New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund
2018 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 2018 term or who graduated at the end of the Summer 2017 or Fall 2017 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 (19 recipients);

**Outstanding Academic Achievement**: presented to seniors who have consistently maintained a cumulative grade point average of 3.50-3.99 (488 recipients);

**Academic Achievement**: presented to seniors who have consistently maintained a cumulative grade point average of 3.20-3.49 (570 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 (43 recipients).

A grand total of students have been nominated for a total of 1,120 awards.

*Names listed reflect only nominees who have signed a release form, allowing OSHE/EOF to publish their information. Institutions may have nominated additional students not listed here but included in their count.*
Atlantic Cape Community College
*19 award recipients in total

Distinguished Scholar
Danielle Ricci, Melissa Trinh

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award
Kenya Andrews, Jessica Burt, Cindy Calle
Sabina Chowdhury, Alexis Emery-Clark, Samantha Keeler
Adam Montemurro, Bisma Munir, Ryan Murphy
Edras Palma, Abdur Taylor

Academic Achievement Award
Brittany Battle, Taalibah McCoy, Maliah Morgan
Jessica Tarves, Ashley Vassallo

Outstanding Achievement Award
Meagan DePaul

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Jessica Burt

Jessica A. Burt is originally from Vineland, New Jersey and currently resides in Woodbine. She graduated from Vineland High School in 2001 and earned a certification in Dental Assisting. She worked in the industry for several years and after the birth of her first child, began attending Atlantic Cape Community College in 2015. While attending Atlantic Cape Community College, she served as a caregiver to an uncle who had late-stage Alzheimer’s and cancer. She also served as a full-time volunteer for the Heartland Hospice of New Jersey.

Ms. Burt earned an Associate of Science degree in Human Services in December 2017. During her tenure at Atlantic Cape Community College, she made the Dean’s List and President’s List on numerous occasions. She was selected as the recipient of the 2016 Cape May National Golf Club Scholarship and the 2016 Cape May County Golf Tournament/Scramble ‘Fore’ Scholarship.

Ms. Burt is currently attending Rutgers University and is working towards a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work with a minor in Psychology. Once she earns her bachelor’s degree, Ms. Burt wants to continue her education and obtain a Master of Social Work degree.
Distinguished Scholar
Daniel Chuqui
Genesis Powell

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award
Christian Aricapa
Andrea Astudillo
Samuel Blanco
Juwan Byfield
Jeffrey Casey
Stephanie Chavarria
Jung Min Choi
Quantasia Falon
Stephanie Flores
Hafsa Habehh
Sara Hassan
Erna Kajayan
Nely Luna
Valerie Londono
Erica Marson
Dana Naim
Rotana Naim
Darlenis Peralta
Stephanie Rim
Florina Rizmanoski
Giomarco Urbina
Laura Veloso

Academic Achievement Award
Jadd Aslan
Daniela Carpio
Jhondy Cepeda
Hannah Cole
Anthony Cruz
Irvin Figueroa
Lisa Hernandez
Christopher Jaquez
Quran Manlove
Stephanie Martinez
Akshay Nadiyadhara
Yashkumar Rana
Annaliese Sanchez
Santiago Toro
Luz Vera

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Santiago Toro

Santiago Toro was born in Colombia and immigrated to the United States in 2009. He came to the U.S with a dream and was given the opportunity to succeed in life. Santiago was frightened at first, not only because he did not speak English but also because it was an entirely new chapter in his life. In Columbia, he had to overcome things that are not easy to heal from, such as being raised in a neighborhood where the only expectations are becoming a gang member, a drug dealer or a robber. He also endured the untimely death of his mother when he was only 7 years old. Santiago’s main fear when he immigrated, however, was being bullied at school. In Columbia, he endured such constant bullying due to his visual impairment that he did not want to go to school anymore. Fortunately, things took a turn for the better when he entered 8th grade in the United States where he was accepted as a normal guy with a visual impairment. Some discrimination and bullying continued, but became less intense. Santiago was also eligible to receive help from the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Santiago lives in Clifton, New Jersey. He graduated from Clifton High School in 2015 where he received the Student of the Month Award in 2014. He attends Bergen Community College and is majoring in Social Work because he wants to help those in need. He also wants to serve as a role model and help others realize that it’s possible to overcome anything you put your mind to.
Bloomfield College

*9 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award
Hafeeza Causey
A’layeah Thompson

Academic Achievement Award
Antonine Datilus
Kelly Frias
Daniel Helena-Oquendo
Rocio Paulino
Jeissy Reyes

Outstanding Achievement Award
Salhudine Simmons

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Daniel Helena-Oquendo

Daniel Helena-Oquendo was born in Bayamon, Puerto Rico and moved to Camden, New Jersey when he was a teenager. He graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in Camden. Daniel will earn his Bachelor of Science degree in May 2018 with a triple major in Accounting, Finance, and General Management. Daniel is a member of the National Honor Society of Leadership and Success. Since starting his college career, Daniel has made Dean’s List for the fall 2014, spring 2015 and fall 2017 semesters all while being a member of the college’s baseball team.

After graduation, Daniel’s future goals are to gain work experience in the Business field so that he can help guide the younger generation who do not have access to many resources. He wants to help students take advantage of the opportunities that are presented to them and demonstrate that it is possible to succeed with hard work and dedication. He also wants to create baseball programs and academies for young men from low-income areas to help prepare them for the future. He is passionate about this goal because sports helped him and he strongly believes that it could help others succeed as well.
Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Richard Barber  Benjamín Berube

Academic Achievement Award

Isaiah Aviles  Andre Carvalho  William DeBlasio III
Serge Duville  Christopher Harasim  Drew Jackson
Oñanny Jesurum  Kimberly Kammer  Briana Leck
Endila Radoncic  Kearlyn Reeves  Liliana Rios
Russel Rosal  Bill Smith  Matthew Susino

Outstanding Achievement

Destiny Sparks

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Destiny Sparks

Destiny Sparks is a Social Work major at Brookdale Community College. She is from Matawan, New Jersey and has been a member of the EOF program since starting as a freshman in 2015. Destiny thanks the EOF staff at Brookdale for the past three years as being part of the wonderful organization that helped her become the successful student she is today. As a shy new student who worried about being able to fit in and make new friends, she has grown in confidence, giving her the drive to become very involved on campus with student clubs such as the Dance Club, the Psychology and Human Service Club, and the National Society of Leadership and Success.

She appreciates the staff for believing in her and directing her on the way toward becoming a future social worker one day. She plans to always work hard in life and remain focused on accomplishing her dreams. This includes continuing her educational goals with earning good grades and keeping a high GPA. After she graduates from Brookdale, Destiny hopes to transfer to Stockton University and pursue a Bachelor’s degree in Social Work.
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<th>Award Category</th>
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<td>Kelly Mondey, Daniela Pineros, Karla Ventura</td>
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<td>Outstanding Achievement</td>
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**Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight**

**Kelly Villalba**

In May of 2018, Kelly Villalba is scheduled to receive a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Studio Art. Meditating on her time spent at Caldwell University, she reflects on the incredible support she has received as an EOF student. First, the grant provided by the EOF program made it possible for her to pursue higher education. The EOF program provided the financial assistance that paid for course books and other costs related to her student bill. This economic relief covered essential expenses like rent, travel, and food, allotting her the time to focus on excelling in her coursework. Kelly also praises the staff who work in the EOF program. Their passion for their jobs demonstrates both faith and understanding of the power that comes of an educated mind. As graduation approaches, Kelly recalls both the tribulations and blessings that have resulted from her time spent at Caldwell University. Together these collective experiences helped her develop her own identity, while also imparting the importance of empathizing with others. She is thankful to have been a part of the EOF legacy, and will continue to advocate for educational opportunity for all students. Kelly plans to continue her academic career and receive a master’s degree in the near future. She was accepted into the arts honor society Kappa Pi and her artworks are being featured in the Sketch Book of Kappa Pi.
Camden County College
*11 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement
Quynhhoa Dan  Ashlee Dever  Gina Gibson

Academic Achievement
Gabrielle Boorse  Jamiles Eusebio  Samantha Marinari
Bruce McCarthy  Danielle McColligan  Timithy Nguyen
Cheryl Robinson-Green

Outstanding Achievement
Atanya Dickerson

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Ms. Atanya Dickerson

Atanya Dickerson graduated from Camden High School in her hometown of Camden, New Jersey. She reflects on her journey to success by recalling the hardships and road blocks that ended up strengthening her. Full of dreams, aspirations, determination, and ambition, Atanya had a road map plan for her future. She had started planning her career when she was a junior in high school. She had a strong passion to become a registered nurse because she had a natural ability to care for people. She started classes at Camden County College in her twenties with that vision in mind. However, Atanya was unaware of the lessons she would learn on her educational journey.

She learned many lessons in patience and dealing with life’s trials. The situations she faced as a new wife, a new mother of one, and shortly after a mother of four children proved to be complicated but she never lost sight of her dreams. After Atanya had her children, she went back to school in the early 90’s to pursue her education and become a nurse. She was saddened to find that the man she thought loved her would block her way. He stopped at nothing to ensure that Atanya would never become a nurse, believing that her primary goal was to become a professional woman and self-sufficient. For years, she suffered through his mental and physical abuse, including days when Atanya fled because she feared for the lives of her children and self. Somehow, she found the strength to persevere, even after the final trial of becoming homeless for 7 years. The devastation continued to occur when her daughter was diagnosed with nephrotic syndrome at the age of eight. Again, she put her dreams on hold to care for her child. It seemed that every time Atanya embarked on the journey to succeed the hardships of life would once again happen.

Atanya and her sister decided to take the journey of finishing their educational goals together. They were both eager to attend the Jerrothia Riggs License Practical Nursing Program at Camden County College. Unfortunately, a week before the semester began her sister was
diagnosed with leukemia and could not attend. Being a loving sister, she insisted that Atanya move forward on her own. Before her sister passed away she was able to see how her motivation, encouragement and support helped Atanya. She made it to Atanya’s graduation ceremony and saw her sister receive the Outstanding Clinical Excellence Award. Atanya cared for her sister daily until she died. Approximately one year later, Atanya found herself rushing to Florida to care for her 22 month old grandson after a near drowning accident had caused an anoxic brain injury. She next took care of her brother who was terminally ill and eventually lost his life two years later. In addition, Atanya has been caring for her mother over the past 18 years. Presently, her mother is 80 years old, officially blind, suffers from dementia and is battling bilateral lung cancer.

Despite it all, Atanya struggled to keep her dream alive and returned to college. She is set to graduate with a PRN Associate’s degree this May 2018. In conclusion, Atanya often reflects on this quote for inspiration, “We spend so much time asking God to cure us of our hardships, but we never stop to consider that our hardships are curing us.” -Yasmin Mogahed
Centenary College

*6 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement
Ebony Randall

Academic Achievement
Asante Balaam  Ameer Cooper  Karoline Lazo
Karolyn Lazo

Outstanding Achievement
Romane Jean-Louis

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Ameer Cooper

Ameer Cooper is a native of Newark, New Jersey where he attended Arts High School for Drama. After finishing high school, he began studying at Centenary University where he majors in Communications - concentrating in Television and Radio Production, with a minor in Theatre. Throughout his time at Centenary, Ameer has been an outstanding role model for students across all disciplines. He has had much presence on campus as a First Year Leader, resident assistant, EOP advocate and mentor. He has also worked in many departments at the university.

Ameer does not only thrive in leadership roles but his academics and passion for the arts has led him to be a very successful student and artist. His academic standing and drive to seek knowledge led him on a journey to study abroad during the fall 2017 semester. He attended the University of Roehampton in London. Ameer was also honorably recognized as a member of the Chi Alpha Epsilon honor society. In addition to academics, he has held three internships with the Centenary Stage Company, Lou Reda Productions, and MTV Network. His dedication to his craft has enabled him to work with MTV after his internship concluded. His future plans are to become an actor and stage manager in the Television and Theatre industry. Ameer said, “My time at Centenary would not have been the same, if it wasn’t for EOP. They gave me so many opportunities.”
College of Saint Elizabeth

*10 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement
Katherine Altenor  Caty Dominguez  Tatiana Mora

Academic Achievement
Jasmine Brown  Jessica Maldonado  Bonalye Norelus

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Katherine Altenor

Katherine Altenor lives in Hillside, New Jersey and graduated from Hillside High School in 2014. She will be graduating from the College of Saint Elizabeth with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology - concentration in Pre-Law and minors in Business and Political Science. Katherine has also been active within EOF by assisting with organizing, coordinating and implementing program sponsored events on campus. During her four years at CSE, Katherine has been named to the Dean's List and inducted to the Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society. She was also chosen as the college’s Mock Trial president and as the Class of 2018 treasurer. Katherine attended the Seton Hall Summer Institute for Pre-Legal Studies during the summer of 2017 which provided her with carefully guided and valuable insight into the law and legal system. The Pre-Legal Studies Program was Katherine’s introduction to a career within the legal profession as an attorney. Her future goals are to attend law school and become a medical lawyer.
Outstanding Academic Achievement
Xin Huang Lin
Shelsey Vasquez

Academic Achievement
Andrea Doucette
Jessica Erving
Jeritza Giraldo Cadavid
Angely Melendez
John Page
Luis Palacio Zapata
Dhrupa Patel
Francesca Ruiz
Natalia Serrano
Karen Sorto

Outstanding Achievement
Muhammad Bilal Ahmad

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Shelsey Vasquez

Shelsey Vasquez grew up in Aguada, Puerto Rico until the third grade. She moved to New Jersey with her mother in search of a better education. She lived in Rockaway where she graduated from Morris Hills High School. Shelsey started her post-secondary studies at the County College of Morris (CCM) as a member of the Educational Opportunity Fund Program. She focused her studies on a dual major of Psychology and Biology, and graduated at the end of the fall semester 2017 with an Associate of Science degree.

She demonstrated master student abilities by maintaining a stellar 3.7 cumulative GPA throughout her academic career at CCM. She was an active member of the college’s honor societies that included Psi Beta, Phi Theta Kappa and Chi Alpha Epsilon. Shelsey also demonstrated leadership skills by participating in Active Minds, the Psychology Club and the EOF Student Alliance while attending CCM. She was the president of the campus Active Minds chapter and traveled to California to the Leadership Conference to network and learn more about raising awareness about mental health issues among college students.

As Shelsey looks to continue her education, this spring 2018 she was accepted into Cornell University to pursue a bachelor’s degree in Biology and Society. The degree combines her love of biology with the important contribution of the social sciences. Her personal interest is combating mental illness by studying biology, the environment, and the contribution of socio-economic factors. The EOF program has no doubt Shelsey will excel at Cornell. Her future plans include pursuing a master’s degree at Stanford University.
Cumberland County College

*18 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement
Mylasia Brown  Kristen Dellavecchia  Edward Doyle  
Vivian George  Sara Giron  Danielle Gonzalez  
Danea Hayes  Gabrielle Lashley  Joseph Misyak  
Alysah Pasquerilla  Juanita Wadley

Academic Achievement
Leslie Bailey  Haley Hunter  Abigail MacNeil  
Oxchzeanna Perez  Kimberly Rodriguez  Jacqueline Seda

Outstanding Achievement
Jenny Benitez

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Jenny Benitez

Jenny Benitez is a graduate of Bridgeton High School in Bridgeton, New Jersey. Jenny has been an active member of the Educational Opportunity Fund since starting as a Summer Institute Scholar in 2016. As a first generation college student, she recalls feeling “scared” and unsure how to negotiate the demands of college. Instead of giving up, Jenny has taken full advantage of every resource made available to her, developing leadership skills through her work as an EOF peer counselor and through her participation as an officer of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society and member of the Alpha Beta Gamma National Business Honor Society. She additionally is an active member of both the Business and Finance Club and the Latin American Club (LAC) at the college. An academically strong student, Jenny has been named to the Dean’s List for three of her four semesters at Cumberland County College, and received the Spirit of the Summer Award from the EOF program for the 2016/2017 academic year. Jenny will graduate in May 2018 with an Associate in Arts degree in Business Studies and plans to transfer to Stockton University to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in the same field.
Drew University
*8 award recipients in total

**Outstanding Academic Achievement**
Illin Bangug  Engy Gadelmawla  Jenalyn Rembish

**Academic Achievement**
Julissa Colon  Jacklyn Renard  Bette Dozier-Smith
Cesar Munive

**Outstanding Achievement**
Tanirah Watson

**Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight**

**Tanirah Watson**

Drew University’s 2018 EOF Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight recipient is Tanirah Watson. Tanirah resides in Mt. Holly, New Jersey and graduated from Rancocas Valley Regional High School in June of 2014. She will graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Studio Art with a concentration in Digital Design. Tanirah has been very instrumental and active on campus providing cultural activities for the Drew Community through her involvement with KUUMBA, the Pan-African Organization. Through her leadership the Drew Community experienced thought provoking programming that highlighted the rich culture and history of the African Diaspora. Tanirah was also very instrumental in bringing about a cultural theme house on campus called Umoja, which provided a safe space for students of color. Tanirah has been a peer counselor/tutor for the past three summers working with incoming first year EOF students, assisting them as they transitioned from a high school to a collegiate experience. This year, Tanirah was awarded the “Arts in Respect” internship. Through this internship, Tanirah will be working with high school and elementary school students giving them the opportunity to express themselves through various forms of art. These young individuals will be able to network in the community showcasing their work while being recognized for their talents. Tanirah hopes to start her own business and work in the health care advertising industry.
Essex County College

*85 award recipients in total

**Outstanding Academic Achievement**

- Summayyah Abdool
- Leighton R. Alarcon
- Shayline Aquino
- Yusuf Balogun
- Andrea Cumbicus
- Ramata Doumbia
- Abiola Falade
- Dawelky Gutierrez
- Danna J’ haad
- Allison Marshall-Morris
- Victor Olaniyi
- Raymalys Pena-Tejada
- Loretta Pontes Anaral
- Salmaa Shatout
- Hyasmine St. Hubert
- Melissa Yanez
- Victor Abril
- Solange P. Amaya Ortega
- Martha Arthur
- Alvin Conerly
- Faith Davidson
- Chelsea K. Dummett
- Tyisha N. Fortune
- Shaconda Hargrove
- Memunatu Leigh
- Valeria Nieto
- Kevin M. Ortega
- Elijah Perry
- Fredrick Richardson
- Genevieve E. Saint Ulysse
- Fawn Renee Stratton
- Alexia Young
- Safiatou Akondo
- Ebubechukwu Anemelu
- Maria Balarezo
- Nathalie Cruz
- Tiffani Donaldson
- Eghosa Ekenezar
- Shona A. Grimes
- Lilian Ibiang
- Soledad M. Llamocuro
- Christable Ofori
- Jennifer Padilla
- Shauntel Pierre
- Fabian Rodriguez-Rojas
- Merari Soto-Herrera
- Sergio Vargas

**Academic Achievement**

- Roxanne Barriffe
- Shoaib Chaudhry
- Teresa Cueva
- Abram Elnakady
- Rosario Guillermo
- Kabiru Ibrahim
- Savitrie Lekhai
- Lorena Napoleon
- Terry Owens
- Kevin Pilataxi
- Dayana Roldan
- Angane Walker
- Wallace S. Winstead
- Romario Burnett
- Mary Coles
- Jahniya Culver
- Shahadah Faulk
- Wed Hernandez
- Paulette Jones
- Rochelle McCoy
- Martha Navarrete
- Angeles Paredes
- Harold Ponce
- Fidline Sylvain
- Quaterio Williams
- Dayana Celi
- Veronica Coronel
- Maxia DuvalSaint
- Stephanie Guaman
- Bethania Hernandez
- Makafi Kromah
- Jerrell Murray
- Otuto Nwofor
- Wener Pierre
- Nathaniel Robinson
- Jean Tinialaou
- Sherry Williams

**Outstanding Achievement**

Hector Pomales
Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

**Fawn Renee Stratton**

Fawn is a remarkable person who has helped and inspired her EOF family at Essex County College. Upon her graduation at the end of the spring semester 2018, she will receive an Associate’s degree in Human and Social Services and plans to attend Rutgers University.

Born in Neptune, New Jersey and raised in Asbury Park, Fawn earned her high school diploma in 2007 upon graduation from Monmouth County Vocational School.

In the EOF program, Fawn has helped students in crisis, assisted in developing the EOF Department’s Women’s Group (motto: “Strong Women Lift Each Other Up”), and was one of the first participants in the EOF sponsored National Society of Student Leadership and Success. Originally as an intern, Fawn now works at the Greater Essex Counseling Services Agency, counseling people from all walks of life. Recently, they hired her as a permanent counselor.

Fawn has two major dreams for her future. One is to open her own rehabilitation facility and the second is to become a motivational speaker. “I hope to focus on people who are ex-offenders so they can learn to be productive and successful citizens in their communities. I am committed to ex-offenders, because I am an ex-offender myself, who suffered with substance abuse. My intention to become a motivational speaker is because I have a story to tell about how I kept coming to college in the mist of having Stage 3 (borderline Stage 4!) colon cancer. Today I am a survivor of it all. **EOF – Get with the Program!!!**
**Fairleigh Dickinson University- Florham Campus**

*15 award recipients in total*

**Outstanding Academic Achievement**
- Wendy Bonilla Acosta
- Brittany Gaviria
- Tamara Joseph
- Hamza Munhaf

**Academic Achievement**
- Bernard Amaechi
- Stephanie Castillo
- Kylee Cintron
- Hakeem Ibrahim
- Gabrielle Kissi
- Jin Sung Lee
- David Mejia
- Yaneyris Rodriguez
- Daniela Rojas
- David Shamburger

**Outstanding Achievement**
- Hakeem Ibrahim

**Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight**

**Hakeem Ibrahim**

Hakeem Ibrahim is from Linden, New Jersey and graduated from Linden High School in 2014. He has been an active participant with the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) program since the fall of 2014. Hakeem has been on the Dean’s List and earned Honors since the start of his college career. Hakeem will be inducted into Epsilon Omega Sigma Honor Society in 2018. With a major in Communication Studies, Hakeem would like to obtain his Master’s degree in Communications. Hakeem has been able to excel both academically and professionally. He is an independent, well-rounded student who always strives for success.

Hakeem is an exemplary student who appreciates the EOF program. He will often go above and beyond to support and assist staff and students. He has served as a resident assistant for the EOF summer program for the past two years. He is a role model who has served as a mentor to subsequent new incoming EOF freshmen. Hakeem also continues to be an inspiration to returning students by encouraging them to do well in school.
Outstanding Academic Achievement
Fahima Begum  Alex Henao  Shannen Llamas
Javier Munoz  Marie Newball  Bao Ngo

Academic Achievement
Hasona Bratcher  Bernieve Dabady  Kyra Dunham
Sergio Huerta  Heidy Taveras  Lisbeth Taveras
Samantha Velez

Outstanding Achievement
Montaniz Stills

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight
Montaniz Stills

Montaniz Stills was born and raised in North Trenton, New Jersey. He graduated from Trenton Central High School, Main Campus and will be graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from Fairleigh Dickinson University-Metro Campus. Montaniz remained active throughout his college career and was treasurer of FDU’s Naptural Club. He has worked with university departments and programs, including EOF, in their mission to transition high school students into well-equipped college freshmen. He serves as a mentor to his peers and consistently provides guidance that benefits and encourages students to network outside their concentration or field. Montaniz believes in community service and has donated his time on the weekends to teach the FDU community about the complex concepts of stock trade, market analysis, and the various aspects of Wall Street. Montaniz has proven to be an excellent problem solver. As an example, he identified the lack of a musical culture on the Metropolitan Campus and created an initiative known as BASS. BASS stands for Building a Syncopated Sound that helps generate engaging activities utilizing music to create academic stress-free environments. After college, Montaniz plans to join the military and pursue a Master’s degree in Computer Science with a concentration in Finance. Montaniz is looking forward to working with several different financial firms where he can shadow CFOs and Analysis Researchers in an effort to become even more knowledgeable before he launches his own business and fulfills his entrepreneurial endeavors as a Financial Engineer.
Felician College

*7 award recipients in total

Academic Achievement
Joycelyn Dede Adjabeng Afriyie  Silenny Basora  Dawn Brown
Mildred Otchere

Outstanding Achievement
Yuranni Algarin

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Silenny Basora

Silenny Basora will proudly graduate from Felician University in May 2018. She grew up in North Bergen, New Jersey and attended North Bergen High School. She will be receiving her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree and proceed to become a state certified Registered Nurse. Her hard work and studious attitude has allowed her to be a named to the Dean’s List for numerous semesters and she is a current member of the National Student Nurses’ Association. She has always aimed for success and has high aspirations for the future.

Silenny’s professional goals include beginning her career in the Medical Surgical department of a hospital. Her love for education has prompted her to plan for an additional degree as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist. Her devotion and passion for a career in Nursing has enabled her to break barriers and persevere as being a female minority and first in her family to graduate from college. Silenny’s heartfelt interest, dedication and intelligence will shine as she begins her career. She is destined to succeed in all her future endeavors.
Outstanding Academic Achievement
Kujtesa Klobucista

Academic Achievement
Leyra Ayala                Shaylah Jackson                Bianca Jenjins
Ayanna Martin             Sylvie St.Pierre               Adoley Thedison
Kristen Walker

Outstanding Achievement
Adoley Thedison

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Adoley Thedison

Adoley is the first child in her family to be born in the United States. Her family is originally from Ghana. She was born on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. Her family relocated to Newark, New Jersey shortly after the birth of her younger sister. As the first sibling born in the US, Adoley had to experience everything and pave the way for the rest of the children in the family. Later, her family moved to Riverside, New Jersey where she attended Burlington County Institute of Technology and graduated with a certificate in Culinary Arts. The success that she experienced as a high school student sparked a new found self-confidence and she set her sights on attending college.

Today, Adoley is a senior at Georgian Court University and has been very involved within the campus community. She is a part of the Women in Leadership Development (WILD) Program, serving as a participant and later as a peer mentor to the new students in the program. She is also a member of the TRIO-Student Support Services program, the Mercy Collegiate Society, and Chi Alpha Epsilon (XAE) Honor Society. She also serves as the president of the Black Student Union and Chi Alpha Epsilon.

Adoley will graduate in May 2018 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. After graduation, she plans to attend The Chicago School of Professional Psychology to earn a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology. Her goal is to become a counseling psychologist and open her own private practice.
Hudson County Community College

*15 award recipients in total

**Outstanding Academic Achievement**

Rano Babadjanova  
Tatianna Jackson  
Sarah Smyth

Wayman Davis  
Mary Machado  
Bianelly Tellez

De’Asia Gore  
Tulsi Patel  
Bryant Wexler

**Academic Achievement**

Berny Hinojosa  

Markee Smith

**Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight**

**Tytianna Jackson**

Tytianna Jackson was born and raised in Jersey City, New Jersey. After graduating from James J. Ferris High School, Ms. Jackson participated in the Educational Opportunity Fund Summer Program which led to a devotion of service to both HCCC and EOF. She earned her Associate’s degree in the fall 2017, graduating with honors and a grade point average of 3.57. In spring 2018, Ms. Jackson continued her educational journey at Drew University where she is pursuing a Bachelor’s degree in Mathematics. Her goal is to earn a Master’s degree and a Doctorate in Mathematics and enter a career as a Mathematician conducting research.

Ms. Jackson has repeatedly demonstrated a strong academic record. She has been on the Dean’s List in the fall 2016, spring 2017, and the fall 2017 semesters, thus, earning a membership in the coveted Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society. A natural leader, Ms. Jackson was also inducted to the National Society of Leadership and Success in the fall 2016 semester. She was pivotal in the creation of a women’s group named *Women of Ambition, Vitality, and Education* (W.A.V.E). Ms. Jackson was a student leader in the HCCC Alliance of Educational Opportunity Fund Students (AESNJ) and worked as a mathematics tutor in the EOF summer program. Without doubt, she has represented the true essence of EOF.
Kean University

*46 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement
Karissa Brand 
Stephanie Eordanidis 
Jaron Holmes 
Laura Lopez 
Zhane Oxner 
Daniela Rengifo 
Tino Cook 
Ezekiel Gavieres 
Lemoan Horace 
Stephanie Martin 
Jessica Patino 
Natalie Tapia
Daisy Delvalle 
Kiran Hashim 
Danielle Jackson 
Enteria Oladapo 
Allison Plaza 
Justina Vicloso

Academic Achievement
Jamira Ali 
Jason Bolton 
Olivia Felder 
Elijah Head 
Qwahneshia McKinley 
Nyessence Oliver 
Jessica Salas 
David Taveras 
Payne Vazquez
Ivan Baquerizo 
Ebony Brinson 
Tanaera Green 
Faria Iqbal 
Leidy Narvaez Caicedo 
John Piedra 
Nehal Selim 
De Luna Thomas 
Tahjane Whitsett
Analicia Bastas 
Tykirah Daniels 
Nury Guzman 
Courtney Martinez 
Jessica Narvaez-Medina 
Priscilla Robinson 
Myra Tatlonghari 
Thomas Urbanski 
Zhane Williams-McKoy

Outstanding Achievement
Al-Mujeeb Danmole

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Shalemar Thompson

Shalemar Thompson is a former resident of Franklin Township, New Jersey where he attended and graduated from Franklin High School. A native from the state of Mississippi, Shalemar and his parents migrated to New Jersey in search of better employment opportunities for the parents and better educational opportunities for Shalemar and his siblings. At an early age, Shalemar was taught Sign-Language and he became proficient in communicating in Sign as well as a command of the spoken English Language. The skill of using and understanding Sign Language was very important to this family because both parents have various degrees of hearing loss. Starting as a child and continuing to adulthood, Shalemar had to accompany his parents to places of business and to medical appointments to provide Sign language skills as he interpreted conversations between the hearing and the limited hearing world. Since entering college, Shalemar has been faced with many personal and financial challenges, but he has always overcome these challenges and used the experiences as a lesson learned. Shalemar will graduate in May 2018 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. Currently, Shalemar is a member of the Psychology Club, the Pan–African Student Union and the Alliance of Educational Opportunities Fund Students of New Jersey – Kean University Chapter. In his junior year of college, Shalemar was elected as the Statewide AESNJ Representative, a position that he held for one term. Immediately after graduation he will continue to work with geriatric patients at a senior center. His future plan is to begin working on a Master of Arts degree in Psychology from Kean University in the fall semester of 2019.
*9 award recipients in total

**Outstanding Academic Achievement**

Kathia Garcia Perez  
Onyinye Nnajiofor  
Ayesha Rahman  
Alexandra Quaye  
Fatima Rahman

**Academic Achievement**

Denys Bengizu  
Franchescoly Deleon  
Denise Mosquera

**Outstanding Achievement**

Yael Fisher

**Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight**

**Yael Fisher**

Yael Fisher was born and raised in Trenton, New Jersey and graduated from Trenton Central High School. She is an Exercise Science major and will receive her Associate’s degree this spring. She is the president of the Educational Opportunity Fund Club at Mercer County Community College (MCCC) and has earned Dean’s List honors twice. Ms. Fisher has organized and assisted with numerous events and major projects for both the EOF Club and the Educational Opportunity Fund program. She has always been a very active participant and volunteer. She will be transferring to Montclair State University after graduation. At Montclair, she intends to major in Athletic Training. She enjoys sports whether participating or just watching. Upon completion of her Master’s degree goal, Yael plans to pursue a career as an athletic trainer at the high school and collegiate levels. She is passionate about supporting athletes, nurturing them and most of all keeping them healthy. Yael is presently interning with the training staff at MCCC.
## Outstanding Academic Achievement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ana Alarcon</th>
<th>Alejandra Carbajal</th>
<th>Analis Nunez</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Roberts</td>
<td>Katsiaryna Sikorskaya</td>
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## Academic Achievement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Muffadal Hussain</th>
<th>Devin Jefferson</th>
<th>Ruchi Khatri</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rosanny Nunez</td>
<td>Michelle Ramirez-Cruz</td>
<td>Julia Rocker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marie Rocker</td>
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</tbody>
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## Outstanding Achievement

Peter Conde

## Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

**Ana Alarcon**

Ana Alarcon resides in Perth Amboy, New Jersey. She graduated from Perth Amboy High School in June 2015 and started Middlesex County College as a participant in the EOF program that fall 2015. Ana will graduate with an Associate of Science degree in Engineering Science this May 2018. Ms. Alarcon has the highest GPA of all of MCC/EOF graduates this semester. She was named to the Dean’s List for the fall 2015, spring 2016, and fall 2016 semesters. She is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa (Upsilon Gamma Chapter) Honor Society and a member of the STEM club. As a woman with a strong academic record in a STEM major, she serves as a great role model for other students. Upon graduation, Ms. Alarcon will transfer to Rutgers University - School of Engineering to complete her Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering.
**Monmouth University**

*29 award recipients in total*

**Distinguished Scholar**
Richard Felicetti

**Outstanding Academic Achievement**
Caroline Alvarado  
David Hernandez  
Selena Ortiz  
Abdullah Rashid  
Jennifer Connely  
Daniella Leon-Garcia  
Jazmin Paulino  
Ava McClendon  
Ava McClelland  
Jessica French  
Kelsey Connelly  
Ava McClelland  
Alexandra Rao  

**Academic Achievement**
Jessica Arias  
Bridget Garay  
Marasia Laster  
Vianey R. Rosas  
Christabel Tulashie  
Malcolm Wilson  
Emely Diaz  
Faith Harvey  
Joy Morgan  
Kaitlyn Sisombath  
Emerald Urnstead  
Jordan Finger  
Jihad Johnson  
Karina Pedragon  
Angel Soto  
Erica Walsh

**Outstanding Achievement**
Ba’shawn Micken

**Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight**

**Austin Skelton**

Austin Skelton is a member of the Class of 2018 at Monmouth University. He is from Fords, New Jersey and graduated from Woodbridge High School in 2014. Austin will graduate from the university in May 2018 earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science with a concentration in Legal Studies and a minor in History.

During his time at Monmouth University, Austin has had significant academic and leadership accomplishments. He has been a member of the Student Government Association for the past four years and served as the organization’s president in his junior year. He has also been the president of the Pre-Law Club the past two years and is the founder and president of the Club Basketball team. Austin is currently the vice president of his senior class and a member of the Mock Trial team as well as a lead Global Education mentor. He recently returned from Haiti over winter break, completing his third service trip for the Global Experiences program at Monmouth. During his sophomore and junior year he traveled to Nicaragua with the same program. He studied abroad in Florence, Italy during the summer of 2017 and was also an Orientation leader, student ambassador and member of Alpha Kappa Psi.
Austin was named to the Dean’s List three times throughout his academic career - fall of 2014, spring of 2015 and fall of 2016. He is a member of several honor and leadership societies, including Chi Alpha Epsilon, Order of Omega, Omicron Delta Kappa and Pi Sigma Alpha. Austin was the winner of the 2017-18 PNC Barry Gillman Humanitarian Scholarship. After Austin graduates, he plans to attend law school at either Villanova, American University, Boston University or Seton Hall.
Montclair State University

*42 award recipients in total

**Outstanding Academic Achievement**

Jennifer Aladi  
Christopher Dixon  
Sonnie Kollie  
Dan Petreeko  
Maria Solines  
Najja Couch  
Haja Dukureh  
Harry Mejia  
Jasmin Rodriguez  
Shanice Williams  

**Academic Achievement**

Yousef Al-Khudairi  
Ja-Nice Arnold  
Jasmine Boyer  
Sierra Karina Cruz  
Sara Elmorsy  
Arleen Frias-Arias  
Bruce Hunter  
Luis Lopez Wei  
Mark McPherson  
Kimberly Rosales  
Sarah Takyi  
Viviana Toro Acosta  
Gina Vargas  

**Outstanding Achievement**

Dominic Bowman

**Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight**

**Haja Dukureh**

Montclair State University’s EOF program nominates Haja Dukureh for the EOF 2018 Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight. Haja has been an excellent student who symbolizes what EOF is meant to accomplish in the lives of its scholars. A native of East Orange, New Jersey, Haja attended Newark Tech High School. She began her journey as an EOF Scholar in the summer of 2015 as a member of the Class of 2019. However, Haja will graduate in May 2018 with a Bachelors of Arts degree in Family Science and Human Development with a concentration in Family Services, a minor in Social Work and a certificate in Child Advocacy.

Haja has made the Dean’s List every semester since 2015 and currently has a 3.72 cumulative GPA. She was inducted into Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society during the spring 2017 semester. Haja is active in the following campus activities: Executive Board Secretary of Ladies First, peer mentor of the EOF Women’s Leadership Academy and peer leader during the EOF Summer Program. Haja also participated in the EOF Advocacy campaign by writing a letter and testifying before state officials about the positive impact of EOF.

After graduation, Haja plans to attend graduate school and pursue a Masters of Social Work degree. She has been accepted to the following graduate school programs: Fordham University, Montclair State University and NYU’s Silver School of Social Work. Haja’s long-term aspirations include working in the field of social work in a management/leadership capacity.
Outstanding Academic Achievement
Tracey Armah  Rebekah Madrid

Academic Achievement
Emily Cruz  Robert Kearney, Jr.  Michelle Valencia

Outstanding Achievement
Rebekah Madrid

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Rebekah Madrid

As a resident of Voorhees, New Jersey, Rebekah Madrid attended Eastern Regional High School. Performing outstandingly with a grade point average of 86.90, an SAT Score of 1200, and a serious interest in becoming a physician, Rebekah was accepted to Montclair State University through the Health Careers Program.

Currently completing undergraduate requirements as a Biology major, with a minor in Chemistry, Rebekah's cumulative grade point average is 3.88. She will graduate Magna Cum Laude in May of 2018 and certainly represents the spirit and intent of the Health Careers Program. She has been the recipient of the Dean's List (entry to present), inducted into the Sigma Alpha Lambda Honors Society, awarded many scholarships, and taken advantage of MSU's Science Honors Innovation Program. Rebekah was selected from a competitive pool of applicants, nation-wide, to serve as a summer 2017 intern with the National Cancer Institute's Introduction to Cancer Research Careers Program (ICRC) - Bethesda, Maryland where she was privileged to work with mentor Dr. Christine Heske who continues to conduct aggressive and exciting research examining "Novel Therapeutic Agents in Pediatric Sarcomas". Rebekah has also participated in the summer 2015 Medical Dental Education Program at the University of Texas Health Science Center (Houston) and is currently fulfilling research obligations with Dr. Ann DiLorenzo, MSU Biology professor, who conducts on-going research examining "Toxicological Effect of Heavy Metals on Human Lung Cells". Rebekah has been a supplemental instructor for Principles of Biology I and Genetics, among other stellar accomplishments.

In addition to her rigorous course schedule, Rebekah serves as an admissions ambassador through the Undergraduate Admissions Office, was employed as a teaching assistant with MSU's Ben Samuel Children's Center and held dual positions through the Health Careers summer program 2016. Proficient in Chemistry and Pre-calculus, she has been a peer Basic Chemistry
and Applied Pre-calculus tutor while also serving as a community assistant at Gibson Hall dormitory. She is currently employed as a tutor with MSU’s Academic Success Center and is an active member and former treasurer of the MSU Global Medical Brigades chapter.

Rebekah is submitting applications to post-baccalaureate programs at medical schools. She is interested in practicing pediatric gastroenterology.
New Jersey City University

* 41 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement
Akouvi Amouzou          Rutvij Antala          Perla Avila
Heli Bharucha           Fares Botrous          Jose Cantarero
Nyrva Colin-Figueroa    Tanny Cruz            Andre Cummings
Destiny Dunbar          Ashley Haynes          Spencer Julu
Bryan Perez             Jennifer Ponton        Cesarina Valenzuela
Yoskathelin Vasquez

Academic Achievement
Catalina Albizu         Jairus Allen           Shanya Felder
Nayeli Garcia           Tiffany Holmes         Kenia Marquez
Loany Martel            Christopher Paulino     Valerie Pinchinat
Viergeline Privat       Ixzally Quiroz         Sindy Rivera
Alberi Rosario Capellan Amber Szper           Shelly Threatt
Miriam Valencia

Outstanding Achievement
Rosemary Guerrero

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Sindy Rivera

Born and raised in Orange, New Jersey, Sindy Rivera graduated from West Orange High School in 2014 and immediately started her college journey with the Opportunity Scholarship Program’s (OSP/EOF) Summer Academy at New Jersey City University (NJCU). As a full-time student majoring in Finance, she balanced academics along with the responsibilities that come with helping her mother raise six younger siblings while also working 30 - 35 hours a week. She is proud that she has been a driving force to push all of her siblings to graduate from high school.

In her sophomore year, Sindy was inducted into the Epsilon Eta chapter of Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society and served as the chapter’s vice president and treasurer. She later joined NJCU’s chapter of the Alliance of Educational Opportunity Fund Students of New Jersey as its secretary. In 2017, she, along with the executive board, hosted a high school conference at NJCU. As the public relations officer for the university’s Finance Management Association, Sindy organized a trip to the New York Stock Exchange for about 20 NJCU students. All of this hard work led Sindy to become the first in her family to graduate from college. She plans to pursue a master’s degree in Financial Analysis and travel the world.
New Jersey Institute of Technology

*5 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement
Ester Calderon

Anthony Morales

Academic Achievement
Kevin Enriquez

Isabel Santos

Outstanding Achievement
Tracey Maguina

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Ester Calderon

Ester Calderon is a resident of Linden, New Jersey and a graduate of Union County Technical High School. She will receive a Bachelor of Science degree from the New Jersey Institute of Technology in May 2018 in Applied Mathematics. Her cumulative grade point average is 3.84.

Ester has been named to the Dean's List for her entire tenure at NJIT. She is a member of the Albert Dorman Honors College and Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society since April 2015 and she was inducted into the National Society of Collegiate Scholars in October 2015 where she served as the vice president for one year. Additionally, Ester received the Young Latina Leadership Scholarship of the State of New Jersey in June 2015.

Ester served as the NJIT student representative to the State Student Advisory Committee of the New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) and chaired that committee from June 2016 through April 2017. She participated on a four-person team in the EXTREEMS-QED research program in math under the guidance of Dr. Eliza Michalopoulou, Associate Professor, NJIT Department of Mathematical Science. In that program Ester studied how to detect submarines in shallow water. Finally, Ester received the Rising Star Award from the New Jersey Business and Industry Association: Women Business Leaders Forum in September 2017.

Ester currently works in the Admission Office as a lead ambassador providing tours for prospective students and their parents. She loves serving and giving to others. If she is not at school or at home, she can be found teaching children and teens at her church. Ester has been the treasurer of the Knitting and Crocheting Club which crafts hats and blankets for those in need. In the future, she plans to pursue a career as a Secondary Mathematics teacher.
Ocean County College

*20 award recipients in total

**Distinguished Scholar**
Alissa DeLeo  Cassandra Gonzalez  Brandon Guarini

**Outstanding Academic Achievement**
James Cascio  Nisauris Collado  Emily Figueroa Boyer
Robert George  Jorge Gonzalez  Derreck O’Neil
Wesley Tanner

**Academic Achievement**
Gabriel Awolola  Joylynn Boyer  Jacob Collins
Celenia Hernandez  Antoniette Latham  Alexandra Morales
Sean Newman  Diana Parra  Jason Watson

**Outstanding Achievement**
Jennifer Mergogey

**Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight**

*Cassandra Gonzalez*

Cassandra Gonzalez is from Lakewood, New Jersey and a graduate of Lakewood High School, Home of the Piners! Cassandra first attended Ocean County College (OCC) as a high school senior and participant in SOL, the Santander Universities, OCC and Lakewood partnership.

She has been an outstanding student, carrying a 4.0 grade point average which has qualified her for membership in the OCC EOF Honor Society, Chi Alpha Epsilon. The program staff has also nominated her as their choice for the EOF Graduating Seniors Distinguished Scholar Award.

As an EOF program participant she has maintained good standing by participating in regular advising, tutoring support and Whole Life Learning workshops. Cassandra also facilitated our incoming EOF student program, First Experience, as a peer leader in summer - August 2017 and did so with expertise. She has been a role model for new and incoming EOF students.

Cassandra is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and the organization’s Vice President of Administration. She is a member of the NJ Stars Club, a student worker for Student Success and a Trailblazers OCC Leadership Development participant. In these roles, she contributed to the establishment of the college’s Helping Hands Food Pantry. Additionally, you will see Cassandra’s smiling face in the newest OCC promo video.

Cassandra Gonzalez is a name and a face to remember. Greatness lives within her. She will graduate in May 2018 with an Associate of Science degree in Mathematics and General Studies. Cassandra dreams of one day being an instructor.
Distinguished Scholar
Katherine Tapia

Outstanding Academic Achievement
Layla Abdush-Shaheed
Dayanira Aguilar
Adrienne Dollar
Alexandra Sevillano

Academic Achievement
Jessica Coyoti
Daisy De Dios
Maria Moreno
Brandon Trastoy
Ananda Tyminski

Outstanding Achievement
Jarryn Solis

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Brandon Trastoy

Brandon Trastoy is from Paterson, New Jersey. He attended the JFK High School - STEM Academy. Since entering Passaic County Community College, Brandon has been a campus leader who fully embodied campus involvement. He received recognition as the Most Active Member of the Alliance of EOF (Educational Opportunity Fund) Students of New Jersey (PCCC chapter) in his freshmen year and stepped into club leadership his second year as the organization’s vice-president. In this role, he has been tasked with speaking to groups, leading projects and inspiring other EOF students to be involved in the organization. Mr. Trastoy is also a very active Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) student. His STEM engagement permitted him to have an invigorating career development experience at NASA’s Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio in the spring of 2017. The NASA exposure expanded Brandon’s view of his chosen major and what his impact can be in his field of study.

Brandon inspires his peers academically. He has been an EOF tutor for three semesters in Math and Writing. He will graduate with an Associate in Science degree in Applied Computer Science in spring 2018. He plans to transfer to a four year college as a double major in Computer Science and Neuroscience. He aspires to develop devices that can interpret brain activity.
Outstanding Academic Achievement
Gisell Collazos

Academic Achievement
Alana Pajuelo
Ana Rosano

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Ana Rosano

Ana Rosano of West New York, New Jersey is an International Business major and an Accounting minor with a 3.4 GPA. She is an active member of Chi Alpha Epsilon and Phi Beta Delta honor societies. At Ramapo, Ana has been active in several organizations and activities, including Chi Alpha Epsilon and the International Business Club. She has been president of Chi Alpha Epsilon since the fall of 2014 until stepping down this semester. She currently volunteers as an active member, assisting the E-board with establishing a platform under new leadership. Ana has also been involved in off-campus activities and organizations as well, including tutoring students from West New York Public schools. She has worked closely with the EOF office since the summer of 2014. She was a supplemental instructor for Mathematics for the EOF Summer Program. She became a student leader during her sophomore year and was promoted to supervisor her senior year. She currently works as an EOF office assistant. Her goal in life is to travel to intriguing destinations where she can experience and embrace new cultures, add experience to her resume, and learn more about herself by testing her ability to adapt to different situations. She has travelled to South Korea and China and looks forward to adding Ghana to the list this spring. Following graduation in May 2018, she hopes to obtain a position in the Business Industry. Her future goal is to attend graduate school to obtain a Master’s degree in Global Trade at New York University.
Raritan Valley Community College

*6 award recipients in total

**Distinguished Scholar**
Amanda Sullivan
Olivia Smutek

**Outstanding Academic Achievement**
Diego Salguero
Sara Dalen

**Academic Achievement**
Jocelyne Munoz-Campos

**Outstanding Achievement**
Lisbeth Hernandez Figueroa

**Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight**

**Lisbeth Hernandez Figueroa**

Lisbeth Hernandez Figueroa is a first generation student from Bound Brook, New Jersey. Throughout her time at Bound Brook High School, Lisbeth had no plans to attend college until she took the initiative to speak with RVCC recruiters and learned more about the support services offered through the EOF program. She then applied, was interviewed and accepted. Lisbeth graduated from Raritan Valley Community College with an Associate of Science degree in General Business at the end of fall 2017. During her time at RVCC she became an exceptional student, making the Dean’s List several times and becoming an inductee to Alpha Beta Gamma International Business Honor Society. Lisbeth was an EOF Orientation student leader for two consecutive summers and built great relationships with each incoming class of EOF freshmen. She was also a work-study employee for Career Services and assisted during the college’s development and initiation of a special professional mentorship program with Sanofi, Inc. Lisbeth is attending Rutgers University in New Brunswick and pursuing a degree in Human Resource Management with a minor in Business Administration. Once completing her Bachelor’s degree, Lisbeth hopes to work for Raritan Valley Community College again as an Academic Advisor or another position within EOF. She plans to continue her education by getting a Master’s degree. Her ultimate goal is to give back to the college and EOF program that gave her so much!
Rider University

*18 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement
Yaslyn Lora
Chelsea Simpkins
Sei-Jung Oh
Yesenia Olmedo
Samantha Watkins

Academic Achievement
Aleyja Aguirre
Brianna Barrafato
Isaiah Britt
Jelissa Cedeno
Melissa Cunningham
Zarefah Farraj-Ahmad
Katie Koczon
Gabrielle Magwood
Jessica Mandelbaum
Rachel Morales
Khalil Witt
Jayme-Lyn Zeilman

Outstanding Achievement
Shariq Marshall

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Gabrielle Magwood

Gabrielle Magwood is a member of Rider’s graduating class of 2018. She is a Psychology major and will be graduating cum laude with a Bachelors of Arts degree in Psychology with a certificate in Leadership. She grew up in Maplewood, New Jersey but currently resides in Millburn. Gabrielle graduated in 2013 from Ridge High School in Basking Ridge.

Some of the roles that Gabrielle has served while an EOF student at Rider University include: Diversity Committee chair for the Student Government Association; a member of the Tri-Partite Committee on Minority Affairs, participant in the Leadership Development Program, and an inductee to Rider’s chapter of Rho Alpha Sigma RA Honor Society. She has also been a community assistant for the Residence Life department; two-time peer counselor for the EOF Summer Intensive Program; and a student assistant in the English and Educational Opportunity Program departments. This semester, Gabrielle is also completing her Psychology capstone as a Psychology intern at Children’s Specialized Hospital in Hamilton, New Jersey. Some achievements that Gabrielle has acquired over her four years at Rider include being inducted into Chi Alpha Epsilon and the Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society. After graduation, Gabrielle plans to attend graduate school in the fall to obtain her Master’s degree in School Counseling, with the intention of becoming an Elementary School Counselor.
Rider University – Westminster Choir Campus

*1 award recipients in total

Outstanding Achievement
Chelsea Simpkins

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Chelsea Simpkins

Chelsea Simpkins is from Salem, New Jersey. She is a graduate of Pennsville Memorial High School. Chelsea will graduate from Westminster Choir College of Rider University in the spring of 2018 with a Bachelor of Arts in Music degree. Chelsea has had a stellar academic career at Westminster, having made the Dean’s List for four semesters. Her future plans are entrepreneurial. She plans to open a music studio for singers and composers to foster creative growth.
Rowan College at Burlington County

*19 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award
Clayton Cooper
Kevin Emmons
Evin Lacy

Jamieka Daniels
Isabella Gigliello
Yelaika Lopez

Allison Elias
Andria Hoffman
Simran Rangi

Academic Achievement Award
Katherine Arce
Tajhay Felder
Yasmin Mushtaq

Chaquenia Bearfield
Allan Godwin, Jr.
Dennis Osei Acheampong

Savanna Bennett
Anthony Lavala
Mahnoor Qaiser

Outstanding Achievement Award
Shek-Ahmed Jarrett

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Mahnoor Qaiser

Colin Powell once said, “A dream doesn’t become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination and hard work.” This is one way to describe Mahnoor Qaiser. She represents not only leadership through her actions within her community, but also an inspiration that anything you dream of can be possible.

Mahnoor is a graduate of Burlington County Institute of Technology and started her academic journey at Rowan College at Burlington County with the EOF summer institute in August 2015. She did not realize that the people she would meet in EOF would become family and that her experiences in EOF would be worth far more than the stipends. A full time student, Mahnoor was active in campus organizations, including the Psychology and Human Services Clubs, Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society and the National Society of Leadership and Success. Club membership gave her the opportunity to gain experience in leadership, helping in her community and touching upon subjects many wouldn’t talk about.

Mahnoor graduated in fall 2017 and transferred to Rowan University. She is majoring in Psychology with a concentration in Behavioral Services for Children and Families. Her coursework will prepare her to become a Board Certified Assistant Behavioral Analyst. She plans to attain a Master of Arts degree by 2020 to become a Behavioral Analyst and work with children who have been diagnosed with autism.

Mahnoor’s tenacity and willingness to persevere shows a determined young woman who will fulfill her dream to make a difference in her community. And, Mahnoor’s EOF legacy will live on. Her brother is now also enrolled in the program!
Outstanding Academic Achievement
Jordan Austin  Carrie Carter  Gianna Cianfrani
Joanna D’Amato  Joshua Marrero  Hannah McCrane
Michelle Nespoli  Brianna Riggio  Cassandra Taylor

Academic Achievement
Merve Colak  Mark Gallaher  Barry Hemphill
Michael Jacobs  Michael Maldonado  Sabrina Pantoja
Taylor Schemeley

Outstanding Achievement
Taheem Murray

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight
Taheem Murray

Taheem Murray resides in Bridgeton, New Jersey and graduated from Millville Senior High School. Taheem will graduate this spring 2018 with an Associate’s degree in Psychology. While at RCGC, Taheem was the president of the Student Government Association where he led the student body in various fundraising events and activities. He also participated in fundraising events throughout campus in the fall of 2017 to raise money for the victims of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. Taheem is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society. Taheem has been a volunteer at a nonprofit project known as the Salem Family Success Center for eight years. He has assisted at the Center with planning community events, facilitating clothing drives and collections for the food pantry. Upon graduation from RCGC, he plans to continue his education at Temple University in Psychology. Mr. Murray aspires to become a Child Psychologist. One of Taheem’s lifelong goals is to travel overseas to do humanitarian work in health care and education.
Rowan University - Camden

*9 award recipients in total

**Outstanding Academic Achievement**
Jasmine Burgos          Tri T. Nguyen          Tri. Tam Nguyen
Yayliana Santa-Mota     Kubra Tas

**Academic Achievement**
Thien Do                      Jose Fernandez       Tam Nguyen

**Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight**

**Tri Tam Nguyen**

Tri Tam Nguyen is originally from Vietnam. His family moved to the United States five years ago so that he could earn a better education. Tri had graduated from high school in Vietnam. Upon arriving in the United States, Tri studied for tests such as the SAT in order to attend college. Tri’s major is in Civil and Environmental Engineering. With an outstanding academic performance, Tri has been able to consistently earn a GPA that placed him on the Dean’s List for the past four years. Tri is also a member of Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society and Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society. In addition, Tri is also involved with activities on both the Rowan Camden and Rowan Glassboro campuses including community service projects, peer tutoring and helping aspiring EOF students complete their college common application. Tri served in this capacity in order to give back to the program that has supported him since the first day of college. Tri has also received Excellence Awards for his hard work from various engineering organizations such as the American Council of Engineering Companies - New Jersey Section, the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Delaware Valley Engineers Week Committee. These acknowledgements have encouraged Tri to move forward and grow in his career. For the next five years, Tri plans to earn his Master’s degree in Engineering Management and his Professional Engineer license. He hopes to professionally arrive at a point where he can contribute his work back to the community.
Rowan University - Glassboro

*23 award recipients in total

Distinguished Scholar
Somer Knisely

Outstanding Academic Achievement
Sabrina Bruccoleri
Jael Vaquero

Outstanding Achievement
Ishraqual Wara

Outstanding Academic Achievement
Somer Knisely
Calla Travia

Outstanding Academic Achievement
Sabrina Bruccoleri
Keesha Fuqua
Stephanie Klingler
Jael Vaquero
Nyjeer Wesley

Academic Achievement
Kathryn Grant
Emely Perez

Outstanding Achievement
Keesha Fuqua
Keesha Fuqua
Keesha Fuqua

Outstanding Achievement
Keesha Fuqua
Keesha Fuqua
Keesha Fuqua

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Nyjeer Wesley

Nyjeer Wesley is a resident of Neptune, New Jersey where he graduated from Neptune High School in June of 2014. Nyjeer will receive two degrees this spring, one for Sociology and the other for Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management. Nyjeer has had many achievements throughout his undergraduate experience. He was named to the Dean’s List and served as a peer mentor for the Dr. Harley E. Flack Mentoring Program. He has been the vice president of the Equal Opportunity Fund Student Council and served as an Interpersonal Skills counselor for the 2017 EOP Pre-College Institute. Nyjeer broadened his horizons by attending the Pre-Medical Urban Leaders Summer Enrichment Program (PULSE) at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University and earned acknowledgement as the student “Most Improved” at the end of the 6 week intense experience. Nyjeer attests that PULSE was the greatest challenge he has ever faced, but that the program gave him confidence that he can do anything he puts his mind to.

Nyjeer’s most significant accomplishments came as a research assistant. Through this position, Nyjeer was able to publish two papers, a book chapter, and is currently in the process of having his first book (co-authored) published. Nyjeer gives credit for his accomplishment to Allah and his biological parents, Nikki Rogers and Layander Muhammad. He is also grateful for the guidance he has received from Dr. Sadler and Dr. Miller, along with the Achieving Success through Collaboration, Engagement, and Determination program. Nyjeer hopes to secure a job at the Monmouth County Office of Emergency Management to assist underprivileged and low-income communities of color prepare for disasters.
**Rutgers University - Camden**

*14 award recipients in total*

**Distinguished Scholar**
Janae Felton  
Mimi Mincer

**Outstanding Academic Achievement**
Nohamaly Cosme  
Christine Kratchwell  
Lilliana Sanchez
Cydnee Simmons  
Claudia Sunkett

**Academic Achievement**
Mohammed Karim  
Nawsheen Promee  
Aisha Rehman
Tinay White

**Outstanding Achievement**
Aisha Rehman

**Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight**

**Mohammed Rezaul Karim**

Mohammed Rezaul Karim is a first-generation college student. He was born in Bangladesh and moved to the United States in 2001. After coming to the United States, he faced many obstacles and challenges due to his language barrier, learning a new culture, and leaving behind family and friends.

As a teenager, Mohammed soon realized how hard both of his parents worked. They worked long hours with low wages to make a living. Since his mother and father spoke limited English, he was responsible for many things in the family. He was the eldest of his siblings, two brothers and two sisters, who he loved very much. This inspired him to strive forward and achieve all he could in school and life - he wanted a better future for them and for himself.

After graduating from Overbrook Senior High School in 2013 in the top ten percent of his class, Mohammed entered Rutgers University - Camden to study engineering. He planned to stay two years in Camden and transfer to New Brunswick to complete the engineering program. After seeing the opportunities that Rutgers - Camden offered for business, he was convinced to stay and pursue a double major in Accounting and Management and sit for the CPA certification. While doing so, he was given an opportunity to do an internship with one of the Big Four Accounting Firms, KPMG LLC. After completing the internship, the firm offered Mr. Karim a full-time position as an Audit Associate in their Philadelphia office upon his graduation. He completed his Bachelor of Science in Accounting and Management in January 2018. This August, Mohammed
plans to start his full-time profession as an auditor for KPMG. His next hurdle before becoming a full-time associate is to receive his CPA certification.

Attending college close to home allowed Mohammed to continue his involvement in the community and be a part of numerous volunteer activities. He serves as a 3rd grade Sunday school teacher at GCLEA as well as the president of a sub-chapter youth group where he coordinates and helps organize weekly activities and programs. He also works with other social outreach organizations to make a difference in the lives of those in need. He loves to volunteer. Mohammed has found it is self-fulfilling to do something good for others and not expect anything in return.
Rutgers University Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy

*5 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement
Sonal Agarwal

Academic Achievement
Hamza Sarwar Foram Vyas

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Hamza Sarwar

Hamza Sarwar is a graduating senior completing a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy. Hamza was born and raised in Old Bridge, New Jersey, where he graduated high school in 2012. With the support of the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Program, Hamza joined Rutgers University and has excelled academically with three appearances on the Dean’s List and induction to the Chi Alpha Epsilon (XAE) Honors Society. He has served as Medicinal Chemistry tutor for second-year professional students.

To Hamza, the EOF program has served as a platform to develop essential skills needed to progress in the Pharmacy program and become a competent healthcare provider one day. Hamza credits his personal and academic success to the support and guidance he has received from the very first day of college. Some of the program participation advantages he believes included time management workshops, access to tutoring services, and opportunities to communicate and lead discussions among peers. Perhaps most important to him, however, was the EOF program’s large support system filled with students and mentors to network and collaborate with, and rely on in times of personal and professional challenges. Hamza’s plans after graduation include completing a Global Medical Information fellowship within the joint Rutgers University/Sanofi Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowship Program as he hopes to interact with various healthcare professionals to impact and improve patients’ lives globally.
Rutgers University Newark College of Arts & Sciences

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Nadine Ahmed        Yesenia P. Aranda        Marisol Arocho
Muhammad Ashar      Angel Ayala          Dania Bautista
Cynthia Cupe        Aminata Kamara       Stephfel M. Love
Hector Mendoza      Katherine Montilla   Eriny Morgan
Abigail Oquea       Halimat Oshun        Amber Pearson
Renyi Ren           Claudia Saavedra     William Sorto
Erick Veletanga

Academic Achievement

Mayelin Caba Nunez  Angela Gaita Mitsila Cenesca  Barsis Faris
Marline Reynoso-Vasquez  Christian Illescas     Sandra Rey
Aquiyah Williams

Outstanding Achievement
Erica Edwards

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Erica Edwards

Erica Edwards is a Biology major with a pre-health concentration in the School of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers University—Newark. Despite the many challenges she has faced on her journey to graduation, Erica has received valuable recognitions as a scholar. She is a certified peer educator, was inducted into the Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society (Eta Gamma Chapter), and is also a part of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. In addition, Erica has played major leadership roles in on-campus organizations and continues to actively participate in EOF events and activities. Erica plans to attend Medical School after graduation.
Outstanding Achievement
Juan Cerezo

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Juan Cerezo

Juan Cerezo hails from Cliffside Park, New Jersey and graduated from Cliffside Park High School. He will receive a Bachelor of Science degree in Microbiology from Rutgers in May 2018. His dedication to the sciences is unparalleled among his peers and he has consistently demonstrated a genuine desire to give back to those who gave to him.

As an ODASIS scholar, Juan actively attended many science lectures and workshops. He demonstrated unrelenting academic dedication through his participation in the Access Med Phase I program as well as in the ODASIS MCAT course. Juan is also a member of the prestigious Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society, reflecting an academic drive that continues beyond the classroom.

Juan has worked for over three years as a certified research assistant in a microbiology lab, conducting an independent project that involved screening FDA-approved compounds with strains of S. Aureus. He was privileged to present his research at an undergraduate symposium where he received the award for the best presentation. Juan has also given back to students by serving as a Biology tutor for Rutgers EOF and as an ODASIS instructor. He is a member of the NSF - Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) Program.

Juan has been accepted at five medical schools, but has not made a decision yet which one he will attend.
Rutgers University School of Arts & Sciences New Brunswick

*128 award recipients in total*

Outstanding Academic Achievement

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<tr>
<th>Laura-Ann Ali</th>
<th>Omar Ali</th>
<th>Ashley Anderson</th>
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<td>Daniela Arriagada</td>
<td>Crystal Attidore</td>
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<td>Amelo Bacchus</td>
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<td>Roman Chowdhury</td>
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<td>Walter De Paz</td>
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<td>Omar Garcia Rubin</td>
<td>Grace Ibrahimian</td>
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<td>Michael Layana</td>
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<td>Ana Pareja</td>
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<td>Yancey Sanelus</td>
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Academic Achievement

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<th>Herrana Addisu</th>
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<th>Christopher Bohorquez</th>
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<td>Misty Branch</td>
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<td>Suraiea Hussain</td>
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Outstanding Achievement

Elysha Bembury
Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Mariah J. Pierce

Mariah Pierce was raised in the small town of Woodstown, New Jersey. She graduated first in her class from Salem High School in 2013. While pursuing her undergraduate degree at Rutgers University, Mariah made Dean’s List in the fall of 2016 and fall of 2017 and received a 4.0 GPA during her most recent semester. She is a member of the Price Family Fellows Leadership Academy, the School of Arts and Sciences Educational Opportunity Fund Program, and is a Forman S. Acton Scholar. Being a woman who comes from a disadvantaged background, including involvement in New Jersey’s Foster Care System, Mariah has experienced and overcome many academic and personal challenges while at Rutgers. Mariah finds solace in helping others who come from similar backgrounds become successful students and professionals. To this end, Mariah currently mentors a first-year student at Rutgers who came from her high school. Mariah owes her success at Rutgers to her EOF family (School of Arts and Sciences and School of Engineering), the Price Family Fellows Program, Rutgers Summer and Winter Sessions, Rutgers Residence Life, the Forman S. Acton Foundation and her family and friends from her hometown. She will graduate in May 2018 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Public Health with a minor in Africana Studies. Mariah hopes to begin pursuing her master’s degree in Public Health with a focus on Epidemiology/Biostatistics in the fall of 2019.
Rutgers University School of Engineering

*20 award recipients in total*

**Outstanding Academic Achievement**
- Bishoy Farag
- Yao Mai
- Jing Wang
- Zohaib Zahid

**Academic Achievement**
- Saman Javed
- Michal Mludzik
- Jay Modi
- Michael Perry
- Anh Pham
- Kevin Quizhpi
- Salman Shahzad
- Zheng Xu

**Outstanding Achievement**
- Jaritza Rodriguez-Jerez

**Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight**

*Jaritza Rodriguez-Jerez*

Jaritza Rodriguez-Jerez is a resident of Perth Amboy, New Jersey and graduated from Perth Amboy High School in June 2013. She continued her studies at Rutgers University School of Engineering where she will graduate May 2018 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering with an Energy Engineering concentration. Jaritza proudly served as an EOF Summer Institute peer counselor in 2014. She is also a mentor and tutor manager for the School of Engineering. Jaritza is an active member of the Society of Hispanic Engineers and the Rutgers Chapter of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) where she held the position of external vice president. She organized the largest student career fair in the Rutgers University history. Through Jaritza’s passion and determination, she was able to obtain three internships and two co-op opportunities at Fortune 500 companies. Jaritza has accepted a full-time position at Nestlé USA in Solon, Ohio as a part of the Factory Management Development Program, a two-year rotational program.
Rutgers University School of Environmental and Biological Sciences
*18 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement
Juan Cerezo  Cesar Clarke  Nicholas Dugan
Sana Sajjad

Academic Achievement
Daniel Chulak  Jose Corporan  Michelle DeFreitas
Claressa Lopez  Wenjun Mo  Dianelis Morales
Dhara Patel  Rushil Patel  Walid Rabah
Siddharth Raut  Humna Wajid

Outstanding Achievement
Shermila Villanueva

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight
Shermila Villanueva

Shermila Villanueva is a graduate of Ridgefield Park Junior-Senior High School in Ridgefield Park, New Jersey. Miss Villanueva is a SEBS EOF scholar who dedicated her time to educationally purposeful activities while promoting positivity and community service on and off campus. During her tenure at Rutgers, Shermila devoted much of her ‘spare’ time furthering the mission and goals of the SEBS EOF C.O.S.I.N.E. Club (Community of Students Involved N’ Education). Quickly moving from active C.O.S.I.N.E. member to E-Board member, Shermila served as 1st chair of MANRRS (Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences) and vice chair of Community Services Initiatives. In these positions, she assisted SEBS EOF with identifying academic learning experiences while engaging students with on and off campus leadership opportunities.

As an academic scholar, Shermila has conducted research at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory where she examined the impact of climate change and how it has altered the interactions between plants and their natural enemies. Shermila completed her Bachelor of Science degree in Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources at the end of the fall 2017 semester. She is currently completing graduate school applications with the expectation of enrollment in fall 2018.
Outstanding Academic Achievement
Van Ess Anane  Mara Kettle

Academic Achievement
Imani Clark  Cynthia Colmenares  Tahmina Mojumder
Yashmin Naguija  Cory Wallace

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Mara Kettle

There was a television commercial where a bright high school student spoke eloquently about her desire to go to college to become a nurse. It was a pleasant surprise to discover that she was referring to Rutgers - Nursing and that she would become one of EOF’s shining stars, Ms. Mara Kettle. That commercial won a national award!

Originally from the British Virgin Islands, Mara Kettle grew up in Paterson, New Jersey and graduated from John F. Kennedy High School. In May 2018, she will graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Rutgers - School of Nursing. She has earned Dean’s List status for five semesters and High Achiever’s List for seven semesters with a 3.53 grade point average. Mara has received scholarships from the Northern New Jersey Black Nurses Association, the Mid-State Black Nurses - Zola Johnson Surratt Scholarship and several other leadership awards.

A nursing assistant at Saint Barnabas Medical Center, she has worked as a peer tutor, peer counselor and teaching assistant for Anatomy & Physiology, Pathophysiology, Pharmacotherapeutics and the Pre-Junior Clinical Enrichment Program.

She has served as a mentor, a Global Ambassador, and the Class 2018 president. Mara studied abroad in Ghana, West Africa where she took courses and volunteered at the West Africa AIDS Foundation. She also participated with the Jewish National Fund - Caravan for Democracy Leadership Mission in Tel Aviv, Israel and the International Leadership Exchange in Nicaragua.

Mara plans to gain clinical experience, seek further education and give back to the community as a Clinical Instructor and Nurse Practitioner and travel abroad for the United Nations.
Saint Peter’s University

*9 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement
Margaret Figueroa       Desiree Gomez       Milagros Robinson
Norky Torres

Academic Achievement
Atia Batool               Carlee Gonzalez       Ericka Leynes
Fareeha Malik            Jose Villa

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Milagros Robinson

Milagros Robinson is from a small town in southern New Jersey called Riverside. She graduated from Riverside High School in 2014 with honors. As an undergraduate student at Saint Peter’s University she chose to double major in both Psychology and Criminal Justice. Her academic excellence continued throughout her collegiate career. Milagros is a member of Psi Chi National Psychology Honor Society, Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society, and the Alpha Phi Sigma Criminal Justice National Honor Society. She has also received the Dean’s List honors consistently since her freshman year. After graduating from Saint Peter’s University, Milagros will attend Rowan University where she will complete her Master’s degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling.
Outstanding Academic Achievement
Dawn Jones  Felicia Roberts

Academic Achievement
Dakota Wunch

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Felicia Roberts

Felicia Roberts is from Pennsville, New Jersey where she graduated from Pennsville High School. She will graduate from Salem Community College in May 2018 with an Associate of Arts degree in Psychology. Felicia is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and will be inducted into Chi Alpha Epsilon this spring. She is on the Dean’s list.

Felicia has been an active part of the EOF program and currently serves as the vice president of the EOF Club and the advisory board. Described as ambitious, a self-starter and a leader, Felicia has presented workshops to EOF students on career exploration.

Felicia is a focused student who is confident about her direction. She plans to continue her education and explore a career in Nursing.
Seton Hall University

*34 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement
Rawda Abdelmenam  Schania Anderson  Patrick Barron
Shelly Cordero  Kristen Czerepusko  Jair Davis
Keyonah Davis  Natalie Douris  Walla Elshekh
Adam Kmeck  Sheyenne Lewis  Vanessa Martinez
Sarah Miller  Amro Saber  Chardonnay Stephenson

Academic Achievement
Felicia Benjamin  Nashaba Chowdhury  Kevin Cordova
Miranda Finley  Joseph Garces  Jeremy Garriga
Melissa Hurtado  Michelle Kumal  Colleen Lane
Sabriya Maing-Alston  Abegail Martinez  Kamari Moore
Daniela Osorio  Michelle Rodriguez  Kevin Sanchez
Jason Saway  Cailee Valente  Dystina Wheeler

Outstanding Achievement
Jonathan Craan

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Patrick Barron

Patrick Barron is an Economics and History major, with certifications in Business Analytics and Information Technology Management. He is scheduled to graduate magna cum laude at the end of spring 2018 with a GPA of 3.8. Patrick is from East Orange and a graduate of Bloomfield Tech High School. He is 1 of 8 children to his mother and father. As a student leader, Patrick is known for his commitment to EOP and being a change agent on campus. Patrick does not believe in making excuses and for his four years at the university has led by example.

Patrick has been the recipient of the United Negro College Fund scholarship for each year he has attended college. He is also the recipient of the Henry King scholarship and the Academic scholarship at Seton Hall University. In Patrick’s freshman year, he ran for student senator among a slate of upper-classmen and won. He was reelected in his sophomore year. Patrick joined the Seton Hall school newspaper and was known for addressing and responding to views that impact the minority population and offering steps to resolve race related issues. In 2017 he was selected to represent the “face of first generation” SHU students on banners throughout campus. Patrick was the recipient of the Seton Hall University Leadership Rising Stars award. He served as the only student on the Dean’s cabinet while he was the Chair for the Student Government Association in 2017. Patrick continues to be the voice of students and even finds time to be an EOP peer mentor. Patrick is also active in his community of East Orange and plans to attend law school and continue his community service.
For the 2017/2018 academic year, the Seton Hall University Pre-Medical/Pre-Dental Plus Program is proud to nominate Benaifer Siganporia for this year’s EOF Graduating Seniors’ Outstanding Achievement award. Benaifer joined our PMPDPP family after graduating from Hillsborough High School. During her time at Seton Hall, Benaifer achieved the Dean’s List multiple times while also serving as the president of the Minority Association of Pre-Health Students (MAPS). Not only was she a role model in the classroom, she was a role model outside of it as well. Benaifer helped mentor the program’s new freshmen students and also served as a program tutor. Benaifer will earn her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology this May 2018 and will pursue her dream of becoming a physician.
Outstanding Academic Achievement
Luis Meneses    Emanuel Rodriguez

Academic Achievement
Alioune Dianne Jonathan Eugenio Mike Salas

Outstanding Achievement
Armando Rosa

EOF Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

**Armando Rosa**

Armando Rosa is a Senior Chemical Engineer major at Stevens Institute of Technology. He is a graduate of Science Park High School in Newark, New Jersey. Armando was born in the Dominican Republic and moved to the United States in the summer of 2006. As a young boy he had an affinity for math and the sciences which led him to eventually pursue a degree in Engineering.

During his Stevens career, Armando has been on the Academic Dean’s List for four semesters, including fall 2017, when he earned a 3.9 semester GPA. Armando participated in the Stevens Cooperative Education Program and has also served twice as a tutor/resident assistant in the EOF summer program and as a freshman math review instructor during the academic year.

Armando has been involved in different ethnic organizations on campus including the Black Student Union and the Society of Professional Hispanic Engineers. He is also a member of Greek life as a brother of La Unidad Latina, Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity, Inc.

After graduating from Stevens, Armando will be moving to Dayton, Virginia where he will start his career as a Production Management Engineer with Cargill. Armando will work in the company’s Protein division where he will help in the production and distribution of meat and food products across the United States.
**Outstanding Academic Achievement**

Elianny Alberto  
Kathleen Connelly  
Brianna Gonzalez  
Danielle Lugo  
La-Tasha Randolph  
Naijasia Thomas  
Alicia Bauman-Jeanty  
Shawn Feldman  
Jaime Holak  
Shannon Madgey  
Susan Shapteban  
Rachel Wagner  
Mahalia Bazile  
Rebecca Gechtberg  
Constance Jones  
Jeida Mercado  
Rebeka Sultana

**Academic Achievement**

Brittany Beals  
Courtney Lepping  
Brittany Beals  
Flor Cruz-Morillo  
Nala Williams

**Outstanding Achievement**

Sasha Williams

**Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight**

**Jodie Davis**

Ms. Jodie Davis is a native of Jersey City, New Jersey and a graduate of Lincoln High School. While at Stockton University, Jodie became one of the most recognized student faces because of her dedication to her studies and serving the community. She is the recipient of numerous awards and scholarships for her work including the 2018 Martin Luther King Day of Service Community Engagement Award. In 2017, Jodie was the only student in the nation to receive a fully funded scholarship with United Planet to travel to Ghana for 8 weeks where she worked on global health service projects. That same year, she was also the recipient of the Stockton Board of Trustees Fellowship and the Newman Civic Fellow for Campus Compact.

Jodie volunteers for a number of organizations including the South Jersey AIDS Alliance. She is president of the campus NAACP chapter, vice president for the State of New Jersey Youth and College Division of the NAACP, a mentor in the Coordinated Actions to Retain and Educate (C.A.R.E) program, a volunteer member of Stockton’s Alternative Spring Break community project organization and a student coordinator of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. Jodie has also worked as a teacher’s assistant in Organic Chemistry.

Jodie will graduate at the end of the spring 2018 semester with a Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in Public Health with a Chemistry minor. Her post-graduation plans are finalized! She has been awarded the Newman’s Own Foundation Fellowship which will provide her with the opportunity to work on eliminating poverty and food insecurity issues in the United States.
The College of New Jersey

*55 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Gabriella Bieniasz  Cinthia Bonilla  Raekwon Burton
Hoang Cao  Mathias Cespedes  Tascha Chan
David Colon  Tammy Colpas  Jennifer Correa
Dennise Cortes  Mona Elsayed  Md Fateha
Sarah Jung  Kah Michelle Lee  Crystal Nzegwu
Madina Ouedraogo  Keyur Patel  Yvette Peralta
Nancy Rae Pietrobon  Kelly Przygoda  Cristal Reyes
Peter Ricco  Samantha Sanchez  Sierra Sandel
Yadira Santos  Solangie Veloz  Franz Lheana Yabis

Academic Achievement

Jeslyn Alemany  Rosa Alvarez  George Beato
Tashii Brown  Shakespearecia Cadet  Kelsey Capestro
Alexandria Chaves  Giacomo Corcione  Fidel Diaz
Menalik Dye  Andrew Eaton  Sarah Elsharkawy
Emily Fuentes  Carolina Gamarra  Melissa Gambo
Pierre Gonzales  Aliyah Graves  Stefanie Levi
Amauri Gonzalez  Kandyce Stukes  Jennifer Almonte Tavers
Anasofia Trelles  Caitlyn Vasquez  Merina Vaughn
Fernandes Vincent  Davon Wanza  Julio Zelaya

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Glendy Averhart

Glendy Averhart is from Trenton, New Jersey. She is a graduate of Trenton Central High School Class of 2014. By 2016, Glendy completed two years at Mercer County Community College, earning her Associate’s degree in Education. Later that same year, Glendy transferred to The College of New Jersey where she will graduate in spring 2018 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. During her time at TCNJ, Glendy has been actively involved with the EOF program as a peer mentor to incoming program students, peer/residence life assistant in the summer program, student worker in the program office, and as a member of the Director’s Leadership team. Through a partnership program with TCNJ, Glendy has served as one of the lead mentors working with school-aged children at Joyce Kilmer Elementary School in Trenton. As her time comes to an end at The College of New Jersey, Glendy will be relocating to Fort Hood, Texas with her husband as part of his placement orders from the United States Army. In Texas, Glendy plans to begin her career as an English Secondary Education teacher and pursue a Master’s degree in Higher Education or School Counseling. Though she transitions to a new place she will soon call home, the TCNJ staff, community, and friends she’s made will always be close to Glendy’s heart, as she will forever be EOF.
Outstanding Academic Achievement

Lizmarie Castro  Melissa Guillen  Enrique Hidalgo
Jay-C Lapo  Melissa Lugo  Natalie Perez
Marvin Pinchinat

Academic Achievement

Manuel Avalos  James Dorcely  Melba Henao
Eric Okai  Pooja Patel  Matthew Shegelski

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Enrique Alexander Hidalgo

Enrique Alexander Hidalgo was born and raised in Elizabeth, New Jersey. He attended John E. Dwyer Technology Academy and graduated June 2015. After high school, he decided to continue his education at Union County College. He graduated in December 2017 with an Associate’s degree in Criminal Justice. Among Enrique’s college accomplishments was membership in the Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society.

Enrique grew up struggling on his own and with his family. His father left the family when Enrique was only two years old. His mother became both father and mother to the children. The family faced many financial difficulties. Raising four children on her own, life was difficult. In 2012, his mother passed away from a heart attack while at work. Enrique was 16 when he lost the one person in the world who knew him the best and the only person he looked up to. He stayed strong and promised that he would not lose his faith and would become successful one day because it was his mother’s dream for him. After moving in first with cousins and then with his older brother, he was ejected from both homes. He was very close to becoming homeless as a college student but never lost hope that good things would come if he worked hard to make that happen. After all he had been through, Enrique can proudly say that he is blessed and made strong by the struggles he has endured. His story is far from finished. He strives to be someone who will inspire, motivate and lead others by example.

Enrique’s future plan is to be employed in the field of law enforcement, focusing on entering the New Jersey State Police as an officer. He would like to gain experience toward becoming a homicide detective. His overall goal is to protect his community against danger and help as many people as he can.
Distinguished Scholar
Andrew Manzi

Outstanding Academic Achievement
Hannah Floyd  Tara McAdams  Sandra Perez

Outstanding Achievement
Samantha Vargas

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Tenisha Randi Buckmire

Tenisha Buckmire is a Social Science major at Warren County Community College. She resides in Phillipsburg, New Jersey and a graduate of Philipsburg High School. Tenisha has always cared about helping others, which led to her academic major selection and her professional goal of working with people in a counseling setting. Her kindness, caring, and open mind make her an advocate for all students at the college. Since successfully completing the EOF Summer Bridge Program, Tenisha has truly taken advantage of EOF and campus-wide resources to ensure her success at WCCC. Tenisha achieved Dean’s List recognition in her second semester and has been able to maintain satisfactory academic progress throughout her college career, despite personal challenges and life’s obstacles. Like a proud WCCC EOF Golden Eagle, Tenisha will soar to unlimited heights in all of her future endeavors and never forget her EOF Family.
Outstanding Academic Achievement
Sarah Abaza  Jackelene Corrales  Eita Mohamed

Academic Achievement
Rehana Baksh  Rae Cade  Liliana Castro
Tihany Luna  Alisha Samuels  Kelly Vera

Outstanding Achievement
Kelly Vera

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Kelly Vera

Kelly Vera is from Toms River, New Jersey and graduated from Toms River High School North in 2014. Kelly is a senior at William Paterson University majoring in English with a concentration in Writing. She also declared two minors in Environmental Science and Criminal Justice. In May 2018, Kelly will receive a Bachelor of Arts degree from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Kelly has been on the Dean’s List during the years of 2015, 2016 and 2017. She is a student assistant in the Office of Campus Activities, Service and Leadership and a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success, Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society and the Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society. She is currently the public relations chair for Sigma Tau Delta and has been a part of the university’s Peer 2 Peer Leader program. She was also a writer for The Beacon, William Paterson University’s newspaper.

Kelly has received a Who’s Who Award and was featured in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences’ newsletter. She was a resident tutor assistant for the Educational Opportunity Fund summer program in 2016 and the Master of Ceremonies for the EOF Senior Recognition dinner in 2017.

Kelly plans to be an active member of her global community and to travel while doing so. Her short term goal includes being a member of the Americorps program and long term goals include working for National Geographic Magazine to promote sustainability and global education.