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  Sangida Akther  Tai Bui
Jessica Gerth  Jessica Holloway  Ulema Jones
Fernand Marrero-Guido  Jni McIntosh  Tatiana Morales
Jiawen Qin  Andre Robinson  Brooke Tharp
Fernando Venegas Ataca

Academic Achievement Award
Samira Bishop  Kerrick Capaldi  Jennifer Feliciano
Cierra Fifer  Angela Fonte  Constance Garrett
Iris Gil-Hernandez  Lidangela Guzman-Palacios  Ivy Gyemfua
Atiqul Islam  Caitlyn Milazzo  Sarosh Rabby
Julmane Remy  Juliana Torres Santiago  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
Noemi Bello-Reyes
Nina Darbouze
Marlene Felix
Gabriela Gonzalez-Ferreras
Laura Hernandez
Madelyn Ibanez
Ammar Javed
Bianel Mena
Armena Molla
Stephanie Perez
Stephanie Rim
Christie Rosario
Jimmy Siguencia
Motana Thungason
Nina Darbouze

Academic Achievement Award
Iqra Abbasi
Layth Abdelqader
Carina Camarena
Julissa Encalada
Alexandria Grajales
Saman Kazim
Niama Khalil
Iris Ocasio
Briana Ruiz
Anna Smith
Ashley Viera
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       Frederick Church       Brooke Colavito
Israel Guajardo         Christina Morrison     Casey Roome
Shawandda Tineo

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.
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**
Shaida Akhter  Pius Anyanwu  Elizabeth Bones
Quang Bui  Joshua Dunn  Rachel O’Brien
Brandon Ruiz  Tracy Tse

**Academic Achievement**
Darlington Anyanwu  Wendylee Cruz  Linh Dang
Richard Lincoln  Jordy Valdez

**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.
**Outstanding Academic Achievement**

Ashlee Caballero  
Brian Hernandez  
Iesha Brooks-Walker

**Academic Achievement**

Endia Barrett  
Akilah Love  
Kassandra Vargas

TyQuasia White  
Magali Rodriguez

**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 Hurled 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.
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**
- Adriane Burroughs
- 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
- Ana Santos
- Octavia Collins

**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.
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

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Huguette Dofontien</td>
<td>Sena Dziasa</td>
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## Outstanding Academic Achievement

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<td>Elida Abreu</td>
<td>Elizabeth Almarales Alonso</td>
<td>Chidinma Ahaefule</td>
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<td>Rita G. Ansong</td>
<td>Samirah Anthony</td>
<td>Yves Antoine</td>
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<td>Mark Babooram</td>
<td>Kadidiatou Bakayoko</td>
<td>Dorothy Boham</td>
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<td>Craig Bradley</td>
<td>Betina Breville</td>
<td>Shadels Campbell</td>
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<td>Mirna Cheikhali</td>
<td>Kadidja Coulibaly</td>
<td>Kim Cozier</td>
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<td>Kyle Cross</td>
<td>Elisee Doh</td>
<td>Uwalia Eguavoen</td>
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<td>Stephanie Fenton</td>
<td>Zoya Haye</td>
<td>Abdusalam Hussain</td>
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<td>Alhaji Jabbie</td>
<td>Rose A. Jackson</td>
<td>Rebecca Jean-Baptiste</td>
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<td>Dion Johnson</td>
<td>Juanita M. Jones</td>
<td>Aba Sylvie Kouame Yao</td>
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<td>Benjamin Louvis</td>
<td>Nomthandazo Nkomo</td>
<td>Wisline Norde</td>
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<td>Wilmide Olivier</td>
<td>Venessa Ozuzu</td>
<td>Nazirayah Parmley</td>
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<td>Angelica Peralta</td>
<td>Silva Siguencia</td>
<td>Guissella Solano</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steven Solari</td>
<td>Massiata Soumahoro</td>
<td>Briana Vera</td>
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## Academic Achievement

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<td>Flow Abreu-Ynoa</td>
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<td>Solange E. Arias</td>
<td>David Ashley</td>
<td>Madeline Canete</td>
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<td>Lourdes P. Clavijo</td>
<td>Glays M. Del Rosario</td>
<td>Jessica Diaz</td>
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<td>Sade Duffus</td>
<td>Mohamed El-Moutaoouakkil</td>
<td>Cindel Egusquiza</td>
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<td>Genesis Gonzalez</td>
<td>Wendy Laurencio- Blanco</td>
<td>Zuleima Guaman</td>
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<td>Jean M. Michel</td>
<td>Engi A. Naguib</td>
<td>Baldelit Nunez</td>
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<td>Bigard Ogbonna</td>
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<td>Nayibi Salas</td>
<td>Hassanah Thomas-Yasin</td>
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## Outstanding Achievement

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## 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!”
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.
**Outstanding Academic Achievement**

Marc Daline Dorsainvil  
Evangelia Hryssomalidis  
Tyonna Goweh  

Ti’Niejah Lee  
Michael Ramirez  
Ashley Sanchez  

Yarline Yepez  

**Academic Achievement**

Lauren Casildo  
Mario Hidalgo Gomez  
Lourdes Mendez  

Diana Poblete  
Melany Ramirez  

**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  Yulisa Aquino  Wlasmith Dieujuste
Patricia Mensah  Dana Russo  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.
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.
Distinguished Scholar
Kissarne Pang

Outstanding Academic Achievement
Marilyn Acevedo  Shaima Alghazali  Daisy Guaman
Sarra Hayoune  Rushika Kapadia  Gissell Lopez
Victoria Paredes  Letticia Perez  Micaela Quisbert
Nicole (xin xin) Wang

Academic Achievement
Nasly Aguilar  Helder Banegas  Muhammad Faruque
Adita Singh  Alexa Tannu  Iqra Usmani
Destiny Villafane  Melissa Williams  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
Rooseline Dhaiti  Ashley Diaz  Johanna Diaz
Melanie Drake  Yaritza Fernandez  Karina Flores
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

Marshall M. Blackwood

Marshall 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, Marshall made great strides during her college journey. A transfer from Essex County Community College, Marshall’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.
Outstanding Academic Achievement
Gertrude Honutse  
Yinping Huang  
Jordi Jaquez  
Brandon Mastropasqua  
Zainab Nabeel  
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
Mun Hew
Leslie Rivera
Maira Tamayo-Lopez

Academic Achievement
Hikmat Ibrahim
Michael Jasper
Hiloni Kapadia
Jennifer Taveras

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
- Shakirah Brightly
- Tommy Chung
- Alexander Crawford
- Jimmy Duong
- Zoriah Fowler
- Michael Guzman
- Gregory Harpe
- Kayvon Paul
- Kaitlyn Robertson
- Mariely Rodriguez
- Katie Serkus
- Anthony Vives
- Hayley Waldron

**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**

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<td>Distinguished Scholar</td>
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<td>Anabelle Sanzari</td>
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<td>Outstanding Academic Achievement</td>
<td>Leyla Akdogan</td>
<td>Stephanie Augustin</td>
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**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.
Outstanding Academic Achievement
Abdelrahman Aboushousha  Eduardo Alay-Lopez  Victor De Los Santos
Daylin Diaz  Serge Duvillage  Jennifer Emereoneye
Rana Ghacham  Kimberly Lamadieu  Sterling Ortiz
Smart Owusu-Ansah  Kristie Perez  Danayah White

Academic Achievement
Nada Abaas  Amirat Adelani  Yasmine Ahmed
Abanoub Amir  Mirna Botros  Waleska Camilo-Belen
Steven Campis  Diego Cruz  Cynthia Febo
Alex Gerena-Aponte  Anish Gurung  Tabitha Isaac
Monica Lewis  Engely Lopez  Shakera Moyd-Milevor
Nikitaben Patel  Pias Sarker  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
Taufiquel Islam  Emran Reshid  Umaamah Tobias
Wasam Youssef

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  Jonathan Gioxaris  Alexis Giuffrida
Andrea Gonzalez  Christine Kelly  Gabriella Volinski

Academic Achievement
Youssef Abdelaziz  Leslie Andrade  Jenifer Hernandez
Virginia Hester  Gia Maarleveld  Constance Pease
Daniel Scialabba  Valerie Tate  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.
Distinguished Scholar
Batoul Hammadi

Outstanding Academic Achievement
Erik Amaro  Angelly Cabada  Kelllyn 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.
Outside Academic Achievement
Karissa Mata  Amauris Peralta-Muños  Ismael Perez
Kimberly Perez-Lucero  Brianna Ribaudo  Brandon Rodriguez
Alejandra Sánchez  Rachel Stone  Jaime Velazquez

Academic Achievement
Jeffrey Bellens  Charles Cole  Robert Diaz
Roseiry Jimenez Marte  Jacqueline Lopez-Yanza  Yuriria Martinez
Ross Warlick

Outstanding Achievement
Berlyann Rivera

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight
Jaime Velazquez

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.
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.
Outstanding Academic Achievement
Emely Adames  Angela Cotugno  Olmar Duarte
Alexis Green  Stephani Mathurin  Lorraine Mendoza
Caroline Nguyen  Shanoy Thompson

Academic Achievement
Rafael Angeles  Nutsa Kapanadze  Ashley Kerrigan
Jessica Mandelbaum  Christian Papageorgiou  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.
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.
Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Brianna Casario          Sarah Demirjian          Jasman Kaur
Katrina London           Lutfur Nahar              Samantha Newton
Nanibeth Ortiz           Robert Pugliese          Jillian Volpe

Academic Achievement Award

Masuda Akhtar            Bobbie Beitz              Daniel Copp
Ariel Dennis             Manpreet Kaur            Roomel Meus
Norman White

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
Marketa Dunbar
Melton Leach III
Jeremy Sadowski

Aira Mae Alday
Courtney Eckstadt
Suzanne Nelson
Shyanna Thomason

Carly D’Agostino
Jonathan Ferrell
Jessica Rump

**Academic Achievement**
Angelina Casiano
Muntaha Tamanna

Katie Ireland
Jeremy Mercado

**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.
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
Calia Travia

Outstanding Academic Achievement
Sabrina Bruccoleri
Kelesha 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

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.
Outstanding Academic Achievement
Nancy Gonzalez  Jessica Hwang  Kelly Kennedy
Dasha Lashko  Gordon Malkowski  Diana Ortiz
Ashley Rivera-Galletti  Barbara Rojas  Jim Tran
Stephan Whitley

Academic Achievement
Kenia Azcona  Shannon Carvalho  Ajee’ Davis
Michael Doran  Lisa Estevez  Tyimirra Graham
Kanei Green-Scott  Astride Josil  Breianna Little
Samuel Melton  Payton Potts  Cori Robinson
Kubranur Temur  Tyreek Valentine

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.
Outstanding Academic Achievement
Khilat Abbas         Elizabeth Adekunle         Osamah Rasheed
Estefanos Sarah

Academic Achievement
Rajwoana Ahmed       Jasmin Ashour          Mudrak Michael
Kishan M. Patel      Sameena Shinwari

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 Adel 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.
### Distinguished Scholar

Kevin Jarrell

### Outstanding Academic Achievement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Awards</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carolina Acevedo</td>
<td>Mara Alonso, Abraham Ayoola</td>
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<td>Yasmen Baldoun</td>
<td>Elizabeth Bedoya, Krista Campbell</td>
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<td>Ruhma Cheema</td>
<td>Mohamad Cheikhali, Natalie Dasila</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nelson De Lima Neto</td>
<td>Jecenia Garcia, Hamzah Ghani</td>
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<tr>
<td>Destiny Gregory</td>
<td>Michelle Gudis, Fthimnir Hassan</td>
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<td>Jessica Hilinski</td>
<td>Nahid Huq, Hesbon Isaboke</td>
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<td>Urvashi Jangle</td>
<td>Samiul Karim, Stephanie Lamerce</td>
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<td>Maggie Lin</td>
<td>Jin Liu, Marina Martinez</td>
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<td>Roger Martinez</td>
<td>Verine Meawad, Emanuel Medina</td>
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<td>Javier Mendez</td>
<td>Christian Montecinos, Emma Piedilato</td>
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<td>Tarakur Rahman</td>
<td>Manuel Ramirez, Jullian Reyes</td>
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<td>Kayla Rodriguez</td>
<td>Alexander Rosado-Torres, Samin Saju</td>
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<td>Michael Valentine</td>
<td>Laura Vallejo, Al-Kuron Williams</td>
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<td>Rongxin Zhou</td>
<td>Leslie Zuniga</td>
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### Academic Achievement

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Awards</th>
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<tr>
<td>Maryam Abdur Rasheed</td>
<td>Annie Aguilar, Halim Amezquita</td>
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<td>Paola Arteaga</td>
<td>Yussuff Azeez, Lisa Belle</td>
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<td>Akua Boachie</td>
<td>Sabrina Ceballo, Marilyn Changa</td>
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<td>Xinru Chen</td>
<td>Wai-Kit Chris, Jaime Chicas</td>
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<td>Vaxi Chokshi</td>
<td>Olivia Clifford, Janibell Encarnacion</td>
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<td>Solange Encarnacion</td>
<td>Joselyn Espinoza, Sarah Evans</td>
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<td>Sade Ford</td>
<td>Camilo Forero, Boris Franklin</td>
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<td>Briana Galarza</td>
<td>Nicole Gamboa, Mariana Garcia</td>
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<td>Matthew Gavidia</td>
<td>Jasmine Gilder, Nancy Gonzalez</td>
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<td>Rubi Gonzalez</td>
<td>Stephanie Gonzalez, Mariam Goubran</td>
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<td>Savannah Gregal</td>
<td>Nancy Hafez, Bashir Herbert</td>
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<td>Lisbeth Hernandez Figueroa</td>
<td>Khadeen Hewitt, Kenneth Hyslop</td>
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<td>Chelsea Icaza</td>
<td>Brittney James, Joseph Kady</td>
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<td>Joseph Katz</td>
<td>Anjleen Kaur, Shakahrah Keith</td>
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<td>Angiceny Matista</td>
<td>Emily Mendieta, Ansly Montero</td>
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<td>Shamika Montero</td>
<td>Nnamdi Nnajiofor, Joel Novas</td>
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<td>Isiah Odom</td>
<td>Jenny Oh, Chandni Patel</td>
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<td>Mary Ortiz</td>
<td>Seren Ozer, Peraveena Perinpanathan</td>
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<td>Megan Picado</td>
<td>Andre Quintero, Andrea Quismundo</td>
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<td>Maria Ramirez</td>
<td>Darrell Real, Dimitri Rodriguez</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brenda Romero</td>
<td>Hassan Saadeldin, Ayesha Saeed</td>
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*140 award recipients in total*
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.
Outstanding Academic Achievement
Chidozie Buruzie   Edwin Castillo   Jorge Liviapoma
Joshua Liviapoma   Rushiraj Parikh   Harsh Shah

Academic Achievement
Shyenne Bahar   Mahmoud Elkayal   Justin Hinds
Kyowan Kim   Arif Nahid   Sergio Ruiz
Jackie Tran   Ronald Tudorache

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
Carolyn 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

Carolyn Munoz

Carolyn 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. Carolyn 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, Carolyn 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
Ronald Kwon
Mia Montalvo
Laura Reyes

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.
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 Boucicaut  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  Carlos Donou  Kadira Johnson
Roua Mohamed  Gina Nguyen  Joshua Padilla
Merna Sawaged  Helena Togias

Academic Achievement
Gerard Aviles  Kimberly Baez  Claudine Charles
Gira Grullon  Sidra Khan  Jocelyn Lara
Brittany Morales

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!
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       David Bustamante       Patrick Cleaver
Melissa Gerwer       Nia Green           Tishawna Jones
Elif Kucuck          Vanessa Martinez   Emani Miles
Casey Osorio-Duffoo  Eliza Rodrigues    Leah Rodriguez
Naomi Stevens        Pamela Valer

Academic Achievement
Desire Almonte       Daniel Alvarez      Steven Alvarez
Grace Calderon       Jaceline Dejean     Melanie Fernandez
Rachael Kelley       Brittany Setaro    Stephanie Solano
Adassa Nedd          Lorena Pessoa      Donald Stokem
Veronica Wilgen

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.
**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.
Outstanding Academic Achievement
Dennise Cortes          Eashwayne Haughton          Vanessa Jimenez Tapia
Rebeca Jomarron        Nicholas Laureano          Ashley Matos
Shreevidya Nallan      Rafiatu Nawuridam          Chioma Onwunaka
Armonie Pierre-Jacques Sarah Pierre-Jacques          Sarah Sleiman

Academic Achievement
Soraya Falcao          Hassan Lasisi          Francesca Levari
Dianelis Mendoza       Enicely Mojica          Tiffany Rolle
Vanessa Sandoval       Nayomi Torres

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!
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.
*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.
Outstanding Academic Achievement
Andre Avila          Chaimaa Barki        Imani Brown
Tahmina Chowdhury    Ariela Colon       Edwin Crullon
Jacquelyn Portillo   Isaiah Squire

Academic Achievement
Nahid Ahmed          Naiomy Almonte      Nafisa Chowdhury
Deylin Echevarria    Cyndia Green       Chadeira Moore
Julissa Rodriguez    O’neil Thomas      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.