen received the Undergraduate Research Scholarship. Cullen received acceptance into the national adjudicated ceramic exhibition, and was a certified firefighter.

**SUNY BROOME COMMUNITY COLLEGE****Barbara Ferrese**

Endicott, NY  
Liberal Arts

Barbara served as vice president of membership of Phi Theta Kappa, executive board member for The Bleeding Disorders Association of the Southern Tier of New York State, and group counseling facilitator at United Health Services for the Breast Cancer Support Group and The Caregivers Support Group.

**Alexa Krowiak**

Endicott, NY  
Elementary Education

Alexa served as president of Phi Theta Kappa, was named an All-American Athlete for Fall 2012 by NJCAA in women's tennis, and received the Phi Theta Kappa Hallmark Award of Distinguished Chapter Officer.

**Kathryn Slattery**

Johnson City, NY  
Early Childhood Education

Kathryn was a member of Phi Theta Kappa, mentored first grade students at Johnson City Elementary School, and received the Excellence for Teaching Award from Dancescapes Dance Studio.

**Isaac Ward**

Castle Creek, NY  
Engineering Science

Isaac served as president of the American Society for Engineering Education Club, tutored peers in mathematics, computer science, and physics, and received first place in the Musselman Half-Ironman Triathlon 2013.

## SUNY BUFFALO STATE

**Melissa Ash**

Binghamton, NY  
Art Education

Melissa served as captain of the women's ice hockey team, was a member of the SUNY Athletic Conference All-American Team, and served as secretary for the Art Education Association.

**Adza Beda**

Buffalo, NY  
Communication Studies

Adza was a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success. She received the Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowship and Outstanding AmeriCorps Award.

**Anthony Bruno**

Grand Island, NY  
Mechanical Engineering Technology

Anthony volunteered with Special Olympics and was a member of the SUNY Athletic Conference All-Academic Team for swimming and diving. He was a member of the Society of Mechanical Engineers.

**Daniel Frontera**

West Seneca, NY  
Higher Education Administration

Daniel founded the WNY Iraq Afghanistan Memorial Effort, and received the Bronze Star Medal Land Combat Action Badge from the United States Army. He presented at the National Association of Student Personal Administration Region I and SUNY Meeting the Needs of Student Veterans conferences.

**Timea Kernacova**

Spisska Nova Ves, Slovakia  
Secondary English Education

Timea served as president of Sigma Tau Delta, edited "If a Tree Falls" blog, and published the "Book Autopsy."

**Jeff Oyo**

Cambria Heights, NY  
Economics

Jeff served as summer undergraduate research assistant at the Center for Human Resources. He received the Ross B. Kenzie Family Presidential Scholarship and First Year Mentor of the Year Award.

**Eric Sauerzopf**

Downingtown, PA  
Business Marketing & Business Administration

Eric served as president of the United Student Government and was a member of the SUNY Athletic Conference All-Academic Team in track and field. He received the Eagle Scout Award.

## UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

**Kelsey Barbour**

Clifton Park, NY  
Social Sciences

Kelsey was a member of the women's swimming team and a student recruitment specialist for the Admissions Office. Additionally, she co-founded the "Hope Floats" swim meet fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, which raised \$10,000.

**Erin Ellis**

Kenmore, NY  
Community Health & Health Behavior

Erin received the Society of Behavioral Medicine's 2012 Award for Outstanding Trainee Abstract in Health Decision Making. She published in the Journal of Behavioral Medicine and served as president of the department's Graduate Student Association.

**Emily Fiore**

Freeport, NY  
Biology & Anthropology

Emily founded both the BuildOn Chapter and Global Brigades Chapter, and served as a domestic violence and sexual assault advocate for Crisis Services.

**Courtney Kodweis**

Hilton, NY  
Biomedical Engineering

Courtney taught two courses in Engineering Principles and Forensic Anthropological Osteology, conducted research in Hyderabad, India, funded by the National Science Foundation, and published and presented research at two national conferences.

**Taylor Lansing**

Vestal, NY  
Psychology and Health & Human Services

Taylor received an NCAA Division I Scholarship as a member of the women's swimming team, and co-founded the "Hope Floats" swim meet fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, which raised \$10,000. She was a research assistant in two labs.

**Andrew Lyons**

Webster, NY  
Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering

Andrew served as president of the Robotics Club, worked at a product-engineering co-op at Moog Inc., and introduced speakers and managed the main presentation hall at Space Vision 2012, a national student-run conference.

**Elise Martin**

Orchard Park, NY  
Biomedical Engineering

Elise served as president of Impulse Dance Force and as a project leader for the Biomedical Engineering Society's "Imagine It Recycling." She was inducted into Tau Beta Pi.

**Kayla Maxwell**

East Amherst, NY  
Pharmacy

Kayla pioneered the Dual Doctorate Degree Program (PharmD/PhD), served as class president of the Pharmacy Class of 2014, and volunteered on a medical missions trip.

**Daniel Ovadia**

East Meadow, NY  
Finance, Marketing & Human Resources

Daniel assisted in the creation of a management poster, was a member of the campus council, and served as chief public relations officer for a student investment fund.

**Elise Roberts**

Buffalo, NY  
Social Sciences

Elise co-founded and served as student director of the SUNY Buffalo Model European Union, was an ambassador for the College of Arts and Sciences, and was a student representative at five international summits.

**Amanda Sherman**

Guilford, NY  
Biomedical Sciences

Amanda served as research assistant for Dr. Epstein's clinical research study and was a member and mentor of the honors college. She volunteered for the Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital Patient Ambassador Program.

**Matthew Silver**

Plainview, NY  
Accounting

Matthew served as president of Beta Alpha Psi, volunteered with the Income Tax Assistance Program, and interned at PricewaterhouseCoopers.

**Christine Tjahjadi-Lopez**

Getzville, NY  
International Trade

Christine founded and served as executive director of the girls leadership conference, co-edited and founded the Bloggers Against Social Injustice and Freedom Walk Buffalo, and conducted research on corporate social responsibility and ethical retail.



**Phillip Tucciarone**

Washingtonville, NY

Chemical &amp; Biological Engineering

Phillip served as a resident assistant and teaching assistant. He was awarded the Association of Council Members and College Trustees of the State University of New York Scholarship.

**Trenton Van Epps**

Spencerport, NY

Architecture

Trenton served as president of Alpha Rho Chi. He organized a study abroad exhibition and leadership conference.

**SUNY CANTON****Lydia Dale**

Norwood, NY

Graphic &amp; Multimedia Design

Lydia served as vice president of the American Institute of Graphic Arts, received first place in Drawing and Painting in the Optic Appeal Art Show, and illustrated a children's book.

**Meghan Gibson**

Canton, NY

Sports Management

Meghan interned with the sports information department on campus, served as a summer camp counselor at Oswegatchie Educational Center, and was a student note taker.

**Tiffany Moore**

Brooklyn, NY

Veterinary Science Technology

Tiffany served as president of Chi Alpha Epsilon and was a member of the National Association for Veterinary Technicians in America. She volunteered at the Barbados Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

**CAYUGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE****Kaitlin Pullis**

Auburn, NY

Studio Art &amp; Design

Kaitlin was a member of Phi Theta Kappa and was a tutor on campus. She was mentioned in Who's Who Among American Universities and Colleges.

**Sara Randall**

Auburn, NY

Math &amp; Science

Sara served as president of the music club and as secretary of the tutor club. Additionally, she was member of Phi Theta Kappa.

**Crystal Searor**

Fulton, NY

Graphic Design

Crystal served as president of the Green Team, was a teaching assistant, and was a member of Phi Theta Kappa.

**CLINTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE****Matthew Coupal**

Champlain, NY

Computer Information Technology

Matthew served as president of Phi Theta Kappa, volunteered at Northern Housing, a senior housing facility, and presented at the SUNY Conference on Instructional Technology.

**Vihan Wickramasinghe**

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Liberal Arts

Vihan was member of Phi Theta Kappa and a tutor on campus. He fundraised for the ROTA Gallery, a non-profit community arts and music center.

**SUNY COBLESKILL****Earl Brady**

Columbia, NY

Animal Science

Earl served as vice president for the Pre-Vet Club and was a resident assistant. He was named outstanding Beef and Livestock Associate Student.

**Tracee Schiebel**

Vernon, NY

Agricultural Business Management

Tracee served as captain of the women's basketball team and was a resident assistant. Additionally, she received first place at the Post-Secondary Agricultural National Conference.

**COLUMBIA-GREENE COMMUNITY COLLEGE****Blair DelDuco**

Mellenville, NY

Criminal Justice

Blair was a peer tutor in the SPARK Peer Tutor Program and served as secretary of Phi Theta Kappa. Blair also volunteered with Go Greene!

**Danielle Lown**

Germantown, NY

Education

Danielle was an outfielder on the softball team, received the David A. Rarich Freshman Student Athlete Scholar of the Year Award, and volunteered at the Alzheimer's Walk.

**CORNELL-AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES****Spenser Reed**

Clearwater, FL

Nutritional Sciences

Spenser published articles in medical and biomedical journals, and presented at state, regional, and national medical and research symposia. Spenser volunteered as a research coordinator at the Center for Autism & Related Disorders.

**James Spanjaard**

Annapolis, MD

Applied Economics &amp; Management

James was a member of a Social Business Consulting Organization, and was a teaching assistant and research assistant for a report by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

**Martin Zorrilla**

Santa Rosa, Ecuador

Interdisciplinary Studies

Martin co-created and served as an undergraduate instructor for an Innovative Service Learning class. He served as president of Von Cramm Cooperative and he was recognized as a Public Service Center Scholar.

**CORNELL-HUMAN ECOLOGY****Evelyn Fok**

Hong Kong, China

Human Development

Evelyn served as president of the AIESEC, received the Cornell Undergraduate Research Board Business Award in Industrial & Labor Relations, and founded the United World College Society.

**Juhi Purswani**

Tarrytown, NY

Biology &amp; Society

Juhi served as president of the Student Association Cover Africa and was a resident advisor. Additionally, she conducted research on international nutrition and maternal health outcomes.

## CORNELL-INDUSTRIAL &amp; LABOR RELATIONS

**Danielle Abada**

Woodbury, NY

Industrial &amp; Labor Relations

Danielle was a Hansard Society Scholar and served as president of Phi Alpha Delta. She served as a parliament intern with the House of Commons and London School of Economics.

**Sheretta Noel**

Brooklyn, NY

Industrial &amp; Labor Relations

Sheretta served as president of Baraka Kwa Wimbo, an a cappella group. She served as president of Advent Christian Fellowship and as mentor for Project Lansing, mentoring at a correctional facility for minors.

## CORNELL-VETERINARY MEDICINE

**Daniel Jackson**

New York, NY

Veterinary Medicine

Daniel received a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, and published research articles in peer-reviewed journals. He served as president of Veterinarians Interested in Developing Areas.

**Michelle White**

Ontario, OH

Veterinary Medicine

Michelle founded and served as president of the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association and was a representative to the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly. She participated in the American Veterinary Medical Association's "Can You Hear Me Now?"

## CORNING COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Ryan French**

Newark Valley, NY

Engineering Science

Ryan served as vice president of the Student Veterans Association, participated and contributed in Research Experience for Undergraduates, and tutored at the Math Learning Center.

**Francis LaLomia**

Keene, NH

Business Administration

Francis was a resident assistant and assistant scoutmaster after receiving the Eagle Scout with a Bronze Palm. He also received the Student Leadership Scholarship.

**Renee Staffeld**

Corning, NY

Liberal Arts and Sciences

Renee served as president of Phi Theta Kappa and was a NYS Wildlife Rehabilitator. She was also co-founder and vice president of the Science Club.

## SUNY CORTLAND

**Khalia Brown**

Brooklyn, NY

Communication Studies

Khalia sang the National Anthem at campus commencement in 2012 and 2013. She was a teaching assistant in Ghana, and an admissions tour guide.

**Michael Rosenthal**

Syracuse, NY

Political Science

Michael received the Willi Uschald Study Abroad Scholarship. He volunteered as a precepting attendant for Campus Rescue and served as a peer tutor for the Educational Opportunity Program.

**Kyle Shea**

Wallkill, NY

Physical Education

Kyle served as coordinator for Adopt-A-Family and was a student host for the Multicultural Life and Diversity Conference. Additionally, he received the Northeast Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls MINI-No-Frills 2013 Award.

**LeighMarie Weber**

Williston Park, NY

Speech &amp; Hearing Science

LeighMarie served as president of the Student Government Association and was a teaching assistant. She interned for International Programs, Campus Activities and the Multicultural Life and Diversity Office.

## SUNY DELHI

**Virginia Giles**

South Kortright, NY

Information Systems Auditing

Virginia served as president of the Student Veterans Association, volunteered for more than 800 hours of community service, and received the Student Life Leadership Award.

**Drew Laemmermann**

Watertown, NY

Construction Management

Drew served as vice president of the Art Center and was a member of the Mayor's Task Force. He also received the General Contractors of America Scholarship.

## SUNY DOWNSTATE MEDICAL CENTER

**Craig Ness**

Brooklyn, NY

Medicine &amp; Public Health

Craig served as the director of Mexican operation for One Small House and as a room makeover construction manager for the Oncology Club. He delivered weekly lectures in physiology, pathology, and cardiology to high school students.

**Jasmine Patel**

Staten Island, NY

Medicine

Jasmine served as chief medical officer of the Brooklyn Free Clinic and was a resident director. She volunteered with Medicine in Action to provide Women's Health and Primary Care Services in Jamaica.

## DUTCHESS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Angelika Juerss**

Clinton Corners, NY

Liberal Arts &amp; Sciences

Angelika was an exploring transfer scholar and a member of the Honors Program. She served as secretary for Phi Theta Kappa.

**Unshin Kittel**

Red Hook, NY

Liberal Arts &amp; Sciences

Unshin served as vice president of Student Government Association, was a delegate for the Model United Nations, and was a student ambassador.

**Yoshorini Tsuji**

Toyonaka-shi Osaka-fu, Japan

Business Administration

Yoshorini served as president and president pro-tempore of the Student Government Association. He also was a member of Phi Theta Kappa.

**Keara Wright**

Saugerties, NY

Liberal Arts &amp; Sciences

Keara served as president pro-tempore of the Student Government Association and as vice president of the Ultimate Frisbee Club. She was a representative for Model United Nations.



**Joshua Wright**

Poughkeepsie, NY  
Liberal Arts & Sciences

Joshua was a member of the Eleanor Roosevelt Community College Emerging Leaders Program and served as a senator of the Student Government Association. Additionally, Joshua received the McCann Foundation Scholarship.

**EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE****Sandra Barkevich**

Amsterdam, NY  
Business, Management & Economics

Sandra served as editor of the student newsletter and was a student representative in SUNY-wide discussions regarding Open SUNY. She was named as one of New York's 2013 "40 Under 40 Rising Stars."

**Ashley Caldwell**

Ashburn, VA  
Business, Management & Economics

Ashley was on the 2010 and the 2014 US Olympic Freestyle Skiing Teams and served as a team leader for the U.S. women's aerial team. She won both a gold (2011) and silver (2013) medal in the women's aerials World Cup Competition.

**Danny Ferreyra**

Bronx, NY  
Labor Studies

Danny volunteered on the Rapid Response Team for Hurricane Sandy and served as a student representative on the Student Affairs Committee. Additionally, he founded and served as president of SASSY, a student club focused on civil and human rights.

**Elizabeth Hughes**

Rochester, NY  
Human Development

Elizabeth co-authored two scholarly papers on parasocial attachment. She was recognized twice as an Outstanding Adult Student and volunteered at Brookside Elementary School.

**Lori Mould**

Delevan, NY  
Art

Lori served as a co-chair on the Student Affairs Committee and was a university colleges representative on the SUNY Student Assembly. Additionally, Lori organized a Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Trip.

**Mark Rider**

Farmington, NY  
Educational Studies

Mark founded and served as volunteer director of the Victor Summer Music Lesson Program. He served as the director of sales operations at Getinge North America, and was a member of Victor Outreach in Children Education Parent Group.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND FORESTRY****Beverly Agtuca**

Holbrook, NY  
Biotechnology

Beverly authored and co-authored publications pertaining to scientific manuscripts and experimentations. She assisted in significant research and presentations with faculty, and received an award at the 2013 Biotechnology Symposium.

**Lauren Alteio**

Montgomery, NY  
Environmental Biology

Lauren created improvements in the waste reduction practices on campus, received the SUNY ESF Honors Program Scholarship, and conducted research at Mohonk Preserve in New Paltz.

**ERIE COMMUNITY COLLEGE****Daniel Cheng**

Buffalo, NY  
Liberal Arts

Daniel served as secretary of the Student Government Association, was an active partner in his family-owned restaurant, and volunteered at events on campus.

**Michael Christopher**

Kenmore, NY  
Dental Hygiene

Michael served as president of the Dental Hygiene Class of 2014 and was New York State Novice Light Welterweight Golden Gloves Boxing Champion. He also received the Schott Bieler and Western New York Dental Group's Dental Hygiene Scholarships.

**Richard Davis**

Buffalo, NY  
Liberal Arts

Richard served as wellness coordinator for Baker Victory Services and was a member of Phi Theta Kappa. He received the first Now U Know Stellar Partner Award from Roswell Park Office of Cancer Health Disparities Research.

**Nicholas Jones**

West Seneca, NY  
Liberal Arts

Nicholas served as captain of the football team, was a member of the Student Veteran Volunteer Group, and was a Regional Scholar Athlete.

**Morgan Miller**

Hamburg, NY  
Liberal Arts

Morgan served as president and student trustee of the Student Government Association, as chair of the Board of Trustees Student Affairs Committee, and as secretary of the Women's Lacrosse Team.

**Janine Smith**

Buffalo, NY  
Paralegal

Janine served as president of Phi Theta Kappa, founded a paralegal study group, and interned at Andrews, Bernstein, Maranto & Nicotra, an office of local attorneys.

**Nicholas Verna**

Morgantown, WV  
Liberal Arts

Nicholas served as captain of the football team. He was a member of the Student Veteran Volunteer Group and member of the Academic Honors Platoon.

**Alexa Wajed**

Cheektowag, NY  
Culinary Arts

Alexa received the Travel Abroad Scholarship for an internship experience in Italy and participated in a cooking demonstration television program - Winging It! She volunteered at the food pantry at St. Girard's Church.

**FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE****Joy Grynko**

Port Jefferson Station, NY  
Applied Psychology

Joy was a resident assistant and an orientation leader. She served as a president of the International Honor Society.

**Kristine Meyer**

Dix Hills, NY  
Nursing

Kristine received the Sigma Theta Tau International Award, served as treasurer for the Student Nurses Association, and administered more than 400 flu shots at Senator Skelos' Golden Gathering.

**John Scuteri**

Farmingdale, NY  
Computer Programming

John served as chief justice of Student Government, vice president of the Student Veterans Club, and as a member of Sigma Beta Delta.

**Jade Truong**

Beacon, NY  
Bioscience

Jade served as vice president of Golden Key International and was a peer tutor for biology. Additionally, she participated in the Marist College Internship Program.

**Sarina Turbendian**

Farmingdale, NY  
Professional Communications

Sarina served as the president of the Golden Key International, as executive of the Armenian Youth Federation, and received the 2013 Eugene P. Link Undergraduate Scholarship.

**FASHION INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY****Monike Bartley-Williams**

Surrey, United Kingdom  
Production Management in  
Fashion Related Industries

Monike served as manager of films for the Student Association, as vice president of the Production Management Club, and as a senior resident assistant.

**Fernanda DeSouza**

Bethpage, NY  
Advertising and Marketing Communications

Fernanda served as editor-in-chief of W27, a student newspaper, and as captain of the women's tennis team. Additionally, she authored a 110-page novella and three short stories.

**Jaime Duncan**

Massapequa, NY  
Fashion Merchandising Management

Jaime won the Retail Futures Challenge at the World Retail Congress, received the Barnes & Noble 'Pursue Your Passion' Grant, and organized a mural painting project at the American Hospital of Paris.

**Elizabeth Halberstadt**

Indianapolis, IN  
Fabric Styling

Elizabeth received the Barnes & Noble 'Pursue Your Passion' Scholarship Grant, contributed writing and research reports for Stylesight, and was an industry buyer of the Merchandising Society.

**Zara Khalid**

Scarsdale, NY  
Advertising & Marketing Communications

Zara served as student ambassador, and was co-founder and editor-at-large for Student's Blog Magazine. She also received the Baker and NYS Diversity Scholarship.

**Sanya Khanna**

Natick, MA  
Advertising & Marketing Communications

Sanya served as vice president of the Student Association and co-founded and served as president and treasurer of the Multicultural Association of South Asians Living in America Club. She also volunteered with New York Kids Enjoy Exercise Now.

**Hyuna Na**

Gwangju-si, Korea  
Packaging Design

Hyuna was a resident assistant. She served as co-president of the Packaging Design Club and as treasurer of the Student Association.

**FINGER LAKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE****Kelly Broderick**

Canandaigua, NY  
Liberal Arts

Kelly served as captain of the Women's Basketball Team and was a member of Phi Theta Kappa. She received the Omega Delta Kappa Gamma Scholarship.

**Sean Murphy**

Penn Yan, NY  
Horticulture

Sean served as president of the Horticulture Club, as coordinator of fundraising for Phi Theta Kappa, and volunteered at blood drives for the American Red Cross.

**Carley Shick**

Prattsburgh, NY  
Registered Nursing

Carley served as a student trustee to the Board of Trustees and as a chair of the Campus Activities Board. She was a co-founder of the Habitat for Humanity Alternative Spring Break Trip.

**SUNY FREDONIA****Laura Hirst**

Watertown NY  
Political Science & History

Laura studied abroad at Univerzita Karlova in Prague and the Czech Republic. She served as an English translation editor with Memory of Nations Project at Cesky rozhlas (Czech Radio) and as vice president and founding member of the International Club.

**Cory Jackson**

Schenectady NY  
Biology

Cory conducted research in neurobiology and biochemistry at the University of Rochester, tutored peers in biology, chemistry, physics, and calculus and served as treasurer of the Health Professions Club.

**Samantha Jemiolo**

Orchard Park, NY  
Psychology

Samantha served as president of the Golden Key International Honor Society, participated on medical service trips to Honduras and Costa Rica, and presented research at the Western Pennsylvania Undergraduate Psychology Conference.

**Carl Lam**

Hamburg, NY  
Audio Production & Applied Music/Journalism

Carl received the Louis C. Adler Scholarship. Additionally, he was a member of the Symphony Orchestra and served as chair of the Student Relations Committee.

**FULTON-MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY COLLEGE****Luis Martinez**

Far Rockaway, NY  
General Studies

Luis was a member of the Residence Life Club, volunteered with residence life and student activities, and fundraised in the community.

**Gregory Ruddy**

Troy, NY  
General Studies

Gregory served as president of the Student Government Association, and was a member of the campus Board of Directors and the baseball team.

## GENESEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Michelle Nagle**

Randolph, NY

Tourism &amp; Hospitality Management

Michelle was a member of Phi Theta Kappa and a project manager for the Annual Fashion Show Reception. She served as captain of the women's volleyball team and she was named Western New York Athletic Conference Player of the Year.

**Yuki Sasao**

Fukuoka, Japan

Business Administration

Yuki received Competent Leader and Communicator Awards from Toastmasters International, while she served as webmaster for Phi Theta Kappa and treasurer for the International Student Organization.

**Emmeline Vacanti**

Alexander, NY

Teacher Education

Emmeline received the Presidential Scholarship and was Student of the Month. She also served as vice president of Phi Theta Kappa.

**Kelly Wetherby**

Olean, NY

Fashion Merchandising &amp; Event Planning

Kelly coordinated a luncheon that hosted Project Runway winner Anya Ayoung Chee, and coordinated and hosted a professional workshop guided by Susan Makai, founder of Susan Makai's Personal Best. She also assisted in raising \$2,523 during the 5th Annual Duck Derby.

## SUNY GENESEO

**Mary Aldridge**

Rochester, NY

Business Administration

Mary earned the Emerald Certificate in Geneseo Opportunities for Leadership Development program, served as captain of the cross-country team, and was a two-time national championship qualifier.

**Laura Duclos**

Clifton Park, NY

Biology &amp; Cognitive Science

Laura was a summer Undergraduate Research Fellow with Upstate Medical University, served as a leader in Admissions and Residence Life, and volunteered as a state and regional judge for NY Odyssey of the Mind.

**Rena Paziienza**

Castleton, NY

Psychology &amp; Philosophy

Rena received the Edgar Honors Scholarship and served as president and vice president of Women's Action Coalition. She was certified by New York State as a rape crisis advocate.

**Marty Rogachefsky**

Brighton, NY

Political Science &amp; Economics

Marty received first place in a Moscow Essay Competition. Additionally, he was a senior resident assistant and was a Council on Public Liberal Arts Research Scholar.

## HERKIMER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Kathryn Dolly**

Herkimer, NY

Liberal Arts &amp; Sciences

Kathryn was a member of Phi Theta Kappa and the women's softball team. She volunteered with the American Heart Association, the Great American Irish Festival, and Catholic Daughters Court Reardon #841.

**Kayla Guidi**

Herkimer, NY

Criminal Justice

Kayla served as president of the Sociology Club, vice president of Outdoors/Go Green Club and Criminal Justice Club, and public relations officer for Phi Theta Kappa.

**Avery McLemore**

Poughkeepsie, NY

Physical Therapist Assistant

Avery served as president of the Student Association, student trustee on the Board of Trustees, and president of the Physical Therapist Assistant Club.

## HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Shauna Anderson**

Greenville, NY

Liberal Arts &amp; Sciences

Shauna was named a Phi Theta Kappa Scholar, was a member of the Student Senate, and taught American Sign Language and deaf culture at the Greenville Public Library.

**James Greg**

Clifton Park, NY

Engineering Science

James was named a Phi Theta Kappa scholar, served as vice president of the Student Senate, and volunteered as a group leader with Sports Are For Everyone.

**Charles Parslow**

Fonda, NY

Engineering Science

Charles served as captain of the baseball team, was a representative on the Chancellor's Award for Excellence and Teaching Committee, and was a peer tutor in mathematics and physics.

**Bryan Vandenburg**

Valatie, NY

Business Administration

Bryan was a Phi Theta Kappa Scholar and served as vice president for chapter membership for Phi Theta Kappa. Additionally, he served in the United States Marine Corps.

## JAMESTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Nolan Farr**

Jamestown, NY

Liberal Arts &amp; Sciences

Nolan was a student ambassador and served as captain of the men's soccer team. He received the All-Conference First Team Award for Soccer.

**Amy Hulin**

Bolivar, NY

Liberal Arts &amp; Sciences

Amy was a student ambassador and served as captain of the women's soccer team. Additionally, Amy ranked in the Top 15 of Goalies in NCJAA.

**Tyler Silagyi**

Cherry Creek, NY

Business Administration

Tyler was a student ambassador, a student representative on the Presidential Transition Team, and a resident assistant.

## SUNY JEFFERSON

**Kate Gehrke**

Belleville, NY

Business Administration

Kate was named Enrollment Management and Student Life's Student of the Year, received the Steven Can Scholarship for Academic Excellence, and served as captain of the women's soccer team.

**Juliann Schindler**

Dexter, NY  
Hospitality & Tourism

Juliann served as president of the Student Government and as president of the Clayton Figure Skating Club. Additionally, she was a member of the Campus Life Committee.

**MARITIME COLLEGE****Brandon Baranyar**

Fairfield, NY  
Marine Transportation

Brandon was a top three deck cadet on a summer cruise, and participated on the cadet ship with Alaska Tanker Company. He also served as drummer in a bagpipe band.

**Julia Paxton**

Sebastopol, NY  
Marine Environmental Science

Julia was a deck training instructor and served as squad leader for the Regiment of Cadets. Additionally, she served as co-captain of the sailing team.

**MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE****Meghan Carlo**

Rome, NY  
Engineering Science

Meghan was selected as a 2nd Team All-American for the NJCAA. She interned in the Research and Development Department at Indium Corporation and served as an ambassador, promoting STEM career fields.

**Nicolai Giedraitis**

North Brookfield, NY  
Engineering Science

Nicolai received the Exceptional Student Scholarship and Presidential Scholarship, volunteered at the Children's Museum of History, Science, and Technology and Christopher Columbus Elementary School. He performed in the Drama Club's Variety Show.

**Keari Little**

Whitesboro, NY  
Psychology

Keari served as president of Phi Theta Kappa and was a delegate to the Student Congress. She coordinated "Course to Career: An Exploration in MVCC's Majors."

**Madison Vitale**

Illion, NY  
Childhood Education

Madison served as the vice president of service of Phi Theta Kappa and was a student assistant in the Admissions Office. She received the Class of 1953 Scholarship and the Dave and Virginia Ward Scholarship.

**MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE****Olivia Choma**

Webster, NY  
Liberal Arts

Olivia served as vice president for Phi Theta Kappa and was a delegate to Model United Nations. She also chaired the Phi Theta Kappa Honors In Action Research Project.

**Tashawn Desir**

Brooklyn, NY  
Liberal Arts

Tashawn was a member of the men's basketball team, was named Most Valuable Player of the Murph Shapiro Tournament, and volunteered with the Rochester City School District.

**Adrian Hale**

Rochester, NY  
Liberal Arts

Adrian served as speaker of the senate in the Student Government Association and was a senior airman in the US Air Force. Additionally, he coordinated a fundraiser for Hurricane Sandy victims.

**Krista Maltzahn**

Webster, NY  
Liberal Arts

Krista was a member of the women's volleyball team, a member of the 2013 All-Conference Volleyball Team, and a volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House.

**Rachel Peden**

Rochester, NY  
Psychology

Rachel was an orientation assistant and member of Phi Theta Kappa. Rachel also received the Jack and Maureen Koch Liberal Arts Scholarship.

**Sean Reid**

Fairport, NY  
Engineering Science

Sean served as president of the Engineering Leadership Council, published an article on the use of surface grinding and polishing to remove etch induced noise, and placed first in the AMATYC and NYSMATYC National and State Math Competition.

**Chloe Vazzana**

Webster, NY  
Liberal Arts

Chloe served as president of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Project, assisted with the Clinton Global Initiative's project Brighten A Child's Future, and received the SUNY Emerging Leader Award.

**MORRISVILLE STATE COLLEGE****Daniel Mirocco**

Stony Brook, NY  
Automotive Technology

Daniel served as president of the Automotive Club and was a member of Syracuse Nationals Factory Five Build Team. He delivered the ESBOCES Commencement Speech in 2012.

**Amanda Watkins**

Cazenovia, NY  
Entrepreneurship & Small Business Management

Amanda served as president of Phi Beta Lambda and was a peer tutor. Additionally, she completed the Institute for Leaders at the Phi Beta Lambda National Leadership Conference.

**SUNY NASSAU****Shanice Bailey**

Freeport, NY  
Liberal Arts

Shanice was an orientation leader and a volunteer at Planned Parenthood. She also served as representative to the NYPIRG State Board.

**Kara Curtin**

Williston Park, NY  
Liberal Arts

Kara served as chair of the Student Government Association, was a representative on the Academic Senate, and was a sports editor of the campus student newspaper.

**Ryan Elton**

Port Washington, NY

Accounting &amp; Business Administration

Ryan volunteered at the Community Chest of Port Washington and was a member of the Accounting Society. He also started two small businesses.

**Michael Gallo**

Carle Place, NY

Marketing

Michael was a member of the Board of Trustees for the Development & Outreach Committee of Catholic Charities of Brooklyn & Queens, and a co-chair of the Bishop Sullivan Memorial Classic. Additionally, he founded the Michael J. Gallo Italian Heritage Scholarship.

**Joshua Lafazan**

Woodbury, NY

Liberal Arts

Joshua served as founder and CEO of Safe Ride Syosset and was an elected official to the Syosset School Board of Education. The Long Island Press named him as one of the 50 Most Influential People on Long Island.

**Daniel MacDonald**

Long Beach, NY

Business Administration &amp; Accounting

Daniel chaired the Veterans Outreach Committee, founded and managed the Pergola Company of Long Beach, NY, and served as an American Red Cross Volunteer.

**William Mahlan**

Massapequa, NY

Liberal Arts

William served as treasurer of the Phi Theta Kappa and as pianist in the Jazz Ensemble. Additionally, he won the break contest at the Bamboozle Music Festival with his band, Bears and Motorcycles.

**Swathi Marda**

Westbury, NY

Liberal Arts

Swathi served as a senator in the Student Government Association, volunteered at Nassau University Medical Center, and was a member of Phi Theta Kappa.

**Emmanuel Ozuruonye**

Queens, NY

Liberal Arts

Emmanuel served as president of the POP Records Club. Additionally, he was a member of Phi Theta Kappa and an orientation leader.

**Justine Re**

Wantagh, NY

Liberal Arts

Justine served as features editor for the student newspaper, interned at CBS Prime-time Casting, and hosted a local campus radio station.

**Kerry Sweeney**

Bethpage, NY

Liberal Arts

Kerry served as secretary of Phi Theta Kappa. She was an orientation leader and a writer for the student newspaper.

**Leslie Trigou**

Lynbrook, NY

Paralegal Studies &amp; Legal Studies

Leslie was ministry director and facilitator in a local church and a member of Lambda Epsilon Chi. She also served as president and owner of a small business.

**Elyse Zappia**

Malverne, NY

Liberal Arts

Elyse was a member of Phi Theta Kappa and a writer for the campus literary journal. She served as academic senator of the student government.

**SUNY NEW PALTZ****Chelsea Allocco**

Chatham, NJ

Math &amp; Computer Science

Chelsea earned NCAA All-America honors and was SUNYAC Champion six times. Additionally, she served as an intern at AT&T and founded the Robotics Club.

**Stephen Lawrence**

Bayport, NY

Organizational Communication

Stephen was a member of the President's Student Advisory Board and a peer career assistant. He served as executive director for the "Up 'Til Dawn" project.

**Loucia Papaseraphim**

Astoria, NY

Early Childhood Education &amp; English

Loucia was a member of Kappa Delta Pi and an emerging leader mentor. She volunteered on the Alternative Spring Break in New Paltz.

**Deborah Walnicki**

Glenmont, NY

Sociology

Deborah received the Cetrino Family Award and Scholarship, served as a campus recruitment ambassador for City Year, and interned for Fundacion Crecer in Equador.

**Brendan Wright**

Patchogue, NY

Women's, Gender &amp; Sexuality Studies

Brendan served as a board member of National Residence Hall Honorary, as associate director of the North East Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls, and as departmental representative on the Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean's Advisory Board.

**NIAGARA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE****Jessica Dolansky**

Newfane, NY

Nursing

Jessica served as vice president of the Student Nurses Association. She was a member of Phi Theta Kappa and the Professional Nurses Association.

**Reid Okoniewski**

Ransomville, NY

Public Communication

Reid served as president and treasurer of the Student Senate, as president of the Student Programming Board, and was a member of the intercollegiate golf team.

**Linda Seefeldt**

East Amherst, NY

Human Services

Linda served as president and secretary of the campus Human Services Association, as social media editor for the Promise for Tomorrow Grant project, and was a member of the campus advisory board.

**Joshua Wooldridge**

Niagara Falls, NY

Physical Education

Joshua served as president of the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Majors Club, as president of the Future Professionals Section of New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance. He received the Major of the Month Award twice.



## NORTH COUNTRY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Melody Blackmore**

Hamilton, NY  
 Massage Therapy

Melody was a student trustee, a member of the Student Senate, and a member of the campus association overseeing auxiliary services.

**Epril Nossent**

Tromso, Norway  
 Math & Science

Epril was a student ambassador and served as captain of the women's soccer team. Additionally, Epril received the Science Award for Outstanding Achievement.

## OLD WESTBURY

**Susan Ramirez**

Brentwood, NY  
 Biological Sciences

Susan presented research at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students. She interned at the Women's Center on campus and was a member of the Science Club.

## SUNY ONEONTA

**Raymond Boss**

Macedon, NY  
 Adolescent Education

Raymond served as vice president of the Association of Secondary Educators and received the Best and Brightest for Academic Excellence award. He received recognition for College Engagement and Community Involvement.

**Kaylee Herzog**

Delmar, NY  
 Biology

Kaylee served as president of the Biology Club, received a research grant for describing a new species of stingray tapeworm, and published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal.

**Ashley Ly**

Walton, NY  
 Biochemistry

Ashley served as concert master for the Orchestra, received the 2014 Student Grant for Research and Creative Activity award, and tutored high school students in chemistry.

**Mifuyu Otsuka**

Tokyo, Japan  
 Mass Communication

Mifuyu served as a representative on the President's Council on Diversity, as president of the Japanese Society for All, and as founder of the Annual Global Movement Festival.

## ONONDAGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Christopher Ellis**

Laguna Beach, CA  
 Engineering Science & Electrical Engineering  
 Technology

Christopher served as the founding chair of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, as student representative on the Board of Directors, and as vice president of evening programs for Phi Theta Kappa.

**Emir Ljuca**

Manlius, NY  
 Engineering Science

Emir served as treasurer of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and was a tutor for physics, chemistry, and calculus. Additionally, his team scored in the top five at the New York State Mathematics Association of Two-Year Colleges' Math League Competition.

**Rebekah Tanner**

Syracuse, NY  
 Humanities, Social Sciences & Art

Rebekah received the Faculty Endowed Scholarship for Academic Excellence and served as chair of the campus committee for "Out of the Darkness Campus Walk." She volunteered as zoo educator and tour guide at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo.

**Casey Taylor**

Minoa, NY  
 Humanities & Social Sciences

Casey served as vice president of the Student Association for Entertainment and Programming, as president of the National Society for Leadership and Success, and was a volunteer coach for youth basketball.

**Zachary Traver**

Vestal, NY  
 Business Administration

Zachary was named NJCAA Distinguished Academic All-American. He served as captain of the campus baseball team and was a member of Phi Theta Kappa.

## COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

**Kevin Willeford**

Easton, PA  
 Optometry

Kevin published four papers in various scientific journals, received the Student Travel Grant from the Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation Association, and implemented smoking cessation services on campus.

## SUNY ORANGE

**Joanna Dykeman**

Montgomery, NY  
 English

Joanna presented at the Northeast Regional Honors Council Conference in 2013 and 2014, served as student representative to the Foundation Board, and received the President's Honors Program Scholarship for Outstanding Academic Achievement.

**Amanda Quintana**

Newburgh, NY  
 Psychology

Amanda served as president of the Newburgh Board of Activities, as secretary of the Student Senate, and was a student ambassador.

**Vivek Sood**

Middletown, NY  
 Business Administration

Vivek received the President's Honors Program Scholarship, presented at the Northeast Regional Honors Council Conference, and served as vice president of the Business Club.

## SUNY OSWEGO

**Larissa Assam**

Cameroon, Africa  
 Biology

Larissa served as president of the Minority Association of Pre-Health Students, was named Peer Educator of the Year by the National Alliance of Black School Educators, and conducted research at the University of Calcutta in India.



**Kyle Brayton**

Fulton, NY

Accounting

Kyle served as president of the Financial Management Association and Accounting Society, volunteered with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, and interned at PricewaterhouseCoopers.

**Lindsay King**

Troy, NY

Global &amp; International Studies and Communication

Lindsay received the Jose Ramon Perez International Beijing Scholarship, interned for Congressman Daniel Maffei and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, and served as international marketing intern for the Great Wall Club Incorporated.

**Nicole Leader**

Baldwinsville, NY

Childhood Education &amp; Earth Science

Nicole received the Dean's Writing Prize in Curriculum and Instruction, served as captain of the women's tennis team, and tutored peers in mathematics.

**Rhiannon Peshniak**

Hopewell Junction, NY

History &amp; Anthropology

Rhiannon was a campus tutor and a research lab assistant in the NAGPRA Archaeology Lab. Additionally, she presented scientific papers at national and international conferences.

**SUNY PLATTSBURGH****Maura Danehey**

Hopewell Junction, NY

Public Relations &amp; Multimedia Journalism

Maura interned at the Department of State and NBC Sports Group Communications, received the Richard Semmler Community Scholarship, and was a teaching assistant.

**Rebecca Robbins**

Essex, NY

Nutrition

Rebecca interned within the Lake Forest Senior Living Community, Green Mountain at Fox Run, and DAK Bar. She presented at the National Association of Biology Teachers and the National Science Teachers Association and volunteered at Planned Parenthood.

**Nikki Schiebel**

Vernon, NY

Political Science

Nikki presented at the NYS Political Science Association Conference, interned for Congressman Richard Hanna, and volunteered more than three hundred hours of community service.

**Kym Taylor**

Chazy, NY

English Literature

Kym served as co-president and secretary of Sigma Tau Delta. She also was an intern and academic program co-coordinator and teaching assistant.

**SUNY POTSDAM****ChaRon Brabham**

Brooklyn, NY

Theater

ChaRon served as president of the Dance Team, and as vice president of the Black Student Alliance. She was an Oscar trophy presenter at the 2013 Academy Awards ceremony.

**Kate Clauss**

Bloomfield, NY

Psychology

Kate served as captain of the women's soccer team and was a member of the General Education Committee. Additionally, she received the Mt. Emmons Scholarship.

**Samantha DiPietro**

New Hartford, NY

Early Childhood Education &amp; Dance

Samantha served as vice president of Phi Kappa Phi. Additionally, she was a residence life assistant and an orientation leader.

**PURCHASE COLLEGE****Lauren Britton**

Purchase, NY

Visual Arts

Lauren received the Presidential Scholarship, participated in the Art Show: Best of SUNY Student Art Exhibition, and was a resident assistant.

**Michaela Ellington**

Jackson, WY

Dance

Michaela served as class representative for Conservatory of Dance Class of 2014 and was a resident assistant. She also performed and choreographed performances in a variety of venues internationally.

**Elizabeth Pysarenko**

Riverhead, NY

Art History

Elizabeth received the Philip H. Steckler, Jr. Memorial Scholarship. Additionally, she served as a nurse educator and healthcare volunteer at a tribal nursing home and as curator of an art exhibit, "In Search of the Ephemeral: Sublime Explorations of Urban Decay."

**SUNY ROCKLAND****Norman Cottrill, Jr.**

Mays Landing, NJ

Communication &amp; Media Arts

Norman served as president of the Student Veterans Honor Society. He was a member of Phi Sigma Omicron and a volunteer at the campus multi-media center.

**Lazar Lipa Schmeltzer**

Airmont, NY

Performing Arts

Lazar Lipa served as a leader of the congregation at a local synagogue and was a member of Phi Theta Kappa. He also released many Jewish pop albums world-wide.

**Mendel Taub**

Ramap, NY

Pre-Law

Mendel presented at Yale Writers' Conference, in addition to having served as student representative on the Board of Trustees and as vice president of fellowship at Phi Theta Kappa.

**SCHENECTADY COUNTY CC****Thomas Bambury**

Schenectady, NY

Chemical Dependency Counseling &amp; Human Services

Thomas served as vice president of Restart Club, as vice president of the Student Veterans Organization, and as student trustee on the Board of Trustees.

**Elisabeth Smith**

Schenectady, NY

Teacher Education

Elisabeth served as vice president of the Student Government Association, as co-leader of Second Blessings Clothes Project, and as board member of the Faculty-Student Association.

## STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

**Safa Abdelhakim**

St. James, NY

Biology

Safa served as president of the Golden Key International. She was a member of Global Medical Brigades and an undergraduate researcher.

**Connor Beierle**

Centereach, NY

Mechanical Engineering

Connor interned at NASA Ames Research Center and NASA Glenn Research Center. He also served as founder and president of the American Institute of Aeronautics & Astronautics and was a captain of the rugby team.

**Dara Bobb-Semple**

New York, NY

Chemistry

Dara published in a peer-reviewed journal, received the UNCF-Merck Science Research & American Chemical Society Scholarships, and presented at the annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students.

**Kevin Chavez**

Flushing, NY

Biochemistry

Kevin published in a scientific journal, received a poster award at the annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students, and served as student representative on the Student Health Advisory Committee.

**Olivia Cheng**

Jackson Heights, NY

Biochemistry

Olivia was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and received the Undergraduate Research & Creative Activities Fellowship. She was selected Homecoming Queen.

**Derek Cope**

Glen Cove, NY

Nursing

Derek served as vice president for academic affairs in the undergraduate Student Government, as founder and president of the Sports Club Council, and as coordinator of the Pediatric Cancer Center Volunteer/Bone Marrow Drive.

**Kara DeSanna**

New Hyde Park, NY

History &amp; Political Science

Kara was named a JFEW-SUNY Global Affairs and International Relations Scholar, organized a service learning project at the Southern US Model United Nations Conference, and presented at the Undergraduate Research & Creative Activities Symposium.

**Raniah EL-Gendi**

Rocky Point, NY

Psychology &amp; Sociology

Raniah was a student ambassador and a freshman seminar teaching assistant. She served as a Jewish Foundation for Education of Women Scholar.

**Neha Kinariwalla**

Sayville, NY

Sociology

Neha founded the Humanology Project, served as student representative on the Asian Program Advisory Committee, and delivered remarks at the inaugural TEDx event.

**Ariana Levin**

Storrs, CT

Biology

Ariana was a teaching assistant and volunteered at a nursing home in Costa Rica. She was named a Shaps Scholar at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

**Surinder Moonga**

East Meadow, NY

Biology

Surinder was a resident assistant and served as event coordinator for the Tis' the Season charity event. Additionally, he authored five research publications.

**Bryan Nguyen**

Brooklyn, NY

Biology

Bryan was a teaching assistant and an orientation team leader. He also worked on biology education research.

**Ali Syed**

East Patchogue, NY

Biology &amp; Sociology

Ali founded and served as president of the Student Health Initiative to Network and Educate and was named a Truman Scholar Finalist. She completed undergraduate research in the Department of Sociology.

**Justin Thomas**

Floral Park, NY

Biochemistry &amp; Philosophy

Justin was a teaching assistant, volunteered as an emergency medical technician, and performed as a vocalist and guitarist for patients at local hospitals.

**Jean-Claude Velasquez**

Hicksville, NY

Political Science &amp; Philosophy

Jean-Claude was a Summer Public Health Scholar at Columbia University, and published an article in the Political Science Journal. He also served as freshman representative on the Educational Opportunity Program Student Association.

## SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Elizabeth Ammenworth**

Bayport, NY

Business Administration

Elizabeth served as president of the Community Service Club and as chair of the Communications Club. She also received the Get There From Here Scholarship.

**Sameer Anand**

Baiting Hollow, NY

Computer Science

Sameer served as vice president of the Community Service Club, volunteered as an emergency medical technician and first responder at Riverhead Volunteer Ambulance Corps, and founded a software engineering company.

**Amie Bernstein**

Holbrook, NY

Liberal Arts

Amie served as president of Phi Theta Kappa, assisted with various Community College Completion Corps events, and was certified as a New York State Licensed Optical Trainee.

**Taylor Biondi**

Holbrook, NY

Nursing

Taylor received the Get There From Here Scholarship, volunteered at Stony Brook University Hospital, and served as a student representative on the CTEA Local Advisory Council.

**Angelina Curley**

Sayville, NY  
Liberal Arts

Angelina served as president of the Biology Club, interned at Stony Brook University for the National Science Foundation, and received a NSF Scholarship in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

**Felipe Espitia Cetina**

Brentwood, NY  
Business Administration

Felipe served as a student trustee on the Board of Trustees and as president of the Association of Latin American Students. Additionally, he was included in Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities.

**Jennifer Ilgaz**

Eastport, NY  
Accounting

Jennifer served as president of Alpha Beta Gamma, as vice president of Phi Theta Kappa, and as senator of Student Government.

**Amanda Koscik**

Commack, NY  
Liberal Arts

Amanda served as editor-in-chief of Western Student Press, as public relations officer of the Speech and Debate Team, and as the student representative on the Assessment Advisory Council.

**Suzanne Loevner**

Bohemia, NY  
Chemical Dependency Counseling

Suzanne served as the communication system administrator for the Chemical Dependency Program and vice president of Phi Theta Kappa. Additionally, she received first place in the 2013 Undergraduate Poetry Project.

**Bryan Nee**

East Setauket, NY  
Theatre Arts

Bryan received the Get There From Here Scholarship, was a member of Phi Theta Kappa, and volunteered with clean up efforts after Hurricanes Sandy and Nemo.

**Maryam Yahya Rabbani**

Bayshore, NY  
Liberal Arts

Maryam Yahya served as managing editor of the Western Student Press and as vice president of Phi Theta Kappa. Additionally, she received the Chancellor's Educational Pipeline Biomedical Research Award.

**Deborah Rehm**

Shirley, NY  
Business Administration

Deborah founded and served as president of SOULS in Business and founded the Jammie Chicks Project, and was included in Who's Who Among Students in Universities and Colleges.

**Danielle Safaty**

Hauppauge, NY  
Liberal Arts

Danielle served as president of the National Science and Discovery Club, as a senator for the Student Government, and was a member of the Special Olympics Committee.

**Jorge Vallecillo**

West Islip, NY  
Liberal Arts

Jorge served as vice president of the Student Government Association and as president of the Sigma Kappa Delta. He was included in Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities.

**SUNY SULLIVAN****Rachelle Walker**

Monticello, NY  
Liberal Arts

Rachelle served as president of the Student Government Association, received seventh place in the State of New York for Public Forum Debate, and presented at the Northeast Regional Honors Conference.

**April White**

Cochecton, NY  
Liberal Arts

April was a member of Phi Theta Kappa and tutored in the Learning Center Peer Tutoring Services. She was certified as an Emergency Medical Technician.

**SUNYIT****Rachel Barbato**

Binghamton, NY  
Psychology

Rachel served as chair of the nominating committee and active board member of the Town of Western Historical Society. She was a member of Phi Theta Kappa and a research assistant.

**Brittani Howell**

Whitney Point, NY  
Interdisciplinary Studies

Brittani was a resident advisor and member of the Student Athlete Advisory Council. She received the National Eastern Athletic Conference Scholar Athlete Award for Women's Soccer and Women's Lacrosse.

**TOMPKINS CORTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE****Cheyenne Gorton**

Lansing, NY  
Hotel & Restaurant Management

Cheyenne served as the student trustee on the Board of Trustees, as president of the Hospitality and Restaurant Association, and as vice president for student involvement for the Student Government Association.

**Audreykate Ordway**

Freeville, NY  
Nursing

Audreykate served as captain of the women's basketball team and was a tour guide. Additionally, she volunteered over thirty hours per week.

**Taylor Policay**

Ithaca, NY  
Sport Management

Taylor was on the Mid-State Athletic Conference All-Conference Softball Team and served as captain of the women's softball team. She was named NJCAA Region III Co-Athlete of the Week.

**SUNY ULSTER****Kyle Knuffke**

Kingston, NY  
Criminal Justice

Kyle interned with the New York State Police, received certification as an exterior firefighter, and was a member of the Criminal Justice Club.

**Courtney Sheeley**

Tillson, NY  
Science Adolescent Education

Courtney served as vice president of the Student Government. She also was a member of the Ulster County Youth Board and the Vocal Ensemble.

**UPSTATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY**

**Daniella Palermo**

Bronx, NY  
Medicine

Daniella received the SUNY Upstate Student Citizen Award, served as the president's student ambassador, and volunteered at the Westside Family Health Center.

**Tiffany Telarico Caza**

Clay, NY  
Medicine

Tiffany received the American College of Rheumatology Research and Education Foundation Medical and Graduate Student Achievement Award, served as a mentor for first-year medical students, and volunteered as an interpreter at migrant farm clinics.

**SUNY WESTCHESTER**

**Komala Kotramada Bheemaiah**

Karnataka, India  
Paramedic

Komala was an admissions ambassador, an orientation leader, and a peer advisor.

**Ryan Haslauer**

White Plains, NY  
Business Administration

Ryan served as regional vice president for Phi Theta Kappa's New York Regional District. He was an orientation leader and a peer advisor.

**Raisza Latif**

Scarsdale, NY  
Math & Science

Raisza served as vice president of marketing for the Westchester Events Board, was a peer advisor, and interned as a graphic designer for the Office of Student Involvement.

**Hyun Ho Lee**

Aregentia, Buenos Aires  
Liberal Arts

Hyun Ho served as a senator of the Student Government Association and was an orientation leader. He was also named a Davis Global Scholar.

**Felicia Malcolm**

Yonkers, NY  
Liberal Arts

Felicia served as secretary of the Student Government Association, was a peer advisor, and was named a Kathryn Davis Global Scholar.

**Jessica Palma**

North Salem, NY  
Liberal Arts

Jessica served as secretary and treasurer for the Westchester Events Board, as vice president the Student Alumni Association, and was a member of Chi Alpha Epsilon.

**Patrick Sluiter**

White Plains, NY  
Visual Arts

Patrick served as vice president of the Art Club, received the Initial Teaching Experience Program Grant, and curated a pop-up gallery.

**Hei Tsun Tse**

Hong Kong, China  
Engineering Science

Hei Tsun served as student trustee on the Board of Trustees. He was an orientation leader and a peer advisor.

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## The Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence

The Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence was created to recognize students who have best demonstrated and been recognized for the integration of academic excellence with accomplishments in the areas of leadership, campus involvement, athletics, community service, creative and performing arts, or career achievement.

Each campus president established a selection committee, which reviewed exemplary members of their college communities who are graduating this year. Nominees were forwarded to the Chancellor's Office for a second round of review, and finalists were recommended to the Chancellor to become recipients of the Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence.

This year, we honor 274 students from each of the 64 institutions within The State University of New York. Recipients of this year's award have an overall grade point average of 3.8 and records of significant contributions to their campuses and communities.

Each recipient receives a certificate and a medallion that may be worn at commencement.

Congratulations to this year's awardees!





# CHANCELLOR'S AWARD for Student Excellence

Empire State Plaza Convention Center | Albany, New York | [www.suny.edu](http://www.suny.edu)