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
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
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’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 Luszcz
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 Luszcz
Samantha Martinez
Luke Mathews
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’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’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”.

Juan Martinez
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
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 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 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 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. 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
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.
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 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
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

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
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
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 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 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. Furheen 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!

https://www.luc.edu/excellenceawards/
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