



New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund 2019 EOF Graduate Achievement Award Recipients

Each year the Educational Opportunity Fund Board of Directors and the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education invite campus programs to identify graduating EOF students who have demonstrated exceptional achievement during their college careers. Presented to EOF seniors who are expected to graduate at the end of the Spring 2019 term or who graduated at the end of the Summer 2018 or Fall 2018 terms, the criteria for the specific award categories are as follows:

Distinguished Scholars: presented to seniors who have consistently maintained a cumulative grade point average of 4.00 throughout their college career (13 recipients);

Outstanding Academic Achievement: presented to seniors who have consistently maintained a cumulative grade point average of 3.50-3.99 (532 recipients);

Academic Achievement: presented to seniors who have consistently maintained a cumulative grade point average of 3.20-3.49 (579 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 award in one of the other three categories (46 recipients).

Total number of awards = 1,170.

**Please note that the names listed only reflect the nominees who have signed a media release form permitting the EOF Central Office to publish their information. The total number of award recipients is also provided to help clarify the actual number of awardees per EOF campus program.*

Atlantic Cape Community College

*28 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Yasra Akram
Jessica Gerth
Fernand Marrero-Guido
Jiawen Qin
Fernando Venegas Ataca

Sangida Akther
Jessica Holloway
Jni McIntosh
Andre Robinson

Tai Bui
Ulema Jones
Tatiana Morales
Brooke Tharp

Academic Achievement Award

Samira Bishop
Cierra Fifer
Iris Gil-Hernandez
Atiqul Islam
Julmane Remy

Kerrick Capaldi
Angela Fonte
Lidangela Guzman-Palacios
Caitlyn Milazzo
Juliana Torres Santiago

Jennifer Feliciano
Constance Garrett
Ivy Gyemfua
Sarosh Rabby
Jennifer Trask

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Samera Bishop

Ms. Samera Bishop is a lifelong resident of Atlantic City. She enrolled in Atlantic Cape Community College right after graduating high school. She faced several personal and family challenges at the time and was not able to succeed academically. Fourteen years later, as she helped her oldest daughter prepare for her first year of college, she was inspired to return to Atlantic Cape Community College herself and finish what she once started. With her daughter's encouragement and support, Samera enrolled once again for college courses. This time she did it while also managing a full time job, raising her younger children and attending to her ailing mother.

The journey was rough and challenging. Many times her biggest challenge was her self-doubt and insecurities. But Samera never gave up and can now see the rewards of her sacrifice and hard work. As Samera prepares to receive her Associate of Science degree in Human Services, she leaves Atlantic Cape Community College a much stronger and confident individual. She feels prepared and excited to begin her next academic adventure and be one step closer to her career goal.

Samera plans on transferring to Rutgers University to pursue a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work degree. Her words of encouragement for others are... "Remain fearless and trust in yourself. You can do it!"

Bergen Community College

*31 award recipients in total

Distinguished Scholar

Jason Park

Kaori Suzuki

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Theresa Atsaves

Marlene Felix

Madelyn Ibanez

Armena Molla

Christie Rosario

Nina Darbouze

Noemi Bello-Reyes

Gabriela Gonzalez-Ferreras

Ammar Javed

Stephanie Perez

Jimmy Siguenca

Nina Darbouze

Laura Hernandez

Bianel Mena

Stephanie Rim

Motana Thungason

Academic Achievement Award

Iqra Abbasi

Julissa Encalada

Niama Khalil

Anna Smith

Layth Abdelqader

Alexandria Grajales

Iris Ocasio

Ashley Viera

Carina Camarena

Saman Kazim

Briana Ruiz

Ryan Zozulia

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Briana Ruiz

Briana Ruiz is originally from Paterson, New Jersey but moved to her hometown of Bergenfield with her mother at the age of 3. She is a graduate of Bergenfield High School. After leaving high school, Briana was struggling to find her right path. She had been told that she would not succeed in college. However, she received a phone call that would change the course of her life.

The call was from a counselor at the Educational Opportunity Fund Program at Bergen Community College who told her about the great opportunities the program had to offer. She decided to put her right foot forward and enrolled in college as an EOF student. Since enrolling in EOF, Briana's G.P.A has leaped from a 2.1 leaving Bergenfield High School to a cumulative college G.P.A now of a 3.48. Briana has been recognized by the campus program for both Distinguished Achievement in 2016 and Outstanding Achievement in 2017. Her major is Cinema Studies and she will receive her Associate's degree in Liberal Arts this spring. Briana plans to major in Communications and minor in International Business at Montclair State University. Using the knowledge she will gain from both fields of interest, Briana plans on taking the step to becoming an entrepreneur.

Bloomfield College

*3 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Aaliyah Jones

Edith Rodriguez

Outstanding Achievement Award

Paola Tejada

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Paola Tejada

Paola Tejada is from Perth Amboy, New Jersey and graduated from Perth Amboy High School in 2016. Paola will be graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology this coming May. As a student at Bloomfield College, she has demonstrated many academic achievements. Paola will be graduating in only three years. Within the EOF program she has received the Educational Opportunity Fund Rising Star Award (2016), the Educational Opportunity Fund Certificate of Achievement (2016), the Educational Opportunity Fund Leadership Award (2018), and the Educational Opportunity Fund GPA Recognition Award (2018). Paola has also been recognized by other departments on campus earning both a Distinguished Student Award, Center for Career Development (2018) and a Center for Student Leadership and Engagement Leadership and Service Award (2018). These different achievements all led to her receiving a Bloomfield College “Portrait of Excellence” this past fall 2018.

Paola’s motivation is to never give up on herself. She shared the following when asked about her future plans. She knows she can and will succeed! Her goal within the next three years is to work for the Department of Children and Families. She is planning to obtain a MSW so she can become a social worker and help others with their needs. She also hopes to one day publish her memoirs because she wants to inspire others with her story and her achievements.

Brookdale Community College

*22 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Alexander Acevedo
Israel Guajardo
Shawandda Tineo

Frederick Church
Christina Morrison

Brooke Colavito
Casey Roome

Academic Achievement Award

Brittney Granja

Melanie Idorovo

Marilyn Ruiz-Estrada

Outstanding Achievement

Shawandda Tineo

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Frederick Church

Frederick Church grew up in Asbury Park, New Jersey where he graduated from high school in 2014. He enrolled at Brookdale Community College in the fall of 2014.

At Brookdale, Frederick majored in Digital Animation and 3D Design and plans to graduate spring 2019 with an Associate of Applied Sciences degree. During his tenure at Brookdale, he was involved in extracurricular activities such as the Gateway to Japan Club as well as the Campus Crusade for Christ Club known as CRU. He participated in both clubs as a member-at-large for two years. He also received recognition for making the Dean's List which requires a minimum GPA of a 3.5 for an entire academic year as a full-time student. Frederick is also currently the vice president of the XAE-Delta Alpha Chapter at Brookdale and has received a Global Citizenship award.

Upon graduation, Frederick intends to study abroad in Japan for six weeks. He also plans to transfer to Bloomfield College in the fall of 2019 to pursue a B.A. in Creative Arts and Technology with a concentration in Animation 2-D and 3-D Design.

Caldwell University

***11 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Shanice Edwards

Monica Legerme

Academic Achievement Award

Aryelle Addison

Nathalie Barillas

Justice Baskin

Haimanot Bekele

Jennifer Cruz

Angel Figueroa Rivera

Luisanna Gonzalez

Yasmine Khalaifeh

Outstanding Achievement

Jessica Noel

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Justice E. Baskin

In May of 2019, Justice E. Baskin will graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education - Social Studies. He is from the Greenville neighborhood of Jersey City where he graduated salutatorian from Abraham Lincoln High School in 2015.

Justice's personal philosophy is, "If you stay busy you will never get tired." He exemplifies this by staying active on campus and continuously moving forward with new ideas that have greatly influenced the Caldwell community. These ideas have brought awareness to social injustices within marginalized communities. This philosophy has helped him pursue his goals because the very same work ethic of staying busy is something Justice wants to replicate within his students, to ensure productive citizens of our future society. In addition to Justice's academic excellence, he competed as a NCAA Division II athlete in Track & Field and Cross Country. Additionally, he has been a dormitory resident assistant as well as Caldwell's EOF class representative, Dean's list recipient for spring '16, fall '17, spring '18, and fall '18, a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success, a member of Kappa Delta Epsilon Honor Society, and the president of the Caldwell University Dance Team. Justice's future plans consist of attending graduate school while teaching in a New Jersey high needs school district. By obtaining a master's degree in Education Administration, Justice aspires to one day become the principal of his alma mater. Justice credits the Educational Opportunity Fund with being one of the biggest supporters of his goals during his four years at Caldwell University.

Camden County College

*15 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Shaيدا Akhter

Quang Bui

Brandon Ruiz

Pius Anyanwu

Joshua Dunn

Tracy Tse

Elizabeth Bones

Rachel O'Brien

Academic Achievement

Darlington Anyanwu

Richard Lincoln

Wendylee Cruz

Jordy Valdez

Linh Dang

Outstanding Achievement

Kathleen Ehly

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Rachel O'Brien

Rachel O'Brien is a graduate of Washington Township High School in Sewell, New Jersey and currently resides in Mount Royal. She is a Pre-Nursing major and will receive an Associate in Science degree in May 2019. She has been named to the Permanent President's List at Camden County College. She is the current regional vice president of Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society and ran for the middle states regional presidency in 2018.

Having become a mother at the age of 14, her heart became leaned toward the Nursing profession and helping mothers during their labor and delivery experiences. Since that time she has asked family and friends if she could be present during their birthing process and has attended approximately 30 births. Now a single mother of three children, Rachel is well on her way of accomplishing her goal. She looks forward to attending Rutgers School of Nursing to obtain her BSN and a career as a Labor and Delivery Nurse. Ultimately, she wants to become a Nurse Midwife, providing comfort and support to her patients and empowering them to bring their baby into the world in the best way possible.

Rachel has found numerous resources in order to help her along her academic journey. Learning to rely on her "village" for assistance was a major lesson, from arranging play dates for her preschooler to ride shares for the older children to their various activities. This lesson in creating support systems allowed her to study successfully and complete her degree.

Centenary College

*7 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Amaryllis Cummings

Najee Evans

Academic Achievement

Diana Avecillas

Matthew Figueira

Sebastian Hernandez

Anna Stroud

Outstanding Achievement

Gregory Robinson

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Najee Evans

Najee Evans is a native of Newark, New Jersey where he attended Saint Benedict's Preparatory School. After completing high school, he began studying at Centenary University where he will receive a BSW in Social Work in May 2019. Evans has been an outstanding role model and a leader at Centenary. His campus involvement includes Black Student Union Chaplain, Student Government Association vice president of Clubs & Organizations, Resident Assistant Council chair, and membership in the Senior Committee, Chapel Service, Facilities Committee, Food Committee, Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society, and Phi Alpha Honors Society. Najee was named to the Dean's List and was Spirit Week Chairperson & Homecoming King. He is also a Transfer Counselor for the university and lead Resident Assistant.

Evans has had much influence not only on campus but also in other organizations as a Diversity Committee member of Mid-Atlantic Association of Colleges and Universities Housing Officers (MACHUO), intern at Care Management Organization, and reverend and associate minister of Abyssinian Baptist Church in Newark. Evans does not only thrive in academics with a 3.63 GPA, but his leadership roles have led him to have a successful college experience. He plans to pursue a graduate degree in Social Work and ultimately work with young adults. Evans has been an exemplary student at Centenary not only because of his sharp focus on academics but also as a leader who thrived in many areas on campus. Najee Evans is a well-rounded young man who did not let anything get in his way of success as an EOF and Centenary student.

College of Saint Elizabeth

*11 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Ashlee Caballero
Jamayrah Moore

Brian Hernandez

Iesha Brooks-Walker

Academic Achievement

Endia Barrett
TyQuasia White

Akilah Love
Magali Rodriguez

Kassandra Vargas

Outstanding Achievement

Jamayrah Moore

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Jamayrah Moore

At age fifteen, Jamayrah “Jammy” Moore turned her life into a movement. Due to her passion for helping others, Jammy has become an exceptional community influencer and mentor. Her devotion for her hometown of Trenton led her to create the My Life Movement, a grass-roots non-profit that caters to developing youth by way of training, community outreach, and mentoring.
<https://www.mylifemovement321.com>

Jammy has received countless awards and recognition for her contribution as a servant leader and was recognized with The Wesley and Saint Michael’s book award for Social Conscience, the Hurler grant (\$2,500), and the State and General Assembly award for Outstanding Community Service. As an EOF and Presidential Scholar at the College of Saint Elizabeth where she has studied Communications and Mathematics, Jammy’s continued effort to develop her passion for community outreach into MLM communities provides hope and inspiration to others. Jammy Moore was also recognized with the Alumnae Association Leadership Award, as well as the 2015 and 2017 Elizabeth S. Ford Service Award at CSE.

Through the My Life Movement, Jammy has coordinated coat drives, leadership forums, workshops, and after-school mentoring programs. By partnering with other organizations including The Age-Out Angels Foundation, New Jersey Department of Corrections, and Stacey Blount Rising Stars, roughly 250 youth have been helped and served each year.

Jammy Moore attended Seton Hall’s Pre-Legal Program and will attend graduate school at Montclair State University where she will work toward a master’s degree in Law and Governance with a concentration in Legal Management. Jammy plans to attend law school.

County College of Morris

*4 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Nicole Doucette

Cesar Rubio

Academic Achievement

Angel Espada

Outstanding Achievement

Keara Thomas

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Angel Espada

Angel Espada grew up in Wharton, New Jersey with his mother, uncle, and grandparents. He enrolled at the County College of Morris (CCM) in fall 2016, joining the EOF program the following spring. While at CCM, Angel maintained a 3.454 CGPA. He was a member of the Alpha Mu Gamma honor society and demonstrated leadership skills by participating in the Asian Student's Association and the Debate Club. Additionally, he was a member and president of the EOF Student Alliance and participated in the EOF Professional Mentor program.

Since the age of four, Angel has had a passion for reading and writing. He has been working on a light novel series which will have its first volume published soon. The novel is about a 16 year-old student, Hikaru Shizuka, living in a large futuristic city in Japan. In this city, scientists have discovered a human protein that when activated gives the person a super power of a particular nature. Each super power can be placed in one of three categories that the wielders are classified in. Hikaru was bullied as a child for not having a power and being physically weak. After two fateful encounters, Hikaru decides to train at a dojo so he can protect those he cares about and see where his life journey will lead, making both friends and enemies along the way.

Besides writing, Angel's hobbies include martial arts, soccer, filmmaking and cooking. Angel graduated from CCM this past fall 2018 with an Associate of Arts degree in Liberal Arts - Humanities/Social Science. He plans to attend Rutgers University in the fall of 2019, seeking a Psychology degree.

Cumberland County College

*22 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Adrine Buroughs
Oleh Chernenko
Sharon Murray
Ashnell Torres

Jaylynn Canseco
Fenix Gray
Stephanie Quiles

Lexiana Casper
Howard Johnson
Shelby Smith

Academic Achievement

Brianna Barber
Malika Cook-Eades
Jacqueline Seda

Kal-el Cartagena
Jashley Cruz

Octavia Collins
Ana Santos

Outstanding Achievement

Kynaat Moosvi

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Kynaat Moosvi

Kynaat Moosvi is a native of Vineland, New Jersey and graduated from Vineland High School. Ms. Moosvi will graduate from Cumberland County College in May of 2019 with degrees in Liberal Arts/Communications and Liberal Arts/Public Relations.

Ms. Moosvi has garnered numerous academic and co-curricular accomplishments such as earning a GPA of 3.9 and receiving President's List honors, the EOF Spirit of Summer Award, and the EOF Academic Achievement Award. She is a McDonnell Volunteer Scholarship recipient, an EOFPANJ Arrigo O. Rogers Memorial Scholarship recipient, and a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Ms. Moosvi has also completed a Public Relations internship.

Ms. Moosvi's plans are to transfer to Rowan University to pursue her Bachelor's degree and continue then by obtaining a Master's degree in International Relations. Ms. Moosvi's long range career plan is to work for UN Women - shaping and influencing the humanitarian policy agenda.

Drew University

*6 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Alexarae Rizzo

Academic Achievement

Jael Estrada

Faith Ogbennaya

Outstanding Achievement

Fakrat Alapa

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Alexarae Rizzo

Alexarae Rizzo a graduate from Howell High School. She will graduate from Drew University in May 2019 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Neuroscience with a minor in Biochemistry.

Alexarae has been recognized on numerous occasions for her outstanding academic achievements. She is a member of Epsilon Omega Psi Honor Society, Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society and Nu Rho Psi Honor Society. Alexarae has also received the Drew University Presidential Excellence Award, Civic Scholar Award and the CLA Class of 1981 Scholarship for her outstanding academic achievement. She is very active on and off campus. Alexarae serves as a Civic Scholar, EOS Scholar/Peer Mentor and as a member of the Orientation Committee. She has interned with the Orthopedic Institute and Homeless Solutions in Morristown and she continues to volunteer with the Madison Volunteer Ambulance Corps and America's Grow-a-Row program.

After graduation, Alexarae will continue her studies at Temple University School of Medicine to become a neurosurgeon. The Educational Opportunity Scholars Program is very proud of Alexarae and her accomplishments.

Essex County College

*67 award recipients in total

Distinguished Scholar

Huguette Dofontien

Sena Dziasa

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Elida Abreu

Elizabeth Almarales Alonso

Chidinma Ahaefule

Rita G. Ansong

Samirah Anthony

Yves Antoine

Mark Babooram

Kadidiatou Bakayoko

Dorothy Boham

Craig Bradley

Betina Breville

Shadels Campbell

Mirna Cheikhali

Kadidja Coulibaly

Kim Cozier

Kyle Cross

Elisee Doh

Uwalia Eguavoen

Stephania Fenton

Zoya Haye

Abdusalam Hussain

Alhaji Jabbie

Rose A. Jackson

Rebecca Jean-Baptiste

Dion Johnson

Juanita M. Jones

Aba Sylvie Kouame Yao

Benjamin Louvis

Nomthandazo Nkomo

Wisline Norde

Wilmide Olivier

Venessa Ozuzu

Nazirayah Parmley

Angelica Peralta

Silva Siguencia

Guissella Solano

Steven Solari

Massiata Soumahoro

Briana Vera

Academic Achievement

Flow Abreu-Ynoa

Kerli Alban

Nerline J. Arens

Solange E. Arias

David Ashley

Madeline Canete

Lourdes P. Clavijo

Glays M. Del Rosario

Jessica Diaz

Sade Duffus

Mohamed El-Moutaouakkil

Cindel Egusquiza

Genesis Gonzalez

Wendy Laurencio- Blanco

Zuleima Guaman

Jean M. Michel

Engi A. Naguib

Baldelit Nunez

Bigard Ogbonna

Lourdes Pujols

Raquel Reyes

Nayibi Salas

Hassanah Thomas-Yasin

Christy A. Torres

Tsedale Williams

Outstanding Achievement

Flordaliza Duran

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Sena Dzirasa

Sena is a remarkable young woman in many ways. At just 19 years old, she will be one of the youngest persons to ever graduate from Essex County College. Sena has earned a perfect GPA of 4.0 and is the vice president of two college clubs. Committed to her education, she wakes at 6am on Saturday mornings to study!

Sena is a friendly, humble and determined person. Although she has experienced several major changes in her life, she is thriving and eagerly looking forward to the future. She hopes to complete a Bachelor of Arts degree at Princeton University, Stevens Institute of Technology or Cornell University.

Sena was raised by a wonderful aunt in Ghana while her mother came to the United States to seek a better education and life for herself and eventually her daughter. She worked hard for many years and was able to bring Sena to East Orange to live with her in 2017. Sena's favorite thing about living in New Jersey is that she has made many friends from so many different places in the world, including Mexico, Viet Nam, and Korea. She also loves college, her classmates, and EOF. But snow? No so much.

Sena's recommendation to upcoming students is to "work hard, stay focused, and look at the big picture – see what's out there!"

Fairleigh Dickinson University- Florham Campus

*11 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Fedson Joseph

Daniela Mazo Cano

Academic Achievement

Christian Aguilera

Shamika Austin

Zariel Burch

Mark Giles

Jennifer Rodrigues

Virginia Sanchez

Marlise Silva

Christina Sobczak

Outstanding Achievement

Marlise Silva

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Marlise Silva

Marlise Silva is from Prospect Park, New Jersey and graduated from Manchester Regional High School in 2015. She has been an active participant with the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) program since the fall 2015. Marlise has been named to the Dean's List and earned Honors since starting her college career. She is a member Lambda Pi Eta National Communication Honors Society and was inducted into Epsilon Omega Sigma Honor Society in 2018. Marlise is a proud sister of Chi Upsilon Sigma National Latin Sorority Inc. and was inducted into the Order of Omega National Greek Honor Society. Marlise is currently employed at the Office of the Campus Executive and plans to continue her education for a Master's degree in Higher Education. She is an independent, well-rounded student who always strives for success and has excelled both academically and professionally!

Marlise is an exemplary student who appreciates EOF and will often go above and beyond to support and assist the program. She has served as both a Resident Assistant and Overnight Coordinator for the EOF summer programs. She is a role model who serves as a mentor to our incoming freshmen. Marlise also continues to be an inspiration to our returning students by encouraging them to do well in school.

Fairleigh Dickinson University – Metropolitan Campus

*13 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

MarcDaline Dorsainvil
Ti’Niejah Lee
Yarline Yopez

Evangelia Hryssomallidis
Michael Ramirez

Tyonna Goweh
Ashley Sanchez

Academic Achievement

Lauren Casildo
Diana Poblete

Mario Hidalgo Gomez
Melany Ramirez

Lourdes Mendez

Outstanding Achievement

Kimberly Lopez

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Kimberly Lopez

Kimberly Lopez is from Bayonne, New Jersey and graduated from Bayonne High School. She is currently enrolled in Fairleigh Dickinson University’s 5 year program and will graduate in spring 2019 with a combined Bachelor’s and Master’s of Science degree in Biology. Her goal is to attend medical school and become a physician.

Kimberly was inducted into the University Honors Program in the fall of 2016. She is also a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and Epsilon Omega Sigma Honor Society. Kimberly took part in the Pri’sizhen Step Team on campus. She was secretary and then became vice president of the Residence Hall Association. In the spring of 2017, Kimberly became a working associate at the Student Union Building for the Office of Student Life. Having received two promotions, she is now one of the Area Supervisors of the building.

As someone who truly believes in giving back, Kimberly was selected to participate in Building Hope in Ecuador, a service learning program where she assisted in restoring a school and rebuilding their playground. The team donated school supplies, sports equipment and toys for the special needs children in the school.

Kimberly is always looking for ways to give back to the EOF Program. She recognizes the important role EOF has played in her success and is truly grateful to be a part of the EOF family. She was selected to serve as an EOF Summer Program Resident Assistant/Peer Counselor. For exemplifying the true spirit of EOF, it is our honor to nominate her for the FDU-Metro Campus EOF Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight.

Felician College

*8 award recipients in total

Academic Achievement

Esther Ansong
Patricia Mensah

Yulisa Aquino
Dana Russo

Wlasmith Dieujuste
Karuth Williams

Outstanding Achievement

Aniya Good

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Dana Russo

Dana Russo has been a member of the EOF Program at Felician University since 2014 and will complete her Nursing degree in May 2019. She is proudly from Clifton, New Jersey and attended Saint Mary High School in Rutherford. Throughout her time at Felician, Dana has achieved Dean's List status and has been awarded the Franciscan Scholarship as well as the Plonski Scholarship.

After graduation with her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree, Dana first plans to become an Emergency Room nurse. After gaining experience and obtaining certification for Trauma Nursing, Dana's ultimate career goal is to take part in urgent care emergency situations and provide treatment to the most vulnerable and critical patients.

Dana plans to continue her education at Felician University to obtain either a Master's or Advanced Practice Nursing degree. She realizes that utilizing her critical thinking skills to make a difference in many lives would be a dream career come true. Saving lives and making a difference each day is what Dana aspires to do as she puts forth all her passion and love into a fulfilling Nursing career. Dana pledges to wholly devote herself in her chosen profession and become a hero to someone else.

Georgian Court University

*4 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Caja Coles

Outstanding Achievement

Emmanuelle Pierre

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Caja Coles

Caja Coles was born in Orange, New Jersey and later resided in East Orange and Lakehurst before moving to South Toms River as a teenager where she attended and graduated from Toms River High School South.

Post high school, Caja enrolled at Ocean County Community College where she earned an Associate of Science degree in 2016. In the fall of 2017, Caja transferred to Georgian Court University to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree with a concentration in Accounting. While attending Georgian Court University, Caja maintained an exemplary 3.88 cumulative GPA. In addition, Caja was named to the President's List for both the fall 2017 semester and the spring 2018 semester. She also made the Dean's List in the fall of 2018.

After graduation, Caja's future goals include obtaining her CPA license, gaining skillful knowledge in the field of Accounting, and eventually opening up various business practices ranging from wealth management consultation to income property management services. In addition, she would like to use her experience and knowledge to give back to her community and mentor those in need by creating programs that will guide them toward achieving their future endeavors. She is passionate about helping others and believes that when you serve others, you are also serving yourself.

Hudson County Community College

*21 award recipients in total

Distinguished Scholar

Kissarne Pang

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Marilyn Acevedo

Sarra Hayoune

Victoria Paredes

Nicole (xin xin) Wang

Shaima Alghazali

Rushika Kapadia

Letticia Perez

Daisy Guaman

Gissell Lopez

Micaela Quisbert

Academic Achievement

Nasly Aguilar

Adita Singh

Destiny Villafane

Helder Banegas

Alexa Tannu

Melissa Williams

Muhammad Faruque

Iqra Usmani

Malaijah Wilson

Outstanding Achievement

Marilyn Acevedo

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Marilyn Acevedo

Marilyn Acevedo was born and raised in Vineland, New Jersey. After high school, she decided to work at several financial institutions. She always dreamed of attending college but decided to work on raising a family first. In the fall of 2016, Marilyn decided to realize her dream of going back to school. While a student at Hudson County Community College, she earned the coveted spot in the Dean's List for the spring 2017, fall 2017, spring 2018 and fall 2018 semesters all while working full-time. She is also a proud member of Phi Theta Kappa and Chi Sigma Epsilon National Honor Society. Her academic record and her success demonstrate Marilyn's strong work ethic. Her EOF family has been supportive of all her academic efforts. We are proud of her many accomplishments and wish her continued success.

Recently, Marilyn was awarded a Presidential Scholarship to attend New Jersey City University in the fall of 2019. Her goal is to complete a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education.

Kean University

*75 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Daniel April	Adliah Ahmad	Amanda Ankudovich
Daniella Arevalo	Maribel Batista	Rene Boone
Carolyn Brown	Sally Campuzano	Eric Cartagena
Vanessa Castrillon	Angelica Conza	Stephanie Crawford
Dawn Demarco	Jaclyn Edwers	Emely Garcia
Andrea Goncalves	Sarah Harrington	Yassel Hernandez
Dena Heshmati	Ashonte Jackson	Stephanie Kay-Estrella
Antoniette Latham	Yarimar Lugo	Luther McIntosh
Ivette Neris	Victor Osorio	Femon Padmore
Idalis Perez	Vivian Ramirez	Francisco Reyes
Hager Saad	Kelly Sanchez	Mario Steriti
Evelyn Torres	Noemi Villacis	

Academic Achievement

Tajera Appleton	Diarra Askew	Aniyah Carter
Roseline Dhaiti	Ashley Diaz	Johanna Diaz
Melanie Drake	Yaritza Fernandez	Karina Flores
Daniel-John Gonzalez	Dazhane Gordon	Paul Hakk Jr.
Qua-Kiesha Harp	Yohnnier Hernandez	Anamarie Holguin
Na'jee Jones	Alicia Lugo	Kelsey Marrero
Edward Matthews	Erica Midili	Raphael Moreno
Peter Mousa	Leidy Narvaez Caicedo	Ively Nunez
Henry Piedra	Julio Ramos	Carolina Rojas
Melissa Rojas	Yailine Santiago	Sandra Sertile
Briana Smith	Melissa Soto	Deyanira Tavaris
Christina Temple	Samlimah Walker	Samaria Walker-Raeford
Anna-Kay White	Juan Yarce Velez	Katlyn Yarde

Outstanding Achievement

Kalinivel Melo

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Marshell M. Blackwood

Marshell M. Blackwood is a resident of Orange, New Jersey, and a graduate of the Orange Public Schools. She will receive a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology with dual minors in Health and Africana Studies in May 2019. A highly motivated and determined young woman, Marshell made great strides during her college journey. A transfer from Essex County Community College, Marshell's academic performance evidenced need of tutorial assistance and increased study time, while also adjusting to a new college environment. During her initial semesters at Kean, she faithfully sought

guidance from her EEO/EOF counselor and utilized the program's Tutorial Learning Assistance Center. Her persistence was not in vain, as she progressed from a probationary GPA to earning Dean's List status and EEO/EOF Honors in the fall 2018 semester.

While a full-time matriculated student, Marshell also works full-time as a Direct Care Worker for Jewish Services for the Developmentally Disabled in West Orange. Her kind and pleasant character was welcomed as she volunteered for the "Be the Change Club" at Kean, a Homeless/Feeding Program under the direction of Professor Norma Bowe. The program serves the needs of disadvantaged individuals in urban areas. Marshell volunteered for the Africana Studies Department "African Heritage Graduation Ceremony" for two years. She was also a volunteer for the "Buddy Walk" Program through the National Downs Syndrome Society in New York. Marshell is a "Greeter" at Faith Gospel Tabernacle in Irvington and served as a Youth Leader in 2017. Marshell is the proud parent of two children: her son Deontae, a senior in Bloomfield High School and daughter Natalyah, a 5th grader in the Orange Public System. Marshell plans to pursue a Master's degree in Exercise Science at Kean University and continue toward a Doctorate in Physical Therapy.

Mercer County Community College

*13 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Gertrude Honutse
Jordi Jaquez
Zainab Nabeel

Yinping Huang
Brandon Mastropasqua
Carmelia Smith

Jessica Isaac
Taylor Mastropasqua
Mabel Yeboah

Academic Achievement

Jailene Figueroa

Nunana Honutse

Samuel Juarez II

Outstanding Achievement

Jessica Isaac

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Jessica Isaac

Jessica Isaac was born in Charlottesville, Virginia and graduated from Nottingham High School North in Hamilton, New Jersey. She is a Liberal Arts major and will receive her Associate's degree this May. She is the president of the Educational Opportunity Fund Club at Mercer County Community College (MCCC) and under her leadership, Ms. Isaac has organized and assisted with numerous events and major projects for the EOF Club and EOF Program. She is also a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society (PTK) and serves on the SGA (Student Government Association).

Outside of the walls of Mercer County Community College, Jessica is an integral part of her church and has a spirit of helpfulness in her desire to serve her surrounding community.

After graduation from MCCC, Jessica will be transferring to Rutgers University – New Brunswick Campus where she intends to major in Cognitive Science. Upon completion of her Master's degree goal, she plans to pursue a career as an occupational therapist in Pediatrics. Jessica is very passionate about supporting children, nurturing them and most of all keeping them healthy. Jessica is presently shadowing an Occupational Therapist and is anxious to see what else is in store for her bright and fruitful future.

Middlesex County College

*12 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Tahj Burnette
Maira Tamayo-Lopez

Mun Hew

Leslie Rivera

Academic Achievement

Hikmat Ibrahim
Jennifer Taveras

Michael Jasper

Hiloni Kapadia

Peter Conde

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Tahj J. Burnette

Tahj J. Burnette is from New Brunswick, New Jersey where he is a 2014 alumnus of New Brunswick High School. He is currently pursuing an Associate of Arts degree in Liberal Arts and is expected to graduate in May 2019.

While at Middlesex County College, Tahj has been a Dean's List recipient and a proud member of Phi Theta Kappa (Upsilon Gamma Chapter) Honors Society. Tahj was also the recipient of the annual EOF - Harry Payne Memorial Scholarship which is awarded to students for overcoming obstacles. He has received a Certificate of Leadership from the EOF program for contributions to the campus EOF Club.

In addition to Tahj's academic success, he is currently the president of two student clubs on campus - the African Diaspora Alliance (ADA) Club and the Educational Opportunity Fund Club (EOF). After graduating from Middlesex County College, he plans to attend a 4-year institution to pursue a degree in Social Work and minor in Sports Management. Tahj has been accepted to Bowie State University and Rutgers University and awaits responses from others before making a decision.

Monmouth University

*24 award recipients in total

Distinguished Scholar

Richard Felicetti

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Anthony Cabrera

Sierra Jordan

Samantha Rivas

Michael Canning

Marleny Mejia

Namra Shueib

Emerson Hidalgo

Yohana Revelo-Umana

Nicholas Verzicco

Academic Achievement

Jennifer Alkess

Alexander Crawford

Michael Guzman

Kaitlyn Robertson

Anthony Vives

Shakirah Brightly

Jimmy Duong

Gregory Harpe

Mariely Rodriguez

Hayley Waldron

Tommy Chung

Zoriah Fowler

Kayvon Paul

Katie Serkus

Outstanding Achievement

Camila Gini

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Camila Gini

Camila Gini is from Bedminster, New Jersey and graduated from Bernards High School in 2015. This May 2019, Camila will graduate from Monmouth University with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing, Management, and Decision Sciences.

Monmouth University has afforded Camila the opportunity to step out of her comfort zone and explore what the business world has to offer. She has worked with an impact investing firm in Manhattan called S CAP as a brand ambassador. She was able to gain experience researching, marketing, and handling human resources in the niche market of universities that create sustainable products and the investors that fund them. Camila was also offered a position as a social media management intern at Adapting Social in Red Bank where she learned about a different facet of her field of study. Recently, she began a marketing research internship with Selina, a startup company in the sharing economy that facilitates business and leisure homestay and travel excursions abroad.

Camila is proud that she spent her time in college serving her Monmouth community as well as striving for academic success. She has been a Human-Community Relations Co-Chair for the Monmouth University Student Government Association, has helped start a first generation college student mentorship program, and will be traveling with the Global Education office on her second service trip to Guatemala.

Montclair State University

*60 award recipients in total

Distinguished Scholar

Nubia Lumumba

Anabelle Sanzari

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Leyla Akdogan

Stephanie Augustin

Anthony Barrios

Paola Cordoba

Doris Correa

Lizbeth Delgado

Quayma Dorch

Reem Elnatshe

Arielle Flores

Mylinh Huynh

Kierra Johnson

Rose-Valda Julceus

Andres Lesmes

Alondra Martinez

Cailin Mee

Melony Mercedes

Liliana Ortiz

Selena Rendon

Iffat Siddiqi

Joselyn Solis

Cynthia Yparraguirre

Academic Achievement

Dalvin Josias Sejour

George Adorno

Kayra Aponte

Julia Barton

Julia Barton

Elijah Blackwell

Portia Calo

Harlin Colon

MarcAnthony Cubero

Veronica Garces

Stephanie Garcia

Deshaun Hinson

Shaekerria Jackson

Luis Lopz-Wei

Jennifer Mendoza

Lashonda Midgett

Lisa Miranda

Amandeep Pannu

Jennifer Portillo

Rhonda Simpson

Rafelina Vargas

Ariana White

Journie Zarate

Outstanding Achievement

Cierra Watts

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Nubia Lumumba

The Montclair State University – EOF Program nominates Ms. Nubia Lumumba for the EOF Graduate Spotlight biography. Ms. Lumumba is most deserving of such honor and embraces all the qualities of a true scholar. Nubia began college as an EOF student at Essex County College in Newark, New Jersey. She graduated in May of 2016 and received a \$15,000 transfer scholarship from MSU where she enrolled that fall. This transfer scholarship helped cover the cost of tuition for five semester.

From the moment you meet Nubia, you are captivated by her charm and wit. As a single mother of two, balancing schoolwork, family and a part-time job, Nubia was left with little time to dwell on things like resting or a personal life. Her determination, perseverance and drive make her a force to be reckoned with. As an English major (with a teaching certification in K-6), Nubia has made the Dean's List for five consecutive semesters maintaining a perfect 4.0 GPA. She is a hard worker and a perfectionist with a

passion for learning. Nubia is constantly challenging herself to be a better mother and student while ensuring that her family has the financial support it needs.

Nubia is also the recipient of the James Patterson Teacher Education Scholarship. Both merit scholarships were earned through hard work and academic excellence. She's grateful for all the financial support she has received from Montclair and the EOF program. Her next step after graduation is to become a teacher and eventually return to graduate school for a master's and a doctoral degree.

Montclair State University Health Careers Program

*8 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Nicoll Morillo

Diana Sanchez-Castellanos

Academic Achievement

Jean Cabral

Genesys Dutan

Teona McDuffie

Bernite Mercival

Melissa Vincent

Outstanding Achievement

Teona McDuffie

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Teona McDuffie

A resident of Galloway, New Jersey, Teona McDuffie graduated from Egg Harbor Township High School. With a grade point average of 90.77, Teona ranked number forty-seven out of a class of five hundred eighty-eighty peers and an SAT Score of 1140. Demonstrating serious interest in becoming a physician, she was accepted to Montclair State University through the EOF Health Careers Program.

Teona is completing undergraduate requirements as a Molecular Biology major, with a cumulative GPA of 3.36. She has been named to the Dean's List for fall 2015 and spring 2016, and participated in the Medical Dental Education Program at the University of Louisville School of Medicine (Summer 2016), MSU's Wehner Student Research Program and MSU's Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Program. As an undergraduate, she has conducted on-going research with Dr. Sandra Adams, Biology professor, investigating "**Sindbis Virus, Enterovirus 69, and Herpes Simplex Virus I and II with Tea Extracts.**"

In addition to rigorous courses schedules, Teona served as a Resident Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) through Emergency Medical Services at Montclair State University. She was responsible for responding to emergency medical calls on campus and within surrounding communities, providing basic medical services and transporting patients to the local hospital. Teona also served as the vice president and treasurer of Chi Alpha, and continues to give back to the Egg Harbor Community as a Sunday school teacher at New Life Church.

Following graduation, Teona will vigorously prepare for the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) so that her goal of attending medical school is realized. With a specific interest in becoming a Cardio-Thoracic surgeon, Teona certainly represents the spirit and intent of the Health Careers Program.

New Jersey City University

* 37 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Abdelrahman Aboushousha
Daylin Diaz
Rana Ghacham
Smart Owusu-Ansah

Eduardo Alay-Lopez
Serge Duvillage
Kimberly Lamadiou
Kristie Perez

Victor De Los Santos
Jennifer Emereonye
Sterling Ortiz
Danayah White

Academic Achievement

Nada Abaas
Abanoub Amir
Steven Campis
Alex Gerena-Aponte
Monica Lewis
Nikitaben Patel

Amirat Adelani
Mirna Botros
Diego Cruz
Anish Gurung
Engely Lopez
Pias Sarker

Yasmine Ahmed
Waleska Camilo-Belen
Cynthia Febo
Tabitha Isaac
Shakera Moyd-Milevor
Najat Suliman

Outstanding Achievement

Diego Cruz

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Diego Cruz

Diego Cruz, who is from Newark, New Jersey, graduated from Bloomfield Tech High School. He has been a commuter student from the onset of his academic career at New Jersey City University where he is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology with a minor in Psychology. Diego made the Dean's List for five consecutive semesters and is also a member of the Epsilon Eta chapter of Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society. Additionally, Diego is a recipient of the Alexandra Rosa Dougherty Scholarship from the university. All of these accomplishments are a testament to his resilience and ambition.

Diego's passion is in helping those in need and fighting for the equality of all people. Diego was consistently involved in student government on campus. As president of the LGBTQ Alliance Club, he and his executive board team brought awareness of the many issues and life changing challenges that impact the LGBTQ community. He made it his mission to make this club fully active to insure that the university provided resources for the LGBTQ students at NJCU. Diego was employed as a work study student at OSP/EOF and as a student assistant for several years at NJCU's College of Education. He plans to pursue a Master's degree in Social Work and continue to diligently assist individuals and families who are economically disadvantaged and in need of resources and programs that would reshape their lives. Diego's lifelong mission is to give back to his community.

New Jersey Institute of Technology

*5 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Taufiqul Islam
Wasam Youssef

Emran Reshid

Umaamah Tobias

Outstanding Achievement

Ishmael Menns

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Emran Reshid

Emran Reshid is a resident of Trenton, New Jersey and a graduate of Foundation Collegiate Academy. He will receive a Bachelor of Science degree from the New Jersey Institute of Technology in May 2019 in Electrical Engineering. His cumulative grade point average is 3.77.

Emran has been named to the Dean's List for his entire tenure at NJIT. Emran was inducted into Tau Beta Pi – the Engineering Honor Society in October of 2018, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering in October 2017 and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars in October 2015. He received the John C. Hartmann Endowed Scholarship in September 2016 and The New Jersey Governor's Urban Scholarship in September 2015.

Emran currently works for the Harris Corporation as a Systems Engineer. In the future he plans to pursue a Master's degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance.

Ocean County College

*16 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Riley Fields
Andrea Gonzalez

Jonathan Gioxaris
Christine Kelly

Alexis Giuffrida
Gabriella Volinski

Academic Achievement

Youssef Abdelaziz
Virginia Hester
Daniel Scialabba

Leslie Andrade
Gia Maarleveld
Valerie Tate

Jenifer Hernandez
Constance Pease
Jessica Wu

Outstanding Achievement

Taylor Pasqualini

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Valerie Tate

Valerie Tate is from Neptune, New Jersey and graduated from Neptune High School. She started her college studies with the Educational Opportunity Fund at Union County College (UCC) before moving and transferring to Ocean County College (OCC) in Toms River. Valerie came into our program full of vitality and optimism and her story of fortitude, perseverance and purpose. She immediately became ‘family’ and joyfully utilized program resources.

Ms. Tate will earn her Associate of Arts degree in General Studies with a concentration in Humanities this spring semester. She plans to transfer to Kean University upon graduating in May 2019. Valerie was a high achiever at UCC as she is at OCC, and continues to excel in all that she endeavors to do.

Valerie is a talented public speaker. She has spoken for PROCEEDS, Inc. regarding their services and her life’s journey before her college pathway was clear and sure. This past fall semester Valerie was inducted into Jersey Shore Toastmasters International. Valerie quickly volunteers to speak publicly with every opportunity presented. Her career goal is to travel and encourage people as a professional motivational speaker. Valerie epitomizes educational opportunity and in turn EOF. We applaud Valerie Tate as she continues her race and her journey as a victorious challenger and winner.

Passaic County Community College

*12 award recipients in total

Distinguished Scholar

Batoul Hammadi

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Erik Amaro

Angelly Cabada

Kellyn Hageman

Katherine Perez

Diana Rodrigues

Rosmery Saldana

Victor Vargas

Akua Wilder

Academic Achievement

Naquan McDowell

Kevin Taveras

Outstanding Achievement

Hamzah Zeidan

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

NaQuan McDowell

NaQuan McDowell was an individual once shy and introverted. He is humble and modest to his core. His growth throughout his experience at Passaic County Community College (PCCC) has been astonishing to observe. Prior to attending college, Mr. McDowell was homeschooled for most of his life. Some think this may have stunted his social skills but in fact it made him work harder to improve them. His semesters at PCCC became his practice room for working on the social skills necessary for student leadership.

Along with excelling in academics, he served as a college leader in organizations such as Phi Theta Kappa, as an ambassador with the Men of Color Initiative, and most important as an active member of the PCCC Educational Opportunity Fund Program. These organizations assisted him in being the man he is today. NaQuan is driven by nothing but improving his community and his relentless enthusiasm. His hard work will allow him to do great things in the future. This award is just one of the many accolades he will achieve.

Ramapo College of New Jersey

*18 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Karissa Mata
Kimberly Perez-Lucero
Alejandra Sánchez

Amauris Peralta-Muños
Brianna Ribaudó
Rachel Stone

Ismael Perez
Brandon Rodriguez
Jaime Velazquez

Academic Achievement

Jeffrey Bellens
Roseiry Jimenez Marte
Ross Warlick

Charles Cole
Jacqueline Lopez-Yanza

Robert Diaz
Yuriria Martinez

Outstanding Achievement

Berlyann Rivera

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Jaime Velazques

Jaime Velazquez is a January 2019 graduate from Ramapo College of New Jersey. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology with a minor in Crime and Justice Studies. He is from North Bergen, New Jersey and graduated from Memorial High School. Jaime has been an exceptional and hardworking student leader since his early college career. He has been involved in numerous campus organizations and departments on campus. He held several roles within the Student Government Association (SGA) including mentor for their Delegate Program, Senate vice president, and Senator-at-Large. Additionally, he served on the Student Relief Committee as an associate member and chairperson and the Community Service chair for Rho Alpha Sigma.

Jaime was a true champion of the student body and a passionate advocate for addressing students' needs. He played an integral role in the development of the Student Relief Committee, an initiative aimed at helping individuals on campus facing food insecurities and financial difficulties. As a result of his advocacy efforts, Ramapo's first food pantry launched in the fall 2018 semester.

His future plans include pursuing a Master's degree in Forensic Psychology and then a Law degree to become a criminal defense attorney. He currently works as a trial investigator intern for the Office of the Public Defender in Passaic County. Jaime is a change agent and a pillar of the Ramapo College community. He embodies the spirit of EOF and is truly deserving of this award.

Raritan Valley Community College

*11 award recipients in total

Distinguished Scholar

Aya Younes

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Joshua Balcacer

Alejandrina Bravo

Ray Carl-Mayorga

Alyssa Darden

Veronica Delmonte

Flavio Rojas

Academic Achievement

Kristel Rico

Ashley Vega Santamaria

Valeria Waltero

Outstanding Achievement

Jay Shah

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Veronica Delmonte

Veronica Delmonte is of Dominican descent and currently resides in Somerset, New Jersey. At age 15, Veronica returned to the Dominican Republic where she completed her high school diploma. After returning to the United States before her 21st birthday, she wanted to attend college but knew she needed a GED first. She took the exam and passed at The Adult Learning Center in New Brunswick in January of 2016. Veronica will graduate from Raritan Valley Community College (RVCC) this spring with an Associate's degree in Human Services/Pre-Social Work and a Certificate of Completion for the Chemical Dependency Program (CADC).

Veronica has been on the Dean's and/or President's List every semester at RVCC. Maintaining a 3.7 cumulative GPA, she became a member of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society. She was awarded a Certified Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor (CDAC) Grant and other academic scholarships. She participated in the pilot group of the Sanofi Pharmaceuticals Mentorship Program. She has been an active member on campus with the Multicultural Affairs Office by leading and participating in events such as: CRECER, Diversity, Historically Black Colleges and Universities Fairs, "Culture Shock", Brother to Brother, Sister to Sister, Black Lives Matter and more. She is a member of the Orgullo Latino Club (Latin Pride) and held a senate position with the Student Government Association.

Veronica hopes to attend Rutgers University. She plans on entering the Social Work program there and minor in Sociology. Once completing her Bachelor's degree, she will pursue a Master's of Social Work. The population she plans to serve is adolescents and young adults with co-occurring disorders, especially youths caught in the juvenile justice system.

Rider University

*15 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Emely Adames

Alexis Green

Caroline Nguyen

Angela Cotugno

Stephani Mathurin

Shanoy Thompson

Olmar Duarte

Lorraine Mendoza

Academic Achievement

Rafael Angeles

Jessica Mandelbaum

Nutsa Kapanadze

Christian Papageorgiou

Ashley Kerrigan

Samantha Rios

Outstanding Achievement

Arianny Solano

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Olmar Duarte

Olmar Duarte is a Criminal Justice major at Rider University with a Sociology minor. He is a resident of Trenton, New Jersey and graduated from Trenton Catholic Academy High School. Olmar has a cumulative GPA of 3.7 and has consistently made the Dean's List during his tenure at Rider. He is a member of the Leadership Development Program and a McNair Scholar. He has also given back to EOP by working as an office assistant for the last four years. Olmar has been accepted to Rider's Homeland Security program where he will pursue his Master's degree while he also works as a graduate assistant in the university's Office of Facilities. Olmar plans to pursue a career in Human Trafficking Prosecution where he can help many of the most vulnerable in our society. Olmar has established himself as a true leader and a shining example of what an EOP student can achieve.

Rider University – Westminster Choir Campus

***1 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Olivia Sandel

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Olivia Sandel

Olivia Sandel is a senior Sacred Music major at Westminster Choir College of Rider University. She has a cumulative GPA of 3.80 and will graduate this May with a Bachelor of Music degree. Olivia is a graduate of Pemberton Township High School in her hometown of Browns Mills, New Jersey. Upon entering Westminster, Olivia was named the 2015 recipient of the Maurice Palmer Memorial Scholarship, a four-year renewal award granted to an incoming EOF freshman student who exhibits qualities of academic promise and community commitment. In addition, Olivia achieved Dean's List status for five of her seven semesters at Westminster, was awarded membership in the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and has been a member of Sigma Alpha Iota, a women's professional musician's fraternity. Above all, Olivia is an exceedingly open and kind young woman. Her sincere spirit has been an inspiration to her colleagues, EOF and non-EOF students alike.

This fall, Olivia will enroll at Princeton Theological Seminary to pursue a Master of Divinity degree. She hopes to one day become a minister.

Rowan College at Burlington County

*22 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Brianna Casario
Katrina London
Nanibeth Ortiz

Sarah Demirjian
Lutfur Nahar
Robert Pugliese

Jasman Kaur
Samantha Newton
Jillian Volpe

Academic Achievement Award

Masuda Akhtar
Ariel Dennis
Norman White

Bobbie Beitz
Manpreet Kaur

Daniel Copp
Roomel Meus

Outstanding Achievement Award

Jamar Jones

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Ariel Dennis

Ariel Dennis is a resident of Hainesport, New Jersey and a graduate of Rancocas Valley Regional High School. She started her academic journey at the Rowan College at Burlington County (RCBC) EOF summer institute in August 2017.

Initially, Ariel planned to attend a four year university thinking that would be the best fit for her major, but later decided to enroll at her local community college. Ariel believes that attending RCBC and engaging in the EOF program increased her confidence about her chosen path to success. She learned to adjust quickly to change and make the best of her decisions.

Ariel sought the opportunity to get involved on campus. Her leadership skills were immediately evident. In her first year at RCBC she was selected to speak on a panel hosted by Governor Murphy regarding college affordability. She also had the opportunity to meet the grandson of Nelson Mandela during his visit to the college.

In addition to Dean's List, Ariel is a member of the Chi Alpha Epsilon and Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Societies, the National Society of Leadership and Success, and the EOF Club. She is employed as a part-time student worker and received the Presidential Achievement Award given by the Student Life Department at RCBC.

As the college's Fashion Club president and in partnership with Atlantic City Fashion Week and the college's African American Cultural Committee, Ariel created a fashion show in recognition of Black History Month.

Ariel will complete her Associate's degree in Fashion Design in May 2019 and transfer to the Fashion Institute of Technology. She envisions a career as a creative director for a high end designer or to launch her own personal fashion brand.

Rowan College at Gloucester County

*30 award recipients in total

Distinguished Scholar

Chelsea Daly

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Felix Acosta

Aira Mae Alday

Carly D'Agostino

Marketa Dunbar

Courtney Eckstadt

Jonathan Ferrell

Melton Leach III

Suzanne Nelson

Jessica Rumpp

Jeremy Sadowski

Shyanna Thomason

Academic Achievement

Angelina Casiano

Katie Ireland

Jeremy Mercado

Muntaha Tamanna

Outstanding Achievement

Taheem Murray

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Courtney Eckstadt

Courtney Eckstadt resides in Tuckerton, New Jersey and graduated from Pinelands Regional High School. Courtney will graduate this spring with an Associate's degree in Social Work.

While at RCGC, Courtney has been the president of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society where she leads in hosting the chapter in various fundraising events, volunteer and leadership activities. Additionally, she will attend the Phi Theta Kappa convention in Orlando, Florida in April 2019.

Courtney is also president of the Growth through Organizational Development (G.O.L.D) Club. In her position, she supervises club events such as the Holiday Hope Tree fundraiser, which helped raise proceeds for the Roadrunner's Refuel Pantry. She presented the Student Veteran of the Year award during the Veteran's Day Community event in the fall of 2018. She conducts multiple semester board meetings and works in collaboration with various departments for club events.

Outside of RCGC, Courtney has done volunteer work at Rowan University through the Rowan Choice program that included helping with a blood drive, freshmen move-in day and cleaning up Wildwood beach. She will also be the student speaker at commencement for 2019. Upon graduation from RCGC, Courtney is looking to continue her education at Rutgers University -Camden Campus in Social Work. She aspires to earn her MSW to work with adolescents. She hopes to one day travel the world and visit Germany and Norway.

Rowan University - Camden

*8 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Xuan Do

Dung Nguyen

Hanh Nguyen

Academic Achievement

Malik Howard

Veronica Santos

Serpil Tas

Alex Tejada Martinez

Outstanding Achievement

Emeli Valdez

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Malik Howard

Malik Howard was born and raised in Palmyra, New Jersey. Mr. Howard graduated from Palmyra High School in 2015 with aspirations of attaining a degree in Education and History from Rowan University. In May 2019, Mr. Howard will graduate from Rowan with a Bachelor's in History degree and a minor in Education.

Throughout his undergraduate journey he has had the privilege of working with the Rowan Educational Opportunity Fund as an office attendant as well as a peer counselor. Mr. Howard also became a founding brother of La Unidad Latina, Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity Inc. at Rowan University. The next part of his journey will include pursuing a Master's degree in Counseling in Educational Settings in the hope that one day he will become a professional counselor with EOF so that he can pay it forward.

Rowan University - Glassboro

*31 award recipients in total

Distinguished Scholar

Somer Knisely

Calla Travia

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Sabrina Bruccoleri

Keesha Fuqua

Stephanie Klingler

Jael Vaquero

Nyjeer Wesley

Academic Achievement

Jade Alvarez

Caio Arruda

Yesenia Cruz-Perez

Taylor Douglas

David Fehte-Cantera

Aliyah Jackson

Nydreama McDuffie

Sriram Mohanakanthan

Barakat Olusekun

Lauren Sanahi

Verlin Torres

Cassandra Cabrera

Alyssa Cross

Clauderson Desinor

Anna Hopkins

Nikka Koslov

Khaliyah Leach

Falisha Lormejuste

Monica Mejia

David Riano

Elena Sierra

Briana Torres

Maria Vasquez

Morgan White

Yang Zhong

Outstanding Achievement

Shaniece Parker

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Falisha Lormejuste

Falisha Lormejuste is a first-generation Haitian immigrant. After moving to Linden, New Jersey at 9 years old, Ms. Lormejuste quickly fell in love with the learning process. While attending Linden High School she excelled in IB Biology, Chemistry, and English, where she developed her interest in the human condition. Her passion for analytical thinking and making complex connections between interrelated fields influenced her decision to pursue a degree in Psychological Science.

At Rowan University, she eagerly seized the chance to combine Sociology and Neuroscience with Psychology. In doing so, Falisha gained interests in connecting her work with social justice rooted values. Now at 21 years old, she plans to attend Drexel University in pursuit of a Master's degree in Design Research. Ms. Lormejuste intends to work with other experts to create and implement innovative and effective strategies for immigrant families that struggle to acculturate into American society. Her long term goal is to obtain a Ph.D. in Social Neuroscience, which will enable her to conduct research and leave her mark on the Psychology field.

Rutgers University - Camden

*27 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Nancy Gonzalez
Dasha Lashko
Ashley Rivera-Galletti
Stephan Whitley

Jessica Hwang
Gordon Malkowski
Barbara Rojas

Kelly Kennedy
Diana Ortiz
Jim Tran

Academic Achievement

Kenia Azcona
Michael Doran
Kanei Green-Scott
Samuel Melton
Kubranur Temur

Shannon Carvalho
Lisa Estevez
Astride Josil
Payton Potts
Tyreek Valentine

Ajee' Davis
Tymirra Graham
Breianna Little
Cori Robinson

Outstanding Achievement

Sharde Taylor

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Sharde Taylor

Sharde Taylor grew up in Camden, New Jersey. She graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School and proceeded to obtain her Associate's degree in Human Resources from Camden County College. She transferred to Rutgers University Camden Campus in fall 2016. She will graduate with a Social Work degree in May 2019. Sharde is an optimist with a bubbly personality. The words "quitting" and "giving up" are not in her vocabulary. Sharde is a single mother and a domestic violence survivor. She spends much of her time outside the classroom mentoring young women and helping women grow to be independent, free, and educated. She is a founding sister of the young women's group called, "My Sister's Keeper".

Sharde's future plans include pursuing her Master's degree in Social Work and then becoming a License Certified Social Worker. She is in the process of creating her own non-profit organization, Enlightened Generations Unite, in the City of Camden. This non-profit will serve the community in the areas of literacy, higher education, and job readiness.

We salute Sharde Taylor for not only her commitment to her education, but to the community where she lives.

Rutgers University Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy

*10 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Khilat Abbas
Estefanos Sarah

Elizabeth Adekunle

Osamah Rasheed

Academic Achievement

Rajwoana Ahmed
Kishan M. Patel

Jasmin Ashour
Sameena Shinwari

Mudrak Michael

Outstanding Achievement

Osamah Rasheed

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Osamah Rasheed

Osamah Rasheed hails from Paterson, New Jersey and graduated from Clifton High School in 2013. He is currently a graduating senior at the Rutgers University Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy and will receive a Doctorate of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree.

Throughout his academic career, he achieved the honorable distinction of Dean's List for eight semesters. He is also the recipient of the esteemed Novartis Endowed Scholarship, Samuel Cutler Scholarship, and Martin G. Daffner Endowed Scholarship. In addition, he was inducted into the Chi Alpha Epsilon and Rho Chi honor societies. He served as treasurer of the Chi Alpha Epsilon honor society and as historian and high school outreach co-chair of the Student National Pharmaceutical Association. Over the years, Osamah has shown his dedication and commitment to the mission of EOF through his leadership and participation in numerous office-sponsored initiatives including high school outreach and tutoring. Rasheed will serve as a community pharmacist upon graduation.

Rutgers University Newark College of Arts & Sciences

*42 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Kylie Anne N. Antoine	Renee Camel	Jazmin G. Carchi
Ashley Casco	Camila Dominguez	Mariam Fame
Hafsa Habehh	Yasmin K. Huff	Naa Adei Kotey
Brian M. Maoya	Chukwudi Obi	Tabhata D. Paulet
Talianne D. Rosario Cedeno	Kathlen C. Silva	Elizabeth Vizcaino
Brittany G. Washington	Habiba Yasin	

Academic Achievement

Johanna Agudelo	Beatrice J. Areche'	Stephania Brevil
Daisha Y. Carson	Celina D. Deflorimonte	Flor D. Espinal
Shae T. Evans	Estefany Gonzalez	Fatima Habehh
Nilda C. Martinez	Daniela Montenegro	Lakina L. Rollins
Joshua Romero	Kaher I. Salam	Michell Sarquez
Shakeerah M. Sheard	Chantel M. Short	Mohammed S. Shuvo
Garfield R. Simpson	Johnna R. Solomon	Abshana K. Uddin

Outstanding Achievement

Randy Vargas

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Randy Vargas

Randy Vargas was born in New York City and moved to Teaneck at the age of 8. He graduated from Teaneck High School in the Class of 2002. After high school he had not planned on entering college immediately, but always had a desire to pursue post-secondary education at some point. Never giving up on that dream, he enrolled at Rutgers University - Newark as a part of the inaugural Mountainview Community cohort in the fall of 2015.

For the first 3 years he pursued a degree in Economics. In the summer before senior year, Randy transitioned into the Rutgers Business School to pursue a degree in Finance with a concentration in Real Estate. He currently serves on the Executive Board of the Real Estate Society which helps educate and encourage students to become involved with Real Estate in and outside of the classroom. Randy has also received an award from the Office of Student Life for being an outstanding student worker in his current role as assistant program coordinator with the Office of Reservations and Special Events for the university. Randy credits his success and his academic achievements to his counselors from EOF and MVC who have always encouraged him to persist and continue to work toward the ultimate goal of getting a degree and becoming a first-generation college graduate. In the future he plans to begin a career in commercial real estate and make significant contributions to the ever evolving landscape of real estate in the tri-state area.

Rutgers University School of Arts & Sciences New Brunswick

*140 award recipients in total

Distinguished Scholar

Kevin Jarrell

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Carolina Acevedo
Yasmen Baldoun
Ruhma Cheema
Nelson De Lima Neto
Destiny Gregory
Jessica Hilinski
Urvashi Jangle
Maggie Lin
Roger Martinez
Javier Mendez
Tarakur Rahman
Kayla Rodriguez
Michael Valentine
Rongxin Zhou

Mara Alonso
Elizabeth Bedoya
Mohamad Cheikhali
Jecenia Garcia
Michelle Gudis
Nahid Huq
Samiul Karim
Jin Liu
Verine Meawad
Christian Montecinos
Manuel Ramirez
Alexander Rosado-Torres
Laura Vallejo
Leslie Zuniga

Abraham Ayoola
Krista Campbell
Natalie Dasilva
Hamzah Ghani
Fthimnir Hassan
Hesbon Isaboke
Stephanie Lamerce
Marina Martinez
Emanuel Medina
Emma Piedilato
Jullian Reyes
Samin Saju
Al-Kuron Williams

Academic Achievement

Maryam Abdur Rasheed
Paola Arteaga
Akua Boachie
Xinru Chen
Vaxi Chokshi
Solange Encarnacion
Sade Ford
Briana Galarza
Matthew Gavidia
Rubi Gonzalez
Savannah Gregal
Lisbeth Hernandez Figueroa
Chelsea Icaza
Joseph Katz
Angiceny Matista
Shamika Montero
Isiah Odom
Mary Ortiz
Megan Picado
Maria Ramirez
Brenda Romero

Annie Aguilar
Yussuff Azeez
Sabrina Ceballo
Wai-Kit Chris
Olivia Clifford
Joselyn Espinoza
Camilo Forero
Nicole Gamboa
Jasmine Gilder
Stephanie Gonzalez
Nancy Hafez
Khadeen Hewitt
Brittney James
Anjleen Kaur
Emily Mendieta
Nnamdi Nnajiolor
Jenny Oh
Seren Ozer
Andre Quintero
Darrell Real
Hassan Saadeldin

Halim Amezquita
Lisa Belle
Marilyn Changa
Jaime Chicas
Janibell Encarnacion
Sarah Evans
Boris Franklin
Mariana Garcia
Nancy Gonzalez
Mariam Goubran
Bashir Herbert
Kenneth Hyslop
Joseph Kady
Shaakirah Keith
Ansly Montero
Joel Novas
Chandni Patel
Peraveena Perinpanathan
Andrea Quismundo
Dimitri Rodriguez
Ayesha Saeed

Sarah Sahill
Jordan Stowers
Thu Truong
Anaya Wallace
Shaniya Wilson-Harper

Mark Serrano
Riyadhul Taher
Alexa Ugarte
Arianna Williams
Wendy Yang

Christopher Smith
Perpetual Tamakloe
Brianna Urena
Tammoy Williams

Outstanding Achievement

Olivia Clifford

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Alexander Rosado-Torres

Alexander Rosado-Torres was born in Newark, New Jersey and is a graduate of Arts High School. This spring Alex will graduate from Rutgers University-New Brunswick SAS Honors Program with a Bachelor of Arts in History.

As an undergraduate Alex faced many challenges but never lost sight of his goal to be the first in his family to graduate from college. After making the Dean's List his second semester, he vowed to continue working hard and has maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.5+ since. He also committed himself to the greater Rutgers community by serving as a program assistant for the Rutgers Future Scholars program, working as an inaugural Scarlet and Black Public History intern, serving as a Camp UKnight leader, and speaking at the Rutgers University annual 2018 MARK Conference.

Of notable mention, Alex helped conduct a student research team trip to South Africa to study life post-apartheid. The trip was sponsored by the SAS Honors Program and offered students an opportunity to create a photo/voice project and white paper on the topic, which was also submitted to the South African government for review.

Other activities in Alex's portfolio include Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society, Phi Alpha Theta Honor Society, and being selected as the Resident Assistant of the Year in 2017-2018. Alex's proudest accomplishments include serving as an Alternative Break site leader where he designed a trip curriculum that focused on human trafficking within Atlanta. Alex was inducted into the Cap and Skull Senior Honor Society, which invites only 18 graduating seniors annually. After graduation, Alex will attend the University of Pennsylvania - Graduate School of Education in pursuit of an MScEd in Urban Education and teach Secondary English in the Philadelphia public school system.

Rutgers University School of Engineering

*15 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Chidozie Buruzie
Joshua Liviapoma

Edwin Castillo
Rushiraj Parikh

Jorge Liviapoma
Harsh Shah

Academic Achievement

Shyenne Bahar
Kyowan Kim
Jackie Tran

Mahmoud Elkayal
Arif Nahid
Ronald Tudorache

Justin Hinds
Sergio Ruiz

Outstanding Achievement

Denny Zheng

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Denny Zheng

Denny Zheng is from Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey. In 2014, he graduated from Egg Harbor Township High School and joined the EOF program at Rutgers School of Engineering. Denny will be graduating this May with his Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering.

During his time at Rutgers, Denny was involved in research where he created a mechanical dragonfly and jellyfish. With the diverse clubs available at Rutgers, he was able to become a design lead for Chem-E-Car where he designed a car powered by chemical reaction. Throughout the semester he served as a School of Engineering Student Ambassador, giving tours to prospective students and their parents around the Engineering school while also a liaison for the Mechanical Engineering department and now Civil Engineering department. He is also a teaching assistant for Creativity Innovation & Entrepreneurship, a business class and engineering development class. The place where he finds the most joy is being a mentor for his Engineering classmates and through the EOF program where he provides guidance to other EOF students. Wherever Denny ends up, he plans to make an impact domestically and internationally.

Rutgers University School of Environmental and Biological Sciences

*11 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Nicole Benalcazar
Carolayn Munoz

Nayab Goraya

Leslie Hoyos

Academic Achievement

Lourdes Abreu Torres
Aliaa Hassanin

Huda Abughannam
Krissantonia Kerr

Alec DeSomma
Alyson Kreideweis

Outstanding Achievement

Brandon Lopez

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Carolayn Munoz

Carolayn Muñoz is a graduate of John F. Kennedy High School in Paterson, New Jersey. While pursuing her undergraduate degree in Biology, Miss Muñoz was a part of the SEBS EOF program which she believes provided her with the guidance to become a well-rounded student.

Miss Muñoz earned the Dean's List for her last three years at Rutgers. She achieved a 4.0 GPA during spring 2016, fall 2017, and spring 2018. Each summer she has taken classes and also completed the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Biomedical Careers Program. Carolayn became an Office for Diversity and Academic Success in the Sciences (ODASIS) scholar. Through ODASIS, she attended a two-semester MCAT course and is currently part of the Access Med Phase II program which has allowed her to take upper level classes by dividing her final year at Rutgers into two paths - taking fall semester classes at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School as a first-year medical student and finishing her undergraduate requirements at Rutgers in the spring.

Through the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program, Carolyn tutored sophomores at New Brunswick High School. She is currently teaching Systems Physiology as an ODASIS instructor and is also a member of the Chi Alpha Epsilon EOF Honor Society, demonstrating a drive to give back to her community.

Miss Muñoz has worked at the Rutgers Equine Science Center since her first day at the university. She was quickly promoted to student manager. In May 2018 she received the Chancellor's Award for Student Staff Excellence for her dedication to the Center. Following graduation, Carolayn will continue medical school as a part of the RWJ Medical School Class of 2023, planning to eventually become an Emergency Room physician.

Rutgers University School of Health Related Professions

*14 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Jennifer Baez
Janneris Olivera

Mawada Elngomi

Yelena Kantor

Academic Achievement

Kenvil Hernandez
Laura Reyes

Ronald Kwon

Mia Montalvo

Outstanding Achievement

Kenvil Hernandez

Kenvil Hernandez

Ms. Kenvil Hernandez is from Perth Amboy, New Jersey and a graduate of Perth Amboy High School. Ms. Hernandez will graduate from Rutgers University School of Health Professions with a degree in Medical Imaging Sciences, as a Nuclear Medicine Technician. During her time within the School of Health Professions' EOF program, she has been a recipient of two scholarships - the Stanley S. Bergen Endowed Scholarship and the School of Health Professions Scholarship, both which recognize students for their high performance in and outside of the classroom setting.

In addition, Kenvil was the first student at SHP to participate in the Bryant Educational Leadership Group's Student Leadership Experience in Washington D.C. She has been very active in the program, participating in the SHP-EOF Awareness Day, open houses, alumni gatherings, and award ceremonies and has attended EOF Statewide Fall Student Conferences and EOF Student Day at the Capital events. Her accomplishments are more impressive, as she has maintained a high grade point average while working as a Certified Nursing Assistant in addition to completing her clinical hours and preparing for her licensing exams.

Her spirit and desire to achieve truly exemplifies the determination that all EOF students exude. She believes she is blessed by the support from not only the EOF program, but from her patients who she says watch over her and encourage her as she works towards her goals. She wants to constantly remind individuals that first-generation students are capable of anything.

Rutgers University School of Nursing

*22 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Kevin Aguilar	Marwa Alahwol	Mary Conza Romero
Francis DeJesus	Karolina Krupa	Kevin Lopez
Hardi Patel	Hemali Patel	Vy Pham
Azucena Ramos Hernandez	Lenor Garcia	

Academic Achievement

Boris Boucicut	Jocelynn Castro Chacon	Ashraf Choudhury
Ruby Garcia	Adairiz Lopez	Kemely Lopez
Khanh Pham	Yen Pham	Michelle Vuong
Courtnee Williams	Yuxuan Wu	

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Mary Conza Romero

Mary Conza Romero exemplifies the spirit of EOF in every way. Attaining a 3.704 GPA in a science-based curriculum was no easy task. Yet Mary manages to balance her responsibilities while being an excellent student, positive role model and helpful to others. She has been an SN-EOF High Achiever every semester and earned Dean's List status for 6 semesters.

The recipient of the Jane E. Deed and W. Deed scholarship and the Patricia Scola Memorial Scholarship, Mary is a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and works for the Rutgers School of Nursing Office of Academic Success as a peer tutor. Additionally, she taught a Critical Learning Strategies course during the SN-EOF Summer Program Institute as a student instructor which was her first teaching experience. She has served as the Chair of the SN-EOF Leadership Board and supervised 3 student clubs - RESNA (Rutgers Ethnic Student Nursing Association), BRIDGE (Building Roads for Individual Development Growth & Education) and the Nurse Science Club devoted to Nursing research. She has participated in health fairs providing blood pressure screenings and breast cancer awareness health promotions for organizations such as the Donna T. Darien Sickle Cell Foundation and the American Cancer Society. She has also worked in retail over the last five years and volunteered at the Hoboken shelter for Thanksgiving weekend to assist in food preparation.

Mary currently works as a Nursing Assistant at Saint Peter's University Hospital on the Cardiac Progressive Care Unit and is a delight to all who meet her. Her future plans are to work on a Neonatal or Pediatric floor to gain clinical experience and later become a travel nurse to help babies and children across the globe!

Saint Peter's University

*15 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Emily Caba
Roua Mohamed
Merna Sawaged

Carlos Donou
Gina Nguyen
Helena Togias

Kadira Johnson
Joshua Padilla

Academic Achievement

Gerard Aviles
Gira Grullon
Brittany Morales

Kimberly Baez
Sidra Khan

Claudine Charles
Jocelyn Lara

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Emily Caba

Emily Caba hails from Perth Amboy, New Jersey, and attended Perth Amboy High School. She is currently a graduating senior at Saint Peter's University pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics, and a minor in Chemistry. In addition to receiving multiple awards for her stellar academic performance, Emily has participated in various honor societies such as the National Honor Society, Alpha Sigma Nu Jesuit Honor Society, Pi Mu Epsilon Mathematics Honors Society, and the Gamma Sigma Epsilon Chemistry Honor Society.

Emily has served in various leadership roles during her time as a student. These roles were inclusive of serving as the shift leader for the campus kitchen as well as the Math Club Secretary. Emily was also an active member of the Pi Mu Epsilon Mathematics Honors Society, where her role was to encourage members to engage in community service activities. In Emily's free time she enjoys hiking, traveling, spending time with family, attending church mission trips, and singing in the church choir. After graduation she intends to pursue graduate school to obtain a degree in Biomedical Engineering. Emily believes that this multidisciplinary field will take her career to the next level. The Saint Peter's University Educational Opportunity Fund family wishes Emily the best of luck on her future endeavors, and continues to send their unwavering support!

Salem Community College

*4 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Kaylynne Goldsborough

Academic Achievement

Kyla Mayers

Isaiah Pierce

Ashlee Yates

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Kaylynne Goldsborough

Kaylynne Goldsborough is a 2017 graduate of Pennsville Memorial High School in Pennsville, New Jersey. After receiving her high school diploma, she immediately matriculated into Salem Community College as a Liberal Arts major in the summer of 2017.

During her stay at SCC, Kaylynne has earned Dean's List status and induction into the Delta Lambda Chapter of Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society. In May 2019, she will receive an Associates of Arts in Liberal Arts degree from Salem Community College with Honors. She will then continue her education at Rowan University to pursue a career that involves both helping others and the Performing Arts.

Seton Hall University

*39 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Khadija Bhatti
Melissa Gerwer
Elif Kucuck
Casey Osorio-Duffoo
Naomi Stevens

David Bustamante
Nia Green
Vanessa Martinez
Eliza Rodrigues
Pamela Valer

Patrick Cleaver
Tishawna Jones
Emani Miles
Leah Rodriguez

Academic Achievement

Desire Almonte
Grace Calderon
Rachael Kelley
Adassa Nedd
Veronica Wilgen

Daniel Alvarez
Jaceline Dejean
Brittany Setaro
Lorena Pessoa

Steven Alvarez
Melanie Fernandez
Stephanie Solano
Donald Stokem

Outstanding Achievement

Patrick Cleaver

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Jaceline Dejean

Jaceline Dejean is from the City of Orange, New Jersey and a graduate of Parsippany Christian School. Jaceline is a Biology major, with a minor in Catholic Studies. She is scheduled to graduate with a semester GPA of 3.8 and an overall GPA of 3.2.

As a student leader, Jaceline is known for her strong commitment to EOP and being a change agent on campus. Jaceline does not believe in making excuses and challenges herself and others to get involved in the community. She is a recipient of several scholarships and an active participant in campus organizations: leader in EOPSO, EOP peer mentor, Build Up peer mentor and MLK peer mentor. Jaceline is also very active in her church community of Orange and currently volunteers in a Physical Therapy facility.

Her future plans include one day receiving a doctorate in Physical Therapy in order to not only treat patients with injuries but also educate individuals on injury and recovery.

Seton Hall University Pre-Medical Pre-Dental Plus Program

*4 award recipients in total

Academic Achievement

Aleessa Akegnan

Chelsea Dantas

Avinash Sookdeo

Outstanding Achievement

Yvette Adams

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Avinash Sookdeo

Avinash Sookdeo is a graduating senior at Seton Hall University and a scholar in the university's Pre-Medical/Pre-Dental Plus Program. He is a graduate of James J. Ferris High School in his hometown of Jersey City. Avi, as he is affectionately known, arrived at Seton Hall a shy, reserved high schooler but will leave as the outgoing president of the university's chapter of the Minority Association for Pre-Health Students, an active member of the Academic Affairs Committee, Community Emergency Response Team, Student Government Association, and as a student advocate.

His student development activities have extended beyond the university and into the community, continuing even after the freshmen mandated 10 hours of community service. They have included participating in campus blood drives, food drives, events coordinated for special needs individuals and other services sponsored through the university's Division of Volunteer Efforts (DOVE). In addition, since the summer of 2016 Avi has served as a research assistant in the university's Immunology Lab and during summer 2018 as an internship adviser with Hackensack Meridian Health working with students who were a part of the Medical Internship Navigating Diversity and Science (MINDS) Program at the Hackensack-Meridian School of Medicine at Seton Hall University. In fall 2018 Avi attained Dean's List and in May 2019 he will receive a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology, with a minor in Legal Studies in Business. His next goal is to attend medical school and he would like to merge a career as a physician with the legal profession and business administration.

Stevens Institute of Technology

*8 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Sheila De Assis-Fernandez

Peter Ebrahim

Xavier Rosario

Academic Achievement

Cristian Collado

Ruben Martins

Oscar Tavara

Joyce Xu

Outstanding Achievement

Vanessa Greco

EOF Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Cristian Collado

Cristian Collado is a born and raised New Jersey native from his hometown of North Brunswick. He graduated from North Brunswick Township High School in 2014 to pursue his postsecondary education at Stevens Institute of Technology. In May 2019, he will graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering.

During his time at Stevens, Cristian has been the president of Gear and Triangle (the university's Leadership Honor Society) and coordinator of one of Stevens' biggest traditions, the Founder's Day Ball. Cristian was also selected to attend a program in Greece called The Tragos Quest Leadership Experience on a full scholarship through his fraternity Sigma Phi Epsilon. He was recognized by the Office of Undergraduate Student Life this past year for his involvement on campus in various organizations and events and received the "Student Leader of the Year Award."

After graduation, Cristian will begin a full-time position at Johnson & Johnson within the company's two-year rotational Technology Leadership Development Program, supporting technologies within the Pharmaceutical sector.

Stockton University – Galloway Campus

*42 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Ashlie Campbell	Vanessa Conde	Sarah Hanson
Kaitlin Krywy	Aloni Lee	Eric Lentz
Ryan Lentz	Stephanie Pumarejo	Arsh Rabby
Deysi Reyes	Tiffany Roach	Richard Santiago
Alex Santos		

Academic Achievement

Chrissy Bishop	Ayanna Jones	Anaghem Nammour
Keyla Negroni	David Tohidi	Domanique Townsend
Samantha Velazquez	Mackenzie White	

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Tiffany Roach

Since May 2016, Tiffany Roach has worked with her Chemistry professor on projects based in Organometallic Chemistry. Last spring, she presented her findings at Stockton's NAMS Science Symposium and received honorable mention. Tiffany has participated in the Yale Bouchet Conference on Diversity and Graduate Education for two years. In the second year, she also presented. Tiffany was accepted to the summer 2018 Undergraduate Internship Program (SUIP) at the University of Pennsylvania where she spearheaded an analysis of global changes in histone post-translational modifications following rat THC self-administration. There she gained more exposure to biological research, especially utilizing animal models.

Tiffany has upheld a strong presence in the Stockton community. She began by tutoring Chemistry for Stockton's Chemistry Society and was later elected president. As part of her agenda, she spearheaded outreach initiatives, some of which advocate for women in STEM fields.

After graduation, Tiffany will pursue a Ph.D. in the Biological Sciences. She has interviewed with Thomas Jefferson University's Neuroscience Ph.D. program as well as Drexel University and Temple University's Biology Ph.D. programs. She credits her brother (a Ph.D. student in Neurobiology) as a major inspiration and advocate. As first-generation college students they share an aspiration to break their family's generational poverty by pursuing their passions for science.

Ms. Roach is from Southampton Township, New Jersey and a graduate of Seneca High School. She extends her thanks to the EOF program, especially director Dr. Maralyn Mason, for supporting her scientific endeavors. She has enjoyed her undergraduate experience at Stockton and looks forward to graduate school.

The College of New Jersey

*31 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Dennise Cortes
Rebeca Jomarron
Shreevidya Nallan
Armonie Pierre-Jacques

Eashwayne Haughton
Nicholas Laureano
Rafiatu Nawuridam
Sarah Pierre-Jacques

Vanessa Jimenez Tapia
Ashley Matos
Chioma Onwunaka
Sarah Sleiman

Academic Achievement

Soraya Falcao
Dianelis Mendoza
Vanessa Sandoval

Hassan Lasisi
Enicely Mojica
Nayomi Torres

Francesca Levari
Tiffany Rolle

Outstanding Achievement

Lorenzo Gonzalez

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Vanessa Jimenez Tapia

Vanessa Jimenez Tapia is from Perth Amboy, New Jersey. She is a graduate of the Perth Amboy High School Class of 2015. Vanessa entered the College of New Jersey - EOF Program during the summer of 2015.

Throughout her studies at TCNJ, Vanessa has been extremely involved with the EOF program as an EOF peer advisor and an EOF mentor during the summer program. Vanessa's service to TCNJ extends to the Residential Education department where she is a community advisor and to her sorority, Chi Upsilon Sigma National Latin Sorority Inc. Delta Chapter where she is the secretary. Vanessa is a History and Secondary Education major with a minor in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

Vanessa intends to teach in an urban high school as a way to give back to the community she came from. She is passionate about and loves EOF and never fails to speak about how grateful she is for everything the program has done for her. Vanessa truly exemplifies EOF pride!

Union County College

*36 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Ashley Aguayza	Noor Ahmad	Aime Amouzou
Luis De Jesus	Criselis Estrella	Carla Fraguada
Melanie Garcia	Chris Gonzalez Tonato	Kerly Guachichulca
Ayatt Hamed	Hillary Hernandez	Lucas Largotta
Thomas Largotta	Jefferson Manotoa	Ofelia Mesa
Keren Moncayo	Kemberly Padilla Mercedes	Monica Reis
Natalia Rodriguez	Isabel Salazar	Elaine Sanchez

Academic Achievement

Itati Aguirre-Lopez	Rosanny Carvajal	Chanel Davis
Valerie Dumerand	Gisselle Garcia	Yumel Gonzalez
Kimberly Justiniano	Cam Medellus	Rachel Mondelus
Maria Munoz	Raeschone Robinson	Arlind Sinanovic

Outstanding Achievement

Philomene Sanson

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Monica Reis

Monica Reis was born in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania to a single mother. She moved to New Jersey at the age of ten and resides in the City of Elizabeth. Due to many personal factors, including helping her household financially, Monica is a non-traditional student. After some years of working in miscellaneous jobs, she found the strength and determination to earn her GED from the Elizabeth Board of Education in 2016. She discovered a personal passion for education within her. Consequently, with all odds stacked against her, she decided to enroll at Union County College. During her sophomore year, she also discovered a purpose in helping other young adults with literacy issues and chose to major in Education.

Despite personal challenges, Monica has excelled in many ways. During this scholar's academic journey at Union County College, she earned a place on the President's High Honors List for four consecutive semesters and was inducted into both the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and the Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society. She has been a dedicated tutor with the Educational Opportunity Fund Program during the last two academic years and summer programs.

These experiences, combined with her commitment to family and community, have created a well-rounded and confident aspiring educator who is poised to make a positive impact on future students. Ms. Reis' career goal is to become a Social Studies middle school teacher in an urban environment, such as Elizabeth. She will transfer to the Urban Teacher Education Program of Rutgers University in the fall of 2019.

Warren County Community College

*7 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Hannah Floyd

Tara McAdams

Sandra Perez

Academic Achievement

Amaris Acevedo

Samiyah Tucker-Croom

Lacy Large-Schlaudecker

Donna Mulvihill

Stephanie Simone

Outstanding Achievement

Breanna Burger

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Breanna Burger

Breanna Burger is from Phillipsburg, New Jersey. She graduated from Phillipsburg High School in 2017. Breanna successfully completed the Warren County Community College EOF Summer Scholars Bridge program and enrolled as a fulltime freshman. She pursued an Associate's degree in Liberal Arts and made steady progression towards completing her degree on-time. Upon graduation in May 2019, Breanna will be transferring to Rutgers University where she plans to pursue a degree in Animal Science. Her career goal is to be a Veterinarian.

Over the last two years, Breanna was very involved with the EOF program as well as other campus organizations. As she transitions from a WCCC Golden Eagle to a Rutgers Scarlett Knight, Breanna will always have fond memories and will be deeply thankful for all the program's support on her college journey. She cherishes the friends that she made and they will always remain close to her heart, as she will forever be EOF.

William Paterson University

*21 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Andre Avila
Tahmina Chowdhury
Jacquelyn Portillo

Chaimaa Barki
Ariela Colon
Isaiah Squire

Imani Brown
Edwin Crullon

Academic Achievement

Nahid Ahmed
Deylin Echevarria
Julissa Rodriguez

Naiomy Almonte
Cyndia Green
O'neil Thomas

Nafisa Chowdhury
Chadeira Moore
Denisha Williams

Outstanding Achievement

Kody Guedes

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Kody Guedes

Kody Guedes is a graduating senior at William Paterson University completing his degree in Communications - Public Relations. He is originally from Paterson, New Jersey but currently resides in New Brunswick. Guedes is a proud alumnus of New Brunswick High School Class of 2014.

Kody is the current Student Government Association president at William Paterson University. Guedes has had many outstanding achievements in his college career including being the first recipient of the Newman Civic Fellows Award at the university. He is the former Greek Senate and United Cultural Greek Council president, a proud brother of Lambda Sigma Upsilon Latino Fraternity, Incorporated, a member of the Order of Omega Greek Honor Society and currently a member of the NASPA Undergraduate Fellows Program. He plans on pursuing a career in Higher Education Student Affairs and plans to attend graduate school in the fall.

“I am very excited about graduate school as this is something that I did not originally plan on doing with my life, but it is something that I love. I struggled my first year in college and it was because of the Student Affairs professionals I have met and because of my mentors that I am now ready to graduate and take on the future. I hope to work with minority students and make a difference in the higher education system,” said Guedes. He still has several plans before graduation which include obtaining an internship in the higher education system.