



2021 Undergraduate Research and Engagement Symposium Awards

Presented by:



Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award Winners



Outstanding Research Award

Masha Bandouil

“Masha has been an exemplary student who has pursued numerous opportunities to generate knowledge in the service of others. She so clearly embodies the values of the Loyola Dance Program and the mission of the University and has demonstrated her pursuit of excellence through rigorous and unique undergraduate research projects that involve numerous collaborators and serve her community.”

-Amy Wilkinson, Senior Lecturer Fine and Performing Arts

Outstanding Research Award

Natalia Zielinski

“Natalia is one of the strongest students in my lab. She has developed skills in all areas of the research process through her work on her two honors projects, as well as numerous other lab studies to which she has contributed.”

-Elizabeth Wakefield Assistant Professor, Psychology

Outstanding Research Award

Anna Bakas

“She is able to parse and analyze the collected data for useful insights about the research. She is not afraid to try new things and draw different graphs to better present the results. This inquisitive mind is part of what makes a great researcher.”

- Eric Chan-Tin, Assistant Professor Computer Science

Outstanding Research Award

Audrey Harris

“Audrey is one of the best students I have worked with in my over 15 years at Loyola. I have mentored many undergraduate students and Provost Fellows over the years (several who have won research awards for their work) and Audrey is the first student who is doing her own self-initiated project and I have been very impressed with her dedication and intelligence.”

- Tracy DeHart, Associate Professor Psychology

Outstanding Research Award

Maham Jabeen

“Maham showed great maturity in approaching this topic and did a thorough job of the research. She learned many things about doing research from a practical perspective as well as an academic perspective. For her to carry on this research, by herself, during a pandemic, with only my support was incredible. She worked tirelessly to find her information and reach her conclusions. Even though this was just a beginning ‘working’ paper; it certainly presented an important perspective on an especially important topic.”

- Laurie Jordan, Senior Lecturer, Mathematics and Statistics

Outstanding Research Award

Farah Harb

“Farah is already a star! She is a very strong student who is intellectually curious and very motivated to engage in research. Through her work on our research team, I have been impressed with Farah’s work ethic, her reliability, and her high level of competence across research tasks.”

- Catherine DeCarlo Santiago, Associate Professor Psychology

Outstanding Research Award

Katie Jane Torma

“It was a great pleasure having Katie Jane in my organic chemistry class and in my medicinal chemistry class, and I am delighted that she has been highly productive in medicinal chemistry research in my lab over the past year and a half, given her exceptional scholarship and dedication. We have been limited to only two people in my research lab at one time due to COVID-19, but Katie Jane is one of only two undergraduates permitted to be in the lab, as a result of her experience and competence, thus she has been able to continue her hands-on research.”

- Daniel Becker, Professor, Chemistry

Outstanding Research Award

Kailey Anichini

“Kailey is why I do what I do as a teacher and mentor. She is the student who takes what she learns and seeks opportunities to apply them. She is passionate about working with the underserved and marginalized and advocates for quality health care that is accessible to those in need. Kailey has shown tremendous interest in conducting nursing research that focuses on caring for the whole person. She wanted to learn more about the experiences of college-going students living chronic health conditions.”

- Jorgia Connor, Associate Professor, Nursing

Graduate Student Mentor Award

Rebecca Valeriano-Flores:

"I owe Rebecca a great debt in continuing to encourage me to engage with philosophy, diversity, and undergraduate research opportunities. As the founder of Loyola's MAP chapter, she sets the tone for reading groups, workshops, as well as other community engagement. With graduate mentorship in the philosophy department, there is a culture of supporting undergraduate engagement and research in philosophy. I recall chats about graduate school, or anything from asking about research in philosophy, so I am constantly impressed at how Rebecca and the graduate students in the philosophy department set aside their time for mentorship."

- Samantha Chipman, Loyola Student

**Mary Therese
Langerbeck Award for
Undergraduate
Research Mentoring**

Mary Therese Langerbeck Award for Undergraduate Research Mentoring Recipient

Rodney Dale, Biology

"To me, Dr. Dale is a personification of the intersection between intelligence, compassion, friendliness, and skillfulness. Specifically, I feel that Dr. Dale's lab is a teaching ground for far more than science and technical skills, it is a place where you learn about work-life balance, humor, professionalism, and communication -- all in addition to the technical aptitude required in an academic lab. Dr. Dale has created an environment that, I believe, is directly aligned with LUC's mission, which is not "just science" -- it is science in addition to the many other attributes that help make someone both a highly-skilled scientist and kind person."

- Austin P Runde, Loyola Student

Mary Therese Langerbeck Award for Undergraduate Research Mentoring Recipient

Robert Bucholz, History

"His devotion to my work and growth has been the greatest encouragement and support I could possibly ask for. He inspires me to do better not necessarily because of high expectations, but because of the endless time he has invested so that I never lack what I need (emotionally, materially, or academically) to flourish.

I'll admit, I'm quick to credit Professor Bucholz for how successful my research has been so far -- I've grown exponentially as his student -- But like any good mentor, he assures me: "This is all your work."

- Lily Cate Gunther-Canada, Loyola Student



Community Engagement Awards

Community Engagement Award for Social Justice

Caitlin Dyer

"The desire to continuously learn, evolve, and grow is one of Dyer's greatest strengths and she is evidently practiced in it. Dyer approached us as a sponge and she has put in significant effort to soak up as much new information as possible in her short time with us. Upon her exit, she created her own feedback form for us to complete and return to her so she could continue to grow from her experience with us. She also specifically requested resources on how to continue her racial equity education on her own, so she can grow to better serve the community. I am excited and encouraged to see what Dyer and who she reaches in the coming years."

- Rebecca Burcher, Education and Community Engagement Coordinator, GroundWorks DanceTheater

Community Engagement Award for Impact

Molly Kaiser

"Molly is unique for her age that she seems to grasp the big picture of the overall organization's success and needs, and how small (and sometimes tedious) tasks fit into that larger scope. She has participated wholeheartedly in all projects that have been presented to her, including some arts administration workshops that we have been holding. She always follows up to make sure she is contributing to the overall success of the team."

- Erin Warner Prange, Executive Director, The Big Muddy Dance Company

Community Engagement Award for Solidarity

Ruben Guzman

"Ruben's project is the culmination of kindness and courage. His dedication to this project, despite a coinciding covid invasion in his family's home, is exemplary. ... Ruben's voice grew strong as his project nurtured impact. His family surrounded him with encouragement and the Cross of Glory Lutheran Church doors widened with kindness as Ruben was embraced. This is that rare project outcome that hits all the chords of realizing internal strength and value while extending the power of grace that one might truly claim."

- Amy Jordan, Director of Special Projects and Instructor, School of Continuing and Professional Studies

Community Engagement Award for Sustainability

Clara Lutz

"[Clara] stepped into a servant-leadership role in the community, never dictating how things should be done but instead attending all (ALL) the meetings and listening to people's hopes and goals, then doing the on-the-ground grunt work to make it happen. I was so proud of her. She is continuing to work on this project even though she has completed the capstone and earned her "A" and is now planning a life of social justice activism."


- Sasha Adkins, Lecturer, School of Environmental Sustainability



Community Partner Award for Coeducation



Community Partner Award for Coeducation Recipients

- Chicago Community and Workers' Rights
 - Lakota People's Law Project
 - Chicagoland Methodist Senior Services
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Community Partner Award for Coeducation

Chicago Community and Workers' Rights

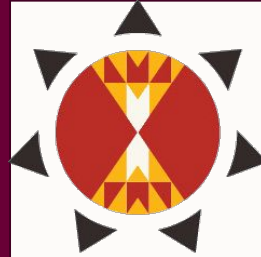
“CCWR showed me how many passionate people are out there, hoping to do the same work I do. This work has left me motivated and inspired to remain involved in my community.”



Community Partner Award for Coeducation

Lakota People's Law Project

“Working with LPLP has allowed me to get a better understanding of what it truly means to be an ally to Native American communities and understand what actions make a difference in the battle for sovereignty and respect. I believe this is very important as they have found a way to not only bridge the gap that is often present about Native American communities in school, but also guided many students on the path of seeking change not only for indigenous communities but for whatever communities' students may also find themselves a part of as well.”



Lakota People's
LAW PROJECT

Community Partner Award for Coeducation

Chicagoland Methodist Senior Services

“I came to cultivate a deeper understanding of what a senior needs to be healthy and well, one of those being a supportive and present community, which is exactly what CMSS offers through their many services. This has helped me reevaluate what I feel healthcare should be, not just medical and emergency care but also preventative care, emotional support, and mental health practices.”



Chicago Methodist
Senior Services

Learning Portfolio Awards

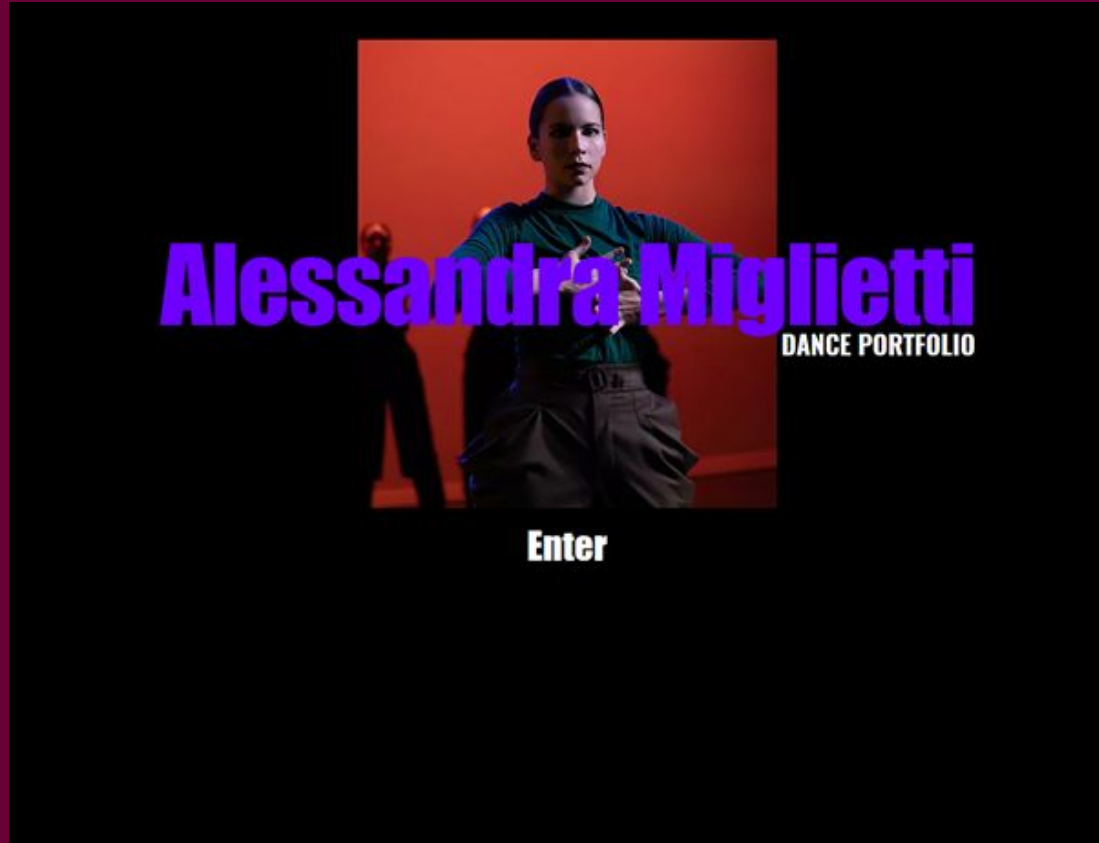


Learning Portfolio Award for Creativity and Innovation



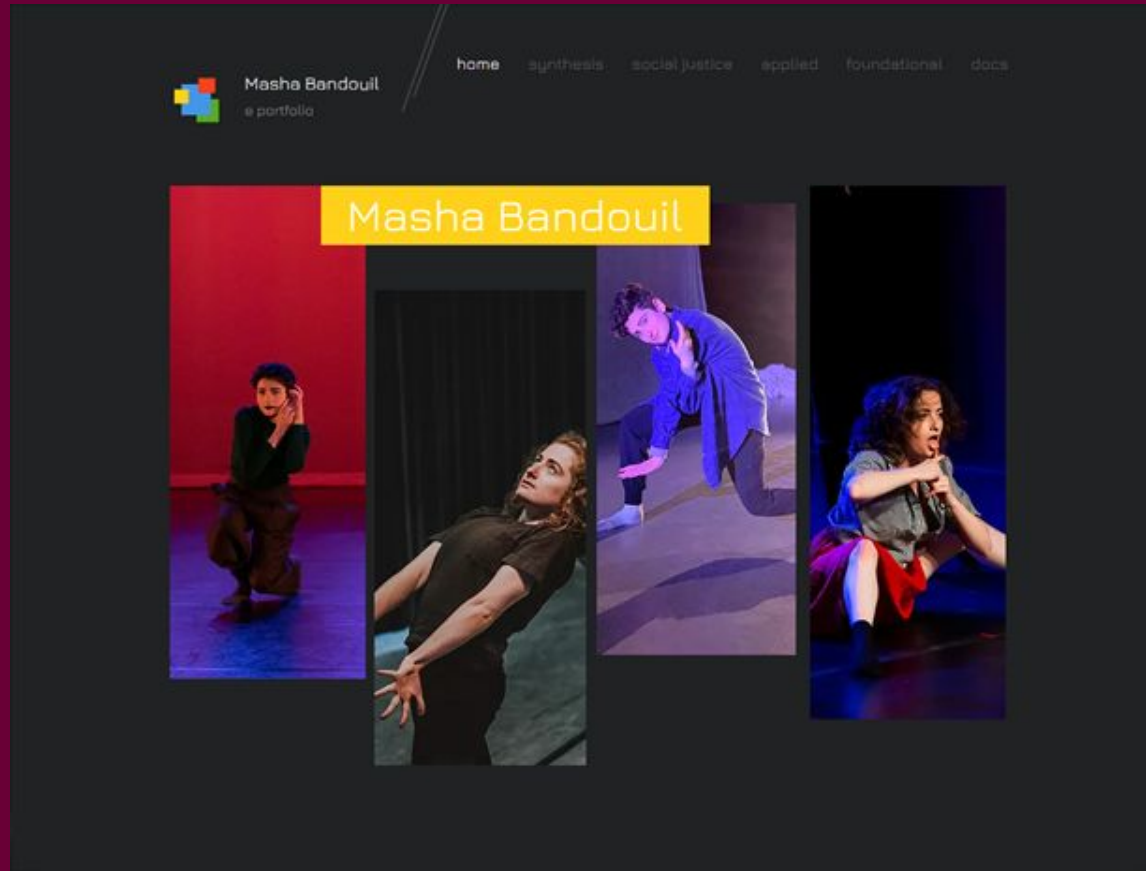
Lucy Jaffar, Senior Dance Major '21

Learning Portfolio Award for Critical Reflection



Alessandra Miglietti, Senior Dance Major '21

Learning Portfolio Award for Social Justice



Masha Bandouil, Senior Dance Major '21



The Center for Engaged Learning, Teaching, and Scholarship (CELTS) would like thank all faculty, staff, students, and community partners for your nominations. As well as a huge thank you to those who reviewed nominations and reflections. There awards were all made possible because of your collective efforts and support.

Congrats to the nominees and winners for each award!