



New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund 2016 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 2016 term or who graduated at the end of the Summer or Fall 2015 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 (4 recipients);

Outstanding Academic Achievement: presented to seniors who have consistently maintained a cumulative grade point average of 3.50-3.99 (499 recipients);

Academic Achievement: presented to seniors who have consistently maintained a cumulative grade point average of 3.20-3.49 (450 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 (47 recipients).

A grand total of 984 students have been nominated for a total of 1000 awards.

** = Total number of recipients. Names listed reflect only nominees who have signed a release form, allowing NJHE/EOF to publish their information. Institutions may have nominated additional students not listed here.*

Atlantic Cape Community College

*8 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Ashlie Campbell

Jamie Scheer

Akeema Telemaque

Academic Achievement Award

Anita Brickley

Jacob Kertz

John Golday

Stephania Tunis

Outstanding Achievement Award

Karen Bello-Solano

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Karen Bello-Solano

Karen Bello-Solano is a resident of Atlantic City and a 2013 graduate from Atlantic City High School. This Biomedical major has endured many struggles in her life, but has never given up on her dream of becoming a doctor. Her tenure at Atlantic Cape Community College has been a roller coaster ride filled with many challenges and obstacles, yet she has always remained focused on her academic and life goals. Karen has been on the Dean's List for two semesters and will receive an Associate of Science degree in May of 2016. She plans to pursue her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology.

Bergen Community College

*26 award recipients in total

Distinguished Scholar

Hana M. Mansur

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Liliana Arce

Mary Anne Aungst

Darline Celestin

Patricia Cuervo

Cherie DePalma

Catherine Eyzaguirre

Dilruba Guvenc-Lorencio

Jokeldy Hernandez

Hira Khurshid

Nancy Knepp

Amber Pearson

Roxy Reyes

Jessica Saavedra

Akansha Singh

Lindsay Sison

Shanique Strachan

Hanssel Tavarez

Caroline Tobin

Academic Achievement Award

Justin Anderson

Bryan Canter

Diana Fernandez

Edgar Garcia

Simona Ivanoska

Emmanuel Sanchez

Outstanding Achievement Award

Mary Anne Aungst

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Amber Pearson

Amber Pearson is a graduate of Teaneck High School. Since the day she was born, her parents have provided her with the utmost support, love, and knowledge. She credits her parents for being one of the key reasons for where she is today. Everything that Amber has gone through in her life has ultimately inspired some of her major life and career goals. She began her college career at Bergen Community College as a transfer student. During the Fall 2015 term, she was able to complete her Associate's degree. During her tenure at Bergen Community College, Amber was able to make the Dean's list (Spring 2014) and became a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Additionally, she was the recipient of numerous scholarships including the prestigious Barton-Foote scholarship. Currently, she is a Psychology major at Rutgers University – Newark. Amber's future goals include obtaining her Master's degree in Psychology and to obtain a position in life where she can continue to help others.

Bloomfield College

*7 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Ashton Green

Marsha Velez

Academic Achievement Award

Stephanie Ceide

Hydeeah Johnson

Melissa Charles

Jenny Kern

Outstanding Achievement Award

Mariah Price

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Jenny Kern

Far too often, talented and gifted students settle for less due to the lack of tenacity to pursue their dreams. However, there are those few who seem to embrace their potential and excel. Jenny Kern has proven to be the later.

Jenny Kern hails from Neptune, New Jersey and is a graduate of Neptune Senior High School. Since entering into Bloomfield College in the summer of 2012, Jenny has put forth nothing less than 110 percent effort in everything she has pursued. Consequently, in 2015, Jenny was chosen into “Who’s Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities”, one of the highest honors a student can gain on a national scale. Having served as a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success, a Resident Assistant, a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., and the recipient of various community service awards, it is safe to say that upon graduating in May, Jenny will have left an indelible mark on the Bloomfield College community.

After graduation, Jenny plans on continuing her studies in pursuit of both her Master’s and Doctoral degree in Sociology. Currently she has received numerous acceptances to graduate school, which include: The University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, Eastern Michigan University, and Wayne State University. Although she has not made a final decision on where she will choose to attend, her future continues to remain bright.

Through her ingenuity, creativity, discipline to her studies, and enthusiasm to serve others, Jenny truly is a student worthy of being a “Spotlight” graduate. Her strength and commitment are to be admired as she continues to serve as a role model for other students within our program. Despite all of Jenny’s success, she has faced numerous circumstances that could have easily deterred her from reaching this point in her academic career. However, true to her spirit, Jenny refused to succumb to the various challenges and has used it as a platform to achieve her dreams.

Brookdale Community College

*43 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Donna Accoo
Eric Allen
Ashley Anderson
Paola Arteaga
Brenna Barker
Phabienne Cimeus

Macey Dooley
Shayna Gomes
Lisa Marie Kelly-Mannino
Christopher Lanzarone
Sabrina Muriale
Lufti Musaoglulari

Lorena Olea
Samantha Ostrovski
Jinal Shah
Adreious Thigpen

Academic Achievement Award

Keown Kaney

Pablo Perez Amaro

Salman Shahzad

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Donna Accoo

Donna Accoo is truly an EOF Scholar. She is expected to graduate with high academic honors and will have earned her degree in Applied Health Science. She has been an engaged citizen as a member of the Brookdale community, having served as Secretary of the Chemistry Club and working part-time for the college's Center for World War II Studies & Conflict Resolution. She has always been a frequent visitor to the EOF office. Her energy level and deep commitment to "being at your best" certainly shined through in all that she strove to do.

While her accomplishments are truly noteworthy, it is her journey that has proven to be inspirational. Early in Donna's life, she dealt with the issue of alcoholism and other life challenges. Due to many of the obstacles she faced, Donna dropped out of Brookdale for a twelve year period of time and re-centered herself. Through her efforts, Donna was able to successfully earn her CDA and X-Ray License and was able to become employed as a Surgical Implant Coordinator. While undergoing this transformation, Donna also raised four children, who are now ages 25, 21, 9 and 7, all as a single mother.

Upon her return to Brookdale Donna took every opportunity to excel and many Brookdadians contributed to her success as she made it a point to immerse herself in all the college had to offer. Those who have come to know her are able to see how a second chance at Brookdale has allowed Donna the ability to take full control of her life. This change positioned her to become one of several students featured in the college's Success Reimagined Campaign. A quote Donna holds dear to her heart, "Where you start is not where you have to end." Her portrait and the impact Brookdale had on her life continue to be shared with the community. Today, you can see Donna featured on various advertisements for Brookdale and more recently she has appeared on the side of buses moving through the major corridors of Monmouth County.

Caldwell University

*3 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Julianny Lantigua

Academic Achievement Award

Olsen Noel Jeune

Outstanding Achievement

Lesly Polynice

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Lesly Polynice

Lesly Polynice was born in a little town called Cabaret in Haiti. From as early as her pre-school days, Lesly's parents engrained in her that education was the key to success. Growing up there have been two constant passions in Lesly's life, school and music. Her family was able to eventually move to the United States in 2007 where they relocated to West Orange, New Jersey. That fall Lesly enrolled at West Orange High School and was able to graduate two years later with her high school diploma. Through the EOF program, she was able to enroll at Caldwell University and earn her Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Health Education. During her tenure at Caldwell, She served as an EOF mentor and also free-lanced as a musician. Her goal is to eventually become a Nurse Practitioner whereby she hopes to be able to one day have the ability to open up a clinic to care for those in need back home in Haiti.

Camden County College

*16 award recipients in total

Distinguished Scholar

Janae Felton

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Shanon Bramblette

Nohamaly Cosme

Lavonne Feliciano

Lawrence Gray

Yahneissi Gonzalez

Eshahree Harris

Russell Muniz-Morales

Cydnee Simmons

Michelle Vuong

Academic Achievement

Catherine Bishop

Danielle Clarke

Amanda Hoopes

Tiffany Stellmacher

Antonesia Whitaker

Outstanding Achievement

Michelle Vuong

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Russell Muniz-Morales

Russell Muniz-Morales is a resident of Camden, NJ and is a graduate of Camden County Technical High School, Class of 2012. Since the Fall 2012 term, Russell has been an active participant within the EOF program at Camden County College. Despite his ability to have successfully graduated from high school, Russell's success in college did not come easily. Beyond the need to overcome a language barrier, Russell was faced with numerous personal challenges while in college. Despite the various obstacles that he has faced, Russell continues to exemplify the true character of an EOF student through his grit, determination, and willingness to make the necessary sacrifices to reach his goal of obtaining his degree in Business Administration. Russell has been a very compliant EOF participant. He regularly attends the various workshops and advisor meetings that the EOF program offers. Through his hard work, Russell was able to make the Dean's List and was a member of the Cross Country Team. Russell's future goals include a desire to become a successful businessman while seeking to expand his social network.

Centenary College

*7 award recipients in total

Academic Achievement

Jannery Cuervo
Shakora Jackson

Curtis Mackowiak
Valencia Manocchio

Keith Salkind
Maurice Thompson

Outstanding Achievement

Quilvio Ventura

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Shakora Jackson

Shakora Jackson is a graduate of Irvington High School and grew up in the North Jersey area. Shakora can best be described as a soft spoken yet inspirational and bold student. Even though she is known to be more on the quiet side of things, her presence and actions allow her to leave a giant impression. During her tenure, Shakora served as a writing tutor, a member of Chi Alpha Epsilon, and has been a true role model for both the students in the program and in the broader community. Shakora has truly been amazing at everything she does and can be counted on as being one of those students who will be successful in her personal and professional life.

The College of New Jersey

*34 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Khaled J. Alhaddad
Genesis Arteta
Toni D'amato
Jayne Duncan
Samantha Falvey

Danielle Kassick
Taylor Lorchak
Ryan Munz
Esther Osei
Casey Parker

Celianne Quezada
Amanda Quijada
Giovanna Tomat-Kelly
Cristina Villagomez

Academic Achievement

Joseph Ayers
Christelle Beauvais
Curn Bellfield
Thomas Borgia
Roshelly Brito
Mallory Campbell
Anthony Caruso

Claudia Gomez
Christina Gonzalez
Chelsea Kohfeldt
Renee Menzel
Tu Nguyen
Lizbeth Olivero
Kyuree Park

Alexus Perry
Deepa Rana
Dianna Ruberto
Chonda Samuel
Natasha B. Santiago-Votta

Outstanding Achievement

Roger Barrett

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Genesis Arteta

Genesis Arteta is a senior sociology major at The College of New Jersey. She is a first generation college student as well as a first generation immigrant from Lima, Peru. Throughout her undergraduate career, she has been involved with different organizations on campus. Genesis has served on the executive board for Union Latina, held the Presidency for Alpha Kappa Delta Sociology Honor Society, Chi Upsilon Sigma National Latin Sorority, Inc., as well as The Unified Greek Council. She has also had the pleasure to engage in research with TCNJ's Sociology department and has participated in qualitative research with different professors such as Dr. Bates, Dr. Borland, and Dr. Kenan. Genesis is currently finishing up her senior year and look forward to attending the University of Pennsylvania in their Master of Science in Social Policy Program this fall.

College of Saint Elizabeth

*3 award recipients in total

Academic Achievement

Marie Ceus

Marie Dervavil

Sunaray Johnson

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Sunaray Johnson

Sunaray Johnson was born and raised in Jersey City, New Jersey. Her family is originally from Saint Kitts and Nevis. Sunaray Johnson has been an engaged student from the beginning of the EOF Summer Program in 2012. Sunaray often will describe herself with three words; compassionate, ambitious, and a deductionist. Sunaray Johnson is a true leader who is constantly in search of what the absolute truth is within every situation. “Sunni” Sunaray Johnson has been recognized for her achievements as a member of Chi Alpha Epsilon, the Honors program at the College of Saint Elizabeth and Psi Chi. Her major is Psychology and she aspires to be a behavioral clinical counseling psychologist. “Sunni” is also a tutor at the College of Saint Elizabeth working with both under-graduate and graduate students.

Research has been a driving force in Sunaray Johnson’s college life; she has presented her research to both the College of Saint Elizabeth community and also to a national audience. Her research, “The Bounceback: Black Women and Childhood Trauma” was presented at the inaugural Association of Black Sexologists and Clinicians: Black Families, Black Relationships, Black Sexuality Conference in Philadelphia, PA, October 2015.

Sunaray Johnson strives for excellence in all that she does; assisting and contributing to educational community service and outreach for school age children and she has also served the EOF community by being a Peer Assistant during the Summer of 2015. In the fall of 2016 Sunaray Johnson will be entering a new phase of her academic life by attending graduate school and contributing her, knowledge, skills, talents and abilities to a multiple number of new communities.

County College of Morris

*4 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Brayan Aroca
Lori Macula

Academic Achievement

Erika Pulido

Outstanding Achievement

Guadalupe Barrios

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Lori Macula

The road to college was not an easy one for Lori Macula. As a non-traditional adult student, Lori knew that pursuing her education would be the only way she could move ahead and create a better future for her and her son. Lori's son is autistic and has many special needs. This was something that although motivates her to pursue her education, was also a major responsibility as she's had to find time to take classes, when she was not taking care of him. At times, when her son would not be in school Lori had to choose between staying with him or going to classes, and all of this while trying to juggle work to provide for him. This has been a constant throughout her time here at CCM. As Lori progressed towards her degree, she also endured major serious health setbacks and to add to that during Hurricane Sandy lost her job and had to deal with a number of personal issues, which forced her to take time off. This delayed her academic progress, but even with everything, she still came back to complete her degree. She has been a consistent EOF student and has taken advantage of everything the program offered. She utilized counseling and advisement regularly, maintained communication with the office, and asked for assistance when things got tough in class.

Lori will be graduating this spring with an Associate in Applied Science in Biotechnology and a cumulative GPA of a 3.5. She hopes to further her education and earn a Bachelor of Science degree in the same area at one of New Jersey's four-year institutions. Her professional goals are to work in cancer and/or autism research and development, as they are very dear to her heart. Lori hopes that she can contribute to the research community, by helping improve the lives of so many impacted by these two conditions. Lori's will to succeed, to stay the course, even thru the most difficult of times is a testament to the type of student she is. The EOF team at CCM is so proud of what she has accomplished and looks forward to seeing what great things she will do in the future. Lori is a true EOF Scholar.

Cumberland County College

*26 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Amie Adams
Jordan Alvarez
Ronald Bennett
Bianca Birney
Cleo Burrus

Mari Collazo
Rebecca Davis
Carly DiDonna
Amanda Flaa
Jeannie Garcia

Ellen Jaime-Bordois
Shannon Madgey
Terron Mitchell-Green
Janeirys Velazquez

Academic Achievement

Delfin Cuevas
Kadijah Govan
Kanei Green-Scott
Tina Jacobs

Anibal Mendez
Beatrice Mercado
Rafyhelkis Metz
Marilee Negrón

Nezire Onal
Aida Torres
Jessica Williams

Outstanding Achievement

Shannon Madgey

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Shannon Madgey

Ms. Shannon Madgey is a graduate of Vineland High School and began her educational career at Cumberland County College at the start of the fall 2013 semester. Shannon knew that her career goal was to become a Clinical Psychologist. Shannon felt that her strengths, skills and talents would be best served through this career path. Shannon successfully completed an Associate of Science degree in Liberal Arts/Social Science and earned a certificate in Alcohol and Drug Counseling from Cumberland County College. While attending Cumberland County College, Shannon was very involved on campus. She served as the President of the Faith Fellowship Club from 2014-2015 and under her leadership, the club earned the prestigious recognition of Club of the Year. Shannon went on to offer her time and guidance in the role of an EOF Peer Counselor, whose primary responsibility was to mentor incoming first time full time students during the Summer Institute. Under her tutelage, many of her mentees excelled in their coursework and their ability to transition into college.

Similarly, Shannon consistently earned a spot on the Dean's List and the President's List and graduated with a cumulative grade point average of 3.75. To her credit, she was selected to receive the Valerie Jones Scholarship, Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges, and selected to join Phi Theta Kappa. She is a graduate of the Student Pathways Leadership Institute at Cumberland County College and was an active member of the Student Senate. She also held the role of Vice President of the youth group at her church. Without reservation, Ms. Shannon Madgey exemplifies the essence and mission of the EOF Program.

Drew University

***9 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

David Aguilar-Villagomez

Phadeline Evra

Daniel Giraldo

Academic Achievement

Amber De Marco

Gloria Lopez

William Rivas

Shanel Garcia

Brittany Pope

Outstanding Achievement

Shanel Garcia

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Shanel Garcia

Ms. Shanel Garcia is currently a senior at Drew University with a major in Sociology and a minor in Italian. Ms. Garcia has a strong interest in the criminal justice system and plans to go on to law school in pursuit of this academic interest. She has been an advocate for women's rights and for those whose voices have been marginalized. In this endeavor, she has been involved in activities that protest and highlight the violence against women and racial inequality.

Furthermore, not only has Shanel been a leader and visionary on the Drew University campus, as the co-chair of the Pan African Student Organization and a member of the Epsilon Omega Psi and Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Societies, she has also excelled academically. Truly Ms. Garcia's interests and activities epitomize the spirit and integrity of the Educational Opportunity Fund program.

Essex County College

*76 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Ivy Aba Sam	Nneka Dyall	Stacy Pinckney
Martina Achanfuo-Yeboah	Jennifer Emereonye	Dena Quittely
George Adorno	Adnane Errachide	Jhonatan Rivera
Chioma Alagbogu	Raysa Grullon	Mavani Rohanbhai
Kofi Ameyaw	Jon Halimi	Liliana Saquicela
Esther Ansong	Brian Higgins	Garfield Simpson
Ugoo Anyaegbu	Alexandra Jean- Charles	Rebeca Taramona
Beatrice Arechè	Akolbire Jeffery	Kathya Terrero
Lucy Asare	Silvia Lemus	Njeri Toles
Milagros Bermudez	Bryam A. Loaiza	Chinedu Ukaigwe
Naa Odartsoe Bruce	Patricia Mensah	Manasvi Vaghani
Ruth Cabrera	Emmanuel Mervilus	Miriam Valencia
Emmanuel Clarke- Ocran	Blessing Ogbunna	Tavia Williams
Taiwo S. Damola	Chinedu Onyemaobi	Premyslaw Wojcik
Faith Davison	Riya Parikh	
Amma Dyall	Priscilla Peprah	

Academic Achievement

Khadijah Cheatam	Makesse Kamara	Bountouraby Sylla
Alnisa Cooper	Risikat Lawal	Dariana Tavarez
Mary Danso	Monica Lewis	Tijuana Thompson
Yesica Estevez	Yarixa I. Martinez	Shirley Trent
Francis Marlene Glenn	Jeff Moise	Uju Uba
Moyette Gordon	Jazmine Nesbitt	Rosalia Urday
Nikiah A. Gray	Mechell Nunez	Danie Vastey
Damon Greene	Okwuchukwu Okonkwo	Dane Williams
Viky Guaman	Tiffany Saxton	Aquiyah Williams
Andrew Hinton	Rakietou Sini	

Outstanding Achievement

Arnaldo Medina

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Njeri Toles

Njeri Toles is truly an exceptional young woman. This spring she is scheduled to earn an associate degree in Biology/Pre-Med. During her undergraduate career, Njeri was accepted into Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society and Chi Alpha Epsilon Honors Society. Currently, she is the President of Essex County College's Chi Alpha Epsilon chapter and President of Essex County College of the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Club. Njeri has been able to make the Dean's list as well. Her long term goal is to eventually become a Marine Biologist after finishing her master's degree in Marine Biology.

Fairleigh Dickinson University- Florham Campus

*10 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Margarita Berrio
Rachel Groom

Jenifer Kromka
Yuleisy Lopez

Alexandra Santos
Desyrae Stephens

Academic Achievement

Maria Gutierrez

Alexis Price

Jessenia Rodriguez

Outstanding Achievement

Anthony Farag

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Alexis Price

Alexis Price is from Atlantic City, NJ and is a graduate of Atlantic City High School. She has been an active participant with the Educational Opportunity Fund program since the Fall of 2012. Alexis is currently in the accelerated five-year QUEST/Teaching program at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Madison, NJ. In 2015, Alexis became a proud new-mom to a handsome baby boy, and has made the Dean's and/or Honor's List throughout her college education. She is also a member of Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society. She also served as a Resident Assistant for the EOF program. Alexis still serves as a mentor to our incoming freshmen and continues to be an inspiration to our returning students. Alexis will receive her Bachelor's degree in Psychology in May 2016, and her Master's degree in Education in May 2017. Alexis is very dedicated to her hometown. Her long term goal is to eventually become a teacher and to go back to her hometown of Atlantic City to help educate and inspire the next generation of students.

Fairleigh Dickinson University – Metropolitan Campus

*14 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Tyiarah Adewakun
Ruthie Gono
Frances Martinez

Joe Nguyen
Esther Pierre
Nidia Rodriguez

Mayte Rodriguez
Yuli Usman
Sari Wyckoff

Academic Achievement

Jose DeLeon
Shaka Lemoniaus

Yesenia Rodriguez
Skye Tiller

Outstanding Achievement

Petulia Pierre

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Tyiarah Adewakun

Tyiarah Adewakun is from Bergenfield, NJ and graduated from Bergenfield High School. She is currently a student at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck, NJ and this spring she will be graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and a minor in legal studies with a specific concentration in pre-law. Tyiarah is a member of the Law School Preparation Program, Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society, and the National Society of Leadership and Success. She currently serves as the Vice President of the National Criminal Justice Honor Society and as the community service representative for the African Heritage Society. In 2013 she was accepted into the Summer Institute of Pre-Legal Studies at Seton Hall Law and graduated with honors as the only freshman in her class. For the past two summers she has served as a Resident Assistant/Peer Counselor for the Educational Opportunity Fund Summer Program, which has allowed her to give back to the program she says has given so much to her. She is also studying abroad in Chengdu, China for her final undergraduate semester. Tyiarah is currently on track to graduate with a 3.9 cumulative grade point average. Her life experience as the daughter of a domestic violence victim lends itself to her ultimate goal of attending law school and ultimately practicing as a family attorney, who specializes in domestic violence victim representation.

Felician College

*8 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Liza Echeverria

Academic Achievement

Pamela Beato

Sarah Zeidan

Outstanding Achievement

Jose Lopez

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Jose Lopez

Jose Lopez will graduate from Felician University in May 2016. He was born in Queens, NY, raised in Kearny, NJ, and is a proud alumnus of Kearny High School. He will be receiving his Bachelors of Arts in Graphic Design and New Media, as well as a minor in Criminal Justice. Jose has always striven for success and has acquired a great deal of accomplishments during his undergraduate career. He is extremely goal-oriented and is self-motivated. He is a member of the Campus Activities Board (CAB), has participated in Model UN and is a founding brother of Psi Sigma Phi Multicultural Fraternity. He participated in a study abroad adventure to Florence, Italy, where he learned the culture and history of the amazing landscapes and architecture. His future aspirations include a pursuit towards a Master's degree in Counseling with a concentration in Student Affairs/Higher Education. Jose's passion, dedication and intelligence will shine as he continues his education and will most definitely succeed in all his future endeavors.

Georgian Court University

*5 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Angeline Flores

Christine Hedgebeth

Vivien Kok

Academic Achievement

Patricia Pagan

Outstanding Achievement

Bianchi Valdez

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Bianchi Valdez

Bianchi Valdez will earn a BA degree in Digital Communication in May 2016. She exemplifies the true spirit of what an EOF student should embody. She is a first generation student and her aspirations and determination are to change the economic status of her family and to be a role model for her siblings and relatives. Her educational journey has given her the opportunity to excel in her studies, while she continually looks to assist her peers. Academically, she has achieved the GPA to have been chosen to participate in the following student organizations and honor societies: Student Government Association Public Relations Chairperson, Executive Director of Dance Marathon, Student Ambassador, Orientation Leader, Peer Counselor, Resident Advisor, Women in Leadership Development and Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society. Her future plans are to attend graduate school, make a difference for the Latino/Hispanic population, pursue a television career, and to write a book.

Hudson County Community College

*17 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Smarlyn Alcantara

Valeria Garma

Jacqueline Portillo

Fatima Ferdous

Harry Mejia

Academic Achievement

Dominique Cartagena

Stephanie Miranda

Clarisa Williams

Outstanding Achievement

Kim Lowman

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Kim Lowman

Kim Lowman hails from Jersey City, NJ and is a proud graduate of Hudson County Technical High School (High Tech). In May, she will graduate from Hudson County Community College with an Associate of Arts Degree in Human Services and plans to matriculate at New Jersey City University to complete a Bachelor's degree in Sociology. In addition to being a student at HCCC and being employed, Kim is the mother of two adult daughters. She has one grandson and has been a foster parent since 2003. She says that she opened her doors to them, as a means of giving back to her community. While at HCCC, she was inducted into the National Society of Leadership & Success and was a part of the Alliance of EOF Students of New Jersey.

Kean University

*48 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Marjorie Acevedo	Krystal Hardy	Mohammad Osman
Adewale Akande	Kortny Holland	Helen Pham
Sandy Amin	Danielle Jackson	Yesse Puello
Cassandra Arthur	Judy Jacobs	Nirali Sheth
Melissa Garcia	Daris Mendez	Stela Xhemollari
Selande Geese Charles	Alex Nunez	
Vanessa Gonzalez	Elianna Nunez	

Academic Achievement

Brittany Bennett	Emad Khella	Yasmine Reed
Angelica Chua	Alexis Lovelace	Latoya Robinson
Deanna Dell Bene	Lorraine Loza	Joana Sarango
Yaquelin Garcia	Omolara Ojomo	Fiorela Tejeda
Tanaera Green	Gladymise Raymond	Kimberly Viteri

Outstanding Achievement

Yaquelin Garcia

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Deanna Dell Bene

Deanna Dell Bene is a resident of Scotch Plains, New Jersey, where she attended and graduated from the Scotch Plains-Fanwood public school system. Prior to attending Kean University, Deanna attended William Paterson University for one year. She transferred to Union County Community College where she has earned an Associate of Art degree in Liberal Arts in May 2014. This spring, she will earn her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Kean University. She is a member of Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society and will be inducted into Kean University's Epsilon Omega Honor Society. Currently she is serving as a Founding Board Member of the Criminal Justice Club. Deanna was nominated as a candidate for 2015-2016 Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. She is an active participant in community affairs and is a member of the Rotary Club in Fanwood-Scotch Plains Chapter through which she served as Co-Chair of a Fund-Raising Benefit for Nepal in September 2015. She also serves as a member and Fund-Raising Chair of UNICO, an Italian-American Organization in her community. In addition, Deanna has been highly recognized for initiating her own Comedy Show Fundraising for the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Ice Hockey Association, for which she assisted in raising \$11,000 in one evening. Deanna's academic achievement and active participation in a host of campus related and community-based activities are self-less acts when you consider that she has "Nail Patella Syndrome", a medical condition that hinders her from bending her fingers and toe joints. Deanna also endures severe arthritis and several other medical problems, through which she makes efforts to persevere in striving to reach her desired goals. Following graduation, Deanna plans to pursue Graduate Studies in Social Work and Psychology while maintaining her involvement with local community affairs.

Mercer County Community College

*9 award recipients in total

Distinguished Scholar

Christopher A. Ambrose

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Nayab J. Goraya

Nnamdi M. Nnajofofor

Jordy Ruane

Academic Achievement

Johanna Agudelo

Estefany Gonzalez

Cornett E. Davies

Colette D. Leonard-James

Outstanding Achievement

Gabriel S. Douglas

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Gabriel S. Douglas

Ms. Gabriel S. Douglas, a graduate of Trenton Central High School is the Mercer County Community College EOF Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight student. She will receive her associate degree in Criminal Justice from Mercer in May 2016. She plans to transfer to Rutgers University in the Fall 2016 where she will continue her education and receive a Bachelors degree in preparation for a career in Criminal Justice and the rehabilitation of offenders.

Ms. Douglas is the type of person who puts her heart into everything she does. Her motto is to “never give up.” Being a single mother has not stopped her from pursuing her goals and dreams. In addition to her academics, she has served as the President of Mercer’s EOF Club, attended the annual National Student Leadership Conference in Washington D.C., been an active leader in VENUS (a support group for Mercer’s women of color) and she has served on the Student Senate of Mercer’s Student Government Association. She has also worked in various offices within the area of Student Affairs at Mercer County Community College.

Middlesex County College

***11 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Muhammad Ashar
Omar De Los Angeles

Arielle Flores
Terance Jimenez

Halimat Oshun

Academic Achievement

Liliana Fernandez

Jessica Ramos

Nathalie Tapia

Outstanding Achievement

Prosper Japheth

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Prosper Japheth

Prosper Japheth came to the Middlesex County College EOF program in 2012 to strengthen her academic growth and development. Her field of study was Criminal Justice because of an interest in law school, fighting corruption in general, and working in a Prosecutor's office.

Prosper's social skills as a co-curricular leader in educational seminars, cultural workshops, and community experiences grew alongside her academic endeavors. She served as President and Vice-President of the First World African Nation club. She was a member of the Educational Opportunity Fund club. She was active with the We Set the Trend Fashion club. She assisted the Office of Student Activities with the Help America Vote Act mandate and voter registration drives. She has volunteered at Elijah's Promise soup kitchen and the Central Jersey Blood Centers.

Recently, Prosper was selected as Ms. Queen Nigeria Independence for the 2014-2015 year. She shared her passion for social justice by emphasizing the stoppage of human trafficking in her native country. Although college was challenging for Prosper, she remained focused on her goal to graduate. This spring, Prosper transferred to William Paterson University to continue her academic and professional goals.

Monmouth University

*24 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Momna Awan
Kyrsten Churchwell
Danielle Doud
Joshua Gruber
Toni Jacovini

Enrique Mata
Caique Nascimento
Bunyamin Ozdemir
Rafa Rahman
Jessica Spiro

Breonah Toon
Thuy Tran
Mahal Wilson

Academic Achievement

Maham Ayub
Jahmer Bunch
Renee Orefice

Keone Osby
John Peterolff
Irma Pinos

Rocio Serey
Rafael Troya

Outstanding Achievement

Melanie Davis

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Keone Osby

Keone Osby grew up in Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey and attended Monmouth Regional High School. He will be graduating this May with a Bachelor of Science in Homeland Security and he plans on becoming a police officer after graduation. Keone has always taken his responsibilities seriously and has shown his dedication and leadership through the Monmouth University Football team (as a player and then as a team manager), his alternative spring break trip to Guatemala, and his current role as a class leader in the police academy. During his senior year in college, Keone was accepted and began the Police Academy where he is learning how to be an effective police officer. He has been recognized from the staff there and was elected the “class leader.” This additional responsibility shows the character and distinguished person that he is. Keon has learned to balance being a leader, companion and student with his peers. When asked about his accomplishments, Keone stated being able to attend college has been his biggest accomplishment. However, his list of other accomplishments include: Dean’s List (Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Fall 2015), a member of Chi Alpha Epsilon (EOF Honor Society), Member of the Monmouth Football Team, Football Team Manager, Facilities Management Grounds Keeper, Special1 for Long Branch, Police Academy for Special II – Class Leader. His dream became a reality due to the EOF program at Monmouth University and attending college has opened the doors to possibilities that he would never have imagined. The most impactful experience was the alternative break service project trip to Guatemala. The trip was a week-long service trip where he helped to build a school in a rural community. This transformative learning experience opened his eyes to a new perspective on life and how others are treated in the world. This knowledge has strongly influenced how he wants to give back to his local community and strengthened his desire to become a police officer. Keone is seen as a positive role model and pillar of the community. He is truly one of our spotlights!

Montclair State University

*47 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Bushra Ali	Daimi Delgado	Krysta Tilghman
Iraida Alvarez Gonzalez	Yaritza Diaz	Michelle Urgilez
Tiara Barratt	Sumah Islam	Jasmine Villishanay
Nadia Benton	Ivan Lopez	Erica Williams
Dominique Cooper	Yasmin Mcleod	
Dante Dallavalle	Zohrah Shareh	

Academic Achievement

Adelin Aguaviva	Leilany Diaz	Khady Ndiaye
Zoraida Alvarez Gonzalez	Maria Fiorella Fegan	Anthony Nuñez
Olutosin Araromi	Maria Flores	Priscilla Ofori
Farahzebin Chowdhury	Jaalah Hagler	Nicole Reyes
Nesary Cruz	Vanessa Layedra	Emmanuella Tandoh
Kriczet Danta	Amanda Martinez	Yurisa Valdivieso
Brittany De la Cruz	Abilene Mora	Destiney Wilson
El-Hajj Malik Deloach	Tamanna Murshed	

Outstanding Achievement

Elijah Reaves

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Bushra Ali

Bushra comes from an immigrant family of 7, which entails a single mother and six children. She is a graduate of Passaic County Technical high school in Wayne, NJ June 2012. As a Biology major/Chemistry minor, Bushra has made the Dean's List for seven consecutive semesters and maintained a GPA of 3.8 or higher. She has had a perfect 4.0 GPA for the last four semesters. Bushra has been awarded three scholarships from the Department of Science and Mathematics. She has won 2nd place at the MACUB Conference in New York for Microbiology Research and won 1st place for the Tech Launch Future Scientist Award at the Annual Student Research Symposium at MSU. She was accepted into Summer Medical and Dental Education Program and the Gateway to Dentistry program at Rutgers School of Dental Medicine. Furthermore, she was recruited as a Summer Medical and Dental Education Program Ambassador to recruit potential students into the program. Bushra was inducted into the EOF Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society and the Science Honors Innovation Program at MSU. Her involvement in numerous clubs and organizations include the Biology Club, Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation, Education Opportunity Fund Program, the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Global Medical Brigades, Partners of the Americas 100,000 Strong, and Minority Association of Pre-Health

Montclair State University (Continued)

Students (MAPS). Also, Bushra has participated as an international research exchange student in Chile where she learned about the different aspects of biotechnology, science, and research.

She tutors science and mathematics to undergraduate students as a mentor for Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation and has mentored many EOF students. Also, she conducted microbiology research as an undergraduate student and presented at many national and international conferences.

Lastly, she has accumulated 177 hours of shadowing dentists at the dental clinic in Hackensack Mountainside Hospital and at several private offices which expanded her understanding and interests in dentistry. She is currently working as a laboratory assistant and teacher's assistant for Microbiology. She is also fundraising for the Global Medical Brigades program that involved traveling to Panama in January 2016 to provide care for impoverished Panamanians. After graduation, Bushra plans to apply to dental school while working as a dental assistant at a dental clinic or she will pursue a Masters in Oral Biology.

Montclair State University Health Careers Program

***9 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Stephanie Avalos
Jazmin Garcia

Ann Nduati
Michael Ruiz

Ramata Sy
Michelle Torres

Academic Achievement

Amaka Amaechi

Monica Tavarez

Outstanding Achievement

Ann Nduati

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Ann Nduati

Ann Nduati is a graduate of Winslow Township High School and was accepted to Montclair State University's (MSU) Eight Year BS/MD Combined Articulation Program through the Health Careers Program. Ann's ability to complete her undergraduate requirements, as a Molecular Biology major, within three and a half years is a testament to her hard work and dedication. As an undergraduate student, Ann truly represented the spirit and intent of the Health Careers Program. Having achieved a cumulative grade point average of 3.84, she will graduate Magna Cum Laude and with University Honors in May of 2016. Ann has been able to make the Dean's List multiple times and has been awarded the Presidential and Van Houten Memorial Foundation Scholarships. She has also been awarded the opportunity to conduct scientific research through the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, has served as a student researcher for MSU's Center for Quantitative Obesity, has participated in the Summer Medical and Dental Education Program at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School (Summer 2013) and the Pre-Medical Research Education Program at Rowan School of Osteopathic Medicine (Summer 2014), and has served as an exceptional Peer Tutor for the Health Careers Program.

In addition to her rigorous course schedule, Ann also was involved in various campus activities. She served as Vice President of Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship, was an active member of Global Medical Brigades, and served as a Resident Assistant for the Health Careers Summer Program. In June of 2016, Ann will begin medical school at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, through the Pre-Matriculation Program.

New Jersey City University

*31 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Feiby Abdelnoor
Mariam Aboushousha
Jasmine Alexander
Aleshia Black

Eileen Carrion
Danielle Grasso
Deborah Maxan
Ria Nathan

Carmen Ponte
Kerolos Rophail
Jatna Suazo
Sehar Tariq

Academic Achievement

Dorcas Allen
Gabriela Arian
Mikiera Buchanan
Amad Chaudhry
Jessica Coke

Desiree Cuadra
Youstina Fouad
Erik Geronimo
Samar Ghattas
Marylee Gonzalez

Amadou Jalloh
Shailla Liberal
Ana Pena
Ryan Roche

Outstanding Achievement

Lakeasha Lynette Gordon

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Lakeasha Lynette Gordon

Lakeasha Lynette Gordon was born and raised in Jersey City, New Jersey. She is a mother of five and a grandmother of two. She graduated High School from Dickinson Adult Night School in 2004. In 2008, she graduated from Hudson County Community College with an Associate Applied Science degree in Human Services. In 2016, she is scheduled to graduate from New Jersey City University with her Bachelor of Arts degree in Socio-Crime & Social Behavior and a certificate of completion for Clinical Alcohol & Drug Counseling. She is a proud student of the Educational Opportunity Fund/ Opportunity Scholarship Program. During the academic school year of 2014-2015, Lakeasha sat on the Board of Trustees at New Jersey City University. She was selected by NJCU's Student Government Organization to represent the students of the University due to the student's belief that she truly had the best interest of the students at heart. Lakeasha is actively a Deaconess at Gethsemane Baptist Church in West New York and is also a part of the van and employment ministry at her church. Currently, she is working as a Peer Tutor at Gethsemane Baptist Church on Saturday's. She looks forward to coming back to New Jersey City University for the License Professional Counseling Program. In the future it is her goal to one day run her own outreach program for father's and mother's trying to get their children back from the court system.

New Jersey Institute of Technology

*5 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Diana Hernandez

Adonis Yaport

Anna Pasternak

Ghislain Youdom

Outstanding Achievement

Abigail Bazile

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Adonis Yaport

Adonis Yaport is a resident of Bayonne, New Jersey and is a graduate of James J. Ferris High School. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from New Jersey Institute of Technology on January 29, 2016. A Civil Engineering major, earned a cumulative grade point average of 3.72. Throughout his college career Adonis has been a student leader and a role model. He served as the Vice President of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers from June 2013 to January 2014, Event Coordinator from June 2012 to June 2013, Events Chair and Academic Chair of Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity, Inc., and Resident Assistant. In addition to his leadership skills, Adonis has managed to have two internships and two Co-ops. He is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society and has been named to the Dean's List for seven semesters. Upon graduation, Adonis wants to pursue a career as a Geotechnical Engineer.

Ocean County College

*16 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Keshia Asante
Terry Asante
Lisa Bethel

James Brudnicki
Janelle George
Ronnie Grieco

Joseph Levy
Deep Patel
Cameron Scarano

Academic Achievement

Jasmine Boyer
Dondre Craig

Tyler Fitzgerald
Klever Goracy

Breanna Van Leer
Marcos Vasquez

Outstanding Achievement

Kevin Campos

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Klever Goracy

Despite never finishing high school, family turbulence, housing issues, balancing employment and school, and even the birth of his son, Klever Goracy defied odds and expectations in every way. Klever is truly remarkable. He is both humble and kind; always working hard, always willing to help. He is resilient, bright, determined, and focused and most deserving of Ocean County College's EOF Spotlight Student nomination.

While his first semester was challenging, Klever's intellect and grit propelled him forward, and each semester was met with success. On top of his family and work responsibilities, Klever achieved stellar grades, always maintained excellent progress in our program, and never missed an appointment or event, despite his busy schedule. A business major with a 3.33 GPA, Klever is a member of Phi Beta Lambda, OCC's business honor society, and made the President's List for academic honors for three semesters. Klever made terrific connections during his time at OCC. He built a professional rapport with his accounting and business professors, evident in his glowing progress reports. He was a constant figure in EOF, volunteering his time to assist the office weekly while we have been without administrative support. Since the birth of his son in February 2013, Klever has worked full time to support the needs of his child. His energy and passion to work hard to complete his degree is inspirational. Klever is destined to do great things in life, and while it is bittersweet to see him leave our campus, we know he will make strides to reach his goals and continue improving his life and the lives of his loved ones.

Passaic County Community College

***18 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Yesenia Aranda
Salma Begum
Miguel De Jesus
Sterling Espaillat

Josias Fraser
Smerlyn Lora
Esmeralda Munoz
Edward Olivo

Tinker Sarker
Mohammad Shoghorui

Academic Achievement

Yusmilka Barrera
Shayna Barrera-Mercedes
Cherilynn Brown

Nataly Fernandez
Sureily Francisco
Imani Pancham

Joseph Wilson

Outstanding Achievement

Patricia Goodman

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Smerlyn Lora

Smerlyn Lora is a native of Passaic, New Jersey and graduated from Passaic High School. She will earn an Associate of Arts Degree in Teacher Education. Smerlyn is a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and maintains a 3.62 grade point average. She also serves as the Vice President for Alliance of Educational Opportunity Fund Students of New Jersey. She will attend William Paterson University in fall 2016 and major in Communication Disorders.

Ramapo College of New Jersey

*15 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Happy Debi

Joana Gerbi

Sasha Lopez

Academic Achievement

Crystal Acosta

Monica E. Cuello Natera

Faith Macer

Yolidavey Angon

Stefania Delgado

Alina Sanchez

Patricia Bergamasco

Yovanna Garcia

Shruti Tiwari

Bridgette Lauren Cervantes

Jene Ariel Jones

Outstanding Achievement

Wilson Emerson Quiceno

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Monica E. Cuello Natera

Monica Cuello Natera hometown is Englewood, New Jersey and she attended Academics at Englewood High School. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature and Spanish Language with a minor in Latin American Studies from Ramapo College of New Jersey in January 2016. During her tenure at Ramapo she was a highly motivated student who academically excelled throughout her four years at Ramapo, earning a cumulative GPA of a 3.0 or higher each semester.

During her college career, she served as a Resident Assistant for the Office of Residence Life, and served as peer educator for the Health Awareness Team (HAT) in the Center for Health and Counseling Services. She also interned in the Office of Institutional Advancement for two years. She served as the president and treasurer of Sigma Delta Pi Honor Society for two years and was also a member of Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society.

Additionally, Monica participated in our EOF Graduate/Professional School Preparatory Program to prepare her for graduate studies, studied abroad in various Spanish speaking countries and participated in an intensive Portuguese Language program at Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vermont. During her travels abroad, Monica served as a social media and marketing intern for UNESCO Extea in Bilbao, Spain

Additionally, Monica is a proud member of Chi Upsilon National Latin Sorority Incorporated and has participated in Ramapo College's alternative Spring Break trip where she traveled to the Cabarete, in the Dominican Republic. Here she participated in community service projects with the Dream Project organization that strives to improve literacy and education. She volunteered at "Oasis: A Haven for Women and Children" in Paterson, New Jersey where she tutored women who were pursuing their GED. She also did volunteer work at the Student Literacy Corps in Paterson, New Jersey where she aided children who have difficulty with literacy. Her future plans include pursuing a Master's degree in Higher Education Administration next fall. Monica has a bright future ahead of her.

Raritan Valley Community College

*8 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Niki Brown
Michael Fenneman

Wenjun Mo
Ana Pareja

Siddharth Raut
Erika Shovlin

Academic Achievement

Nicole Friend

Outstanding Achievement

Yshanda Denton

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Wenjun Mo

Wenjun Mo was born in China and moved to the United State in 2010. He lives in North Plainfield, New Jersey and graduated from North Plainfield High School in 2013. After graduating from high school, Wenjun decided to attend Raritan Valley Community College and participated in the EOF summer program. From the start Wenjun excelled as a student, both in the classroom and amongst the greater RVCC community. Some of his accomplishments are as follows: Dean's List every semester, recipient of the Galileo Scholarship, induction into the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society, he held a work study job in the Human Resources Office, and he worked two summers as an EOF Orientation Leader. In the Fall of 2015, Wenjun graduated with his Associate of Science Degree with a GPA of a 3.71. Upon graduation Wenjun transferred to Rutgers New Brunswick's EOF program where he is pursuing his Bachelor's Degree in Food Science.

Rider University

***9 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Evelyn Campbell
Jessica Chrzanowski

Cameron Cook
Ismail Sulaman

Academic Achievement

Victoria Interra

Melissa Pietrucha

Angelica Velez

Outstanding Achievement

Kyle Bivens

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Victoria Interra

Victoria Interra is from Pleasantville NJ, she attended St. Joseph High School in Hammonton NJ. Victoria is a Psychology major with a minor in Social Work. She has been on the Dean's list for three consecutive semesters and currently has a 3.3 cumulative GPA. Victoria is a Resident Advisor and a member of the Bonner Scholars program where she does daily community service with homeless families in Trenton, NJ. Victoria is also a member of the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement program, and has served as a Peer Mentor for the Science Learning Community and a Peer Counselor for the Educational Opportunity Program. Upon graduation Victoria plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Psychology and dedicate her life to helping others.

Rowan College at Burlington County

*13 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Patrick Cagle
Patience Clinton
Hassan Coulibaly

Marc McCord
Mimi Mincer
Ashley Rivera

Alston Sanford

Academic Achievement Award

Ijeoma Chimezie
Megan Jarney

Kelly Kennedy
Asyanae Muwwakill

Devon Tupkielewicz- Goodrich

Outstanding Achievement Award

Patience Clinton

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Ashley Rivera

Ashley Rivera is from Northfield, New Jersey and is a graduate of Mainland Regional High School. Currently, she is majoring in Chemistry and is scheduled to earn her associate's degree in Liberal Arts and Science this spring. Her list of honors include: Dean's List, a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, a member of Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society, and she is the recipient of the Chemistry Academic Award.

Growing up, Ashley was responsible for helping to care for her family which included almost a dozen cousins; as a result no time was left for her to pursue extra-curricular activities after the regular school day. Through high school she had great ambitions to study the sciences at a university, but after leaving high school financial hardships left her unable to complete her education at a university. Much to her dismay, she had to put her dreams in a deep space in back of her mind far away; yet, her dream was not forgotten. As time passed, Ashley finally decided it was time to put higher education back on her list as a high priority. She enrolled in Burlington County College (now known as Rowan College at Burlington County). She signed up for the EOF Program to ensure she could complete her studies. She learned from other students that the EOF program provided support for first generation students. Little did she know that the people she would meet in EOF would be worth far more than any financial assistance they provided. According to Ashley, EOF gave her the opportunity to continue her education and resurrect her dreams. The unexpected support she received from the staff and the program's genuine desire for each student to succeed has made such a tremendous difference in her life.

EOF has been there for her during the most important time in her life and for that she remains eternally grateful. After Ashley graduates from Rowan College at Burlington County, she plans to attend a prestigious New Jersey University that offers a dual degree program in Chemistry and Physics. She will continue to use the tools and resources the EOF program has supplied her with to excel in her future endeavors. Ashley's future is limitless and EOF is a big part of that. She looks forward to being an EOF alumnus and giving back to others the same support that was offered to her.

Rowan College at Gloucester County

*28 award recipients in total

Distinguished Scholar

Calla Travia

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Stephen Banchi

Cheyenne Forbes

Liliana Sanchez

Erin Bracken

Nicolette Hassett

Jessica Snyder

Kimberly Diaz

Jessica Heady

Sarah Stuart

John Erlenbach

Allison Kosek

Alyssa-Lynn Yamabushi

Courtney Esposito

Samantha Peterson

Academic Achievement

Lainie Bartolome

Jacqueline Giancola

Maria Mancini

Jennifer Cline

Jonathan Gonzalez

Meghan Ridgeway

Nija Fleming

Taylor Heaney

Gary Smith

Megan Frank

Daniel Hempsey

Antolyna Zimmerman

Outstanding Achievement

Calla Travia

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Calla Marie Travia

Calla Marie Travia hails from Mullica Hill, New Jersey. Calla graduated from Clearview Regional High School in 2014. She will receive her degree in Associate of Arts: Communications Option from Rowan College at Gloucester County in 2016. She has had a tremendous academic career earning an overall GPA of a 4.0 placing her on the President's List every semester. She has also earned a Distinguished Scholar award due to her GPA, and an invitation to Phi Theta Kappa. Calla plans to continue her education at Rowan University to earn her Bachelor's Degree in Public Relations while minoring in Advertising in 2018. She wishes to secure a great job in the field of public relations and eventually become President of Public and Media Relations at a well-establish company or organization. In previous years, Calla was part of the Best Buddies Club where she greatly enjoyed leading and forming meaningful relationships with the disabled.

Rowan University - Camden

*13 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Carlos Cabrera
Vanessa Lopez

Alexis M. Mountes
Lucelia Santos Avila

Courtney D. Wakefield

Academic Achievement

Nicole D. Diaz
Huong M. Nguyen
Gissell A. Nunez

Wanny R. Perez
Cindy W. Perez
Kendal R. Pyles

Colleen M. Sanchez

Outstanding Achievement

Mariely De Jesus

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Mariely De Jesus

Mariely De Jesus was born in the Dominican Republic, but was raised in Camden, New Jersey. She is a graduating senior at Rowan University majoring in Spanish and minoring in Education and Sociology, with a concentration in International Studies. She is a mother to a handsome 5-year-old boy, Albert. Mariely recognizes that as a teenage mother, many people did not expect for her to go to college and graduate. While the past five years have been difficult to manage, Mariely is proud to say that she has made it!

Since beginning her college career at Rowan University through the EOF Camden program, Mariely has had a great support network. Her EOF counselor, Dr. Dawn Singleton, has played a significant role in her perseverance at Rowan and Mariely credits Dr. Singleton and the EOF program for providing her with a tremendous amount of support. She also had the privilege to be involved in a few clubs and organizations like the Dr. Harley E. Flack Student Mentoring Program, and the Rowan Students for Community Service club. Being in the Community Service club made her realize that you can't help everyone, but you can accomplish so much by just focusing on one student at a time, much like what the EOF program does.

In the future, Mariely plans on teaching Spanish Education at Camden's Promise Charter School, where she is currently a permanent substitute teacher. She graduated from Camden Academy Charter High School and was raised in Camden which is why she wants to return and teach there. For Mariely, it's about "paying it forward." Giving back is the best way that she believes she can ever say thank you to all those who have helped her reach her life goals. She wants to help students understand that they are more than just another stereotype from Camden. Like Mariely, the students from Camden can achieve great things if they can just believe in themselves and find a support network to assist them on their journey. She looks forward to helping to educate and inspire the next generation of students from Camden.

Rowan University - Glassboro

*12 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Victoria Marie Cepeda
Kaitlin C Gaffney

Sarah Ann Hoover
Cindy N. Rubiano-Gomez

Jessica Nicole Sanchez
Brittany Marleen Then

Academic Achievement

Yaniris M Cintron
Angela Perez

Susan Lee Perls
Anne Elizabeth Rebecca

Capresha K. Smith

Outstanding Achievement

Minelson Louis-Baptiste

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Cindy N. Rubiano-Gomez

Cindy Rubiano-Gomez is a senior majoring in Spanish and Psychology. Throughout her academic career at Rowan University she has maintained involvement as a Resident Assistant which has provided a platform to serve as a mentor and guide to fellow peers. Cindy has also been a translator/interpreter for the student chapter of Engineers Without Borders and is currently the International Project Leader for a water access project in the Dominican Republic. Cindy has volunteered within the community by teaching ESL classes in Camden and implementing Spanish lessons for brain injury patients at Bancroft Hospital. Last summer, Cindy studied abroad in Spain and took classes at Universidad de Granada. After graduating, Cindy will pursue her Master's Degree in Translation and Interpretation.

Rutgers University Camden

*7 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Jasmarie Arce
Joseph Castaner

Tiyana Hicks
Ashley Ramos

Omar Samaniego
Pelín Tuncay

Outstanding Achievement

Jasmarie Arce

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Jasmarie Arce

Jasmarie Arce first joined EOF in Fall 2014 as a transfer student and has quickly demonstrated characteristics of an exemplary, hardworking student serious about her studies and focused on personal and academic success. Jasmarie is a respectful, confident, excellent communicator who is committed and honest. She has always expressed an interest in leadership opportunities, and as such has become a founding member of our EOF Student Advisory Board (EOFSAB) at Rutgers University-Camden. As an EOFSAB member, Jasmarie is not only working toward strengthening her leadership competencies, but also contributing invaluable student perspectives for continued growth of our program. She never hesitates to offer her assistance and feedback when necessary and has quickly become one of my most reliable student leaders. Just recently, Jasmarie was also accepted into Rutgers University's Master of Social Work program at Camden and will begin her studies this summer.

Rutgers University Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy

*6 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Aiman Bandali

Zoya Talat

Daniel Haddad

Vivian Wu

Academic Achievement

Roseller David

Outstanding Achievement

Vivian Wu

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Vivian Wu

Vivian Wu is from Cherry Hill, New Jersey and graduated from Cherry Hill East High School in 2010. Not only has she achieved Dean's List every semester, but she was also inducted into Chi Alpha Epsilon and Rho Chi honor societies during her professional years in pharmacy school. In addition, Vivian put in equal time and dedication to her roles in pharmacy organizations and extracurricular activities. Since her sophomore year, Vivian started as a co-chair member of the Power to End Stroke committee under the Student National Pharmaceutical Association. From there, she has served as the Chapter Correspondent and Ambassador on the executive board, while participating in many organizational events, such as the Celebration of Lights, 3-on-3 basketball tournament, health fairs at local sites, and charity walks, among others. Vivian has also been very involved in the Educational Opportunity Fund program in many ways. She has shown devotion to other students in the program by becoming a tutor, mentor, and friend to all of whom she has interacted with. The subjects she has tutored range from General Chemistry, Calculus, and Organic Chemistry to Medicinal Chemistry, Infectious Disease Therapeutics, and Pharmacokinetics. She also served as the Pharmacy Governing Council Representative, Treasurer and President of Chi Alpha Epsilon honor society. It was mainly through these experiences in various organizations that she developed essential leadership qualities. With her interests in knowledge, leadership, and public service, Vivian aspires to pursue a career as a pharmacist on the medical team in both the community and hospital settings.

Rutgers University Newark College of Arts & Sciences

*62 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Nada Abdelaziz	Stephie Degand	Derrick McKie
Tasrin Ahmed	Nikhil Desai	Dawn Odom
Aia Ali	Shayla Downing	Manush Palan
Marsha Armstrong	Safika Frazier	Betsabe Ramos-Acosta
Fara Asif	Andrea Gates	John Rueda
Cassandra Carleton	Lorayna Gil	Shakeya Saffold
Victoria Cooper	Kristine Guzman	Michelle Spallone

Academic Achievement

Rasheeda Alan	Sara Montiel	Stephanie Saint-Jean
Christine Carter	Kavita Panchal	Karen Torres
Ashley Danger	Leticia Parada	Margarita Valdez
Aya Daoud	Karishma Patel	Joshua Velazquez
Nickalla Dias	Whitney Perez	Glenda Zavala
Delia Duran	Dimitri Reyes	
Marie Forges	Kimmeshia Roger-Jones	

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Betsabe Ramos-Acosta

Betsabe Ramos-Acosta graduated from Linden High School (New Jersey) in June 2012. She joined Rutgers University-Newark's EOF family in the summer of 2012 as a first-year student. She is a Criminal Justice major with a minor in Women's Studies. Her academic dedication is evident in her undergraduate cumulative grade point average of 3.90. As of Fall 2015, she was accepted into the School of Criminal Justice's dual degree program where she is pursuing a Masters in Criminal Justice while completing her undergraduate degree. Fall 2015 was her first semester as a full-time, graduate student where she earned a perfect 4.0 cumulative grade point average. Mrs. Ramos-Acosta will complete her Masters in Criminal Justice in December 2016. The academic achievements pale in comparison to what Mrs. Ramos-Acosta achieves in her daily personal life. Mrs. Ramos-Acosta is married, has always commuted to campus, and averaged 15 credits per semester. At the same time, she works an average of 30 hours a week in several capacities. For the Student Support Services Program, she provided administrative support as a work-study, served as a Student Mentor and a Tutor. Since 2013, she has held a position of Tutor for the Rutgers University-Newark's Writing Center. Last but not least, during the summers of 2013-15, she served in the capacity of English TA for the EOF Program and as a Mentor for the Student Support Services Program. For the spring 2016 semester, Mrs. Ramos-Acosta was offered an internship at the Essex County Prosecutors Office and at the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). She will graduate in May 2016 and has accepted a temporary, full-time position with the FBI out of Washington, DC. Mrs. Ramos-Acosta's long term goals include possibly working for the FBI and obtaining her law degree.

Rutgers University

Office for Diversity and Success in the Sciences (ODASIS)

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Efua Bolouvi

Ms. Efua Bolouvi is a Rutgers University School of Arts and Sciences EOF student and an active scholar in the Office for Diversity and Academic Success in the Sciences (ODASIS) program. As the ODASIS Program Director, I have known Efua for two years. During this period I have been impressed by the motivation, curiosity and compassion she has displayed.

Efua's family history of ailments is her primary motivation behind her desire to pursue a career in medicine. After moving from Togo to America in 2005, Efua and her family lived in East Orange, where she attended East Orange Campus High School. She explains that education was scarce and expensive in Togo, however, it did not stop her from becoming an exceptional student. At Rutgers University, Efua has been recognized for her academic excellence as a Biology major and French Language Arts minor with her nomination to the Dean's List twice. She was also a recipient of the Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences Academic Excellence Scholarship Award, a prestigious honor presented to students in the top 10% of the sophomore class. Her other accolades include being the recipient of the Undergraduate Service Award and being inducted into the Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society.

In addition to her academic success, Efuna possesses curiosity and a thirst for knowledge that has driven her to pursue research opportunities throughout her academic life. She worked as the Laboratory Assistant in Dr. Patricia Buckendahl's Lab where she was given the opportunity to have hands-on experience in lab work. She performed dissection on mice and learned to devise and conduct experiments to help with her research. During the summer of 2014, Efua interned at the Robert Wood Johnson University hospital and shadowed a team of neurosurgeons. Due to her academic success and consistent pursuit of opportunities to learn about medicine, she was accepted into the Med Phase II program. As a scholar in the program, she is currently taking four medical school courses at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in addition to her courses at Rutgers University. Her love for research and work ethic assure me that she will become a great physician one day.

Rutgers University School of Arts & Sciences New Brunswick

*129 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Joanna Acevedo	Ismelka Gomez	Brianna Pirro
Daniela Agosto	Kelly Graca	Yuliya Prots
Michelle Arrendell	Anastasia Groce	Desiree Ramos
Timothy Barry	Mouna Jaouad	Cheran Rollins
Lubna Begum	Saira Khan	Darline Rosa Gonzalez
Ashley Berry	Genesis Leon	Claudia Rugama
Efua Bolouvi	Parth Majmundar	Ryan Schweikert
Marie Callahan	Valeria Montoya	Johanna Serrano
Shirley Cheng	Issayana Munoz	Brian Snyder
Jalene Coss	Lika Natour	Darius Still
Fam Ekladius	Anand Patel	Camilo Torres
Miquel Gabbidon	Vaibhav Patel	Erick Vasquez
Tamirah Gainer	Melany Perez	Ming Ding Weng
Emily Garces	Monishka Pierre	Sisheng Zhang

Academic Achievement

Chelsea Andino	Katherine Ferreira	Daniela Ortega
Edna Antwi	Jaime Flores Vivero	Gisselle Perdomo
Bryan Araujo	Victor Gatica	Wildania Quezada
Stephany Asare	Yesica Genao	Jennifer Rodriguez
Lois Asemnor	Apolonia Guerrero	Jason Rojas
Julian Biebelberg	Richard Joffe	Karen Rosero
Sara Bortolon	Vikas Kalia	Mercedez Ruiz
Alexandria Campbell	Melissa Kelleman	Ka'rita Sergeon
Veronica Cano	Ruma Khan	Brianna Shaw
Deandra Carter	Daniel Le	Morgan Taylor
Samantha Cooley	Rayshawn Ledet	Paul Thom
Walter Culkin	Stephanie Leiva	Jascynt Tulloch
Lamayta Dennis	Jairahna Manalastas	Joseph Ugarte
Makka Depa	Cherise Mohammed	Saqqara Wright
Emmanuela Dorvilas	Vi Nguyen	Deborah Yeboah
Anneth Drew	Babajide Okesola	Hilal Yildiz
Brittany Fermin	Esther Oluyemi	

Outstanding Achievement

Efua Bolouvi

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

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Victor Gatica

Mr. Victor Gatica is from Piscataway, New Jersey. He is scheduled to graduate from Rutgers University-School of Arts and Sciences in May 2016, with a double major in political science and psychology and a minor in philosophy. Mr. Gatica has been very involved on campus as an ambassador for the Rutgers-Ritsumeikan Exchange Program, a member of the Rutgers Honor Council, a member of the Residents Hall Association, and a member of the Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting. Mr. Gatica is a McNair Scholar, and has been a research assistant with a psychology lab, as well as a community partner for PIRG. He is a general research intern for the Eagleton Institute of Politics and is currently interning with the mayoral campaign of Sharon Hubberman in Perth Amboy. Last fall, Mr. Gatica taught a First-year Interest Group Seminar (FIGS) course on “Exploring Political Science.” Mr. Gatica has assisted the school’s University Foundation in their fundraising efforts and has been a journalist for the New Brunswick Today newspaper. He is currently a Resident Assistant for the Livingston Apartments.

Rutgers University School of Engineering

*18 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Adham El-Sherbeini
Trent Handlovsky

Mariusz Ogrodnik
Kuldip Patel

Andrea Penafiel

Academic Achievement

Prabesika Khatri

Mateusz Sepko

Yatin Tuteja

Outstanding Achievement

Franco Cumpa

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Franco Cumpa

Franco Cumpa will be graduating in May with a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial and Systems Engineering. He was born in the city of Lima, Peru and his actual hometown is Paterson, NJ. Franco graduated from the Applied Sciences academy at Passaic County Technical Institute. He has been an executive board member for the Sigma Phi Delta International Engineering Fraternity at Rutgers University for two years of his college career. Currently Franco is the President of the organization. Through his role as President he is able to help out by giving back to the school of Engineering and undergraduate engineering students. Franco has been an EOF counselor for two summers in a row, mentoring upcoming engineering students by making the transition from high school to college much easier. Once Franco graduates he wants to be able to provide for his family and work in a place where he feels he is able to make a positive contribution.

Rutgers University School of Environmental and Biological Sciences

*11 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Mowda Fadl

Academic Achievement

Mohamed Said Abdalla

Lamyaa Bouzida

Esther Exantus

Anam Fatima

Lamont Jackson

Stacy N. Martinez

Amirah Peoples

Hina Sanallah

Ashley Woolfork

Outstanding Achievement

Darlice Carol Rocha

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Amirah Peoples

A Jersey City native, Amirah Peoples graduated from McNair Academic High School in 2012. After high school, Amirah attended Rutgers University and will soon graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nutritional Sciences this May 2016. During her tenure at Rutgers, Amirah remained focused on her dreams to become a Nurse Practitioner but did not waiver passion to uplift her peers. Her passion for health related professions led her to create a student organization on campus - Rutgers University Allied Health Professions. This organization was designed to present students with information about the various health related careers. The leadership experience she gained propelled her to become a Student Support Services Ambassador in 2013 where she raised student awareness of academic services available for low-income first-generation students, hosted various student survival skills workshops, and mentored first generation students through their transition to the college.

In 2014, Amirah traveled to Oaxaca, Mexico to participate in a health service-learning internship. There, she supported physicians and dentists in providing health education and services to impoverished communities that had limited access to these services. Amirah believes that the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) program at Rutgers University has played a substantial role in her accomplishments to date. The EOF staff provided a family atmosphere, advisement, and financial support to help her complete her college journey. Most importantly, the program has assisted her with navigating many emotional periods in her life. As she became homeless and struggled without knowing where she would sleep, the program assisted with helping her to maintain her academics while getting the services that she needed for basic survival. In spite of these and other tribulations, Amirah remains committed to helping first generation students, and plans to continue her education with the goal of becoming a nurse practitioner.

Rutgers University School of Health Related Professions

*5 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Mina Fahmy
Maria Mantilla

Tryce Reyes
Bilal Tariq

Academic Achievement

Victoria Delgado

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Maria Fernanda Mantilla

Maria Fernanda Mantilla is a proud graduate of Science Park High School. She and her family have been residents of Newark, NJ since their arrival to the United States when Maria was ten years old. Through hard work and dedication, Maria was able to improve her English speaking skills and was selected to participate in NJIT's NJ Gear-Up Program. This program allowed her to not only gain additional academic support but it provided her with a blueprint of the steps she needed to take to reach her goal of going to college.

After graduating from high school, Maria was admitted into the EOF program at Rutgers University-Newark. Thankfully, it was the EOF program that provided her with academic, financial, and the social support she needed to succeed in college. Through the efforts of the EOF staff at Rutgers-Newark, she was able to successfully transfer into the EOF program at Rutgers School of Health Related Professions where she was offered the same type of support.

Maria is happy to say that she is now an Alumna to both Rutgers - Newark and Rutgers School of Health Related Professions. Through her efforts, she was able to earn a dual-degree in Clinical Laboratory Science and Medical Laboratory Science. Today, Maria is employed as a Medical Technologist in the Transfusion Services/Blood Bank department at St. Michael's Medical Center. Her future goals include taking the GRE and going on to graduate school to pursue a Master's in Pathologist's Assistant.

Rutgers University School of Nursing

*13 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Joyce Caseres
Susana Cruz

Attiyyah Muhammad-Callaway
Lori Nguyen

Prapti Shah

Academic Achievement

Jane Asante
Ashley Dade
Daniela Guanatagsi

Sharanjit Johal
Khaliah King
Hero Mensah

Gabriella Moncayo

Outstanding Achievement

Zasha Montavlo

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Prapti Shah

Prapti Shah is from Jersey City, New Jersey and graduated from William L. Dickinson High School. In May 2016 she will graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Rutgers Biomedical & Health Sciences-School of Nursing. She has earned Dean's List status for 6 semesters and has received the College of Nursing Scholarship Award, Kenneth & Jane Charlesworth Scholarship, Jane E. and Donald W. Deed Scholarship. She serves as the treasurer for the School of Nursing Senate, Class of 2016 Council and has previously served as the Newark Representative. Additionally, she was chosen to work as a nurse extern at University Hospital, Newark, NJ where her clinical team was publicized in the summer edition of the University Hospital newsletter. As a member of the School of Nursing Honors Program, she presented her research project at the American Association of Colleges of Nursing-Baccalaureate Education Conference in Orlando, Florida. As a 25 minute podium presentation, she eloquently delivered: "*New Graduate Nurses Professional Self Concept: Bridging the Gap between Generations*". She has also worked as a Critical Thinking teaching assistant for the School Nursing-Educational Opportunity Fund Program's Summer Readiness Program. Currently she is a patient care technician at Overlook Medical Center in Summit, New Jersey and is greatly appreciated by the oncology patients. Her future plans are to specialize in Cardiac Telemetry and to pursue further education to achieve her dream of becoming a cardiac nurse practitioner.

Saint Peter's University

***11 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

DeAsia Badger
Javier Fernandez

Jennifer Mejia
Elizabeth Moreno

Sandy Nguyen

Academic Achievement

Yeimy Fuentes
Donya Green

Jennifer Liriano
Barbara Rodriguez

Erick Tejada

Outstanding Achievement

Javier Fernandez

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Jennifer Mejia

Jennifer Mejia was born in West Palm Beach, Florida, but left the country to live in Honduras for three years due to family financial struggles. At the age of six, Jennifer was able to move back to the United States, however, having to re-learn the English language proved to be a struggle. Despite the challenge, Jennifer was able to successfully graduate from Bayonne High School in Bayonne, NJ. From there, she decided to attend Saint Peter's University where she became a member of the EOF program, with whom she attributes to her academic success. If not for the program, Jennifer strongly feels she would not have acquired the necessary skills to survive college.

Jennifer will be completing her Bachelors of Arts degree and has been a Dean's List recipient since her freshman year. She was also inducted into the Most Noble Order of the Peacock, an Honor Society in which only 10 students who have the highest academic averages are admitted. She is also part of the Honors Program at Saint Peter's University and has worked as a Research Assistant within the Modern and Classical Language Department. She is part of the Sigma Tau Delta, Sigma Delta Pi, and the Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Societies. In the future Jennifer plans on attending graduate school and further her education with a master's degree in Comparative Literature.

Salem Community College

*13 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Ainedra Hudson
Caleb Kite

Kylie Parish
Emmanuel Rivera

Holli-Joi Sullivan

Academic Achievement

Daniel Cruz
Ja'Quan Dunn

Shunana McFarlande
Tra'Nasia Taylor

Christina Torres

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Ainedra Hudson

Ainedra Hudson is the oldest of five children and is a graduate of Penns Grove High School. Ainedra aspires to become a Neurologist even though some may argue that this career may be too perplexing for a student with her background and challenges. Ainedra came to Salem Community College and enrolled in the EOF program. She chose Salem Community College because the staff immediately made her feel welcomed and she felt like this was a place where she truly belonged. While being a part of the EOF program, she was able to meet a number of exceptional people who kept her encouraged and helped her to hold onto the belief that she could become anything she wanted to pursue. Upon graduating from Salem Community College, Ainedra will have obtained her associate's degree in Biology/Chemistry. Through her academic efforts, she was accepted into both Phi Theta Kappa and Chi Alpha honor societies. Additionally, Ainedra has been awarded the President's citation, made the Dean's List, and was afforded the opportunity to become the first EOF Peer Tutor at Salem Community College. Through her academic achievements, she was also selected to study abroad in China through the International Scholar Laureate Program. Ainedra's future goals include earning her bachelor's degree in Biochemistry from Ramapo College of New Jersey and attending John Hopkins Medical School.

Seton Hall University

*20 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Nicole Archibald
Crystal Ayala
Noora Badwan
Sarah Ebady

Karla Granja
Marina James
Johanna Perez
Gabriela Redhead

Daniella Sosa
Tanganyika Thorpe

Academic Achievement

Alexus Baux

Ashley Valle

Nicholas Wisniewski

Outstanding Achievement

Sarah Ebady

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Sarah Ebady

Sarah Ebady, a New Jersey native, was born and raised by a single mother who only wanted to see her kids be happy and successful. Sarah began her career at Seton Hall through the EOP program. Through her participation in the summer program, Sarah was able to enter the fall semester with a better sense of preparedness and confidence. Her passion to learn and become a more knowledgeable person has been evident since the start of her college career. During her tenure at Seton Hall, Sarah has served as a volunteer, tutor, member of Epsilon Omega Psi honor society, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and ALPFA as treasurer. Sarah also was able to study abroad through a program at the University of Westminster in London, United Kingdom. Over the past four years, Sarah has been one of the students whom could always be counted upon for advocating for EOF. She has embodied the true spirit of the EOF programs at SHU and has been one of the more outspoken students about the importance of EOP. This spring, Sarah will graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Business with two concentrations: Management and Marketing, and will also have earned two certificates in Entrepreneurship and Market Research. She is excited about her future, and will continue to always look for opportunities to give back and represent the EOF brand wherever she goes.

Seton Hall University Pre-Medical Pre-Dental Plus Program

*7 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Denise Abdulahad
Shmilah Choudhary

Melissa Encarnacion
Cassandra Soto

Academic Achievement

Janelli Acosta

Stephanie Sanjuan

Outstanding Achievement

Shmilah Choudhary

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Cassandra Soto

Cassandra Soto is the second of eight children and was raised in Union City, NJ. After graduating from Union City High School in 2012, she enrolled at Seton Hall University to begin her journey of pursuing a career in medicine. In 2012, she began volunteering and training at the Boro of Totowa First Aid Squad, responding to emergency 9-1-1 calls and becoming an EMT. During her time at Seton Hall she has been consistently on the Dean's List and actively involved in academic research. As a sophomore, she participated in the Summer Medical and Dental Education Program at New Jersey Medical School. She participated in the 8th Annual Biological Sciences Symposium affiliated with the Petersheim Exposition and was able to take second place in undergraduate research by presenting her research on viral immune evasion proteins. Cassandra also received a grant from the New Jersey Space Grant Consortium to continue her research throughout the summer of 2015. She is a member of Alpha Epsilon Delta, the health pre-professional honor society, and Epsilon Omega Psi honor society. She was accepted into the Access Med Phase II Program at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. After graduating from Seton Hall University, Cassandra intends to pursue a career as a physician and to continue serving as a role model to others in her community.

Stevens Institute of Technology

*7 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Marc Bassil

Mandouh Csintalan

Soany Heredia

Academic Achievement

Lakeisha Ordonez

Nicolas Robles

Outstanding Achievement

Lakeisha Ordonez

EOF Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Soany Heredia

Soany Heredia is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Biology at Stevens Institute of Technology, and will graduate with honors in May 2016. She recalls the many sleepless nights, rigorous classes and other challenges she endured in order to get to where she is now. At the age of 10, Soany was given the opportunity to participate in pre-college programs at New Jersey Institute of Technology for four consecutive summers, and credits her participation in these programs for fueling her interest in the field of science. Her passion for pursuing higher education motivated her and despite many obstacles, she persevered, and graduated in the top 2% of her class at Union City High School.

Soany's hard work and dedication throughout high school earned her scholarships from the Gates Millennium Scholarship Foundation, the Hispanic Scholarship Fund, and the American Chemical Society to support her undergraduate studies. Soany entered Stevens Institute of Technology through the New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Program and is extremely grateful for the guidance, resources, support network, friendships and opportunities she received through the program. As an undergraduate, Soany has served on various executive boards of professional, social and ethnic organizations. She is actively involved as a student leader in Alpha Epsilon Delta Health Pre-professional Honor Society (AED), Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society (XAE), the Latin American Association (LAA), Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), and the Stevens Health Professions Club. Additionally, Soany serves as a Peer Mentor, Peer Tutor, Student Ambassador and Orientation Leader. Her academic achievements and leadership skills have resulted in several honors including: Academic Dean's list each semester, and the Stevens Khoda Leadership Honor Society – each year a maximum of six juniors recognized for their outstanding leadership ability and influence on campus are selected (by their peers) to be inducted into this elite group. Soany also is the only student appointed to serve on the University's 2016 Commencement Committee. Soany aspires to be a physician scientist, and upon graduating in May, she will begin graduate school to pursue a Master of Science in Chemical Biology. She later plans to enter Medical School to complete an MD/Ph.D.

Stockton University

***14 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Favad Akhtar
Victoria Dean

Sarah Goodman
Keval Patel

Samantha Vicchiarelli

Academic Achievement

Rahatul Ain
Marina Barsoum

Marcel Burton
Harsh Dave

Danielle Impagliazzo
Jeffrey Payano

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Favad Akhtar

Favad Akhtar is one of Stockton University's finest EOF students. Through his academic efforts, he has been able to achieve the Outstanding Academic Achievement Award. Favad has been identified as one of Stockton's brightest students who truly possessed an exceptional ability to write. As a result of his superior writing talent, Favad was selected to work for the Skills Center Writing Lab during his freshman year. This distinction is noteworthy because freshmen are typically not selected to work in the Center.

In addition to working within the Skills Center Writing Lab, Favad served as a tutor for the EOF summer program. Beyond his ability to assist students academically, Favad inspired many of our students through his dedication to the program and his strong faith. Currently, he serves as a tutor/mentor to all at-risk students at the University.

This year, Favad will travel to Colombia, South America to provide medical assistance to the indigent. Favad belongs to the Muslim Student Association Club and Commuters on the Go Club. He is a four year member and senior leader of Stockton University's Cross Country team. Favad is a biology major with a 3.9 GPA and plans to continue graduate studies in physical therapy with a specialization in Neurology.

Union County College

*21 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Kevin Cerrato

Christiana Onanuga

Eva Doughan

Shelly Threatt

Academic Achievement

Sabriya Maing-Alston

Nicole Soto

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Shelly Threatt

Shelly Threatt hails from Elizabeth, NJ and is a graduate of Plainfield High School. She is scheduled to graduate from Union County College and will earn an Associate of Arts Degree in Sociology. Shelly's academic accomplishments are as follows: President's High Honor List, a member of the Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society, and a member of the National Tutoring Association. In addition, Shelly is planning on registering for the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society this spring (2016).

Shelly has participated in a variety of roles at the college such as: Women's Leadership Group where she has also served as secretary, being an active member of the EOF Choir, working as an EOF Peer Tutor at Union County College, and working as an EOF Student Ambassador during summer sessions. Shelly has also volunteered her time at various locations on and off Union County College campus. Her future plans are to continue her education at Rutgers (Newark) or Kean University majoring in Sociology. Her goal is to be a Social Worker for the elderly or to become an Academic Advisor because she enjoys helping others.

Warren County Community College

***9 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Melissa Bystrak
Maliq Griffin

Lauren Romano
Erik Velasquez

Kaitlynn Zack

Academic Achievement

Kirsten Chaney

Robyn Labar

Kirsten Woolf

Outstanding Achievement

Lauren Romano

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Lauren Romano

Lauren Romano was born and raised in Phillipsburg, New Jersey. In 2014, she graduated from Phillipsburg High School. From there she continued her education at Warren County Community College. Being undecided about her career path, Lauren decided to pursue an Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts. Hearing about the Educational Opportunity Fund program, she decided to apply and feels very fortunate for being accepted. During the summer 2014, she attended the Summer Bridge Program for EOF and the experience was unforgettable. The ability to meet her EOF brothers and sisters, becoming familiar with the college routine and taking very valuable classes helped make the transition from high school to college so much smoother for Lauren. EOF helped her set standards and goals and through her efforts, Lauren was able to be inducted into Phi Theta Kappa. With the encouragement and guidance from EOF, she is now proud to say that she not only reached this goal, but she also made the Dean's list during the spring 2015 semester and has been a peer mentor both years at Warren County Community College. Upon graduating in May, Lauren plans to continue her education at Rutgers University. She plans to obtain her Bachelor's Degree and Master's Degree in Medical Social Work. After completing her education, Lauren plans to focus her career in the area of pediatric cancer or counseling. Lauren credits a lot of her success to the tremendous support that she has received from EOF. She is very grateful for everything that the EOF Program has provided her and looks to be a proud alumnus in the years ahead.

William Paterson University

*17 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Silvia Cuesta	Jesu Joseph Decordova_Mills	Lady-Ashley
Salas		
Syeda Islam	Natalia Quezada	Erik Veras

Academic Achievement

Halleluyah Abodunrin	Sarahi Duarte
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Outstanding Achievement

Savannah Falzarano

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Jesu Joseph Decordova Mills

Jesu Joseph Decordova Mills was born on March 18, 1992 at Holy Name Hospital in Teaneck New Jersey. Jesu graduated from Teaneck High School in 2011 as an honor student with a GPA of 3.7 and continued his education as an EOF student at Bergen Community College. Jesu transferred to William Paterson University in September 2014. In October 2014 he published his 2nd book of poetry based upon his life entitled, "Poetry, Light, Darkness, & Sorrow". Jesu has served as a volunteer to the Galilee Church in Englewood, New Jersey where he fed the homeless and assisted in the Nursing Home Ministry. He has also volunteered at Hackensack UMC, Hackensack Hospital where he was a Nurse's assistant in the Emergency Room and assisted with patients who were in need of help. He has also provided math tutoring services to young adults at St. Mark's Church in Teaneck, New Jersey. As a straight A student, Jesu has consistently appeared on the Dean's List at William Paterson University. He was also an integral component of the 2015 WPUNJ Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society Annual Induction Ceremony.

Jesu will graduate from William Paterson University with a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology: Social Services in May of 2016. He currently holds a cumulative GPA of 3.67. After graduation Jesu plans to pursue a graduate degree in Occupational Therapy. He is currently in the process of publishing his 3rd book, his very first love story novel called, "Decordova: An Enchantment."