



Preparing people to lead extraordinary lives

Excellence Awards Ceremony 2023

The ceremony will begin in a few minutes





Welcome

Morgan Ransom

Coordinator, Center for Black Student Excellence

Jim Flavin

Director for Special Projects & Strategic Initiatives,
Division of Student Development



Thank You – Student Jazz Trio

Erik Anderson

Asha Egmont

Axel Juárez

Land Acknowledgement Statement

Morgan Ransom

Coordinator,

Center for Black Student Excellence



The Loyola University Chicago community acknowledges its location on the ancestral homelands of the Council of the Three Fires (the Ojibwa, Ottawa, and Potawatomi tribes) and a place of trade with other tribes, including the Ho-Chunk, Miami, Menominee, Sauk, and Meskwaki. We recognize that descendants of these and other North American tribes continue to live and work on this land with us. We recognize the tragic legacy of colonization, genocide, and oppression that still impacts Native American lives today. As a Jesuit university, we affirm our commitment to issues of social responsibility and justice. We further recognize our responsibility to understand, teach, and respect the past and present realities of local Native Americans and their continued connection to this land.



Opening Reflection

Fr. Tho Vu, S.J.
University Chaplain



Opening Remarks

Dr. Keith Champagne

Vice President,

Division of Student Development

Intercollegiate Athletics

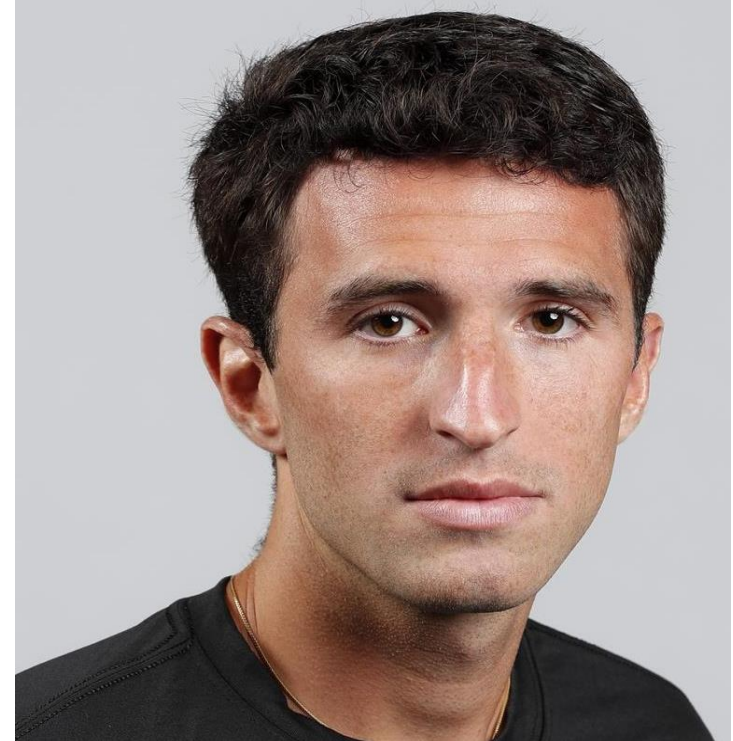
Steve Watson

Director of Athletics



Ryan Martins

U.S. Track & Field and Cross
Country Coaches Association
All-American



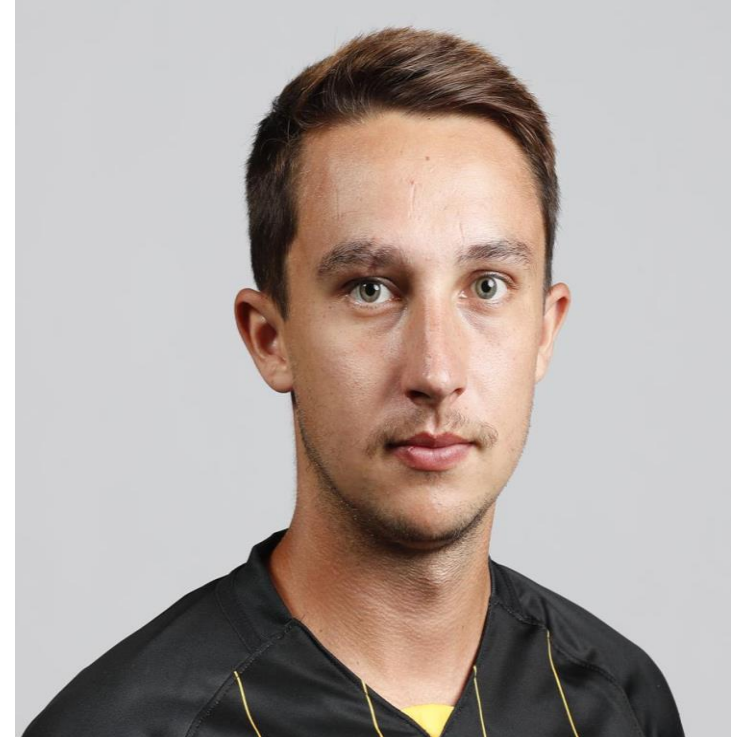
Karlie McNabb

Atlantic 10 Conference
Player of the Year



Billy Hency

Atlantic 10 Conference
Midfielder of the Year



Bree Borum

Atlantic 10 Conference
Setter of the Year



All-Academic Awards



Billy Hency
United Soccer Coaches
Scholar All-American



Marc Torrellas
United Soccer Coaches
Scholar All-American



Chris Devaney
USTFCCA All-Academic



Ryan Martins
USTFCCA All-Academic

PNC Achiever Award

The “PNC Achiever Award” acknowledges deserving student-athletes who display well-rounded achievement through leadership in the classroom, in the community, and in competition.



Karlie McNabb

PNC Achiever Award
Female Student Athlete

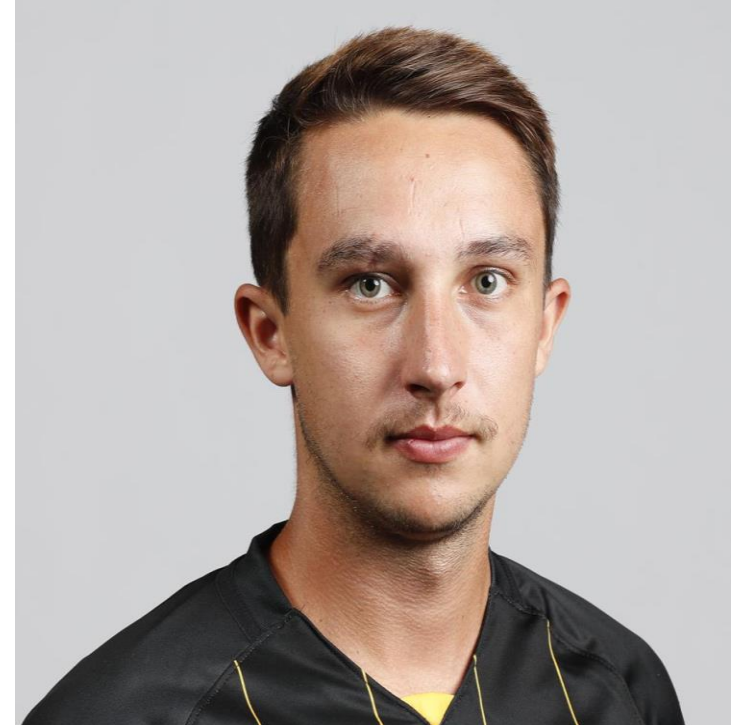


Karlie McNabb

As a member of the Women's Volleyball team, Karlie McNabb has played in over 200 sets for the Ramblers, totaling 542 kills, 50 aces, 374 digs, and 65 blocks. In her junior season last Fall, she helped lead the Ramblers to a 25-9 overall record and A-10 regular season and tournament titles as Loyola made its first NCAA Tournament appearance since 2005. McNabb became just the second player in program history to earn All-American honors with an honorable mention. This award came after earning A-10 Conference Player of the Year, AVCA All-Region, and A-10 Championship's Most Outstanding Player accolades.

Billy Hency

PNC Achiever Award
Male Student Athlete



Billy Hency

During his five-year tenure on the Men's Soccer team, Billy Hency started in over 70 games and totaled 27 goals and 24 assists. He's ranked third in program history in total shots and tied for third in assists. Hency wrapped up his career at Loyola with a total of five All-American honors, four all-conference team selections, and three consecutive conference Player of the Year awards, including the 2022 Atlantic 10 Conference Midfielder of the Year. Hency was selected 67th overall by the Chicago Fire FC in the 2022 MLS SuperDraft and recently signed an MLS NEXT Pro contract with Chicago Fire FC II.

Arrupe College 2015 Award

Fr. Thomas Neitzke, S.J.

Dean of Arrupe College, and
Vice President & Special Assistant
to the President



Arrupe College 2015 Award

Presented to a student who embodies the spirit of transformative education in our institution, who has used their gifts and talents to be successful, and who has contributed significantly to building and advancing the Arrupe College mission.

Arrupe College 2015 Award Nominees



Erik Diaz



John Cooke



Emilio Torres

John Cooke

2015 Award Recipient



John Cooke

John has been a leader within the Arrupe College community. They have been especially active within Arrupe's Campus Ministry by participating in a year-long formation as a part of the A-Team and as a retreat leader. John has also served on the executive board of the Arrupe Business Society and has been an active member of Black Men for Success and the Rambler Brotherhood Project. John most recently has been accepted to a summer long cancer research undergraduate program at the University of Iowa. John plans on continuing at Loyola University Chicago after graduation this August.

Spirit of Laudato si' Sustainability Awards

Aaron Durnbaugh

Director of Sustainability,
Office of Sustainability



Spirit of Laudato si' Sustainability Awards

Sustainability in Service – This recognition rewards students for their efforts to implement sustainability on campus or in community.

Sustainability in Learning – This recognition rewards students for their efforts incorporating sustainability into their academic experience through research, publication, or coursework advancing sustainability knowledge.

Spirit of Laudato si' Sustainability Nominees



Cosette Ellis



Dakota Lane



Grace Mooney



Mereya Riopedre



Emily L. Sharrett



Bailey Uttich

Mereya Riopedre

Undergraduate Sustainability
in Service Award Recipient



Mereya Riopedre

Mereya Riopedre is a third-year student majoring in Environmental Studies and Global Studies with a minor in Urban Studies. She helps to lead many Loyola organizations including Food Recovery Network, the Iota Rho Chapter of Alpha Chi Omega, and Student Government. She is committed to her community and education as a student leader who exemplifies sustainability and integral ecology through her words and her deeds.

Dakota Lane

Undergraduate Sustainability
in Learning Award Recipient



Dakota Lane

Dakota Lane is an undergraduate student in the School of Environmental Sustainability, majoring in Environmental Science. As a John Grant bioethics fellow, her research explores remedying Water, Sanitation and Hygiene issues through integrating African diaspora and Native American knowledge systems with water management and wetland restoration. Born and raised on the Southside of Chicago, her focus is on the Chicago Area Waterways System and the greater Calumet Region.

Emily L. Sharrett

Graduate Sustainability in
Learning Award Recipient



Emily L. Sharrett

Emily L. Sharrett is a Ph.D. candidate and instructor of composition and literature in the Department of English at Loyola University Chicago, where she will defend her dissertation before the end of this year. Her research interrogates the intersection of environmental and classical thought in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century British literature. Sharrett is a 2022-2023 P.E.O. Scholar, and she holds a two-year fellowship in which she serves as the Editorial and Program Assistant for the Midwest Modern Language Association. She prioritizes the ecologically attuned objectives of Pope Francis' 7-Year Journey Towards Integral Ecology in her graduate research, teaching, and publishing practices.

Student Employment Awards

Omega Cruz

Assistant Director, Employer
Relations & Student Employment,
Career Services



Arrupe Person for Others Award

This award goes to a student employee who clearly serves others with a passion.

Arrupe Award Nominees



Juan Martinez



Amani Pittman



Jacob Pursell

Jacob Pursell

Arrupe Person for Others
Award Recipient



Jacob Pursell

Jacob's supervisor stated that he "has spent 5 months working with our middle school and high school students who have had limited or extremely interrupted education. Not only has he adopted diverse learning strategies to accommodate students' physical and emotional needs, but he has also been a mentor for students starting to think about their future after high school. He has worked with numerous high schoolers to not only help them prove to themselves they are worthy of an education but also to motivate them to strive to achieve a great future."

Cura Apostolica (Person for Institution) Award

This award goes to a student employee who has demonstrated considerable care in their work tasks, commitment and attitude in promoting, developing and supporting the organization or institution where they are employed.

Cura Apostolica Award Nominees



Destiny Evans



Cassidy Jenkins



Ty List

Cassidy Jenkins

Cura Apostolica Award Recipient



Cassidy Jenkins

Cassidy's supervisor stated " I have had the pleasure of witnessing Cassidy's commitment to take on initiatives that not only showcase her talents, but also advocate for the diverse communities around her. Overall, Cassidy is consistently challenging those around her to think outside the box and adopt a solutions-based approach to problem-solving. She has helped foster a greater sense of community among her fellow student workers by encouraging them to share their thoughts and ideas to improve the culture and quality of work that is put out".

Ignatian Spirit Award

The Ignatian Spirit Award is given to the team or staff of employees who work with passion and dedication as if they live each day to “go forth and set the world on fire.”

Ignatian Spirit Award Nominee - Achieving College Excellence Peer Team



Ethan Bower



Japani Doan



Ty List



**Christopher
Rodriguez Lobato**

Ignatian Spirit Award Nominee - Achieving College Excellence Peer Team



Selena Lynch



Christopher Munoz



Fatima Shariff



Taylor Starkey

Ignatian Spirit Award Nominee – Center for Student Engagement Staff



Anna Bokus



Maeve Donovan



Lauren Frye



Angelica Luszczyk



Samantha Martinez



Luke Mathews

Center for Student Engagement Front Desk Staff

Ignatian Spirit Award Recipients



Center for Student Engagement Staff



Anna Bokus



Maeve Donovan



Lauren Frye



Angelica Luszczyk



Samantha Martinez



Luke Mathews

Center for Student Engagement

The supervisor stated that “The front desk team at the Center for Student Engagement is a dynamic team of student employees who consistently go above and beyond to provide outstanding services to students and registered student organizations at Loyola. Without their passion and dedication, the Center would not be able to serve the number of students that we do, nor would we have the same impactful culture that we do both inside and outside the office”.

Core Element Award

The Core Element Award recognizes students for their service and contributions to the Loyola community.

Will Brice

Core Element Award Recipient



Will Brice

Will's supervisor stated that he "brings a great energy and positivity to the Tutoring Center. He always says hello at the start of the shift, and he is a welcoming face to students stopping by for services. He never fails to bring a smile to the faces of others! Will is proactive in accomplishing tasks, never hesitates to ask questions and clarify understanding, and keeps the pro staff updated with important changes, updates, or mishaps that may have happened in the evenings. Will's work ethic, diligence, and reliability makes my job as a pro staff so much easier and more fun, and his contributions allow us to provide a higher standard of service for the Rambler community".

Celia Fratianne

Core Element Award Recipient



Celia Fratianne

Celia's supervisor stated that "Celia has worked for us for 3 years, she has an amazing work ethic; she is a leader and team player. Her professionalism and communication skills are impressive. She is kind to everyone and is one of my 'go to' student workers when I need a job done. Celia has demonstrated openness and inclusiveness with all diverse cultures, races, ages, and genders; she treats everyone with dignity. She's supervised 30+ students over the year and she is liked by everyone".

Giulianna Larson

Core Element Award Recipient



Giulianna Larson

Giulianna's supervisor stated that "She is one of the most diligent employees that FORA has ever had. She is dedicated to her work because she takes meaning from a job well done, and even more impressively, because she truly and deeply understands FORA's mission and embraces it. In this regard, she is an exemplar of Catholic Social Teaching (CST). She cares deeply for all of Creation, lives in solidarity with and sees a preferential option for the poor and vulnerable and embodies the call to community participation".

Juan Martinez

Core Element Award Recipient



Juan Martinez

Juan's supervisor stated he "is a wonderful person, and a huge asset to our team. Juan is humble but works with extreme thoroughness and care. Whether it is assisting clients with their equipment reservations, or training new staff members, Juan sincerely connects with others and uses his skills to help people with any sort of technology problem".

Student Employee of the Year Award

This award goes to one student employee to recognize their outstanding contributions, achievements, and their positive impact on the university.

Celia Fratianne

Student Employee of the Year
Award Recipient



Residence Life Awards

Thomas Mannion

Resident Director

James Phillips

Assistant Resident Director



The Pursuit of Excellence Award

The Pursuit of Excellence Award is given to a first year Resident Assistant who, over the course of the school year, has served the University and residential community in and out of the RA position. The finalists demonstrate a well-rounded approach to the position, academics, and personal life. Finally, the recipient consistently portrays a positive, kind, and caring approach with others while excelling in programming and community development.

Nominees for the Pursuit of Excellence Award



Jadyn Craig



Sophie Galan



Jenna Duabe



Abigail Nacker



Gaby Bellido



Samantha Soto

Gaby Bellido

The Pursuit of Excellence Award
Recipient



Gaby Bellido

I have seen Gaby blossom into one of the strongest RAs on our team. Once when the RAs on duty needed to communicate confidential information but were unable to because of a third party, Gaby recognized all present RAs spoke Spanish and utilized this skill to share vital information. There are numerous situations in which Gaby used problem-solving skills to provide solutions that nobody else thought of otherwise. Gaby is resourceful, strong, talented, driven, and most of all compassionate. As a returner, I would be remiss if her work as a student and her dedication to the RA position went unnoticed.

The "Magis" Award

The Departmental "Magis" Award is awarded to a second year Resident Assistant who has consistently demonstrated a willingness to go above and beyond expectations throughout the year by serving as an RA, and a mentor in the spirit of the Jesuit concept of "Magis." The finalists portray a positive attitude, exhibit the ability to be self-driven, and always show an eagerness to grow and learn in the RA position. Finalists serve as strong mentors for staff and residents and bring out the best in others.

Nominees for the Magis Award



**Kavya
Radhakrishnan**



Erin Tien



Rylee Abaya



Jocelyn Arroyo

Nominees for the Magis Award



Michael Guerrero



Hannah Sween



Kylie Thomas



Eric Delgado



Maria Diaz

Rylee Abaya

Magis Award Recipient



Rylee Abaya

Rylee goes beyond the expectations of the RA role through both her involvement in the department and on the team. Rylee has mentored new RAs by assisting them with duty situations, modeling how to balance conflicting responsibilities, and supporting RA peers when they've had a tough day. Rylee fosters community among her residents by creating programs that align with her residents' interests, addressing concerns her residents have, and actively connecting residents to resources and opportunities. Rylee's contributions to ensure that residents and RA peers feel like they belong have made a positive impact within Res-Life and the LUC community.

Diversity Awards

James Thomas

Director,

Center for Diversity & Inclusion (CDI)

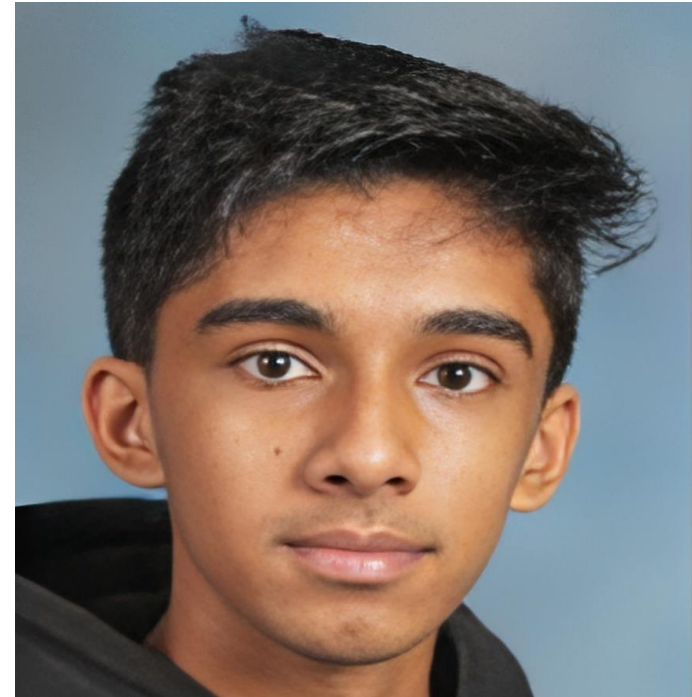


CDI Emerging Leader Award

This award recognizes a first or second-year undergraduate student who has motivated other members of the University to strive for excellence. This individual embraces diversity and serves humanity through learning, justice, and faith. They are committed to their own personal learning and development along with the growth of their peers.

Adib Shethwala

CDI Emerging Leader Award
Recipient



Adib Shethwala

Adib Shethwala is a sophomore double majoring in Cognitive Neuroscience and Psychology on the Pre-Med track. He has been committed to entering new environments and inspire those around him while doing so. Adib has pushed himself to join a variety of organizations revolving around humanitarian efforts by serving as the Secretary for Friends of MSF, the American Medical Student Association, & Muslim Student Association. Along with that, Adib is involved in Biology Research as well as volunteers with the Hour of Darkness Suicide Prevention. He demonstrates a high commitment to the Jesuit Ideals in caring for the others while striving for excellence.

CDI Social Justice in Action Award

This award recognizes a current LUC undergraduate, graduate/professional, or Arrupe College student who has demonstrated leadership in assisting the University in responding to its commitment to diversity. This student has worked to develop a university community that appreciates and respects all facets of diversity. This student's leadership initiatives are in the forefront of exploring issues regarding diversity and they are actively working to expand their knowledge in the service of humanity through learning, justice and faith.

Stephanie Miller

CDI Social Justice in Action
Award Recipient



Stephanie Miller

Stephanie is a senior majoring in Biology, on the pre-medical track. They are the founder and president of the Invisible Illness Awareness organization, which won an award from the Interdisciplinary Honors Program for their efforts to foster an accepting learning environment to view new perspectives in regard to chronic illnesses, invisible illnesses, and disabilities. Stephanie has spent countless hours in the community working with organizations like Care for Real, Shirley Ryan AbilityLab, and Misercordia. They will work as a clinical research assistant at Northwestern after graduation, where they will focus on obstetric and neonatal research to improve pregnancy care and outcomes for the BIPOC community.

CDI Father Arrupe Award

This award recognizes a graduate or professional student that has made an outstanding contribution to their department, to students, and the LUC community. This individual has promoted diversity, equity, and inclusion and found an appropriate balance between their educational goals and the desires to help underrepresented population/community succeed.

Megan Japczyk

CDI Father Arrupe Award
Recipient



Megan Japczyk

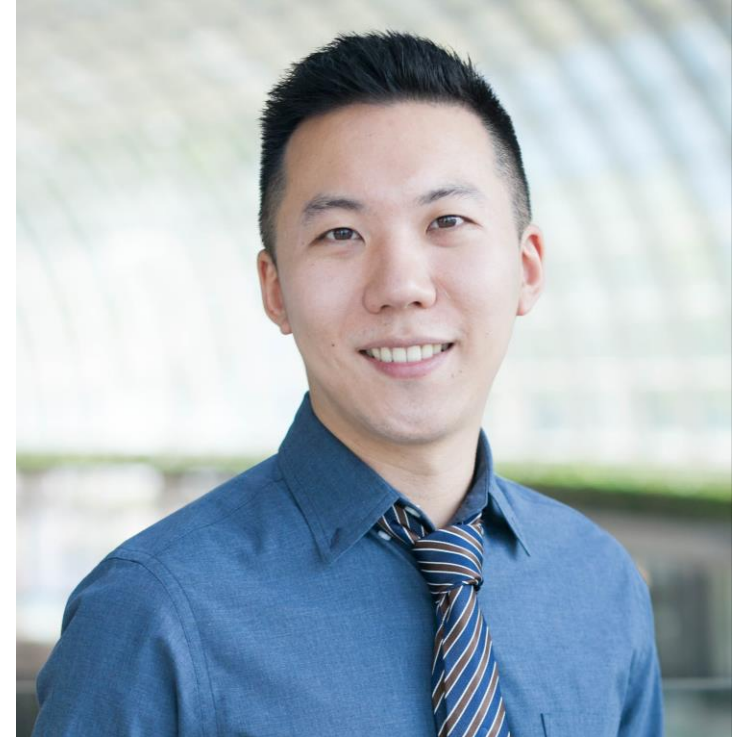
Megan is a second-year Master's in Social Work student in the Advanced Micro Track. She is a Resident Assistant in Baumhart Hall, a Sorority and Fraternity Life Graduate Intern, and a Counseling Intern at Columbia College Chicago. Her passions include working with students of color and closing the gap on their retention rates. Through these positions and passions, Megan focuses on educating others by curated spaces that address domestic violence, cultural awareness, self-care, study tips, and overall mental health. Megan hopes to continue working with students in a counseling setting after graduation so she can guide BIPOC students through their college experience.

CDI Transformative Educator Award

This award recognizes a faculty member who has demonstrated a commitment to student development and has gone beyond their administrative role to address the needs and concerns of underrepresented students. This individual provides students with the opportunities to explore issues regarding diversity, identity development, multicultural education, social justice, and leadership initiatives. This ultimately enhances the retention, matriculation, and success of historically underrepresented students.

Dr. Minwoo Jung

CDI Transformative
Educator Award Recipient



Dr. Minwoo Jung

Dr. Jung's research and teaching interests include global and transnational sociology, political sociology, economic sociology, social movements, human rights, gender and sexuality, race/ethnicity, and qualitative methods. He's taken the necessary steps to decolonize these interests through highlighting women and queer folx of color in curriculum and cultivating spaces for women, people of color, immigrant students, and other marginalized groups to advance their education both within and outside the classroom. He is an award-winning scholar who consistently demonstrates excellence in scholarship, teaching, and service through his commitment to making the world a more just place.

CDI Community and Solidarity Award

This award recognizes an active registered or sponsored student organization that has shown exemplary commitment to the University community and has made a great effort to provide underrepresented students with a supplemental source of support. This organization is a role model for any group working with and serving underrepresented students.

Asian Students in Action



CDI Community & Solidarity
Award Recipient



Asian Students in Action

Asian Students in Action (ASIA) has had a tremendous impact on the Loyola community. At its center is community engagement, which exemplifies inclusion through inviting all Ramblers to learn about the Asian American experience. Identity Workshops were created as a recurring space for students to collaborate with peers, exploring their own identities, and finding people who relate to them on a deeper level. As an organization, they have worked to advocate for the needs of API students. ASIA has upheld the Ignatian heritage of caring for the whole person by promoting critical reflection and supporting our students academically, socially, and mentally.

Student Veteran of the Year Award

Alex Pirila

Office of Military Veteran Student
Services



Student Veteran of the Year

The Student Veteran of the Year Award represents the continued service of a student veteran within the Loyola community; a student veteran who engages with the broader Loyola community and supports their fellow student veterans.

This award represents the embodiment and commitment to our Jesuit Value- *Cura Personalis*, care for the whole person.

Student Veteran of the Year

The recipient of the Student Veteran of the Year award goes to twice Gannon Center for Women Undergraduate Leadership award nominee, 2021 Lee Botts Award recipient, a SALUTE Veteran Honor Society member, Student Veterans of America Leadership Institute fellow, and an 8-year veteran of the US Navy and the 2022 Illinois Student Veteran Leadership Award recipient. She serves as the Graduate Advisor to Loyola's Student Veterans of America Chapter.

Carly Fournier

Student Veteran of the Year
Award Recipient



Graduate, Professional, & Adult Student Award

Lesley Haynes, and Paige Patrick
Graduate, Professional, & Adult
Council



Outstanding Student Leader Award

The Outstanding Student Leader Award is given to a graduate, professional, or adult student who has demonstrated a commitment to engagement with their fellow students through leadership.

Nominees for Outstanding Student Leader Award



Bridget Brodlo



Brandon Thomas



Nneka Ugqu

Bridget Brodlo

Outstanding Student
Leader Award Recipient



Bridget Brodlo

Bridget is a mentor within the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program, and she can be seen in-between classes providing advice and support. Bridget is a proud member of the Graduate Professional and Adult Student Council, where she was elected to be a representative of her program. She has a passion for social justice, as seen in her work volunteering and providing mental health services for the LGBTQ+ community. She goes above and beyond what is expected of her and strives for excellence in everything that she does. Bridget is compassionate, brave, and above all, a leader.

Maroon & Gold Society

**Megan Grizzle, Katie Mather,
and Soumith Sanka**

Maroon & Gold Society Members



Maroon & Gold Society

The Maroon & Gold Society recognizes rising seniors who have demonstrated a commitment to leadership, academic excellence, and service to others. These student leaders exemplify holistic development – the fusion of the academic, the personal, the spiritual, and the character dimensions of student development.

Maroon & Gold Society Finalists



Miguel Jacob Abaitua



Caitlin Dyer



Katherine Meier



Anna Olson



Michael O'Reilly



Ian Panganiban

Maroon & Gold Society Finalists



Sophia Remsik



Colleen Richardson



Teagan Sopczak



Miller Tennant



Sophia Tran



Maren Williams

Maroon & Gold Society Members



Jemima Abalogu



Alaina Abel



Lena Abushaban



Deena Al-Ali



Alexandra Brist

Maroon & Gold Society Members



Adam Dajani



Eileen DeGuire



Sara Gabriela Ferreira Garcia



Ashley Goldsmith



Sofia Khatoun

Maroon & Gold Society Members



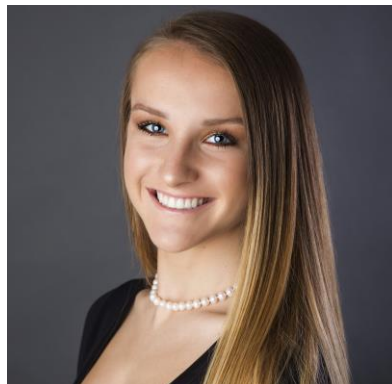
Elle Laurencelle



Madeleine Litka



Grace Maurer



Sarah Noonan



Tulsi Patel

Maroon & Gold Society Members



Mereya Riopedre



Justin Ross



Sara Sadok



Esam Shah



Mia Silvestros

Maroon & Gold Society Members



Jack Slaughter



Sitori Tanin



Avery Tritz



Grace Tylutki



Keaira Williams

Damen Award

Dr. Mark Reed

President, Loyola University Chicago

Dr. Keith Champagne

VP for Student Development

Astrid Beltrán

AVP for Diversity & Student Engagement

Dr. Will Rodriguez

AVP & Dean of Students



Damen Award

The Damen Award honors individuals who have been a source of inspiration to the Loyola community in the ways they have committed themselves to our Jesuit ideals. Our recipients exemplify leadership in the community, live their lives in the spirit of Loyola, and light the way for other students to follow.

Damen Award Finalists



Jocelyn Arroyo



Benjamin Bryan



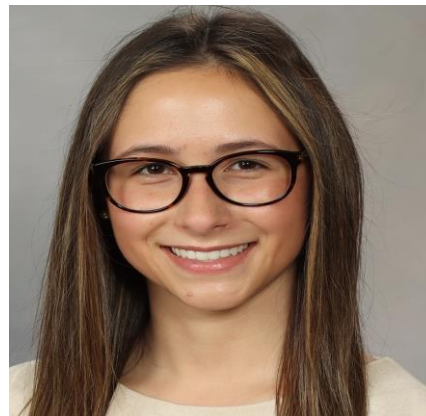
Anna Bryant



Kathryn Cantrell



Charlene Coates



Claire Creighton



Ben Deems

Damen Award Finalists



Aidan Doyle



Ella Doyle



Joseph Dryoel



Caitlin Dyer



Leon Friedrich



Chloe Gordon



John Gorman

Damen Award Finalists



Megan Grizzle



Claire Butler- Harrison



Eva Hurley



Anton Jahn-Vavrus



Josh Jones

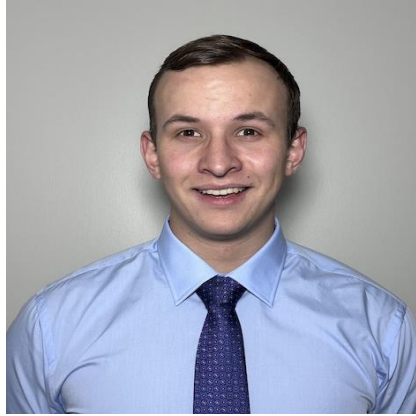


Victor Karwacinski



Connor Karwowski

Damen Award Finalists



Jakub Krasewicz



Alex Miranda



Catherine Mudd



Saminah Munshi



Emma O'Driscoll



Ian Panganiban



Anne Papciak

Damen Award Finalists



Nabhan Rafiq



Kat Rokusek



Farheen Saiyed



Elizabeth St. Mary



Miller Tennant

Jocelyn Arroyo

Damen Award Recipient



Jocelyn Arroyo

Jocelyn is a senior double majoring in Political Science and Psychology. For multiple years, she has been a Resident Assistant, with one year supporting the Leadership for Social Change Learning community. Through the Center for Diversity and Inclusion, Jocelyn was a STARS Mentor for two years, and a LEAD Scholar. She was selected to serve on the Search Committee Member for the university's inaugural Vice President of Institutional Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Jocelyn is a member of the Maroon & Gold Society. One of her two nominators stated that "Justice is the core of who Jocelyn is."

Charlene Coates

Damen Award Recipient



Charlene Coates

Majoring in Political Science & Sociology, Charlene has been a Resident Assistant, and Co-President of the Black Cultural Center (an active student organization). She has held a number of roles in the Beta Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, including the position of President. Charlene is currently a member of the VP for Student Development's Student Advisory Council, and the Director of Service & Culture within the Multicultural Greek Council. Through various leadership roles, Charlene has been able to advocate for her peers, and for initiatives such as the establishment of the Center for Black student Excellence.

Megan Grizzle

Damen Award Recipient



Megan Grizzle

As a Gannon Scholar whose major is Psychology, Megan conducts research on gender inequality and discrimination. Megan has held a wide variety of leadership roles which include being an Orientation Leader, a Lead Tour Guide for the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, Director of Programming for Chi Omega Fraternity, Vice President of the Residence Hall Association, and Co-Chair for the Maroon & Gold Society. Megan's academic achievements contributed to her induction in the honor societies Alpha Sigma Nu, and Psi Chi. Megan has also volunteered at Misericordia and with the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Josh Jones

Damen Award Recipient



Josh Jones

Josh is a member of Alpha Sigma Nu, has a major in Economics, and a minor in Biology. As President of Loyola's chapter of Student Veterans of America, Josh helped the organization host the first student veteran career fair in Illinois, and a panel at the 2022 American Legion National Convention. Receiving national recognition, SVA Loyola was nominated as Chapter of the Year, and Josh was named the '2022 Student Veteran of the Year.' Josh is also CEO of the student-led non-profit, the 'Chicago Brigade,' which connects 7 Chicagoland universities to provide professional development, mentorship, and networking opportunities to 15,000 student veterans.

Victor Karwacinski

Damen Award Recipient



Victor Karwacinski

While studying Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience, Biology, and Psychology, Victor has been a Peer Tutor in the Tutoring Center, a Research Intern for the Feinberg School of Medicine, and co-chair of the Maroon & Gold Society. Victor also volunteers at a community health clinic, and at the Rohingya Cultural Center. Victor was President for Loyola's chapter of Doctors Without Borders when the group received the Student Organization of the Year Award. Victor's nominator wrote that his leadership style is "driven by empathy, inquisition, and altruism" and that he encourages "others to become justice-oriented thinkers."

Connor Karwowski

Damen Award Recipient



Connor Karwowski

Connor is dedicated to academic excellence, and has been on the Dean's list every semester of his academic career. He has three majors: Psychology, Music, and Spanish. Connor was inducted into three different honors societies, and has been a Research Assistant in the Movement and Learning Lab. Connor has been a Peer Advisor and a Family Lead in New Student Programs, as well as an ACT Tutor with Prep to Succeed Tutoring. He is a musician in the Loyola Symphony Orchestra. Connor is a Student Life Associate at Sacred Heart on Sheridan.

Jakub Krasewicz

Damen Award Recipient



Jakub Krasewicz

Jakub studies Cognitive and Behavioral Neuroscience and is involved with the Interdisciplinary Honors Program. He has been on the Dean's list every semester so far. Jakub is a Member of the Loyola Polish Student Alliance. As an Undergraduate Researcher at the Yu Lab, he is working on a paper that is being publishing in the Journal of Developmental Dynamics. For years, Jakub has been involved with programs coordinated by Community Service & Action, including LUCserve, the Saturday of Service, and the St. Thomas of Canterbury Soup Kitchen program where he serves as a student leader.

Catherine Mudd

Damen Award Recipient



Catherine Mudd

Majoring in Biochemistry, Catherine has conducted research in the Chemistry Department through the Mulcahy and Provost fellowships. She is also the Kohima Research Project leader in the School of Environmental Sustainability. Catherine is the Mock Trial Team Captain. Catherine's involvements in Campus Ministry include being a Sacristan at Madonna Della Strada Chapel, a Retreat Captain, and a Christian Life Communities Small Group Leader. Catherine's nominator wrote that "she uses her strengths and skills to build community, make relationships, and make Loyola a home for herself and others."

Anne Papciak

Damen Award Recipient



Anne Papciak

As a Nursing major, Anne is part of the Primary Care & Community Health Nursing Scholars program, and a Mentor in the School of Nursing Society of Mentors. A member of the Alpha Sigma Nu Jesuit Honor Society, Anne is involved with Campus Ministry as an Ecclesia Leader, as well as a Retreat Leader, and a Retreat Captain. Anne's nominator wrote that she is "an absolutely phenomenal example of the people we hope to form our students to be. This shines through in her commitment to her faith, her commitment to nursing, and her desire to care for our world."

Nabhan Rafiq

Damen Award Recipient



Nabhan Rafiq

With a major in Psychology, Nabhan is a Research Assistant in the Wellbeing and Emotion Lab. He is a member of Alpha Sigma Nu, and the Maroon & Gold Society. Nabhan has served as Co-President of Loyola's chapter of Doctors Without Borders. He is currently President of the Pakistani Students' Association, and has been involved with the Muslim Students' Association. He is the Chief Health & Wellness Officer for Student Government of Loyola Chicago, and a student representative on the Board of Trustees. He was also part of the university's production of the Pride and Prejudice play.

Farheen Saiyed

Damen Award Recipient



Farheen Saiyed

Farheen is a Finance major and part of the Interdisciplinary Honors Program. A recipient of the Presidential Scholarship, she was selected for the Quinlan Ramble program to gain experience in the business world. She has been an intern at Deloitte. Farheen has been involved as Fundraising Chair for the Muslim Student Association, Senator for the Student Government of Loyola Chicago, Co-Event Coordinator for the Indian Student Association, and Director of Membership and Engagement for the Women in Business student organization. Her nominator wrote that she is “an excellent model of the Jesuit ideals with her values-based leadership, commitment, and care for others.”

Miller Tennant

Damen Award Recipient



Miller Tennant

Miller is majoring in Exercise Science and Dance. She teaches classes at Joffrey Ballet's Community Engagement program. She has been a volunteer at the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab hospital in downtown Chicago. She volunteered with Dr. Aggarwal to bring adaptive dance classes to senior communities across Chicago. Miller has been an intern with Lurie Children's Hospital Cardiopulmonary Rehab Team. She has also served as President of the Pre-Physical Therapy Association. Miller has been a tour guide on campus, as well as a Peer Advisor co-teaching the UNIV 101 class. Miller is also a member of the Alpha Sigma Nu honor society.



Closing Remarks

Dr. Mark C. Reed
President, Loyola University Chicago

Excellence Awards Committee

Omega Cruz (Student Employment)

Aaron Durnbaugh (Office of Sustainability)

Megan Grizzle (Maroon & Gold Society)

Shannon Howes (Division of Student Development)

Eva Long (Center for Diversity & Inclusion)

Katie Mather (Maroon & Gold Society)

Alex Pirila (Military Veterans' Student Services)

Mackenzie Rotherham (Graduate, Professional, & Adult Student Life)

Kristen Rusbarsky (Athletics)

Soumith Sanka (Maroon & Gold Society)

Sarah Shaaban (Arrupe College)

Des'mon Taylor (Residence Life)



**Congratulations to all award
nominees and recipients!**

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