



BUFFALO STATE
The State University of New York

**STUDENT
LEADERSHIP
AWARDS
CEREMONY**

Burchfield Penney Art Center

April 25, 2017

Student Leadership Awards Ceremony

Master of Ceremonies

Stephen Burgeson
Lecturer, Hospitality and Tourism

Welcome

Daniel C. Velez
Interim Vice President, Student Affairs

—

Congratulatory Remarks

Katherine S. Conway-Turner
President

Presentation of Awards

Who's Who Among Students in
American Universities & Colleges

Phillip Santa Maria Award for
Student Leadership in Equity and Campus Diversity

Luis M. Antonetti
Student Humanitarian Award

Minnie and Joe Engel
Student Humanitarian Award

Phillip Santa Maria
Student Humanitarian Award

Mildred Keller Campbell
Student Leadership Award

SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence

Buffalo State President's Medal

Adjourn

*Reception immediately following the awards ceremony, second floor.
Pianist, Bobby Jones*

Who's Who Award Criteria

Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges is a national award that has been bestowed upon 33 Buffalo State College students for the 2016-2017 academic year. Who's Who award recipients are chosen each year based on a combination of academic success, campus leadership, and community involvement. We thank you for joining us today as we recognize these outstanding scholars and leaders.

Undergraduate Who's Who Recipients

Sakina Ahmed

A junior Biology major with a dual minor in Chemistry and Psychology, Sakina has a 3.20 gpa. She spent the alternative break in Michigan, and helped the Buffalo community in Dare to Care. Sakina is a McNair Scholar and peer educator for health promotions and takes time to tutor students in biology.

Samuel Alfonso

A senior majoring in Psychology, Samuel holds a 3.53 gpa. He was active for four consecutive years on the Buffalo State Swimming and Diving team and Captain his senior year. He is an active member in Psi Chi, the Psychology National Honor Society, studied abroad in Italy for a semester, served as a peer educator for Weigel Health Promotions and was on the Dean's List every year as a student-athlete.

Tiffany Bassett

Tiffany is a senior majoring in English with a minor in Italian and a 3.92 gpa. She received the Presidential Scholarship and Muriel A. Howard Honors Scholarship, served as the President of the Honors Student Council, 2016-2017. Tiffany serves as the Student Representative on the Buffalo State College Foundation Board of Directors. She's been on the Dean's List since she started college.

Jon Battison

A senior Computer Information System major, Jon has a 3.72 gpa. He is an Army veteran who served a tour in Afghanistan, was president of the Buffalo State chapter of Student Veterans of America and successfully lobbied for a new student veteran lounge on campus. A Dean's List student, Jon was awarded a summer research fellowship and three small grants for research in his major. Jon worked in local high schools with teachers and students to promote science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and computer science (STEM+C) curriculum.

Matthew Booker

Matthew is a senior Business Administration major, concentration on Management, with a 3.98 gpa. Matthew served in the U.S. Army 2nd Lieutenant as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal Sergeant, and assisted in Secret Service missions as well as security for the 2014 Afghanistan Presidential Elections. He serves as a Cadet Battalion Commander for Buffalo State and Canisius College ROTC. Matthew is a leader, mentor, volunteer and friend to younger students. Recipient of Steven A. Daniel Scholarship, the Brigitte V. Kallen Scholarship, Dean's Award he was nominated as the Outstanding Business Administration Student of the Year, May 2017.

Michael J. Brunetto

A senior Psychology major, minor in Exercise Science, and a 3.98 gpa, Michael is an Academic Mentor for the Academic Enrichment and Grade Improvement Services (AEGIS) and Certified Tutor with the Academic Center of Excellence (ACE). A member of Psi Chi, the International Honors Society in Psychology, Michael was recognized for his work in Community Engagement with a Next Level Leadership certificate and has served as a University Police Student Assistant for student safety on campus.

Giannina Callejas

Giannina is a senior Sociology major with dual minors in Leadership and Women and Gender Studies, and a 3.60 gpa. A Buffalo State Senior Residence Assistant, Mc Nair Scholar, Orientation Leader, Parent Orientation Leader and First Year Mentor for incoming students into residence life, Giannina is a Buffalo State and Canisius College U.S. Army ROTC-Reserve Officer Training Corps Cadet. She has received the ROTC Golden Griffin Battalion Color Guard Ribbon, ROTC Cannoneer Tab, ROTC Honors Award, and Buffalo State Dean's List Honors.

Undergraduate Who's Who Recipients

Alexander Cassells

A senior Political Science major with a 3.92 gpa., Alexander is minoring in Economy Policy Analysis. As a foreign student from the United Kingdom, Alexander has played an active role on the Men's Soccer team while at Buffalo State. Selected as All Western New York Men's College Soccer Third XL, All SUNYAC academic team, and SAAC-Student Athlete Advisory Committee Representative for the Men's Soccer team. He also belongs to Chi Alpha Sigma and Pi Sigma Alpha.

Tiffany Gaines

Tiffany is a senior majoring in Journalism with a minor in African American Studies and a 3.92 gpa. She is a Student Ambassador for the college, she received the Muriel A. Howard Honors, Ronald E. McNair and the Ross B. Kenzie scholarships. Tiffany has been a Communication Intern for the Institutional Advancement Department and has participated in the Bengals Dare to Care as a Site Coordinator. She is also an Orientation Leader in New Student and Family Programs managing over 50 students to complete the Orientation program at Buffalo State.

David Hoerner

A senior Mechanical Engineering Technology major with a 3.96 gpa, David was the recipient of the Matthew R. Row scholarship and was inducted into the Epsilon Pi Tau, International Honor Society for Technology and Sigma Alpha Pi, National Honor Society for Leadership and Success. He is President of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) at Buffalo State, Team Captain of the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) Mini Baja Team, and co-founded a formal Baja Club to advance the success of Mini Baja.

Ferdousi Khan

A senior majoring in Economics with a 3.60 gpa, Ferdousi is minoring in Geography with a concentration in Financial Economics. She is active in the Economics Club, International Students Organization, the Center for Excellence and Urban and Rural Education, and the McNair Scholars program. Traveling to Bangladesh in 2011, Ferdousi renewed her love for Economics and Geography and hopes to better understand and interpret global events.

Nicholas Klender

Nicholas is a senior majoring in Dietetics and Nutrition with a 3.84 gpa and dual minors in Chemistry and Exercise Science. He served as the President of Tau Sigma National Honor Society and a member of the Rotaract Club. Nicholas has volunteered and raised money to benefit WNY Food Bank and the Buffalo State Campus Food Pantry. He is a health facilitator for the Jacob's Institute, teaching middle and high school students' better lifestyle choices to prevent chronic diseases.

Matthew S. Kostek

A senior Criminal Justice major with a minor in Environmental Science, Matthew has a 3.70 gpa. He participated in the Buffalo State Men's Club Lacross Team, Vice President of the National Criminal Justice Honor Society (Alpha Phi Sigma), and member of the Biology Club. Matthew interned at the New York State Department of Human Rights in Buffalo, as well as the Amherst Police Department and is a Security Guard at Adesa Buffalo.

Fatoumata T. Makadji

A senior majoring in Political Science with a 3.70 gpa. Fatoumata is minoring in Legal Studies with a concentration in International Relations. She was inducted into the Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society and Pi Sigma Alpha National Political Science Honor Society. A Buffalo State Resident Assistant and intern at the New York State Division of Human Rights Investigation Unit in the Bronx, she is President of PULSE (Powerful United Ladies Striving to Elevate) and is fluent in French and Mandingo.

Alexia Matos-Mateo

A senior Criminal Justice major with a 3.61 gpa, and dual minors in Social Deviance and African American Studies. Alexia, an Army ROTC student, was inducted into the Alpha Phi Sigma Criminal Justice Honor Society and the Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honor Society. As a resident assistant, she was recognized with the First Year Mentor of the Year award. She also served as a resident director for the Educational Opportunity Program. She completed the Legacy Leaders Program, the Emerging Student Leaders Program and studied abroad in both Chile and Haiti.



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Undergraduate Who's Who Recipients

Shontay Morgan

Shontay is a senior Communications major, her minor is in Leadership with a 3.59 gpa. She is host and producer for Buffalo State WBNY radio show "Spilled Tea." Shontay is President of the National Communication Honor Society, Lambda Pi Eta (NCHS), and Vice President of the Pan African Student Organization (PASO) and is a member of the National Honor Society, Chi Alpha Epsilon.

Kweimeiley Nartay

A senior in Public Communication, minor in Hospitality Administration, Kweimeiley has a 3.21 gpa. Recipient of the Burrell Diversity Scholarship, she interned at WUFO Buffalo Radio Station, and was the creator and host of "Just Kamiley T.V." She is a program graduate of Women in Entertainment Empowerment Network (WEEN) and served as Public Relations Chair for the African American Student Organization. Kweimeiley is fluent in French and Intermediate Spanish.

Jeremiah Perez-Torres

Majoring in Criminal Justice with a minor in Intelligence Analysis, Jeremiah is a senior with a 3.86 gpa. He is a member of the Muriel A. Howard Honors Program and is a McNair Scholar. He received the Northwell Health 2016 Spirit Award regional scholarship for his community service and commitment to others. He has served as a coordinator of the University Police Student Assistant Program, supervising students who work with campus police. He served as an officer of both the Criminal Justice Club and the Buffalo State chapter of Alpha Phi Sigma, the National Criminal Justice Honor Society and earned Dean's List for his academic achievement.

Carly Pershyn

Carly is a senior with a dual major in Psychology and Arts & Letters, concentration in Philosophy and Humanities with a 3.77 gpa. Carly was named the college's Outstanding Philosophy Student in 2016–2017. She received a grant to fund research for her honors thesis in psychology and represented the Philosophy Department on the Arts and Humanities Student Council. She founded and was president of the Generation Action chapter on the Buffalo State campus and was a member of the Women in Philosophy Club and the Psychology Club. In the community, she worked as a women's health advocate.

Tara R. Petty

A senior Social Work major, Tara has a 3.96 gpa. She is President and member of the Phi Alpha Honor Society, Student Representative on the All College Student Learning Outcomes committee and a volunteer for the Anne Frank Project. Recipient of the Muriel A. Howard Scholarship, Edgar H. Turkle International Volunteer and Service Learning Scholarship, Tara will graduate with honors. Her commitment to family, community and volunteer work is evident in the building Four Walls, Service Learning Project in El Sauce, Nicaragua.

Emma Roberts

Emma is a junior Art major with a minor in Painting and a 3.93 gpa. Recipient of the Buffalo State Provost and Pano Georgiadis Scholarships, Emma is President of the Visual Arts Board at Buffalo State. She has been on the Dean's List since 2015 and inducted into the Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society. She has participated in the "Anne Frank Project" and "Art After Dark" and volunteers at Meals on Wheels and Greenfield Nursing Home.

Lydia Sigurdson

A senior Psychology major with a 3.91 gpa, Lydia conducted original research for her honor's thesis on the effects of race and personal characteristics in a legal setting. She was selected to present her findings at the American Psychology Law Society's annual conference and was inducted into Psi Chi, the National Psychology Honor Society. Lydia participated in more than 500 hours of community service during her college career, working with refugees at Jewish Family Service and homeless and runaway youth at Compass House.

Morgan Snow

Morgan is a senior Communication Studies major with a 3.29 gpa. Morgan has been very active in the Residence Life Office as a Senior Resident Life Assistant, Resident Assistant, Greek Life, Orientation, Social Media and Weeks of Welcome Program Coordinator. She is the Vice President of Alpha Epsilon Phi Sorority Beta Gamma Chapter, President for Inter Greek Association, President for College Panhellenic Council and Site Coordinator for Bengals Dare to Care Community Service Day. Morgan received the Resident Assistant of the year award in 2015.

Undergraduate Who's Who Recipients

Michael J. Swierczynski

Michael is a senior Chemistry major, concentration in Biochemistry with a 3.91 gpa. He received the Mathematics Department Award for Excellence in Calculus, McNairs Scholars Outstanding Junior Award, Dean's Scholarship and the ACS Undergraduate Award in both Inorganic and Analytical Chemistry. He is a member of the Buffalo State Chemistry Club, Phi Lambda Upsilon and Alpha Lambda Delta Honors Society clubs on campus and tutors students in the EOP Program at Buffalo State.

Viiva Vaattovaara

A senior Biology major with a minor in Psychology, concentration in Biotechnology, Viiva has a 3.96 gpa. She is captain of the Women's Ice Hockey team and works as an Academic Mentor at Buffalo State's EOP Center and assists in the College Ice Arena. Viiva has been on the Dean's List since 2014, and the National College Athlete Honors Society, Chi Alpha Epsilon. She participated in the All-Academic Team, State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC), and carried the highest GPA among all student-athletes in 2015-2016. Viiva is also fluent in French.

Margaret Weiser

Margaret is a senior Speech-Language Pathology major with a 3.91 gpa. Margaret is Secretary for the Alpha Lambda Delta National Academic Honor Society, and Secretary for the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA). While at Buffalo State, Margaret won the State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) All Academic Honors for the Women's Soccer Team. She is the Receptionist for the Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic at Buffalo State.



Graduate Who's Who Recipients

Joseph N. Grande

Joseph will receive his Master's degree in Higher Education and Student Affairs Administration, with a 3.96 gpa. At Buffalo State, Joseph was a Resident Hall Director, a hearing officer for judicial conduct review and a Campus Ambassador for the American College Personnel Association (ACPA). He serves on the Buffalo State College Campus Safety Forum Committee, helping address personal safety and crime prevention on campus.

Rebecca J. Johnson

Rebecca will receive her Master's degree in Great Lakes Ecosystem Science in May with a 3.66 gpa. Rebecca is a Graduate Assistant at the Great Lakes Ecosystems Center and she is founder and President of Informed Students Addressing Climate Change (ISACC). As an International Student Mentor, Rebecca assisted International students from Singapore and was an Academic Tutor in the Academic Center for Excellence at Buffalo State.

Heather McCarthy

Heather will receive her Master's degree in Multidisciplinary Studies with an Individualized concentration in May, with a 3.95 gpa. As a geology teaching assistant, tutor, and lab manager, she created a program that allowed her to explore ways to improve the student learning experience in science education at the undergraduate level. Heather engaged students in formal and informal learning opportunities and developed an IRB-approved survey instrument to assess engagement in introductory geoscience courses. Her poster detailing her research findings earned an award at the Geological Society of America's 2016 Northeast Regional Meeting.

Kaicherise McRae

Kaicherise will receive her Master's degree in Higher Education and Student Affairs Administration with a 3.85 gpa. Serving in the Student Life Office, Kaicherise was the Complex Director Selection Committee Representative, Commuter Ambassador Graduate Intern, Student Lead Success Associate and Graduate Resident Director at Buffalo State. She started a non-profit organization called The Kristal Gupta Project, in remembrance of her younger sister, Kristal Gupta. She is an advisor for the Step Expression club and serves as the elected student representative for the Buffalo State College Council.

Graduate Who's Who Recipients

Farhad Mustafa

Majoring in Higher Education and Student Affairs Administration, Farhad has a 4.0 gpa and is the Regional Coordinator for the National Association of Latino Fraternity Organization-North Eastern Region (NALFO). He served on the Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo, America Corp City Year and America Corps Coach Across America. Active in Buffalo State student life. Farhad was Assistant to the Res Net Director in Residence Life.

Monique Owens

Monique will receive her Master's degree in Public and Nonprofit Administration and concentration in Non-profit Administration with a 3.85 gpa. She is an Erie County Democratic Committee member, participated in the Open Buffalo Emerging Leaders Program and was a committee member for the Miss Borinquen Leadership Development Program, designed to empower young Latinas in the community. She will present her master's project at the 2017 American Society for Public Administration conference. In addition, Monique was inducted into the Buffalo State chapter of the Global Honor Society for Public Affairs and Public Administration.

Carol Youngs

Carol will receive her Master's degree in Higher Education and Student Affairs Administration in May, with a 4.0 gpa. She works in the Academic Achievement Center in E.H. Butler Library as a graduate assistant helping students with Drop-In Advisement. Incorporating a networking opportunity between alumni and students in a painting workshop, Carol combines students' stories, dreams and aspirations into a Creative Career presentation.



Phillip Santa Maria Award for Student Leadership in Equity and Campus Diversity

For 25 years, Phillip Santa Maria served as Dean of Students at Buffalo State. During his tenure, he was recognized both on campus and throughout the community for his leadership on diversity and social justice issues. The Phillip Santa Maria Award for Student Leadership in Equity and Campus Diversity was established in his honor to recognize students who exemplify Dr. Santa Maria's commitment to service, social justice, and diversity through promoting respect for diversity and individual differences in their activities, projects, discussions, or their leadership with student organizations and groups.

Recipient

Kendry Brown

Kendry Brown is the recipient of Phillip Santa Maria Award for Student Leadership in Equity and Campus Diversity for 2016-2017. Kendry has demonstrated remarkable leadership skills that engage diverse communities on and off campus. This includes his role as a student site leader in organizing an Alternative Summer Break trip to creating a co-curricular service and educational experience for fellow students; an active role on the Alternative Break Student Leader Team (ABSLT) engaging and creating awareness on campus about the mission of the program and being the driving force of the AB scholarship. Mr. Brown clearly sees the value in diversity and social justice work because he helped raise \$7,000 dollars for the AB scholarship award so more students can have the leadership experiences that he has had. Mr. Brown has also demonstrated leadership in encouraging peers to embrace diversity and become aware of the benefits diversity on campus and the community through a term of service with AmeriCorps at the CAC. Through this project, he has made an impact on Buffalo's local immigrant and refugee population.

Luis M. Antonetti Student Humanitarian Award

Dr. Miguel A. Antonetti, Lydmia V. Santiago, family and friends established the Luis M. Antonetti Student Humanitarian Award in memory of Luis M. Antonetti, whose life came to an untimely and abrupt end on February 18, 2006. Luis was a sophomore at Buffalo State majoring in biology/zoology. An active fraternity member of Zeta Beta Tau (ZBT), Luis was very hardworking, family oriented and he shared his enthusiasm for life through his dedication to his school work, his active involvement with ZBT and community service. Luis was very charismatic with an ability to reach out to people from all walks of life, making him well liked by faculty, staff and students.

The Luis M. Antonetti Award recognizes those unique students who affirm positive core values that will influence future generation of students by their peace-seeking way of living, their cultural acceptance of others and their giving of themselves to others through community service. Through this award and the ideals by which he lived his life, Luis Antonetti will be forever remembered and his life celebrated at Buffalo State College.

Recipient

Jeremiah Perez-Torres

Majoring in Criminal Justice and with a minor in Intelligence Analysis, Jeremiah is a senior with a 3.86 gpa. He is a member of the Muriel A. Howard Honors Program and is a McNair Scholar. He received the Northwell Health 2016 Spirit Award regional scholarship for his community service and commitment to others. Jeremiah has served as a coordinator of the University Police Student Assistant Program, supervising students who work with campus police. He served as an officer of both the Criminal Justice Club and the Buffalo State chapter of Alpha Phi Sigma, the National Criminal Justice Honor Society and earned Dean's List for his academic achievement.

Minnie and Joe Engel Student Humanitarian Award

The Minnie and Joe Engel Student Humanitarian Award was created through a gift to the College from Mr. Bernard Engel to honor his aunt and uncle, Minnie and Joe Engel, who selflessly put others' needs ahead of their own and always strove to provide outstanding service for others. They instilled in Mr. Engel the same qualities that have been the standard by which he lives his life and through this award he encourages others to do the same. It is Mr. Bernard Engel's hope that this award will have a positive influence on future generations of students by identifying positive role models who embody core values that support and enhance the quality of life in our communities.

The Minnie and Joe Engel Student Humanitarian Award recognizes a Buffalo State undergraduate student who has demonstrated personal character through altruism, volunteer service and the giving of oneself to the campus and the larger community. The Engel Humanitarian Award recognizes the full measure of a person's worth, not just as a scholar, but as someone whose efforts on behalf of others define a quality of character that embodies core values that merit recognition.

Recipient

Darran L. Booker

A senior Business Administration major with a concentration in Management and a 2.67 gpa, Darran has dedicated many hours to the Volunteer and Service-Learning Center's Alternative Break with a focus on Homelessness Awareness in Buffalo. As the Co-Coordinator of the Student Leadership Team, he has lead and volunteered in other locations across the country: Cleveland, Ohio; Detroit, Michigan; Atlanta, Georgia; and Baltimore, Maryland. As a Weigel Health Promotions peer educator, Darran had provided education and information on common health problems to students and staff. His work with young people makes him an ideal candidate for the Engle Humanitarian Award.



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Phillip Santa Maria Student Humanitarian Award

Phillip Santa Maria, Ph.D., served for twenty-five years as associate vice president and dean of students at Buffalo State. A much-loved member of the college community, Dr. Santa Maria's concern for students, his commitment to the campus and his devotion to service in the community were evident in all his activities. The Phillip Santa Maria Memorial Award was created in his honor to inspire others to pursue the same selfless qualities that characterized Dr. Santa Maria's personal and professional life.

The Phillip Santa Maria Memorial Award recognizes a Buffalo State undergraduate student who has demonstrated a well-rounded character, exhibiting not only scholastic achievement but also active participation in campus life at Buffalo State and in the Western New York community and a desire to improve the world.

Recipient

Stephanie Hanson

Stephanie is a senior Earth Sciences major with dual minors in Geographic Information Systems and Biology and a 3.41 gpa. Her dedication to Buffalo State goes beyond the classroom, her involvement as Co-Vice President of Informed Students Addressing Climate Change (ISACC), Pride Alliance, Buffalo State Chapter NYS Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG), and Alternative Break Student Leadership Team are just a few. She also is working with the Buffalo State Fire Safety Office as a student assistant. Stephanie is a proven leader and well deserving of the Santa Maria Humanitarian Award.



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Mildred Campbell Student Leadership Award

Mildred Campbell was a significant benefactor of Buffalo State and gave years of dedicated service to the College Council, Alumni Association and the Buffalo State College Foundation. After graduating from Buffalo State in 1928, Mildred Campbell went on to teach in the Buffalo public schools, the Buffalo Seminary and the University at Buffalo.

Since Mildred Campbell once assessed her talent as "bringing people together," it is highly appropriate that the Student Union and Social Hall in the Student Union are both named in her honor. In recognition of her contributions to the College, in 1980 Mildred Campbell was presented with the President's Distinguished Service Award. In 1985, she received the SUNY Board of Trustees Distinguished Citizen Award.

Having served more than 50 years in volunteer public service, in 1996 the Buffalo News named Mildred Campbell "Outstanding Citizen of the Year." The list of her religious, civic, interfaith, health and educational organization board memberships and awards is inspiring. In recognition of her achievements, we bestow the Mildred Campbell Leadership Award in her honor.

Recipient

Alexia Matos-Mateo

Alexia is a senior Criminal Justice major with a 3.61 gpa and dual minors in Social Deviance and African American Studies. Alexia, an Army ROTC student, was inducted into the Alpha Phi Sigma Criminal Justice Honor Society and the Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honor Society. As a resident assistant, she was recognized with the First Year Mentor of the Year award. She also served as a resident director for the Educational Opportunity Program. She completed the Legacy Leaders Program and the Emerging Student Leaders Program. She participated in a studied abroad program in both Chile and Haiti. Her dedication to care and commitment is evident in her dedicated work as a scholar and peer leader making her highly deserving of the Mildred Campbell Student Leadership Award.

SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence

The Chancellor's Award is the highest honor bestowed by SUNY upon a student. This award recognizes model students who have integrated academic excellence with achievement in areas such as athletics, community service, creative and performing arts, entrepreneurship, leadership, and career achievement. Today we honor these outstanding students with certificates noting their accomplishment.

Undergraduate Chancellor's Award Recipients

Jon Battison

A senior Computer Information System major, Jon has a 3.72 gpa. He is an Army veteran who served a tour in Afghanistan, was president of the Buffalo State chapter of Student Veterans of America and successfully lobbied for a new student veteran lounge on campus. A Dean's List student, Jon was awarded a summer research fellowship and three small grants for research in his major. Jon worked in local high schools with teachers and students to promote science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and computer science (STEM+C) curriculum.

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Jeremiah Perez-Torres

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Carly Pershyn

Carly is a senior with a dual major in Psychology and Arts & Letters, concentration in Philosophy and Humanities with a 3.77 gpa. Carly was named the college's Outstanding Philosophy Student in 2016–2017. She received a grant to fund research for her honors thesis in psychology and represented the Philosophy Department on the Arts and Humanities Student Council. She founded and was president of the Generation Action chapter on the Buffalo State campus and was a member of the Women in Philosophy Club and the Psychology Club. In the community, she worked as a women's health advocate.

Lydia Sigurdson

A senior Psychology major with a 3.91 gpa, Lydia conducted original research for her honor's thesis on the effects of race and personal characteristics in a legal setting, was selected to present her findings at the American Psychology Law Society's annual conference and she was inducted into Psi Chi, the National Psychology Honor Society. Lydia participated in more than 500 hours of community service during her college career, working with refugees at Jewish Family Service and homeless and runaway youth at Compass House.

SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence

Graduate Chancellor's Award Recipients

Monique Owens

Monique will receive her Master's degree in Public and Nonprofit Administration and concentration in Nonprofit Administration with a 3.85 gpa. She is an Erie County Democratic Committee member, participated in the Open Buffalo Emerging Leaders Program and was a committee member for the Miss Borinquen Leadership Development Program, designed to empower young Latinas in the community. She will present her master's project at the 2017 American Society for Public Administration conference. In addition, she was inducted into the Buffalo State chapter of the Global Honor Society for Public Affairs and Public Administration.

Buffalo State President's Medal

The Buffalo State President's Medal is the highest honor awarded to a student by Buffalo State. This award is given to a student who, through use of his/her natural talents and acquired skills, has demonstrated a commitment toward meeting the goals of higher education as set forth in the college's mission statement. A grade point average of at least 3.5 is required for consideration for this award, along with demonstrated citizenship through membership in a professional organization or community outreach activities and leadership/creativity through local, state, national, or international recognition for excellence.

Undergraduate Recipient

Jon Battison

A senior Computer Information System major, Jon has a 3.72 gpa. He is an Army veteran who served a tour in Afghanistan, was president of the Buffalo State chapter of Student Veterans of America and successfully lobbied for a new student veteran lounge on campus. A Dean's List student, Jon was awarded a summer research fellowship and three small grants for research in his major. Jon worked in local high schools with teachers and students to promote science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and computer science (STEM+C) curriculum.

Graduate Recipient

Heather McCarthy

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BUFFALO STATE
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Student Leadership Awards Selection Committees

Who's Who and Mildred Campbell Student Leadership Awards Committee

Maria Brickhouse
Stephen Burgeson
Cynthia Eggleston
Stephanie Foraker
Sade Garcia
Lisa Gatti
Anthony Gorny
Bailey Hornung

Charles Kenyon
Lorena Mathien
John Newman
Jose Padilla
Leah Panek-Shirley
Dan Schmidt
Mariah White

Phillip Santa Maria Award for Student Leadership in Equity and Campus Diversity

Jing Zhang, Ph.D., Chair
Katie Bertel, M.L.S.
Eve Everette, M.A.
Eric (Luke) Krieg, Ph.D.

Student Humanitarian Awards Subcommittee

Desiree Diaz
Jikai Du
Catherine George
Jin Heo
Charles Kenyon
Cynthia Lopez

Lawrence Maheady
Katie Malik
John Rellinger
Scott Richards
Sean Terry
Tom Witakowski

President's Medal/SUNY Chancellor's Award Committee

Lynn Boorady
Patricia Alessandra
Suparna Soni
Laurie Kaiser
Mary Jo Malinowski
Lin Xia Jiang
Jessica Helmbrecht
Brian Dubenion

Dianne McCarthy
Clarissa Breen
Kevin Rabener
Leasa Rochester-Mills
Julia Grygier
Vivian Ukah
David Wedderburn



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