



New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund 2017 Graduate Achievement Award Recipients

Each year the Educational Opportunity Fund Board of Directors and the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education invite campuses to identify graduating EOF students who have demonstrated exceptional achievement during their college careers. Presented to EOF seniors who are expected to graduate Spring 2017 or who graduated the Summer or Fall 2016, the criteria for the specific award categories are as follows:

Distinguished Scholars: seniors who consistently maintained a cumulative grade point average of 4.00 throughout their college career (11 recipients);

Outstanding Academic Achievement: seniors who consistently maintained a cumulative grade point average of 3.50-3.99 (481 recipients);

Academic Achievement: seniors who consistently maintained a cumulative grade point average of 3.20-3.49 (539 recipients); and

Outstanding Achievement: each participating campus EOF program can nominate one senior who best exemplifies the spirit and intent of the Educational Opportunity Fund program. There is no grade point average requirement for this award and seniors can receive this award as well as an additional award in one of the other three categories (53 recipients).

A grand total of 1,070 students have been nominated for a total of 1,084 awards.

**Names listed reflect only nominees who have signed a release form, allowing OSHE/EOF to publish their information. Institutions may have nominated additional students not listed here but are included in their count.*

Atlantic Cape Community College

*18 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Huma Adil	Carol Cummings	Xamisha Thompson
Randi Bailey	Denisha E. Pimentel-Sanchez	Samantha Velazquez
Anik Chowdhury	Gina Presti	Harlin Colon

Academic Achievement Award

Chrissy R. Bishop	Krystal Johnson	Ariella Mossman
Veronica Blackwell	Stephanie Lugo	Domanique M. Townsend
Estefani Corona	Chloe Morales	

Outstanding Achievement Award

Karr-Lynn Cochran

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Chrissy R. Bishop

Chrissy R. Bishop is a native of Pleasantville, New Jersey but currently resides in Brigantine, New Jersey. She attended Pleasantville High School and graduated in 2002. In May 2017, she will graduate from Atlantic Cape Community College with an Associate in Science and Human Services degree. She began her career at Atlantic Cape Community College in Fall 2014 and has been on the Dean's List every semester. She is a member of the Atlantic Cape Community College Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society and also the secretary of the Atlantic Cape Community College Black Student Alliance Club. After graduating from Atlantic Cape Community College, she plans to transfer to Stockton University in the Fall of 2017 to complete a bachelor's degree in Social Work. Her long term goal is to earn a master's degree in Social Work and to become a child and family social worker. Chrissy attributes a lot of her motivation to her mother, father and three children. Throughout her life Chrissy had to overcome a number of personal obstacles. Despite having to deal with the loss of her father in 2004 and eventually ending up homeless with three children, Chrissy continued to pray and work hard at changing her life circumstances. As Chrissy states, "every day was a new struggle, but my children were not allowed to see my tears. I made them understand that life is a gift and that however God chooses to deliver us we must let go and allow him to teach us and build us for the things he has already prepared for us."

Bergen Community College

*41 award recipients in total

Distinguished Scholar Award

Robert McDermott

Christian Rachko

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Leyla Akdogan

Daniela Carpio

Alanoud Darweesh

Alejandra Alvarado

Karin Chapanian

Emely Felix

Jencen Bautista

Rida Chaudhry

Joseph Gonzales

Lient Blanco

Andre Cueva

Heather Goralski

Jazmin Carchi

Jessica Cutrona

Tabeer Gul

Fatimah Habehh

Rachel Migliaccio

Laura Munoz

Tala Naim

Jennifer Oliver

Cheryl Pascalli

Isabel Paucar

Rozan Ramadan

Anabelle Sanzari

Nadean Taha

Paola Torres

Academic Achievement Award

Manahil Ahmad

Quran Manlove

Giseel Rodriguez

Mohamed Alsaïdi

Sameh Melhem

Annel Santos

Romulo Flores

Sebastian Munoz

Gregory Solano

Bryant Latouf

Gloria Roca

Michael Valencia

Outstanding Achievement Award

Jessica Cutrona

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Andre Cueva

Andre Cueva is from Kearny, New Jersey and is a graduate of Kearny High School. After earning his associate degree from Bergen Community College (BCC) he plans to transfer to a 4-year institution to

Bergen Community College (continued)

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight – Andre Cueva (continued)

earn his bachelor's degree in business. Andre considers his mother as one of the primary reasons why he continues to dedicate himself to working hard both in and outside of the classroom. Two years ago, Andre's mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. Andre quickly became the shoulder and pride for his family, assisting with matters at home, and using his mother's diagnosis and treatment as a source of motivation. In 2015, Andre was the recipient of the Bergen Community College General Full-Time Scholarship Award. Additionally, he earned a scholarship from the Southpole Foundation, made the Dean's List and was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa honor society. Andre is thankful for the support he received in the EOF program at BCC and will continue to work hard to make his mom and EOF family proud.

Bloomfield College

*11 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Gladys Sosa

Academic Achievement Award

Michael Alvarez

Tiayanna Boston

Tiffany Tejada

Ariel Madera

Ashley Rodney

Rishana Ubah

Lisa Smith

Outstanding Achievement Award

Ashley Hutcheson

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Rishana Ubah

Rishana hails from Willingboro, New Jersey where she attended and graduated from Burlington Institute of Technology - Westampton Campus. At Bloomfield College, Rishana majored in Chemistry with a concentration in Biochemistry. This spring, she will obtain her Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry. Some of her academic accomplishments include: Dean's List Fall 2015 and Spring 2016. She is also currently the vice president of the African Student Association at Bloomfield College. Rishana also formerly served as the president of the African Student Association for the 2014-2015 academic year. Rishana is also a part of the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program. She has served as a student ambassador on campus for two years. After graduating from Bloomfield College, Rishana plans to attend SUNY Binghamton where she will pursue her Ph.D. in Chemistry.

Brookdale Community College

*25 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Eric Vincent Allen	Wesley Borke	Brandon Dehl
Brianna Fox	Victor De Los Santos	Anamul Hoque
Jake Lukenda	Minhtri Nguyen	Christopher Smith

Academic Achievement Award

Andrew M. Carney IV	Bayyinah S. Chandler	James Rojas
Victor De Los Santos	Summer Hammouda	Shannon Kinsella
Yolanda Meredith	Ayisha Mohammed	Kearlyn Reeves

Outstanding Achievement Award

Victor De Los Santos

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Eric Vincent Allen

Eric Vincent Allen was born in Paterson, New Jersey and was raised between both Paterson and Hackensack. Eric attended Passaic County Vocational Tech before moving briefly to Pennsylvania where he dropped out of high school and moved back to New Jersey to begin working in the mail room as a file clerk for a small loan company. For the next 18 years, Eric worked his way up to become a capital markets commercial underwriter until the market collapse of 2007. It was at this point when Eric recognized that due to a lack of a degree, he was unable to find work. Shortly thereafter he obtained his GED and continued to work as a freelance designer and artist. In 2014, Eric enrolled at Brookdale Community College with his teenage son to complete an Associate Applied Science degree with a concentration in Graphic Design. Eric earned his associate degree in December 2016. During his time at Brookdale, Eric made the Dean's List, became a member of Alpha Pi Theta Honor Society, implemented a two-semester internship program for art and design students to work on the William Shatner graphic novel project - *Man O' War*, and finished out his degree with a special project as a learning assistant in the Type 1, Graphic Design Production and Design for Digital Media class. Eric's future plans include starting his own design and commercial arts agency and to finish a second associate degree in Fine Arts. Eric was recently nominated to serve on the Brookdale Community College Graphic Design Advisory Board.

Caldwell University

*10 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Karla Barzola

Erin Fitzpatrick

Stephanie Ortiz

Academic Achievement Award

Ame Arriaza

Melanie Betancur

Rosandis De La Cruz

Lovena Frazil

Pamela Marte

Princess McNeill

Outstanding Achievement Award

Daniella Travesso

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Daniella Travesso

Daniella Travesso is a resident of Irvington Township and a graduate of Benedictine Academy High School. This May, she will graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Science. She was inspired to pursue a career in the medical field after learning that her grandfather had been diagnosed with colon cancer, heart disease, and diabetes. Witnessing the struggles that her grandfather had to endure, this experience helped her to realize the importance of having access to quality health care. Navigating her journey as a college student and earning the success she has today, was not easy. In 2013, she was blessed with a little baby boy. Balancing the demands of a being a full-time mother, full-time employee and full-time college student came with many challenges. Furthermore, in October 2016, during her senior year, her mother suffered a stroke, which took a big toll on her family. Thankfully, Daniella's mom is recovering day by day. Thanks to her support system, such as her fiancé, parents, and EOF family, she will be graduating May 2017.

No matter how many obstacles were thrown her way, giving up on earning her degree was not an option. Daniella recalls her EOF counselor saying to her, "Daniella, I know you can do this! We believe in you." Daniella attributes the EOF Program to helping her become the woman she is today. In addition to being a full-time mother and EOF scholar, she is also a proud member of the National Society of Leadership and Success and the vice-president of LASO (Latin American Student Organization). After graduation, Daniella plans to go into hospital administration.

Camden County College

*11 award recipients in total

Distinguished Scholar Award

Khanh Pham

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Hecmarie Berrios

Daniella Camacho

Nancy Gonzalez

Minh Ho

Christine Miller

Micky Tropello

Academic Achievement Award

Linda Brooks

Crystal Morris

Jose Negrón-Santiago

Outstanding Achievement Award

Linda Brooks

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Linda Brooks

Linda Brooks was born and raised in Camden, New Jersey. She attended Woodrow Wilson High School but dropped out during her freshman year. She continued her education at an alternative school and obtained what she thought was the equivalent of a high school diploma, only to find out in 2014 that her credentials were not recognized by the State of New Jersey. In 2015, Linda took the state exam and successfully earned her GED.

Throughout her life, Linda has overcome many obstacles. Despite these challenges, she found the will to rise above them and is now poised to graduate from Camden County College. She will earn a degree in Addictions Counseling. Although Linda is the parent of a child who has behavioral and emotional issues, her child continues to serve as a source of motivation and inspiration. Linda is an exemplary EOF participant. Her future plans include earning a bachelor's degree in Human Services at Rowan University.

Centenary University

*5 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Melissa Vecillas

Academic Achievement Award

Julian Alvarez Muñoz

Janneé Davis

Christian Ward

Outstanding Achievement Award

Katherine Abreu

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Melissa Vecillas

Melissa Vecillas is currently a senior at Centenary University scheduled to graduate May 2017. She was born and raised in Newark, New Jersey. Melissa is a graduate of Queen of Peace High School where she was exposed to a disciplined education that helped shape her as she prepared for college.

During her tenure at Centenary University, Melissa's strong work ethic led her to achieve several academic awards. She made the Dean's List and was inducted into the Golden Key National Honor Society, Chi Alpha Epsilon – EOF National Honor Society, and Psi Chi Honor Society.

In addition to focusing on her academics, Melissa was also involved in extracurricular activities. She is currently the secretary of the Psychology Club and is completing an internship at Samaritan Daytop Village located in Manhattan, NY. As Melissa prepares to leave Centenary University, she is proud to say that she will be graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology with a minor in Criminal Justice. After graduation, she plans to pursue a master's degree in Mental Health Counseling to become a licensed counselor.

College of Saint Elizabeth

*8 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Jonadad Fequiere

Taliyah Lewis

Academic Achievement Award

Denise Cooper

Allexus Currie

Cassan Francois

Kayla Gonzalez

Phabienne Octavius

Outstanding Achievement Award

Denise Cooper

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Jonadad Fequiere

Jonadad Fequiere is a senior at The College of Saint Elizabeth (CSE) majoring in Business and Communication. She holds many leadership positions at CSE such as executive board member of the Residence Hall Council, chairwoman of the Black History Month Committee, member of the Women's History Month and the Latino Heritage Month committees, resident life receptionist, and office assistant for the Business and Health Administration office. She is also a resident assistant and one of the founders and facilitators of The Solidarity Project: DiverCSE, a program focused on changing the campus culture so that it becomes a place where students can engage in a dialogue about issues surrounding diversity. She was formerly a social media marketing intern at the AIDS Resource Foundation for Children during the Fall 2016 Semester.

Jonadad is also a member of the Honor's Program at CSE, Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society, Sigma Beta Delta Business Honor Society. She was a Dean's List recipient from Fall 2013-Spring 2015 and Fall 2016. She has received the Student Academic Leadership Award, Mission and Values Cultural Diversity Award, Community Assistant Lifetime Achievement, and the Feinsein Award. She is currently a student intern in the EOF department. Her goals after graduation are to become a member of the Peace Corps and work in the Communications field as a public relations and marketing specialist. She is thankful to God, her family, friends and her EOF family (Florangel, Cliff, Fatimah and Lawrence) for their open-door policy, and continued support. Jonadad believes that being an EOF student was one of the best things that could have happened to her because the program helped her develop into the individual she is today.

County College of Morris

*5 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Casey Vreeland

Academic Achievement Award

Stephanie Garcia

Brian Hernandez

Joseph Van Saders

Outstanding Achievement Award

Evelyn Gonzalez

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Casey Vreeland

Casey Vreeland is a resident of Boonton, New Jersey and a graduate of Morristown High School. She began her journey at County College of Morris (CCM) in 2010 and graduated this Fall 2016 with an Associate of Arts in Human Services. Casey's story is about adversity, resilience, and drive. Since her start with the EOF program during our Summer Orientation 2010, Casey has been engaged and professional, and a student who truly took advantage of everything the program had to offer to ensure her success at CCM. However, many things out of Casey's control happened while enrolled at CCM that tried to deter her path of degree completion and success.

Like many EOF students, Casey endured many economic hardships. She was on her own from a very young age and had to deal with various health issues that impeded on her academic progress. But despite her adversities, Casey never gave up. Due to her resilience, Casey is now expected to earn her degree in Human Services. Casey feels that she wants to give back to her community and help others in need.

During her time at CCM, Casey was also a part of a variety of clubs and organizations. She is a member of the EOF Alliance, Gay/Straight Alliance, Gender Club, Women in STEM Club, and Active Minds. Furthermore, Casey was also inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa and Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Societies. Even in the EOF office she was a student leader, who helped, supported, and tutored many new EOF students. As Casey always said, "EOF was my office", and it truly was... everyone knows her and will miss her as she moves on to the next chapter in her academic career. We wish Casey the best as she looks to continue her education by pursuing her bachelor's degree in Psychology at Rutgers University–Newark.

Cumberland County College

*19 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

James Birnstiel

Emily Cunningham

Juanita Diaz

Margarita Gordeyeva

Elijah Jacobs

Kyle Manzo

Jennifer Negron

James Peirano

Angel Ramos Santiago

Juli White

Zikea Wise-Hughes

Academic Achievement Award

Stephanie Alvarez

Christopher Burch

Eric Fantauzzi

Haylie Gorgo

Sherlynn Johnson

Stephanie Pumarejo

Alyssa Rodriguez

Outstanding Achievement Award

Nestor Cruz

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Nestor Cruz

Nestor Cruz is an Educational Opportunity Fund student at Cumberland County College (CCC) who will graduate with his Associate of Science degree in Biomedical Science in May 2017. He is also a graduate of Vineland High School and successfully participated in the 2016 Premedical Urban Leaders Summer Enrichment (PULSE) program at Cooper Medical School. He has been invited back to attend Cooper's second phase program – PULSE II for Summer 2017. Nestor's cumulative GPA is 3.883, which earned him a spot on Cumberland County College's prestigious President's List at the conclusion of Fall 2016. During his time at CCC, Nestor was a member of the Latin American Club, Student Senate, "Acafella" male singing group, Student Pathway Leadership Institute, Entrepreneur Club, and 2nd Nature Club. Additionally, he has volunteered at a local hospital emergency room. After graduating from CCC, Nestor's goal is to earn his bachelor's degree and eventually earn his medical degree to become a neurosurgeon. He has been accepted by Rowan University to continue his undergraduate studies in Fall 2017.

Drew University

*12 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Walline Alphonse

Robert M. Gordon Jr.

Megan Luster

Minna Nizam

Keiran Wilson

Academic Achievement Award

Jessica Benitez

Melissa Cedano

Leslie Eyzaguirre Mercado

Christania Hemmings

Everton Johnson

Melissa Medina

Juan Tola-Marshall

Outstanding Achievement Award

Megan Luster

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Megan Luster

Megan Luster will graduate from Drew University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English with minors in Writing, Studio Art and Film Media, and Communications. She is a graduate of Millburn High School. Megan is one of the program's most exceptional scholars. She has consistently maintained a cumulative grade point average of over 3.0 or better her entire time at Drew University. Megan has been very active within the Educational Opportunity Scholars (EOS) Program community. For the past three summers Megan has been a peer counselor/tutor to the program's incoming first-year students. She has been instrumental in assisting students to transition from high school to college. Megan's experiences through the EOS summer program have prepared her to become a certified tutor and to continue supporting EOS students. Megan is also very active on campus as a copy editor for the student newspaper, "The Acorn". She is the student editor for the EOS newsletter, a member of the Executive Board of Residence Hall Association, a member of the Executive Board of the University Program Board, and a member of the Senior Class planning committee. Since her arrival at Drew University, Megan has grown from a shy young lady into an outstanding leader and role model. After graduation, Megan plans to work in the media industry and become a writer.

Essex County College

*121 award recipients in total

Distinguished Scholar Award

Mohamad Cheikhali

Stella Markes

Elena Prokhorova

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Asta Abdoulaye

Joseph Achiishah

Arnold Adatsi

Oluwatobi Ajibade

Yessenia Alvarez-Vera

Mike Anselme

Renato Aparcana

Marisol Arocho

Keora Barkley

Djeinaba Barry

Tyrell Benton

La Toya Britton

Lucie Ceran

Alpha Conde

Roselyn Correa

Khamisha Coverley

Melva Cueva Aguirre

Rodney Cunas

Gregory Kuranchie Dapaa

Michael Edwin

Amine El Marrachi

Adnane Errachide

Shae Evans

Lloyd A. Fisher

Michael Graham

Trelon Graham

Onyea Hines

Phyllis Home

Munim Islam

Ivonne Jaramillo

Allison Johnson

Ashley Johnson

Karidja Koulibaly

Eli Kwawukume

Alexis Lawrence

Shaniqua Letren-Bobb

Anita Lopez

Noemi Mangual-Rosa

Jaquise Mason

Nelly Matrigali

Jorge Munez

Mahalia Myers

Lorenzo P. Nash

Adassa Ned

Ashley Nicholls

Irene Okpukpara

Kimberllyn Oliveira

Liliana Ortiz

Sterling Ortiz

Smart Owusu-Ansah

Krishna Patel

Iris Perrot

Stacy Pinckney

Carla Lee Prendergrast

Maritza Proano

Mohanie Ramcharran

Kimberly Rodriguez

Essex County College (continued)

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award (continued)

Lakina L. Rollins	Angelica Gloria Rosales	Sarah Rosalio
Ivy Aba Sam	Lucelia Sencion	Veronica Siguenza
Kathlen Silva	Tracy Stamper	Rebecca Taramona
Jennifer Tavarez	Langston Tisdale II	Jodebska Valencia
Adriana Vilchez	Sanon Volcy	Danha Yunes

Academic Achievement Award

Fredda Addo	Stephanie Agesilas	Julian Armstrong
Tarel Austin	Katty Avila	Ann Baker
Daniela Barragan	Leanna Beverly	Roody Daniel Charlot
Sameer Copper	Akua DeGannes	Khalid Didier
Dukens Dieuguste	Anwar Sadat Dramani	Aleisha Dudley
Sade Duffus	Joy Egbutu	Pedro Eusebio
Lissi Fonfrias	Geralda Francois	Raysa Galloza
Daniel-John Gonzalez	Sonceray Grant	Yasmin Huff
Mamaceh Kamara	Ymari Lee	Joseph Louis
Veronica Martinez	Allison McCoy	Marie Melse
Sherry Mingo	Brenda Morton	Emiliano Munoz
Mahogany Newsome	Derrick Ofori	Joyce Oppongwah
Katherin Pena	Nyah Scott	Xaira Serrano
Baronna Simfeya	Kelvin Torres	Elizabeth Vizcaino
Gladys Vonglahn	Al Tariq Witcher	Amanda Wyckoff

Outstanding Achievement Award

Estheisy Mercedes

Fairleigh Dickinson University- Florham Campus

*7 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Stanley Ramirez

Miya Wright

Academic Achievement Award

Sandi Abdelsayed

Mercedes Fetch

Malika Leary

Alexander Rivera

Outstanding Achievement Award

Donte Ali

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Donte Ali

Donte Ali entered Fairleigh Dickinson University in 2013 through the Educational Opportunity Fund Program. He is currently majoring in Business Management and has a cumulative grade point average of 3.0. Donte has been a recipient of the EOF Academic Achievement Award and has been on the Dean's List throughout his college education. He was also inducted into the Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society. He is an independent, well-rounded student who always strives for success.

Donte is very family oriented and works hard to provide financial assistance for them. He also served as a Resident Assistant for the EOF program for two summers. Donte still serves as a mentor to our incoming freshmen and continues to be an inspiration to our returning students. After graduating in May 2017, Donte plans to become an Entrepreneur and a Real Estate Investor, and would like to provide housing opportunities for individuals in his hometown.

Fairleigh Dickinson University – Metropolitan Campus

*15 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Yadilsa Diaz	Johanna Dovale-Gomez	Timisha Johnson
Jessica Jones	Tremayne Mckenith	Javier Munoz

Academic Achievement Award

Nikkia Bratcher	Enver Caymaz	Deanna Coleman
Zenab Fakih	Vanessa Gomez	Jennifer Hernandez
Amberliz Mateo	Jamiera McCormick	

Outstanding Achievement Award

Mahdi Sari

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Tremayne Mckenith

Tremayne Mckenith is from Newark, New Jersey and graduated from Essex County Vocational Technology–Newark Campus. He is currently a student at Fairleigh Dickinson University–Metropolitan Campus and will graduate this spring with a combined Bachelor/Master of Arts degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Forensic Psychology. Tremayne is a member of the University Honors Program, Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society, and the National Residence Hall Honorary. He currently serves as the president of his fraternity Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated, and serves as student representative on the University Campus Standards Committee. Additionally, for two years he has served as an EOF Summer Program resident assistant/peer counselor, orientation leader, and area supervisor for the Student Union Building. As someone who truly believes in giving back to the community, Tremayne has participated in many community services, including a pack-a-thon where he packed lunches for children in Haiti. He has also helped to build a playground for the Queen City Academy Elementary School of Plainfield, New Jersey, and has participated in numerous events such as the Leukemia Walk, Breast Cancer Walk, and Stop the Violence Walk. During the Spring 2015 Semester Tremayne studied abroad in Chengdu, China. While in China he volunteered as a teacher at ZongBei Elementary School where he taught English to native elementary students.

Fairleigh Dickinson University – Metropolitan Campus (continued)

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight – Tremayne McKenith (continued)

Currently, Tremayne is interning at the Youth Advocate Program of Paterson, New Jersey. This program provides mentorship for youth who have been involved in the juvenile justice system, and those considered at-risk due to their involvement with protective services. As a result of his positive work ethics and dedication, Tremayne's supervisors have offered him employment upon graduation. Tremayne long-term goals include attending graduate school to earn a Ph.D. and to work in federal law enforcement as an AFT Agent. Tremayne is always looking to give back to the EOF Program. He recognizes the important role EOF has played in his success and is truly grateful to be a part of the EOF Family.

Felician University

*7 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Elizabeth Guardino

Melissa Guerrero

Academic Achievement Award

Carmen Figueroa

Faviola Nuñez

Zuzan Nuñez

Christelle Saint-Fleur

Outstanding Achievement Award

Success Idioma

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Faviola Nuñez

Faviola Nuñez was born and raised in Jersey City and is a woman who exemplifies her family roots as a proud Dominican and strong Latina woman. She is the type of individual who gives her whole heart not only to her education, family, and friends but to people in general. Faviola entered the EOF Program and has excelled since the first day. As a student in the Nursing program, she spent many days and nights studying for hours at a time, never breaking focus from her big dream of becoming a Nurse. If you asked her how she was, even if she had only slept for three hours, she would look at you with a smile and say “tired but good”. She is truly an extraordinary woman who not only dedicated her time to family and education while in college, but also became one of the founding sisters of Omega Phi Chi Multicultural Sorority, Inc. at Felician University. Now four years later, she is only days away from graduation, with the hope of landing an opportunity to work in a hospital here in New Jersey. Faviola Nunez is truly the embodiment of an EOF scholar.

Georgian Court University

*6 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Lelia Shellow

Academic Achievement Award

Janae Butler

Tameka Powell

Tiffany Thomas

Angelica Torres

Outstanding Achievement Award

Sydney Saget

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Sydney Saget

Sydney Saget is from Neshanic Station where she graduated from Somerville High School in 2013. Sydney will earn a BSW in May 2017. She is the epitome of an EOF student. Sydney worked in the EOF office as a work study student, and has served as an EOF resident advisor, EOF tutor/mentor, student ambassador, and the Social Work Club president during her tenure at Georgian Court University (GCU). She is generous of spirit, confident, and exceedingly open-minded. She savors every accomplishment and yet remains hungry for the next challenge. Sydney is a student who is academically and socially sound, enjoys helping others, and a combination that is rare among students. She is a member of Georgian Court University (GCU) Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society (XAE), GCU Mercy Collegiate Society (2014–Present), Women in Leadership Development (WILD) (2014–2015) and Orientation Leader (2014–Present). While her accomplishments are many, Sydney has overcome several challenges while at GCU. Much of Sydney's success is attributed to her ability to analyze her situation and make a plan to remove the obstacles that delay her from reaching her goals. After graduating from GCU, Sydney plans to attend graduate school at Rutgers University–New Brunswick.

Hudson County Community College

*12 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

William Arroyo

Steven Awad

Leslie Castro

Nasly Anel Cerezo Zamora

Julio Huamantupa

Shady Kaleny

Mary Mercado

Uttsav Patel

Edwin Soto

Academic Achievement Award

Gianny Suero

Tabitha Isaac

Outstanding Achievement Award

Monserrate Alevante Lockward

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Edwin Soto

Edwin Soto was born in Jersey City, New Jersey and attended William L. Dickinson High School. After graduating from high school, Mr. Soto attended Hudson County Community College (HCCC) as an EOF summer program student. While at HCCC, he participated in the Seton Hall Summer Institute for Pre-Legal Studies, and was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society. After graduating from HCCC with a high GPA and having a great support system from the EOF program, he enrolled at Rutgers Business School. Although Edwin's future plans are unknown, he is taking everything one step at a time and making sure everything is well-coordinated in his life. His main goal is to graduate from Rutgers with a degree in Management Information Systems and pursue a career in the field.

Kean University

*59 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Mary Bosire	Nicole Brown	Michelle Cruz-Ruiz
Sabrina Da Cruz	Nicole Dias	Kishan Dobaria
Joseph Fernandez	Caroline Gadalla	Melissa Garcia
Kenya Grijalva	Arturo Hernandez	Cristian Hoyos
Shariny Lantigua	Alexis Morales	Julio Olivo
Johan Paez Bernate	Esthephanie Peralta	Lilibet Plasencia
Rasheen Russell	Hiba Saleem	Dafny Santizo
Marian Smith	Nancy Soto	Pablo Valle
David Vasquez		

Academic Achievement Award

Katina Thompson	Lydia Abdelsayed	Jessel Acevedo
Linda Afriyie	Chiemeka Akawuaku	Kaitlin Arcos
Roxana Barroso	Stephanie Bermudez	Shazneka Blue
Ashley Charles	Adjaratou Cisse	Jeannette Colombani
Cadene Delisser	Stephanie Ewart	Olivia Felder
Jason Forsythe	Esther Garro	Jasjot Gurm
Kiswah Khan	Emad Khella	Patrick Lecras
Brandi Luck	Britney McFarlane	Jessica Narvaez-Medina
Ruby Okaijah	Gaurav Rana	Jorge Rosas
Keana Staton-Woods	Gillyam Suazo	Fior Torres-Rosa
Eric Velasquez	Keila Ventura	Tori Williams

Kean University (continued)

Outstanding Achievement Award

Cadene Delisser

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Brandi Luck

Brandi Luck is a resident of Union, New Jersey but was raised in Paterson, New Jersey where she attended and graduated from the Paterson Public School System. Brandi will receive a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology with a minor in Health Education from Kean University in May 2017. An enthusiastic Lab Assistant in the Exceptional Educational Opportunities/Educational Opportunity Fund (EEO/EOF) Program's Learning Center, Brandi's scholastic achievements and active involvement in several on-campus and community related clubs and organizations have earned her a recent nomination as a candidate for Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges, 2016-2017. A Dean's List student and recipient of the EEO Honors List Academic Achievement Awards, Brandi is an acclaimed member of the Epsilon Epsilon Omega Honor Society and Psi Chi Psychology Honor Society. She is also a member of the Alliance for Educational Opportunity Fund Students of New Jersey-Kean Chapter, and the Threads Fashion Club. While actively serving as a desk assistant for the University's Residential Student Services, Brandi has participated as a volunteer for "*Be the Change*," a noteworthy and growing program at Kean, created and initiated by Dr. Norma Bowe, that assists the homeless and needy families in Newark and Elizabeth. Brandi's personal experience with homelessness and financial hardship has given her reasons to openly articulate her desire to earn a college degree and thus, press forward, even when feeling overwhelmed. Her mother's recent passing and limited financial support from her father are among the motivating factors that have prompted Brandi to create a non-profit Homeless/Meals Program. A proud EOF Academic Achievement Awardee, Brandi plans to pursue graduate studies in Psychology at Rutgers University.

Mercer County Community College

*4 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Noel Guzman

Emanuel Medina

Academic Achievement Award

Titibeth Castro

Outstanding Achievement Award

Clauderson Desinor

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Clauderson Desinor

Clauderson Desinor was raised by Haitian parents who preached the value of commitment and diligence. Despite coming from humble beginnings, his parent's taught him the importance of obtaining a solid education and instilled in him the need to set high expectations. Unfortunately, one day while in school, Clauderson's mother passed away. Today, the memory of his mother continues to motivate him to be the best he can be in every situation and to never give up.

Clauderson graduated from Nottingham High School in Hamilton Township. After high school, he enrolled at Mercer County Community College (MCCC), studying and completing a degree in Advertising and Graphic Design. He entered college with big goals and dreams. Although he admits that there were times where he may have lacked the confidence to address a challenge, he attributes the EOF program to helping him persevere through many of his obstacles. After being named to the Dean's List during the 2015 Fall Semester, he realized that success was achievable and his confidence grew. Throughout his time at MCCC the EOF staff was very supportive. Clauderson truly believes that his ability to be where he is today wouldn't have happened without the kindness and unwavering support of Mr. Al-Lateef Farmer, Mr. Charles Weatherspoon, Ms. Tricia Mayers, Dean Barbara Jefferson, Ms. Christine Reid and the entire EOF family.

Middlesex County College

*11 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Tania Castro

Jecenia Garcia

Hamzah Ghani

Roseiry Jimenez-Martel

Mina Malajati

Luz Ramirez

Academic Achievement Award

Katina Gonzales

Nazly Santamaria

Christina Williams

Peter Youssef

Outstanding Achievement Award

Venique Sanzone

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Hamzah Ghani

Hamzah Ghani is a graduate of North Brunswick High School and lives in North Brunswick with his family. He is pursuing an associate degree at Middlesex County College and is majoring in Liberal Arts-Philosophy. He serves as the executive vice president of the Student Government Association, the co-president of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and the president of Democracy House. He is also a member of Psi Beta Honor Society for Psychology and has been on the Dean's List every semester since his first year. As a member of College Assembly and the Guided Pathways team, he works with faculty and administrators to find ways to help improve Middlesex's learning community. Mr. Ghani aspires to work in the field of Higher Education Administration, so he can help future college students achieve their goals.

Monmouth University

*19 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Manuel Colon

Anthony Cosentino

Zakariya Frank

Brianna Golden

Genesis Gonzalez

Brier Hawkins

Jamilah McMillan

Zareen Shueib

Academic Achievement Award

Alisha Farley

Caress Fenton

Gabriella Gerber

Stephen Murawski

Areeba Sohail

Morgan Spann

Sarah Van Heusen

Victor Vargas Cruz

Daniela Villaman

Chenowa Wendel

Outstanding Achievement Award

Allison Gonzalez

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Allison Gonzalez

Allison Gonzalez is from Sicklerville, New Jersey and a graduate of Winslow Township High School in Atco. She is scheduled to graduate from Monmouth University with a Bachelor of Social Work degree. During her time at Monmouth, she has been involved in several leadership roles and organizations. She is a sister of Alpha Xi Delta, a Panhellenic sorority whose national philanthropy is Autism Speaks. She is also a member of Students Advocating Girls' Education (SAGE) club and a Social Work Society member. While at Monmouth, Allison studied abroad in Florence, Italy for one semester. In addition, she participated in Monmouth University's Alternative Spring Break where she was one of twenty Monmouth students who went to Guatemala to perform service work for a week. Allison is also a member of Phi Alpha, the School of Social Work's Honor Society. Lastly, she was a peer counselor for Monmouth's Educational Opportunity Fund's summer program in 2015.

After graduation, Allison plans to attend graduate school to receive her master's degree in Social Work and later receive her license to practice clinical social work. Her goal is to work with adolescents who struggle with mental health problems. She would also like to perform more service work abroad in the future.

Montclair State University

*53 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Humberto Argueta	Lorena Benavides	Aliyah Bennett
Kevin Brenfo-Agyeman	Joseph Ventura	Gabriela Galvez
Bayan Hamza	Camarrah Hudson	Robert Tustin
Ava Lovell	Richard McYeng	Teanna Owens
Ishanae Porter	Juan Santana	Dana Spagnoli

Academic Achievement Award

Kevin Abreu	Raven Adkins	Shahek Ahmed
Monowara Begum	Tracy Bejar	Jimmy Buitrago
Michael Cipriano	Z'nyiah Dickerson	Laura Feliz
Dynalee Garcia	Tyshon Garret	Ariana Geiger
Monirul Haider	Erika Shovlin	Jeffrey Sanchez
Andreina Hernandez	Cashem Holland	Diana F. Jaramillo Cubillos
Omar Ledesma	Shofiqul Limon	Sabrina Rice
Karen Lopez	Dalila Mariscal	Oscar Reyes
Sasha Miguez	Laribel Montilla	Lianny Nunez
Ralph Olacio		

Outstanding Achievement Award

Camarrah Hudson

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Ralph Olacio

Ralph Olacio recently graduated from Montclair State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Sustainability Science. Ralph credits the Educational Opportunity Fund Program and the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation with giving him the tools and motivation to seek educational

Montclair State University (continued)

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight – Ralph Olacio (continued)

opportunities outside of the classroom. In 2015 Ralph was awarded the Montclair Study Abroad Student Ambassador Scholarship which allowed him to study in Costa Rica for a semester. Upon returning from Costa Rica, Ralph was selected to participate in a trans-disciplinary international research experience for undergraduate students. The program: Undergraduate Research into the Cultural, Economic and Ecological Significance of Church Forests in South Gondar, Ethiopia, was funded by the National Science Foundation and hosted by Colby College. In his last year at Montclair State University, Ralph interned at the Jersey City Mayor's office and was a part of the PSEG Institute for Sustainability Studies Green Team. Outside of these experiences Ralph also volunteered with the Liberty Humane Society and the Passaic River Institute. All of Ralph's experiences are reflective of his love for the environment and desire to build a more sustainable future. Ralph hopes to enroll in a master's degree program for Environmental Justice and Sustainability within the next year.

Montclair State University Health Careers Program

*1 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Chinweude Okani

Outstanding Achievement Award

Chinweude Okani

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Chiweude Okani

Exemplifying the spirit and intent of the Health Careers Program (HCP) at Montclair State University (MSU), Chinweude Okani, will receive a Bachelor of Science degree in May of 2017. She is a resident of West Orange, New Jersey and is a graduate of Marylawn of the Oranges High School. As a Molecular Biology Major, Chinweude enrolled in an intensive Microbiology course that led her to develop an interest in research. Recognizing her passion and critical thinking skills, she was selected to assist Dr. Lee, Biology professor, with on-going research investigating the inhibitory effect of lipophilic green tea polyphenols, EGCG-S, on bacterial growth and endospore formation in food.

With a cumulative grade point average of 3.08, her other accomplishments include making the Dean's List (Spring 2016) and being selected to receive the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Mentor Scholarship. During the summer of 2015, Chiweude participated in the Summer Medical Dental Education Program (SMDEP) at the University of Texas Health Science Center (Houston, Texas). Chinweude is currently the president of MSU's Global Medical Brigades (GMB), and has previously served as the organization's vice president and events chair. Since the summer of 2016, Chinweude has been employed as an office assistant for the Health Careers Program. In this position she helped to create and manage the HCP Alumni Facebook and LinkedIn Accounts while also assisting the office in management of its alumni database. After graduation, Chinweude plans to continue her education by attending graduate school in the field of Biology.

New Jersey City University

* 40 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Merna Bishai	Diana Powell	Karina Cruz
Martha Devia	Losnick Duvert	Andito Ewings
Sandi Grace	Sara Hassan	Kyara Martin
Melissa Mendez-Manjarres	Nidiyojana Rubiano	Daisy Silva-Torres
Sosana Sowiha	Walter Utley	Eduardo Velarde
Zugeiy Yopez	Fatima Yusuf	

Academic Achievement Award

Mai Abdelhamid	Kennedy Affram	Nada Banoub
Jose Blanco	Michael De Los Santos-Cruz	Linda Fam
Erika Garcia	Keeyana Jackson	Reema Khan
Kevin Le	Alexa Mendez	Destin Mikouiza-Mbassi
Jason Parsons	Enuedys Perez	Victoria Rozario
Vanessa Sosa	Julissa Suarez	Lisa Suarez-Roach
Tiffany Stevens		

Outstanding Achievement Award

Al-jamal Bass

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Kevin Le

Kevin Le is from Jersey City and is a graduate of County Prep High School. His major is Criminal Justice and his minor is National Security. During his undergraduate career, Kevin became a member of Chi Alpha Epsilon and The National Society of Leadership and Success. He also made the Dean's List (Fall 2015) and is a recipient of the OSP Junior Award and OSP Academic Achievement Award. Kevin has

New Jersey City University (continued)

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight – Kevin Le (continued)

served as the Coordinator for Eye to Eye, a mentorship program for students with disabilities. Additionally, he has served as a lifeguard at NJCU's Athletic Center and is certified through the United Rescue Community Based Emergency Caregiver Program. He is a volunteer for Hoboken's Volunteer Ambulance Corps and recently completed an internship with the Hudson County Sheriff's Department (Spring 2015). Kevin's future endeavor is to become a police officer to serve and protect his community.

New Jersey Institute of Technology

*5 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Victor Fernandez

Carlos Morillo

Andro Mossad

Academic Achievement Award

Ymanei Perry

Outstanding Achievement Award

Mohamed Camara

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Carlos Morillo

Carlos Morillo is a resident of Passaic, New Jersey and graduate of Passaic County Technical Institute. He will receive a Bachelor of Science degree from New Jersey Institute of Technology in May 2017. A Biology major, he has earned a cumulative grade point average of 3.91. Carlos has been named to the Dean's List throughout his tenure at NJIT. Carlos is also a member of the Albert Dorman Honors College. He served as the Honors Student Council Community Service Co-chair from Fall 2014 to Spring 2016. Carlos went on to co-found DoSomething NJIT, a club that aims to bring civic engagement to the NJIT community. During Spring 2016, the club collected and donated 170 pair of jeans to a homeless shelter in Edison, New Jersey. He worked with Dr. Jay Meegoda to create a lab-scale model of a compact food composer that utilized both anaerobic digestion to recover energy from food waste. Currently, he is working in Hackensack hospital as an emergency room scribe. Upon graduation, Carlos plans to attend medical school and specialize in emergency medicine.

Ocean County College

*12 award recipients in total

Distinguished Scholar Award

Kimberly Cacciato

Kassandra Wainwright

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Emily Boyer

Christine Downing

Esther Gartenhaus

Academic Achievement Award

Casey Astalos

Angela Bird

Leo Fasolo

Kierra Johnson

Corey Lopez

Christy Morales

Outstanding Achievement Award

Charlen Nguyen

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Charlen Nguyen

Charlen is a relative newcomer to the United States who has taken advantage of all that she hoped for when she left her native country of Vietnam. She is a student who works tirelessly to achieve her goals. English is her second language and Charlen has succeeded in improving both her written and verbal skills. Her writing is strong academically – she is an expert at incorporating research and data to support her thesis quite seamlessly. Charlen is a helper and generous of heart. A participant in our Leadership Conference and Retreat, she anticipated the needs of our event and helped to organize her peers in site cleanup. She simply does – no asking is needed. Charlen will earn an Associate Degree in Business Administration. Her dream is to open a Vietnamese sandwich truck. The *Bánh mì*, or Vietnamese sandwich, in true cultural fusion was born out of French colonialism and the tradition of the baguette. The bread is made of both rice and wheat flours and is filled with pork and other meats, cheese, cucumber and cilantro to name just a few ingredients.

Charlen will return to Vietnam for several months of training and school in the art of *Bánh mì* and pastry making and then start her business when she returns. Her perpetually cheery demeanor and indomitable spirit will bring her future success wherever she may be. She is a part of the richness of diversity and culture that unites us as one under the red, white and blue – she symbolizes all that Lady Liberty and EOF stands for.

Passaic County Community College

*9 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Ahmad Basuf

Kynaisha Ortiz

Academic Achievement Award

Reem Ahmed

Ania Carrasco

Saskia Davis

Gilbert Farmin

Quazhan Hayes

Rachel Marte

Outstanding Achievement Award

Ryan Jacobs

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Ryan Jacobs

Ryan Jacobs is a native of Paterson, New Jersey. He graduated from Paterson Charter School for Science and Technology. Most recently, he earned an Associate of Arts degree in Criminal Justice at Passaic County Community College. He will continue his studies at William Paterson University. Ryan is an active member of his community serving meals to the homeless and tutoring children. His career goal is to continue serving his community in the area of law enforcement.

Ramapo College of New Jersey

*18 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Merzeline Nestor

Fralvin Munoz

Gabriella Prieto

Najja D. Edwards

Danielle Y. Rogers

Nicholas A. Libraro

Parker S. Tubman

Randy Chaiz

Fabiola Pamela Zapata Miranda

Academic Achievement Award

Alisha Grant

Maria Alejandra Cardona

Chelece Brown

Brittany M. Peters

Anthony Morales

Dalia Lozano

Delvy Nanita

Kahelia Afflick

Outstanding Achievement Award

Stephen Molchan

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Stephen Molchan

Stephen Molchan is a senior majoring in Accounting. He is from Toms River and graduated from Toms River East High School. Stephen has been an exceptional and hardworking student leader since his early college career. He has been involved in numerous campus organizations and departments at Ramapo College. He served as a peer educator in the Health Awareness Team housed in the Center for Health and Counseling. He has also been a resident assistant in the Office of Residence Life for three years. Stephen is the president for "A Better Tomorrow" which is an organization that focuses on poverty and homelessness. Additionally, he is a member of the IMA Accounting Honor Society and has served as a residence hall coordinator for the 2016 EOF Summer Program. His future plans include working full-time as a junior tax accountant at the Grove Avenue Associates II LLC and pursuing his Master of Science in Accounting Taxation. He has a warm and heart-filled personality. Stephen is a dedicated and motivated student and truly embodies the spirit of EOF.

Raritan Valley Community College

*10 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Osei Kwadwo Boateng

Troy Bright

Adam Chacon

Laila Ghali

Keven Jarrell

Anthony Nicastro

Binaki Patel

Academic Achievement Award

Anthony Barrios

Alyson Kreideweis

Outstanding Achievement Award

Elise Mattaliano

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Osei Kwadwo Boateng

Osei Kwadwo Boateng grew up in a low income family in Kumasi, Ghana. Insufficient finances have been a major threat to his quest for education. His love for schooling led him to the streets, working in a car wash bay, as he tried to supplement his government sponsored scholarship in one of Ghana's elite secondary schools. Working under severe conditions, Osei sometimes thought about throwing in the towel. However, his desire to succeed was far greater than any thoughts of giving up. He knew that education was the best solution to breaking the yoke of poverty. In January 2014, Osei's family migrated from Ghana to Somerset, New Jersey. Osei obtained his GED and enrolled in Raritan Valley Community College in August 2014, where he pursued a degree in Pre-Medical Profession (Associate of Science). Osei's long term goals include becoming a Pediatric Cardiologist and working with NGO companies to provide quality healthcare service to people who cannot afford it. His hope is to bridge the healthcare inequalities in Africa. Osei was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa honor society Spring 2015 and was on the President's List and Dean's List. He was also a Galileo Scholar for three semesters and graduated Magna Cum Laude (GPA 3.92) in August 2016. During his time at Raritan Valley Community College, Osei was a member and worship leader (bassist) for CRU and was also a member of Brothers Helping Brothers and Alliance – The Black Student's Association.

Currently, Osei is a junior at Cornell University pursuing his Bachelor of Science degree in Human Biology Health and Society. He plans to attain a master's degree in Health Administration before enrolling in medical school.

Rider University

*12 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Jessenia Tantalean

Najla Fermin

Micaelia Gibson

Asia Marche

Sara Smith

Fata Softic

Natalie Strucinski

Academic Achievement Award

Tavante Brittingham

Oscar Chue

Synise Orange

Outstanding Achievement Award

Modjina Ovil

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Natalie Strucinski

Natalie Strucinski is from Bayonne, New Jersey and attended Bayonne High School. She will receive a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Criminal Justice. Natalie has a 3.9 GPA and has been on the Dean's List every semester since entering Rider University. Natalie is also a Bonner Scholar, a member of the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement program, Leadership Development Program, Psychology Club, Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority and has served as an International Mentor. Natalie's future plans are to attend graduate school to obtain her master's degree and eventually her Ph.D.

Rider University – Westminster Choir Campus

*1 award recipients in total

Outstanding Achievement Award

William Woodrow

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

William Woodrow

William Woodrow, known to all as Billy, hails from Newton, New Jersey and graduated from Newton High School. He will receive his Bachelor of Arts degree in Music from Rider University (Westminster Choir College) in May of 2017. Having served as an EOP summer peer counselor, Billy is always ready and willing to help his colleagues in any way he can, whether it is academically or by just lending a friendly hand and supportive ear. Billy hopes to open his own music store and is considering graduate studies in the future.

Rowan College at Burlington County

*9 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Marie Blamon

Joshua Damata

Lisa Ortiz

Academic Achievement Award

Ruth Rollins

Anika Pitts

Alexandra Price

Outstanding Achievement Award

Kasheara Crespo

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Anika Pitts

Anika Pitts received her high school diploma in 2013 through the Higher Academics Home Schooling Program. Anika will receive her Associate of Applied Science in Human Services this spring. She is a transfer student from Camden County College (CCC) and was able to make the Dean's List at both CCC and at Rowan College of Burlington County (RCBC). Anika's future plans are to work in the Human Services field and to provide hope for people who are having difficulties in life.

Anika is originally from Camden, NJ and is a single mother of four daughters. Although she always had a desire to help others in multiple ways, attending college was not something she thought she would strive to do, because she dropped out at age 16. Tragically, one of her daughters passed away at the age of 16. This event sparked something in her spirit, which gave her the ability to take a deeper look at her life and to see how she could use her potential to help others.

Anika has also overcome other personal challenges to be where she is today. By surrounding herself with equally motivated individuals, she no longer saw the previous version of herself – the young woman who was addicted to drugs and had no dreams, no aspirations or self-esteem. Her attitude became one of self-love, persistence and dedication. Anika is currently in her last class of the Human Services program at Rowan College at Burlington County, and is expected to graduate May 2017. She wants to be a vision of hope to others who feel that life is too tough to bear.

Rowan College at Gloucester County

*24 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Cesar Acetti

Demi Borgesi

Elijah Brown

Shannon Carvalho

Danielle Chamberlin

Brianna McCray

Taylor Melodick-Robinson

Brittany Rescinito

Amanda Troutman

Samantha Parkhurst

Academic Achievement Award

Toni Brown

Kyle Collins

Aubrie Donnelly

Danielle Micalizzi

Stephanie DeNardo

Amanda Helwig

Madison Pidliskey

Marlo Rossi

Tiffany Ross

Karla Hernandez

Cameryn Shepherd

Outstanding Achievement Award

Elijah Brown

Rowan University - Camden

*11 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Christian Fernandez

Phuoc H. Lam

Phuong Pham

Helenyi Santiago

Anh Thu Tran

Academic Achievement Award

Kristen Caridad Jimenez

Rose Kim Nguyen

Lily Pham

Phuong-Trang N. Vu

Outstanding Achievement Award

Rose Kim Nguyen

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Christian Fernandez

Christian Fernandez was born in Perth Amboy and moved to Camden in the summer of 2004. He considers the City of Camden home because it played a major role in helping to shape who he is today. Christian graduated from Camden Academy Charter High School in 2012. As a high school student, he was not a star student, but through the EOF program was accepted at Rowan University. Rowan University at Camden was his first choice because he wanted to follow his sister's footsteps and he did not want to leave the comfort of his home in Camden. While completing his Law and Justice degree, Christian has become extremely dedicated to his academics. Knowing that he wanted to obtain a graduate degree, Christian applied for the Law & Justice BA/MA program and was accepted. Christian is scheduled to earn both his bachelor's and master's degrees in Criminal Justice in May 2017.

Beyond his academic achievements, Christian has also held leadership roles at Rowan University. He was a mentor for freshmen in the Achieving the Dream Scholarship program and was the President of Alpha Phi Sigma honor society. Additionally, Christian has had the privilege to intern with two different federal law enforcement agencies, which exposed him to how federal criminal investigations are conducted.

Obtaining both his bachelor's and master's degrees will give him a more in depth understanding of the Criminal Justice system, which will be extremely beneficial for his career path. Christian looks forward to pursuing a career with a federal law enforcement agency.

Rowan University - Glassboro

*20 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Ninoska Aguilar	Amy Dennis	Megan Frank
Samantha Gonzalez	Danovench Jean	Donna Mehalchick-Opal
Israt Retomoni	Yaritza Santana	Farzana Siddiquei
Evy Tolentino		

Academic Achievement Award

Nusrat Anika	Melanie Bermudez	Jenna Gardner
Ayate Kaced	Kayla Marino	Tania Mboge
Tyquasia Randolph	Marquis Rios	Christian Springer

Outstanding Achievement Award

Marquis Rios

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Yaritza Santana

Yaritza Santana was born in the Dominican Republic and migrated to the United States at the age of 11. Her family settled down in Camden, New Jersey. In 2013, Yaritza graduated from Pennsauken Tech High School and was granted admission to Rowan University through the EOF program. Yaritza will graduate this spring with a major in Biology and minor in Spanish. Yaritza credits much of her success to the academic and personal support she has received from the EOF program. In Fall 2016, Yaritza worked as an instructor for a preparatory biology course for the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT). During her sophomore year, she worked as a research assistant for Dr. Osvaldo Lopez at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University and participated in the Premedical Urban Leadership Summer Enrichment program at Cooper Medical School. She co-founded the Rowan chapter of the Minority Association of Premedical Students (MAPS), for which she has served as secretary, vice-president and currently, president. She also co-founded a program at Rowan for the recruitment of student translators for the Rowan-Cooper Clinic (RCC). Yaritza has also been on the Dean's List every semester since her freshman year and is currently on track to graduating Magna Cum Laude. She is a member of numerous honors society's while serving as an on-campus mentor for students. Yaritza has been accepted to Cooper Medical School of Rowan University. She plans to become a primary care physician and work in the city of Camden to decrease the language and economic barriers faced by those in the community.

Rutgers University - Camden

*18 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Charles F. Chrisman

Katherine R. Christy

Rosaura G. Hernandez

Sarai Jimenez

Sulman Saleem

Hideki O. Yamamoto

Kadeem T. Pratt

Michelle Rivera

Ying Ye Xing

Academic Achievement Award

Porcha M. Baylor

Naciye Cakir

Elisabel Laluz

Alexandra M. Nunez

Paula K. Pinos

Yolanda M. Quintana

David H. Tran

Thomas Tran

Outstanding Achievement Award

Johnsie Y. Soto

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Johnsie Y. Soto

Johnsie Soto is from Camden, New Jersey and is scheduled to graduate with a degree in Business Management. The one word to describe Johnsie is perseverance. He does not allow his disability to stand in his way of opportunities nor does he use it as an excuse to get ahead. He is intelligent, adaptable, focused and very dependable. He is very active on campus within the Latin American Student Organization (LASO). He is truly a model student and he is highly respected by both his professors and peers. This year, Johnsie received a Learning Abroad Scholarship. He will be traveling to South Africa to learn how business is managed in South Africa. In addition, Johnsie has received many recommendations from County Freeholders, the Camden City Board of Education, political figures and he even received the President of the United States Excellence Award. He is a young entrepreneur and he is an advocate for young people with disabilities. He is truly a community champion.

Inspired by his father who works as an auto mechanic, after graduation, Johnsie plans to open his own auto business. He will be the first in his family to own a family business. He also plans on going to Puerto Rico to attend the Student Small Development Center where he will learn how to start his own business. Long term, Johnsie hopes to be able to open an auto shop in both Camden and Puerto Rico.

Rutgers University Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy

*3 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Hok Chun Tang

Academic Achievement Award

Masami Wakabayashi

Outstanding Achievement Award

Basharat Chaudary

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Hok Chun Tang

Hok Chun Tang is a P4 pharmacy student at Rutgers University, originally from Jersey City, New Jersey. He graduated from McNair Academic High School in Jersey City before eventually starting his pharmacy school career in 2011. Hok was admitted to the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy through the EOF program as a first generation college student. Not only did the EOF program provide financial assistance, the program also offered support services that have helped Hok to foster both his personal and professional development. During his time at Rutgers he received numerous academic achievements, including Dean's List for every semester, membership for Rho Chi Honor Society and Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society. As an active member of Rho Chi Honor Society, Hok participated in various community service events and provided academic support to underclassman in pharmaceutical and medicinal chemistry. As a member of the Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society, Hok worked closely with the EOF/ Student Development Office on events for the school and for the community. He also has held leadership positions for Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society, acting as fundraiser co-chair and treasurer. Hok's future plan is to pursue a pharmacy residency post-graduation and work as a clinical pharmacist in an inpatient setting.

Rutgers University Newark College of Arts & Sciences

*31 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Mary Abdallah	Abear Awadallah	Saul Castellanos
Shawna Dobbs	Secilia Flores	Terrell Woods
Ivelisse Gilestra	Yu Han	Julia Hinojosa
Tinhinane Khelifi	John Lambert	Rosa Lasso
Tom Lien	Hector Mendoza	Michael Moore
Tuyen Nguyen	Thomas D. Pena	Levita Pickett
Pascal Pierre	Samantha Pierre	Aliyah Reynolds
Ayendy Rodriguez	Vilma Saavedra	William Sorto
Lisa Weng	Shannon Whitledge	

Academic Achievement Award

Basima Abdelsalam	Grace Abrams	Sharmina Begum
Michelle Beltran	Jamella Braithwaite	Raima Choudhry
Barbara Cummings	Shadai Cunningham	Hadir Youssef Elfarra
Fabiana Escandon	Leslie Flores	Ysamerlyn Gonzlaez
Melissa Holman	Mohammed Hossain	Lenda Jean-Baptiste
Alldina Nikovic	Carlos Palaguachi	Jorge Paneque
Fabienne Paul	Ankita Rana	Moshamed Razia
Andrew Rezk	Zeeta Roberts	Egypt Robertson
Corina Rodriguez	Ruthmary Rodriguez	Maryam Sadiqa
Sherley Sanchez		

Outstanding Achievement Award

Samantha Pierre

Rutgers University Newark College of Arts & Sciences (continued)

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Thomas D. Pena

Thomas D. Pena is from New Brunswick, New Jersey and is a graduate of Franklin High School. He is currently enrolled in the B.A./M.A. accelerated Master's degree program at Rutgers University-Newark, School of Criminal Justice with a major of Criminal Justice and minor in Psychology. He will be graduating with his bachelor's degree in May 2017 and will be receiving his master's degree the following semester. Thomas believes that his four years at Rutgers was truly an amazing experience. He became a student mentor in the Academic Foundations Center for various pre-college programs that provide assistance and resources to inner-city youth. Thomas became a member of M.A.L.E.S. (Men Achieving Leadership Excellence and Success), which helped him expand his leadership skills while obtaining knowledge and wisdom from professional EOF staff members. Thomas also became a Resident Assistant and as a resource for students living on campus; he was able to network and collaborate with many organizations on campus to make sure students were connected. In these leadership roles, Thomas received countless awards and honors that reinforced the importance of his academics. Thomas is looking forward to continuing his education at Rutgers University-Newark and pursue his ultimate professional goal, which is to become an FBI agent and obtain his Ph.D.

Rutgers University
Office for Diversity and Success in the Sciences (ODASIS)

*1 award recipients in total

Outstanding Achievement Award

Nitish Sharma

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Nitish Sharma

Nitish Sharma is the epitome of drive and perseverance. Since his freshmen year, Nitish was littered with academic hurdles, resulting in a less than stellar GPA. However, since Summer 2014, Nitish never looked back and never had a GPA below a 3.4 ever again. He consistently received A's in every upper level science course he took all while attending supplemental instruction sessions and being a leading voice among class discussions with his peers. Nitish has completed summer research at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School through their Biomedical Careers Program, as well as with esteemed faculty within the Department of Microbiology. Nitish was a tremendous undergraduate student and will be an exemplary medical school student.

Rutgers University School of Arts & Sciences New Brunswick

*111 award recipients in total

Distinguished Scholar Award

Taher Mohamed-Ali

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Stephanie Acevedo	Noreen Ahmed	Jane Arab
Tanla Ayik	Thomas Barone	Daniel Colon
Anabel Caraballo	Wendy Chinchilla	Stephanie Castellanos
Lisette Espinal	Gustavo Familia Herrera	Arlenis Ferreiras
Marina Habib	Jessica Hernandez	Madelin Hernandez Pichardo
Katherine Herrera	Janet Isaiah	Penelope King
Ke-Yong Lin	Ana Loayza	Patricia Louis
Yasmeen Marques	Addys Martinez	Pablo Ortiz
Jinalben Parikh	Olga Pryymak	Wanda Quintanilla
Vanessa Raymond	Grecia Richiez	Carla Zurita
Rosa Rivera	Mark Said	Michael Satterfield
Nitish Sharma	Michelle Silva	Algashiyah Ward-Reid
Deep Thakkar	Monica Torres	Chelmie Ulysse
Michelle Unda	Ariana Velez	Andres Villegas

Academic Achievement Award

Nana-Adwoa Agyarkowah	Abiodun Ashade	Terence Williams
Bria Bacon	Yaneiry Calpeno	Young Pae
Maria Campos	Chrissto Canales	Natalie Caruso
Bryan Castro	Mary Conza-Gonzalez	Rhonda Coons

Rutgers University School of Arts & Sciences New Brunswick (continued)

Academic Achievement Award (continued)

Maalini Das	Andrea Davis	Meet Desai
Ying Feng	Sascha Fernandez	Travis Garth
Maninder Gill	Keven Giraldo	Nafeesah Goldsmith
Daniel Guzman	Andrea Velarde	Mary Ukah
Nathaniel Hawthorne	Shamaas Hussain	Amin Khalili
Arlette Leyba	Kamel Lihmaidi	Hiu Lo
Shavanya Lynch	Kiarra Marshall	Lisbette Marte
Sherlin Martinez	Tyler Mathurin	Deondre Smalls
Shaquana Mcgee	Ambar Mendez	Samia Sheikh
Anita Omambia	Sagarkumar Shah	Naomi Rosario
Vidhiben Patel	Yohana Pisabaj	Sabrina Riddick

Outstanding Achievement Award

Tyler Mathurin

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Patricia Louis

Patricia Louis was born in Elizabeth, New Jersey where she graduated from Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy in 2013. As an EOF student, Patricia has made the Dean's List most of her college years, she is an active member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and a member of the Chi Alpha Epsilon EOF Honor Society. In her junior year, she conducted research with the New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NJCASA), studied abroad in Israel, and participated in the Douglass Public Leadership Education Network (PLEN) Trenton internship with the Department of Children and Families. Patricia co-created and presented a workshop for the federally funded Student Support Services Program, called "Email Etiquette 101: Learn the secrets to Professionalism and Efficiency via Email." She is currently interning with New Brunswick Tomorrow, working with the 0-21 Task Force Initiative. After graduation, Patricia plans to go to graduate school to study management and administrative social work. She eventually hopes to work in a non-profit agency that focuses on youth development and empowerment.

Rutgers University School of Engineering

*18 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Andrew Cannon

Kien Chau

Madeline Nivar

Academic Achievement Award

Joyce Change

Andrea Nguyen

Xianna Kuang

Richard Loper IV

Outstanding Achievement Award

Sandra Jaramillo

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Sandra Jaramillo

Sandra Jaramillo was the 2013 Valedictorian of Abraham Clark High School in Roselle, New Jersey. She began her academic career at Rutgers University, School of Engineering through the Educational Opportunity Fund program in summer 2013. Sandra has an identical twin sister, who also came through the EOF program with her. Sandra is studying Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. Throughout her time at Rutgers she has been an active member of the Minority Engineering Educational Task organization and the Rutgers chapter of National Society of Black Engineering (NSBE). She has served as the senator of the organization representing Rutgers NSBE on both the regional and national level for two years. In fall 2016 Sandra participated in a Food Operational Excellence & Business Waste Co-Op with Unilever. She is also an alumna of the Green Program, where she spent a winter break studying renewable energy and sustainability in Iceland. Sandra has also made an impact on over 130 middle school and high school girls through her role as a counselor for The Academy at Rutgers for Girls in Engineering and Technology (TARGET) program. Sandra's goal after graduation is to gain a full time position in manufacturing, supervising the productions.

Rutgers University School of Environmental and Biological Sciences

*14 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Brendan Campbell

Richard Duong

Asra Naz

Rodney Valverde

Academic Achievement Award

Fatima Bahary

Stephany Caicedo

Jessie Davis

Ali Farrag

Krishna Kapadia

Kelvyn Leon

Samantha Meza

Carlos Olivares

Irin Sultana

Outstanding Achievement Award

Kristin Fernandez

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Samantha Meza

Samantha (Sam) Meza a resident of Plainfield, New Jersey. Graduating from North Plainfield High School in 2013, Sam began her collegiate career as a participant of the SEBS EOF S.T.A.R.T. U.P. Summer Institute. Currently in her last year at Rutgers University School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS), Sam will earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science with Pre-Veterinary option in May of 2017. Focusing her academic talents, Sam was introduced to research through the Rutgers Animal Science department during her freshman year when she earned a position as a student researcher. In 2015, she conducted field research in Kenya as a student of the Primatology, Wildlife Ecology, and Conservation Field School and completed an internship as an animal caretaker at Woodlands Wildlife Refuge. She has also gained teaching assistant and tutoring experiences through various academic offices. As a SEBS EOF student, Sam has also taken advantage of several opportunities at Rutgers. She has been afforded the opportunity to be a part of the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) program. She has also served on the executive board of the Rutgers Salsa Club as secretary, President, and currently as vice president. She is a SEBS ambassador and a mentor to first-year SEBS EOF students and currently works as a veterinary technician at Green Brook Animal Hospital. Her future career plan is to enroll in veterinarian school and earn a V.M.D. while also contributing to the wildlife conservation field.

Rutgers University School of Health Related Professions

*12 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Nayasha Defreitas

Genesis Terrero

Academic Achievement Award

Donna Accoo

Melissa Calderon

Tatiana Rosado

Rakietou Sini

Nalani Villalona

Ahou (Melanie) Yao

Outstanding Achievement Award

Jessie Bato

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Nayasha DeFreitas

Nayasha DeFreitas moved to New Jersey from Guyana in 2006 after receiving her diploma from Guyana School of Information Technology. In 2009, she began attending Essex County College as a part-time student where she eventually became valedictorian in 2013 and won the Essex County College Academic Excellence & Community Service Award and the Essex County Board of Freeholders Academic Excellence Award. Nayasha continued to pursue her degree in Biology at Rutgers University-Newark and eventually changed her major to Cytotechnology and transferred to Rutgers School of Health Professions after her 3rd semester at Rutgers University-Newark. Nayasha graduated with her Bachelor of Science degree in Clinical Laboratory Science in October 2016 with a 3.819 GPA, and in the same month she accepted a full-time position as a Cytotechnologist with the Cytology department at Quest Diagnostics in Teterboro, New Jersey. Nayasha is a proud mother of an 11-year-old son, Joshua, and 3-year-old son, Jayden. In the future Nayasha hopes to apply to medical school and pursue her medical degree in oncology.

Rutgers University School of Nursing

*12 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Geeti Hussaini

Academic Achievement Award

Linda Agyarewah

Keyshanna Apple

William Calderon

Jessica Cerrate

Elizabeth Conteras

Sufia Hussain

Stephanie Logrono

Sharissa Petit-Frere

Chloe Williams

Mary Rose Marcaida

Outstanding Achievement Award

Athena Torres

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Elizabeth Contreras

Elizabeth Contreras is from Jersey City, New Jersey and is a graduate of County Prep High School. In May 2017 she will graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Rutgers Biomedical & Health Sciences-School of Nursing. She has earned Dean's List status for three semesters and has received the Dr. Elaine Dolinsky Scholarship, the National Association of Hispanic Nurses Scholarship and the Victoria Van Allen Scholarship. Additionally, she has received the School of Nursing-EOF Leadership Award as well as the High Achiever's List for five semesters. She has served as the treasurer for the School of Nursing-EOF Program Rutgers Ethnic Student Nurses Association and is the current president of the School of Nursing- Nurse Science Club. She has served as a volunteer for the Rutgers-Habitat for Humanity Program and in a private practice pediatric office as a medical assistant. She is a member of the Journal Square Neighborhood Association where she has supervised activities such as games, face painting and the distribution of food in the community. Having a desire to help others, she has been a peer mentor and calculus tutor. For the School of Nursing-EOF Program, she has worked as a teaching assistant for the Pre-Jr. Clinical Enrichment program. She has served as a Rutgers New Brunswick-Residence Hall Association floor representative to improve the on campus living experience as a student advocate. Her future plans are to gain clinical experience in the Emergency Room and then to pursue further education as an Advanced Practice Nurse. Her dream is to travel domestically and abroad as a travel nurse.

Saint Peter's University

*12 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Kashleen Abreu

Marlin Garcia

Carla Guaman

Kelvin Lopez

Aya Osman

Mary Soliman

Elizabeth Tepox

Christopher Quispe

Academic Achievement Award

Dolly Basaldua

Jossie Capon

Elizabeth Egoavil

Darlene Cabrera-Santo

Outstanding Achievement Award

Christophe

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Darlene Cabrera-Santos

Darlene Cabrera-Santos is from Perth Amboy, New Jersey and is a graduate of Perth Amboy High School. During her first year of college, she became a senator for Saint Peter's Student Government Association, a mentor at Big Brothers & Sisters, and an active volunteer for the school's campus ministry. Darlene served as a liaison between the student population and the faculty senate at St. Peter's. Darlene served as president of the Student Senate and vice president of the Student Government Association. She was involved with the Saint Peter's University Model United Nations where she served as co-chair of the Security Council. Presently, Darlene is an activity guide and resident advisor to the Foreign Language Services (FLS), an international company that focuses on teaching students English and culture across the United States. Darlene is very appreciative of the support she received from the staff at Perth Amboy High School, project Adelante, and the Educational Opportunity Fund at Saint Peter's. She vividly recalls nervously sitting before Educational Opportunity Fund Counselor, Mr. Walvi De Jesus. Before her father entered the office she quickly looked at Mr. De Jesus and said, "Look, you really have to convince him to let me attend college. He is having his doubts and misconceptions. Please help me." Aside from the lack of familial and financial support, she had to endure emotional scars from an unfortunate incident. With the help of her Educational Opportunity Fund counselors, Darlene was able to gain the strength to find her focus and dedicate her life to her academics and diverse interests. She has attained Dean's List for two consecutive semesters and is preparing herself to apply to Ph.D. programs.

Salem Community College

*8 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Savannah Campbell

Saidalys Hernandez

Joshua Sponaugle

Academic Achievement Award

Eriqua Ferrer

Tasja Justice

Jawan Pitts

Michael Robinson

Outstanding Achievement Award

Lynette Espino

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Savannah Campbell

In May 2017, Savannah Campbell will receive an Associate Degree in Liberal Arts from Salem Community College. Born in Mannington and raised in the small town of Penns Grove, Savannah has always yearned to branch out to discover all the things that lie beyond her hometown. In 2011, she graduated from Salem County Vocational Technical School studying culinary arts, which pushed and furthered her passion for food. One day, Savannah hopes to own and operate her own restaurant with a focus on approachable global flavors and techniques with an emphasis on local and seasonal ingredients. At Salem Community College, Savannah is involved in the Performing Arts Club, a member of Phi Theta Kappa, and a 2017 Chi Alpha Epsilon XAE induction nominee. After graduation, Savannah will be pursuing her bachelor's degree in Culinary Arts and Service Management at Johnson and Wales in North Carolina.

Seton Hall University

*40 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Arielle Bello	Damaris Pichardo	Alejandra Picado
Laura Galindo Munez	Cassidy Martin	Linette Perez
Catherine Gonzalez	Isabella Hansen	Jennifer Hornick
Alexis Iheke	Christina Levy	Qariah Lucas
Anthony Madle		

Academic Achievement Award

Diego Alvarez	Kareema Boone	Airiann Thompson
Jatirah Diggs	Shauni Figueroa	Ornella Yovo
Faryal Gohar	Julie Gomes	Steven Magnotta
Vanessa Marroquin	Alexa Miranda	Kaileigh Wright
Katarina Najdek	Calandra Williams	Kedwina Remy
Angelica Reyes		

Outstanding Achievement Award

Kareema Boone

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Arielle Bello

Arielle is a resident of Bayonne, New Jersey and a graduate of County Prep High School in Jersey City. In May 2017, she will earn her Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work with a minor in Psychology. She is a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS) and is the vice president of the Planning to Achieve Collegiate Excellence (PACE) executive board. Arielle has also earned Dean's List standing several times while at SHU. Her future plans include pursuing a master's degree in Social Work and obtaining her LCSW license and continuing to pursue a doctorate in Social Work. Arielle's long term goal is to work with children with developmental disorders or children and families in a hospital setting.

Seton Hall University Pre-Medical Pre-Dental Plus Program

*7 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Nilika Gulati

Yessenia Leon

Academic Achievement Award

Ahmad Aljayeh

Dania Niwash

Michael Singh

Madeline Tineo

Outstanding Achievement Award

Diamonique Lundy

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Nilika Gulati

Growing up in Springfield, New Jersey, Nilika Gulati had a dream that one day she would become a dentist. In May of 2013, Nilika graduated from VCVTS Academy for Allied Health Sciences and was ready to continue her academic journey. That summer, she joined Seton Hall University's Pre-Medical/Pre-Dental Plus Program for a 7 week summer enrichment experience. For her first assignment, Nilika had to choose a quote that she found inspirational. She selected a quote from Mulan that states, "There are two great days in our lives: the day we are born and the day we prove why we are born". Four years later, this quote resonates more than ever. Nilika will graduate from Seton Hall University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology, in route to Rutgers School of Dental Medicine in the fall. As she embarks on the next stage of this journey, Nilika is prepared for what lies ahead.... A dream fulfilled.

Stevens Institute of Technology

*8 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Kely Amegbor

Samantha Hetherington

Radhika Kasabwala

Academic Achievement Award

Jose Caicedo

Daniela Cardona

Luis Mendoza

Christian Rosa

Outstanding Achievement Award

Joshua Negrón

EOF Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Daniela Cardona

Daniela Cardona is a senior from Stevens Institute of Technology graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Quantitative Finance. She was born in Manizales, Colombia but grew up in Woodbridge, New Jersey and attended Woodbridge High School. Her extracurricular involvements in high school continued into college. Daniela has held positions in the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers and the Latin American Association. While at Stevens, she also has worked as a peer mentor and orientation leader, a student ambassador of the Business School, and a member of the Gear & Triangle Honor Society. Daniela won the Emerging Leader Award, Service and Leadership Award and is a Hispanic Scholarship Fund scholar. Outside of school, she is a fellow for the America Needs You Program and participated in various activities for the Educational Opportunity program.

Daniela is currently in the process of studying to take her GMAT with hopes to enter a graduate program in the future. After completing a successful summer at RBC Capital Markets, she will be returning full time in August as an analyst in their Global Investment Banking Division. She aims to balance a strong work life with lending a helping hand to the younger Hispanic Community that helped her so much.

Stockton University

*21 award recipients in total

Distinguished Scholar Award

Iris Escobar

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Bazam Bakhat

Jessalee Cruz

Kelly Garcia

Jacqueline Genovese

Karen Lopez

Chelsea Miller

Ashley Nevarez

Lorena Ruiz-Garcia

Kimberly Soto

Marcelle Walker

Academic Achievement Award

Elizabeth Alexander

Jessica Bonsu

Kiara Brooks

Josue Ferman

Henna Khan

Jose Otero

Maria Peralta

Na'Eema Robinson

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Ashley Nevarez

Ashley Nevarez is from Trenton, New Jersey and graduated from Trenton Central High School in June 2013. She has been a student worker in the EOF office since she started at Stockton. Ashley has mentored many of the students who come to the EOF office looking for assistance. She is a sister of Lambda Tau Omega Sorority, Inc. since freshmen year and has held multiple positions on the executive board since becoming a member of the sorority chapter, including: secretary, vice president, and president. She received an award last year from her sorority known as the "scholarly award" which recognized her academic standing. Ashley has been on the Dean's List every semester since she began her studies at Stockton University. As a result of her academic success, she was chosen to participate in a Study Abroad program to Italy last summer. She has volunteered for multiple community service projects, such as: Relay for Life, Special Olympics, and Sister Jean's Soup Kitchen. Ashley attended the PULSE program at Rowan University and interned and shadowed a physician assistant. Her goal following graduation is to enroll into a Physician Assistant program with the hope of eventually entering that field in the Health Careers profession.

The College of New Jersey

*32 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Steven Ayala	Amanda Hernandez	Ting Yang
Michael Laudenbach	Shirley Moreno	Mi-Yeon Park
Natasha Pineiros	Sophy Siv	Edric Vites

Academic Achievement Award

Rami Amer	Dayberkis Arias	David Brown
Destiny De La Rosa	Abrar Ebady	Janice Ebanks
Jennine Ebanks	Tamara Fuentes	Pierre Venescar
Ashley Gray	Rosalyn Grullon	Vanessa Hernandez
Irene Molina	Femanda Morales	Elizabeth Tejada
Karisma Pantaleon	Unique Parkinson	Jacolby Suggs

Outstanding Achievement Award

Ruth Sanchez de la Rosa

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Destiny De La Rosa

Destiny De La Rosa is currently a graduate student at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) pursuing a Master in Arts degree with a certification in School Counseling and Student Assistance Coordinator (SAC). In December 2016, Destiny also received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from TCNJ. She attended Elizabeth High School Upper Academy in Elizabeth, New Jersey. During her journey at TCNJ, Destiny has been on the Dean's List for several semesters and has earned various awards, including the EOF Perseverance Award during her freshman year. While at TCNJ, Destiny was provided many opportunities for growth and learning including working on a research grant from the National Science Foundation. She believes that her success throughout college and in the future would not be possible without the support of the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) program. In the future, Destiny plans to use her education to help other students learn how to be resilient in a world where minorities are not expected to be high achievers. The EOF program's investment in her has shaped the woman she is today; someone who is confident in her abilities and able to rise above any challenge.

Union County College

*17 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Amanda Ankudovich

Paul Badua

Vanessa Goncalves

Amanda Hoff

Academic Achievement Award

Katheen Raymond

Jianna Salgado

Claudia Santibanez

Celcise Stany

Outstanding Achievement Award

Zeiry S. Flores

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Zeiry S. Flores

Zeiry S Flores is one of six siblings born and raised in Elizabeth, New Jersey. She comes from a traditional Hispanic Honduran home and attended Elizabeth High School until the 9th grade. Growing up Zeiry was always the high achiever and honor student. During her freshman year in high school, Zeiry suffered a traumatic experience and almost lost her father. This experience helped her to realize that she needed to continue her education. She completed her GED at Iroquois Job Corp, and also completed a medical assistant program.

Zeiry continued her education at Union County College and was introduced to the Education Opportunity Fund Program. Since day one, Zeiry felt the support from everyone she came across in the program. Zeiry has served as an EOF ambassador for the summer program. It is her belief that the EOF program has helped to push her toward goals and now she want to help others achieve their goals. Her next step is to attend the University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida where she plans to continue her major in Psychology. After completing her education, Zeiry's vision is to work with an advocacy center for the youth where she can push them to become the best individual they can be, just as the EOF program did for her.

Warren County Community College

*1 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Sean Hampton

Outstanding Achievement Award

Sean Hampton

William Paterson University

*34 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Sarah Abara	Savannah Crippen	Sophia Hockman
Md Huda	Assma Hussaini	Keyarah Ingram
Emmanuel Rousakis	Connie Mora	Nadine Shadruff
Nora Zaki		

Academic Achievement Award

Michelle Abril	Rachel Chung	Jessica Loayza Jarama
Fatma Medyan	Nicole Outlaw	Dhawilson Pena
Pamela Presinal	Catherin Cid	Quashe' Edwards
Eman Ramadan		

Outstanding Achievement Award

Savannah Crippen

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Savannah Crippen

Savannah Crippen was born and raised in Toms River, New Jersey. She is a graduate of Manchester Township High School, Class of 2013. She began her college career at William Paterson University through the EOF Program during the summer of 2013. Savannah is a Psychology major and Health Studies minor. She has been on the Dean's List for eight consecutive semesters and is a member of the Honors College. She was also research assistant and a co-laboratory coordinator at the university's Neuropsychology Lab. She has published an encyclopedia entry and currently has several manuscripts in preparation. In addition, she has attended and presented at the American Psychological Association (APA), the Eastern Psychological Association (EPA) and the Northeast Regional Honors Conference. Savannah also holds the current position of president of the Psychology Club and has served as a resident assistant for Residence Life. Savannah is a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success (Sigma Alpha Pi) and Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honors Society. She is also a recipient of the Student Success Scholarship, the H.F Modemann Humanities and Social Sciences Scholarship and the Arrigo O. Rogers Scholarship. Upon graduation, Savannah will pursue an advanced degree at either the master's or doctoral level.