

# 153rd COMMENCEMENT | May 17, 2025

School of the Professions | School of Arts and Sciences | School of Education and Individualized and Multidisciplinary Studies



**BUFFALO STATE**  
The State University of New York



### SUNY BUFFALO STATE UNIVERSITY

1300 Elmwood Avenue  
Buffalo, New York 14222-1095  
[www.buffalostate.edu](http://www.buffalostate.edu)

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### BUFFALO STATE ALMA MATER BENGAL PRIDE

Buff State you taught us to believe,  
Be inspired and achieve.  
With great minds and caring hearts  
We're here to lead and serve.

With hope anew we'll venture forth,  
It's with one voice we proudly roar  
We are Bengals to the core.

In years to come, we'll reminisce,  
Filled with joy for times gone by.  
We'll not fail you Alma Mater,  
Change the world for good.

Though we must leave our Elmwood home,  
In our hearts for ever more  
We are Bengals to the core.

—Dawn Pustelnik

### D. BRUCE AND GAIL JOHNSTONE COMMENCEMENT SUPPORT ENDOWMENT FUND Recognizing Global Diversity at Buffalo State University



Buffalo State University embraces international diversity and welcomes students from many parts of the world. This ideal is supported by the generosity of the D. Bruce and Gail Johnstone Commencement Support Endowment Fund.

Dr. Johnstone, with the support of his late wife, Gail, served as president of Buffalo State from 1979 to 1988 and as chancellor of the State University of New York from 1988 to 1994. The Johnstones' values emphasize global education as well as the importance of student diversity to enhanced learning.

### COMMENCEMENT GARDEN

The interim president of Buffalo State and the entire campus community honor the Class of 2025 by continuing the tradition of the Commencement Garden. Inaugurated in 2000, the permanent garden is located outside the main entrance to the Sports Arena. The garden represents the messages of environmental awareness, growth, and continuity, all visions embraced by the graduating class. Please enjoy the garden and use it as a backdrop for taking pictures of your graduates.



## WELCOME TO BUFFALO STATE'S 2025 COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES!

We gather today to celebrate the individual and collective accomplishments of Buffalo State University's Class of 2025.

Congratulations! Through passion, dedication, and long hours of learning, each member of the Class of 2025 has earned a prestigious degree from this great university. Be proud of your wonderful achievements and enjoy this special day!

Of course, life's greatest successes often happen with the support of others. Let us take time today to thank the family members and friends who have helped encourage their loved ones to earn a degree. Their support has been essential in the educational process. We also thank our dedicated Buffalo State faculty and staff members who have played a pivotal role in helping our students reach their full potential.

My dearest wish is that each of our graduates goes on to find personal happiness, contribute positively to their community, and pursue a career doing what they love!

I encourage every graduate to stay connected with Buffalo State. You are a member of the Buffalo State alumni family forever. You will always be welcome here. We know that the best is yet to come, so please keep us informed about all the upcoming milestones in your life, big and small. Roar on, Bengals!

Sincerely,

Bonita R. Durand, Ph.D.

*Interim President*

## CONFERRING OF DEGREES



### **BONITA R. DURAND, PH.D.**

Bonita R. Durand, Ph.D., was appointed officer in charge of Buffalo State University by State University of New York Chancellor John B. King Jr. on May 31, 2023, before her official confirmation as interim president by the SUNY Board of Trustees on June 6, 2023. She is serving as interim president through the 2025–2026 academic year until a new president is appointed.

Dr. Durand had retired in 2018 after 22 years of service to Buffalo State, where she served as chief of staff and secretary to the Buffalo State College Council. She served under five presidents at Buffalo State during her tenure. In addition, she was a graduate faculty member in the university's Higher Education Administration Department, where she taught courses on the history of American higher education and strategic planning and finance in higher education.

Dr. Durand provided leadership to countless committees and working groups at Buffalo State, including the Middle States accreditation steering committee, the presidential inauguration support committees, the facilities master planning committee, and the presidential search advisory committees. She has also served as the faculty advisor for the collegiate chapter of the National

Council of Negro Women Inc. and the campus advisor for the Gamma Kappa Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.

An active member of the Western New York community, Dr. Durand has dedicated her time to numerous organizations across the city and region. She was secretary for the City of Buffalo Citizens Advisory Commission on Reapportionment in 2011, a member of the Mayor of the City of Buffalo's 2010 Complete Count Census Committee, a charter member of the Buffalo Niagara Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors, and a member of the Western New York Women's Fund Board of Directors.

Dr. Durand earned a doctor of philosophy from the University at Buffalo with a concentration in higher education administration and a focus on institutional advancement. She also holds a master of science in applied public affairs from the University at Buffalo and a bachelor of arts in business administration and curriculum development from the Union Institute in Cincinnati, Ohio. In 2010, she received certification in educational management and leadership from the Graduate School of Education at Harvard University.

## SCHOOL OF THE PROFESSIONS CEREMONY 9:00 A.M.

### PRELUDE

The Rockwell Brass

Ricky L. Fleming, *Director*  
*Professor, Music Department*

### PROCESSIONAL

The Rockwell Brass

Susan Keller-Mathers, *Mace Bearer*  
*Associate Professor, Creativity and Change Leadership Department*

### CONVENING

Linda A. Dobmeier, Class of 1971  
*Chair, Buffalo State University Council*

### NATIONAL ANTHEM

Members of the Buffalo State Chamber Choir

Victoria J. Furby, Director  
*Chair and Associate Professor, Music Department*

### WELCOME

Bonita R. Durand, Ph.D.  
*Interim President, Buffalo State University*

### SUNY CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS FOR STUDENT EXCELLENCE

Imran Fazal, Class of 2025  
*Bachelor of Science, Social Work*

Lorinda M. John, Class of 2025  
*Bachelor of Science, Hospitality Administration*

Sophie Tversky, Class of 2025  
*Master of Science, Creativity and Change Leadership*

### PRESENTERS

Linda A. Dobmeier

Bonita R. Durand

### SCHOOL OF THE PROFESSIONS STUDENT ADDRESS

Imran Fazal

### PRESIDENT'S DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Russell J. Salvatore  
*Hospitality Business Owner and Philanthropist*

### Presenters

Linda A. Dobmeier

Bonita R. Durand

### DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD

### SCHOOL OF THE PROFESSIONS COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Del Reid, Class of 2004  
*Founder, 26 Shirts and Co-Founder, Bills Mafia*

### Presenters

David J. Zapfel, Class of 1985  
*Treasurer, Buffalo State Alumni Association*

Bonita R. Durand

### PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

Amitra A. Wall  
*Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs*

Carol A. DeNysschen  
*Dean, School of the Professions*

### CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Bonita R. Durand

### BUFFALO STATE UNIVERSITY ALMA MATER

Members of the Buffalo State Chamber Choir

### RECESSIONAL

*Please join the campus community in celebration at a reception in the Campbell Student Union.*

**CAPTURING THE MOMENT** Commencement is an important day and one that our graduates will long remember. As a courtesy, a professional photography company, Island Photography, will capture each graduate's special moment during the ceremony. You are also invited to use the Commencement Garden, in front of the Sports Arena, as a photo backdrop.

## SCHOOL OF THE PROFESSIONS COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD



### **DEL REID** **CLASS OF 2004**

Del Reid is a passionate community advocate, entrepreneur, and lifelong Buffalo Bills fan. Born and raised in Western New York, he is the co-founder of the Bills Mafia movement, and the visionary behind 26 Shirts. Mr. Reid has harnessed the power of sports fandom to make a tangible and lasting impact on the lives of those in need.

In 2011, along with Breyon Harris and Leslie Wille, he initiated the #BillsMafia movement on Twitter, which has since grown into a dedicated online community of Bills fans. Bills Mafia has become known not only for its unwavering support of the Buffalo Bills but also for its philanthropic efforts, exemplifying the positive influence of sports fans coming together for a greater purpose. For his efforts, Mr. Reid was named the “Bills 2023 Fan of the Year” by the National Football League.

In 2013, Mr. Reid took his passion for football and his desire to give back to the community to the next level by founding 26 Shirts. This

innovative platform combines sports, fashion, and charity by designing limited edition, Buffalo-themed apparel. Each shirt sold donates a portion to a specific beneficiary in need. His commitment to making a difference through 26 Shirts has resulted in substantial donations to various charities, helping countless individuals and families facing adversity. To date, 26 Shirts has raised nearly \$2 million in donations to the community.

By uniting fans under the banner of Bills Mafia and harnessing the power of passionate sports enthusiasts, Mr. Reid has demonstrated the potential for sports fandom to drive positive change. However, his life goes beyond simply coining a fanbase hashtag or running a charitable business. His faith is the factor behind the love and compassion he desires to share with every person he meets.

While he is proud of everything Bills Mafia has accomplished to date, he will tell you the most important thing in his life is his marriage to his wife, Chrissy, and their two beautiful daughters.

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## PRESIDENT'S DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD



### **RUSSELL J. SALVATORE**

Russell J. Salvatore, a remarkably successful restaurateur, businessman, and philanthropist, transformed a hot dog stand that he purchased in 1967 into the Buffalo landmark now known as Salvatore's Italian Gardens. He later established the magnificent Garden Place Hotel as well as Russell's Steaks, Chops and More, an award-winning steakhouse with its adjacent, five-story Grand Hotel. Each of his

businesses has drawn national attention—and is widely known in the area—for its trademark high level of service and exemplary food quality.

Mr. Salvatore is one of Western New York's most generous benefactors, supporting higher education, health care, and a wide variety of other causes. His gift to Buffalo State University established the Russell J. Salvatore Demonstration Kitchen and culinary theatre in Caudell Hall. He also is a major donor to Trocaire College and Niagara University. He purchased flat-screen televisions in 350 patient rooms at Erie County Medical Center, and later became the hospital's largest private donor with a major gift to the orthopedic unit.

The extensive list of charities that he supports throughout the region includes, but is not limited to, Kids Escaping Drugs, Roswell Park

Comprehensive Cancer Center, Variety Club of Buffalo, FeedMore WNY, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Muscular Dystrophy Association, WNY Heroes Inc., Buffalo Zoo, Kevin Guest House, and numerous school districts. By establishing the Russell J. Salvatore Foundation, he has ensured that his support of the community he loves will continue in perpetuity.

In addition, Mr. Salvatore has inspired regional spirit through many years of sponsoring Buffalo's New Year's Eve ball drop and the Canalside area's Fourth of July fireworks celebration, and purchasing remaining tickets to Bills games to lift a scheduled blackout. A U.S. Army veteran, Mr. Salvatore, notes that one of his proudest accomplishments is the creation of Patriots and Heroes Park, a three-acre parcel that honors military personnel, first responders, and local heroes. The park provides the community with an “oasis to reflect” and features a 9-11 Memorial, Flight 3407 Memorial, Purple Heart Memorial, World War II Memorial, and replica of Arlington National Cemetery's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, among other statues and memorials.

Since his preteen years of peeling potatoes and shining spittoons, Mr. Salvatore has always found his calling and passion in creating good times for others. Through many years of long hours, hard work, innovation, and a passion for people, he continues to leave his mark on the community and make Western New York a better place to live.

## SCHOOL OF THE PROFESSIONS STUDENT ADDRESS SUNY CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR STUDENT EXCELLENCE



### IMRAN FAZAL

Imran Fazal has earned a bachelor of science in social work, attaining a 4.0 GPA while serving as a passionate advocate for refugee rights and social justice. Born stateless in Myanmar, Mr. Fazal was denied citizenship and education, forcing him to flee alone as a teenager. He spent eight years in refugee camps, including an Australian offshore detention center, where he taught himself

to read and write—an act that ignited his passion for storytelling and advocacy.

After resettling in the United States in 2018, Mr. Fazal began formal education at age 21. Despite the late start, he excelled—serving as president of Phi Theta Kappa at Truman College and student trustee for the City Colleges of Chicago.

As a writer, Mr. Fazal uses journalism to uplift the voices of displaced communities. He won a blog competition with Amnesty International and became a Pulitzer Center Reporting Fellow, later receiving the Society of Professional Journalists' 2021 Mark of Excellence Award.

He has published nearly 50 articles in major outlets, and his personal journey was featured in the *New York Times*.

At Buffalo State, Mr. Fazal was named an Undergraduate Research Fellow and received the 2024 Social Work Excellence Award. His study on the resettlement and educational experiences of Rohingya refugees in Buffalo was accepted for presentation at the 2025 National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) and the Student Research and Creativity Conference.

Mr. Fazal founded the Rohingya Empowerment Community (REC), a nonprofit currently awaiting 501(c)(3) approval, which provides case management, education, and employment support. He also partnered with the Community Academic Center on the Learning Family Project and served on the board of the Refugee Education and Adventure Challenge. His advocacy has taken him to Washington, DC, the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs at Georgetown University, and the upcoming United Nations Civil Society Dialogue in Geneva, Switzerland. Recipient of the Deborah K. Renzi Social Advocacy Award and a Phi Alpha Honor Society inductee, Mr. Fazal has led a journey that reflects the power of resilience, education, and a commitment to justice.

## SUNY CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR STUDENT EXCELLENCE



### LORINDA M. JOHN

Lorinda John has earned a bachelor of science in hospitality administration with a concentration in restaurant and institutional management, attaining a 3.46 GPA while working as an Indigenous private chef and award-winning cultural bearing artist. Ms. John has successfully balanced her academics with multiple thriving professional businesses and an exceptional record of volunteerism

and community service.

A charismatic entrepreneur, Ms. John is the owner and operator of LoMade Meals, which creates menus and culinary experiences highlighting Indigenous culture. Her business delivers much-needed nutritional meals to elders in the Seneca community and has been featured at high-profile events hosted by the Buffalo Bills, Delaware North, and others. Her business was designated as an approved internship site by Buffalo State, allowing Ms. John to supervise two interns who are hospitality administration majors. In line with her business plan and philosophy, Ms. John continues to pursue additional opportunities that meet her goal of providing services to the Seneca territory and the community.

Ms. John has demonstrated ongoing leadership within her academic circles, as well as within numerous local organizations and programs. She was invited to participate in multiple events at the Buffalo AKG Art Museum for Indigenous People's Day, Indigenous Veterans Day, and Remembrance Day this past fall, curating menu options highlighting Indigenous food. In October 2024, she was invited by the Niagara Falls Culinary Institute (NFCI) to prepare a multicourse menu at their Savor Restaurant. As a result of her performance at this event, she has been invited to return and work at the 2025 NFCI summer camp.

As a gifted cultural bearing artist, Ms. John received the prestigious Creatives Rebuild New York Fellowship that provides an 18-month stipend for emerging artists. Under the fellowship, she established her own art studio, Aurora Treasures, which specializes in cedar wood creations and makes art presentations at local schools, libraries, and universities. She also has participated in a group exhibition at the Tri-County Arts Council.

Ms. John participated in the Small Business Development Center's (SBDC) Entrepreneurship in the Arts program in the fall and was also a member of the SBDC Bengal Entrepreneurship Program, where she was a finalist in the SBDC and Bank of America Student Business Plan Competition. In addition, Ms. John has volunteered with World Central Kitchen, providing on-site fresh meals in response to global humanitarian, climate, and community crises.

## SUNY CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR STUDENT EXCELLENCE



### SOPHIE TVERSKY

Sophie Tversky has earned a master of science in creativity and change leadership, attaining a 4.0 GPA. A distance student working internationally, she has made herself a vibrant member of the worldwide creativity and innovation community. She has been described as a global citizen, demonstrating a strong commitment to her graduate studies and ability to embrace change as she helps

others to come together to create impactful solutions.

Continuing to work full time while pursuing her master's degree program, Ms. Tversky is a cultural transformation and innovation consultant, helping global organizations to innovate as well as transform their organizational cultures and collaborative practices. She also is an Australian lawyer, bringing a strong understanding of governance, ethics, and critical thinking.

Ms. Tversky has received numerous academic and professional awards. At Buffalo State University in 2024, she received both the Firestein

Family Creative Achievement Award and the Mary Murdock Creative Spirit Award from the Creativity and Change Leadership Department. She trained in and has facilitated Polarity Thinking since 2023, adding to her robust toolkit and demonstrating her commitment to learning.

Ms. Tversky has been an active contributor to online learning at Buffalo State, engaging with the Creativity and Change Leadership Department to further improve the benefits and learning experience for all distance students. Her leadership abilities have been ever-present throughout the master's program, both through her rigorous research addressing key gaps in creativity and innovation literature and her ability to bring people together during instructional activities. Ms. Tversky's mentorship in her studies and professional work was particularly noted.

Ms. Tversky has quickly risen to an influential position in her field. In 2024, she was a selected participant in the Executive Leaders Mentoring Program with the International Women's Forum in Canada. She was appointed a member of the 2024 MindCamp Creativity Conference Organizing Committee and as a program facilitator at the 2024 CREA Conference in Italy, Europe's largest creativity and innovation conference. She was invited to return to CREA in 2025 as a core facilitator.



## 2025 CANDIDATES FOR SCHOOL OF THE PROFESSIONS

### BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

#### Bachelor of Science

Abdullah Abadi \*

Lydia E. Abbott \*

Fatuma Abdi \*

Marwan Abdulla

Hadiyyah Lina Abdur-Rahman

Lojen M. Abo Koedr

Salsabel M. Abo Koedr \*\*

Noah Emerson Adams

David Adedayo Adekanbi

Emmanuel Ojeka Agbo-Ito

Marissa O. Aikin

Franco Yoanes Ajarial

David Oluwaseyi Akanbi \*\*

Rina Akter \*

Malik Tofeek Albanna

Maes Aldhafiri

Saja Aldufairi \*

Jacob Tyler Allan \*

Alexandra Lynn Allard

Nicholas Alexander Alvira

Joseph K. Appiah

Yeasin Arafath

Brianna Gricel Aranda

Alyssa Rose Arena

Daniel Louis Asboth

Mobin Atefi

Brooke A. Attia

Jessica Jordan Auge \*\*\*

Taijah Monea Banyan

Jordan T. Barber

Hamza Mouhoumed Baroud

Carly Rae Barrett

Venaisa Shariya Beckford

Mondae Iyanna Desire Beggs Grant

Wyatt Arthur Keighan Belanger \*\*\*

Jillian E. Bender \*\*\*

Jack Robert Bergum

Ethan P. Bevilacqua

Madison Grace Biddlecom

Andriel Brianna Billups \*\*\*

Jada Imani Bing

Connor Patrick Bizal \*\*\*

Shawn Anthony Blair

Jesse Owen Blodgett

Clare Catherine Blum \*\*

Allison Elizabeth Boeing \*\*\*

Jaream Jazlyn Boswell

Jaden Mya Brice \*\*\*

Katrina Kristine Brindley

Arianna Lamara Brinson

Gabriela Arely Brown

Jolene M. Brown

Kiana R. Brown

Dennecka Dennesha Bruce

Chelsea Bruno

Sarah Bryant

Adriana D. Brzezniak

Jeffrey Daniel Burgess

Nicholas Andrew Cacciotti

Kaleb Ashton Calkins

Ikeisha Monee Cannon

Willie James Cannon

Samantha Carlson

Gianna Antoinette Casali \*\*\*

Joshua Paul Casey

Zackary James Cavatassi

Sidi Mohamed Moustapha Cherif

Sang Chin

Kylee Anna Clayborne

Stephanie Clement \*\*

Samantha Jane Coakley

Kimora Cobb

Ashleigh Charisse Coleman \*

Cole Michael Conlin

Brian William Cook \*\*\*

Kent A. Cooper \*

Christian Crandall

Nicolina Annadea Creasey \*\*\*

Ayden James Cristales

Shon Donnell Culbreath

Rebecca Curcio \*\*\*

Terri-Jamel Curry

Joshua M. D'Angelo

Chelsea Abigail Daley \*

Renee Georgia Dammann \*

Rai Dang

George Boakye Danquah

Samayah Faith Daughtry \*\*

Christopher Ray Davis

Dondrae Davis \*\*

Vanessa Delgado

Sean Guillermo Denniston

Dylan Thomas Devine

Christopher Robert Diem \*

Malina Dittmer

Jakirah Dobbs

Madison A. Dobucki \*

Jason Michael Dolegowski \*\*\*

Christopher Scott Doyle \*\*

Lucy Anne Doyle \*\*\*

Morgan Elizabeth Duchnik

Ryan Kristopher Duell

Elizabeth Dung †

Thomas Lane Dupee \*\*\*

Jazzini Shani Edwards

Benjamin Sean Ehrenberg

Collin Elliott

Justin Frederick Emerson

Alana Marie Falter

Imran Fazal

Dominic Treyshawn Ferguson

Mason W. Fiato

Nicholas J. Fidoruko

Naomi Lin Fisher \*

Rheya Jewelle Fisher

Joseph Fitch

Jeffrey E. Fleckenstein

Michael John Foley \*\*\*

Seth Marshall Fonda

Carlissia Sierra Cree Ford

Kiara Ford

Niaema J. Fox

Matthew R. Frankel \*

Dana L. Fredo \*\*\*

Patrick E. Freeman

Jacob Frothingham \*\*\*

Noah Michael Frys

Janesa R. Gamblin

Jason Thomas Gatti-Ezard \*\*

Alyssa Gavadin

Israel Gayden-Pitts

Amoya Channa-Kaye Gayle

Skylar Renee Geary

Joseph Dominic Genau

Shamshad Ghairat

Fadi Yacoub Ghajar

Alexander J. Ghosen \*

Frank Ryan Giammarinaro \*

Carly Anne Gianadda \*\*\*

Macey Marie Gioeli

Josef Howard Gamos

Kennedy Goremusandu

Jalon Isiah Goulbourne

Dominic Ronald Gramza

Jonathan D. Grano \*\*

Evelyn Elizabeth Grapes \*\*\*

Kaitlyn Green \*\*\*

Garisha Greer

Willie Griffin

Ava Jane Grohusko \*\*\*

Suzan Habtezion

Shannon Haffey

Kendrick Laron Hampton

Madalyn Marie Hannon

Tory R. Harrington

Eden Ann Harrison \*

Scott Matthew Harvey

Dylan Ikepono Hawn

Javontae Alerio Heaven

Jake Ryan Hellert

Janair Henderson

Tanajah Tonea Henton

Ian Edward Herbst

Tamara Hernandez

Bridget Elaine Hersee

Abby Hill \*\*

Isabelle Helene Hillestad \*\*\*

Ava Hintz

Vikki Hirschey \*\*\*

Rashaad Holley

Emdadul Hoq \*

Jaqualyn Elizabeth Hosford

Jordan Hrynczak \*

Cameron Richard Hull

Rachael V. Hunt \*\*\*

Logan Alton Hurley

Diana F. Hussain

Shaquille Kaelem Hutchinson

Daniel Kusin Hyman

David Jonathan Ibalio \*\*

Keysa A. Ibrahim \*

Mohammad Ahmad Ibrahim

Kayla Shawnell Innocent

Shazeda Islam \*

Malachi James Jackson

## 2025 CANDIDATES FOR SCHOOL OF THE PROFESSIONS

Esrat Jahan	Sajan Magar	Tristan Robert Neamon	Jason A. Rivera
Daniel Matthew Jarzynka	Hasan T. Mahmood	Thomas Geza NeMoyer	Jonathan Michael Rivera
Vanishia Jeter	Saim Mahmud	Cindy Nguyen	Dennis L. Robinson **
Lorinda Maybee John	Keanu Major	Diana Chau Nguyen †	Olivia Nichole Rodriguez
Caleb L. Johnson *	Julian Maloney	Carly Lynn Nolan **	Ryanna Lee Rodriguez
Emily Lillian Johnson **	Nicholas Vincenzo Marrara	Alyssa Julia Norton ***	Jose Rojas
Rayana Joy Johnson	Yang Marta	Cecilia R. Nowak	Giovanni Nicholas Rondon ***
Adiya Demilade Jones	Jayquan O. Mason	Joseph Nowak	Noelani Zoe Rosado
Darion Deon Jones	Zoi Mastoras	Jaden Denzel Nutefall	Laura Elizabeth Rupell ***
A.J. Oliver Jordan	Haley L. Mazgaj ***	Benjamin James Odom	Amaree Shawn Ryans
Arnez Demond Jordan	Chad James McBean **	Jordan Obeng Ohene	Alex Rybarczyk
Madison Marie Joyce *	Kevin Patrick McCarthy ***	Oleksandr Olenych	Imran Abdulah Saeed
Fantagbe Kaba	Alexis Janeal Mccullough	Azizah N. Om	Arooj Sajjad
Timothy Fugere Kaiser	Edward John McDermid	Fardowsa H. Omar	Jaeko Salas Batista
Mustapha Kamara	Kamryn C. McEachin	Kenyi Onama	Saher T. Saleh
Aliyyah Zaynah Karam	Leah Shay McKibbin	Thaw Zin Oo *	Mohammed E Sami
Amani Kamilah Karam	Ryan Mckie	Nicholas William Orecki	Tamia Samuels
Mustapha Kebbeh	Aaliyah Renee McLean ***	Mustafa Othman	Dawt Lian Sang
Katherine Olivia Keleher	Hannah McMahan **	Lindsey Carol Otis **	Nicole Anna Marie Santa Lucia
Tyler Ronald Keller	Alycia J. McMaster	Christian Jekabs Ozolins	Elmer A. Santos
Mackenzie Louise Kelley-Parker	Scott G. McMillan	Alex Steven Padilla	Lah Yae May Saw
Misal Saad Khondker	Carmella Jeanette Mercurio	Wayne Palmer	Asraf Sawon
Thomas R. Kotarski	Ella Josephine Merlino ***	Rafaella Neistiva Palmeri	Mohammed Shamsuddin
Madison Marie Kowalski	Zayron J. Miles	Daniel Paul Paone	James A. Shippens
Soe Kpaw	Kaylee Nicole Miller	Matthew Richard Parkinson	Rebecca Siglin
Noah L. Kramer ***	Ricki Michelle Miller	Anisa Parsons ***	Miya A. Silva
Olivia Kreher ***	Shirley Maire Mitchell	Neel Yogeshbhai Patel **	Natalia Taisha Silva
Bethany J. Kulikowski ***	Nur Aisyah Binti Mohamed Siddiq	Rhythm Gaurangbhai Patel ***	Keely-Ann Shellone Simpson
Frank Tyler Kupka	Arzaq A. Mohsin	Dominic Charles Pecora	Michael James Slade
Robert Paul Lane	Gabriella Molak	Abigail Victoria Phillips	Demisha Peachlyn Smith
Yongjun Lee	Samuel Fraser Molino	Madison K. Phinney	Latasha Smith
Zachary Michael Lenda *	Jacob Alan Molnar	David Pignone	Gabrielle Desiree Snider
Na'im Desmond Leonard	Hsa Klo Moo	Franklin Russell Piper	Amber Snyder
Joshua David Less	Olivia C. Moore ***	Jamison Tyler Pomroy	Joshua Sokolofsky §
Cole Edmund Lipiec **	Arianna Lissette Morales	Kyle Kristopher Poulos	Rachel C. Solly
Phangum Lithiluxa	Donte A. Moseley	Diamond Pray	Nick Michael Solomon
Matthew Lombardo	Rashaun Moses	Manuel Maria Prieto	Anna Kayleigh Sonker ***
Lisbet Lopez Paz	Kenneth Mosley	Samiha Akther Probha	Joshua John Spaulding ***
Madison Lorenzo	Roman-Justyce Motley	Emily Elizabeth Purcell ***	Angela Spence
Ronald Louis LoTempio	Robert J. Motz	Hailie Puzzella *	Anita Ann Spoyer
Madison Margret Loughnane ***	Reilly Moyer	Mara Michele Quale	Tamyra Starkes
Agnes Farida Lungi	Kotelo Mpiana	William John Radwan	Hannah Marie Steiner ***†
Christopher Michael Lyn *	Tyilia Murdaugh	Amy Ramos ***	Heather Lynn Stevens
Jason James MacClellan	Dezmin Perez Murphy	Ei Reh ***	Megan Stoimenova ***
Connor Mack	Nasrullah Muslim Dost	Delaney Grace Reid	Jacob William Strycharz
Jalen Dejesus Madera	Ali Ali Mussa	Johnathan Renaldo *	Kirtana Subramaniam
Daniel Sean Madigan	Dodou Ndow	Shimla Rima	Jayden Sujka

## 2025 CANDIDATES FOR SCHOOL OF THE PROFESSIONS

Alexander Sunga  
 Ruthie Wilma Swann \*\*\*  
 Amed Sylla  
 Nishan Tamang \*  
 Jon Tarrant  
 Salah Aden Tawane  
 Nicholas Taylor  
 Synaya Taylor  
 Nia Akilah Temples  
 Montana Shay Thompson  
 Nicole Thompson  
 Amy Tinsley Traore  
 Alexis Violet Trautwein  
 Quazel Daquan Trower  
 Leanna Tse \*\*  
 Ashley-Robyn Shavonne Tucker  
 Agnes Tuffour  
 Anthony Turello  
 Hunter Andrew Umstead  
 Jacob Ryan Valachos  
 Lauren Elizabeth VanDusen \*\*\*  
 Alyssa Danniele Vasquez  
 Devone Vazquez  
 Darryann Venable  
 Abigail Morgan Verner \*  
 Gabrielle Ann Wagner  
 Jacob M. Wainwright  
 Chelsea Warren  
 A'Zaeja Washington  
 Ricky Brandon Watkins  
 Caitlynn Lee Weichert-Winkfield  
 Leah Elizabeth Weimer  
 Arend-John M. White  
 Michael Charles Whiting  
 Dylan Lennard Williams  
 Marcus M. Williams  
 Natoshia R. Williams  
 Hahmier Ceion Williams-Borges  
 Alyson Grace Wilson  
 Myo Win §  
 Nathan Richard Wurl  
 Joslyn Lee Yambor \*\*  
 Kuban Yao  
 Jack Yeaw  
 Tariah S. Youman  
 Lauren Ariel Young  
 Angeline Crystal Zarete

Mariama Zeigler  
 William Tyler Zeughardt  
 David N. Ziolkowski

### MASTER'S DEGREES AND GRADUATE CERTIFICATES

#### Master of Science

Dylan Tyler Apson  
 Yamuna Boddula  
 Cassandra L. Carter  
 Ashley Casillo  
 Grace Elizabeth Dana  
 Miranda Dibble †  
 Louise Dana Eberle  
 Olivia Earl Evans  
 Stephen Mitchell Faro  
 Doris Green  
 Jordon Tylor Greene §  
 Dana Hart  
 Stephanie Hassell  
 Alexa Rose Hefner †  
 Mikala Amaelcia Highsmith  
 Alexander Richard Jones  
 Carissa Lee Kacko  
 Sabrina K. Kyte †  
 Luke Joseph Lojek  
 Michael Lowry  
 Franjeline Madera  
 Clayton P. McIntosh  
 Caitlin Carol McMahan  
 Justin Moore †  
 Johnnathen Tyree Nelson  
 Noura Osman  
 Michelle Palamara  
 Lindsey Marie Parris  
 Nahdira Denae Rollins  
 Julie Santiuste  
 Kaylea Anne Schiedel  
 Steven Schmalfeld  
 Hannah A. Schmidt  
 Robert J. Stabler  
 James Jeffrey Stumpf  
 Megan Elizabeth Sweeney  
 Joseph Todaro  
 Sophie Tversky  
 Jordan Amir Tyson  
 James E. Waters

#### Master of Science in Education

Chelsea Ann Cohn  
 Hannah Christine Galloway  
 Samantha Huq  
 Kaitlyn Hyers  
 Katelyn Marie Jacobson  
 Abigail Rose Kegler  
 Kailey Ann Kwoka  
 Dylan James Loucks  
 Nora Lyn MacNeil  
 Viera R. Mesler  
 Andrea Jean Monk  
 Chloe Morrell  
 Allison Brianne Napier  
 Caroline Grace Nowak  
 Ella Marie Ouimet  
 Abigail Lee Reith  
 Kaitlyn Rose Silvernail  
 Roopitha Vaithilingam

#### Graduate Certificate

Amber Alexander  
 Camilla Mackeprang Cook  
 Miranda Dibble †  
 Alexa Rose Hefner †  
 Jasnoor Jolly  
 Lisa Kowalski  
 William Emerson Langer  
 Justin Moore †  
 Jose A. Quinones-Visot  
 Alodie Reyes Dockery  
 Alexander Rogers  
 Benjamin Rogers  
 Marakie Tesfaye

List compiled May 8, 2025.

\*\*\* *summa cum laude* 3.80–4.00

\*\* *magna cum laude* 3.65–3.79

\* *cum laude* 3.50–3.64

† *dual degree*

§ *veteran*

## 2025 SCHOOL OF THE PROFESSIONS BACCALAUREATE AWARDS

### BUSINESS

Adriana Brzezniak

Outstanding Student in the Business  
Department: Marketing Concentration

Cole Lipiec

Outstanding Student in the Business  
Department: Management Concentration

Madison Loughnane

Outstanding Student in the Business  
Administration Program

Hannah McMahan

Business Department Intern of the Year  
(2024)

Internship Company: Global Arena  
Research Institute, Prague, Czechia

### COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS

David Akanbi

Excellence in Computer Information  
Systems Award (2024)

Jessica Auge

Excellence in Computer Information  
Systems Award

Ava Hintz

Excellence in Computer Information  
Systems Award (2024)

Vikki Hirschey

Excellence in Computer Information  
Systems Award (2024)

Esrat Jahan

Excellence in Computer Information  
Systems Award (2024)

Neel Yogeshbhai Patel

Excellence in Computer Information  
Systems Award

Franklin Piper

Excellence in Computer Information  
Systems Award (2024)

Ei Reh

Excellence in Computer Information  
Systems Award

Dennis Robinson

Excellence in Computer Information  
Systems Award

Elmer Santos

Excellence in Computer Information  
Systems Award (2024)

Mohammed Shamsuddin

Excellence in Computer Information  
Systems Award (2024)

Rachel Solly

Excellence in Computer Information  
Systems Award

Nicholas Taylor

Excellence in Computer Information  
Systems Award

Michael Whiting

Excellence in Computer Information  
Systems Award (2024)

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Noah Adams

Donald J. Griffin Memorial Award

Gianna Casali

Faculty Certificate of Merit

Elizabeth Dung

Faculty Certificate of Merit

### ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Mohamad Shofiq Bin

Mohamad Jalil

Ferguson Electric Scholarship

Zachary Ziskowski

Ferguson Electric Scholarship

### FASHION AND TEXTILE TECHNOLOGY

Jaden Brice

Third Place, American Association of  
Textile Chemists and Colorists Global  
Concept 2 Consumer Student  
Merchandising Competition (2024)

Jacob Frothingham

First Place, CottonWorks Inc. National  
Cotton Forward 3D Fashion Design  
Challenge (2024)

Third Place, American Association of  
Textile Chemists and Colorists Global  
Concept 2 Consumer Student  
Merchandising Competition (2024)

Runway 2024 Single Item Award

Kamryn McEachin

Runway 2024 Second Place Senior Designer

Amy Ramos

Eastman Foundation Scholarship (2023–2025)

Lauren VanDusen

Third Place, American Association of  
Textile Chemists and Colorists Global  
Concept 2 Consumer Student  
Merchandising Competition (2024)

### HEALTH, NUTRITION, AND DIETETICS

Evelyn Grapes

Bengal Internship Award (2024)

Frank Kupka

Katherine Staebell and Mary S. Switzer  
Scholarship Fund (Fall 2024–Spring 2025)

Haley Mazgaj

Wegmans Scholarship (4 Years)  
Bengal Internship Award

Lorelei Right

EURO Award

James Szewedo

GRIT Award

Salah Tawane

Eta Sigma Gamma (ESG)/National  
Commission for Health Education  
Credentialing (NCHEC) Outstanding  
Buffalo State Undergraduate Major of the  
Year Award

Lauren Young

Yvonne M. Williams Scholarship (2021)

### HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM

Nicholas Alvira

Campus House Member Award (2024–2025)

Paige Bernhardt

Statler Scholarship (2024–2025)

Ashleigh Coleman

William P. Hart Scholarship

Statler Scholarship (2024–2025)

Lucy Doyle

William P. Hart Scholarship (2024)

Statler Scholarship (2024–2025)

Justin Emerson

Statler Scholarship (2024–2025)

Carlissa Ford

Statler Scholarship (2023–2024)

Carly Gianadda

Statler Scholarship (2024–2025)

Shannon Haffey

Statler Scholarship (2023–2024)

Javontae Heaven

Statler Scholarship (2023–2024)

Lorinda John

Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence

Statler Award for Excellence (2024–2025)

Arnez Jordan

Campus House Member Award (2024–2025)

Statler Award for Excellence (2024–2025)

Charice Lecointe

Statler Scholarship (2024–2025)

Chad McBean

Statler Award for Excellence (2023–2024)

Francoise Muharareni

Statler Scholarship (2024–2025)

Fardowsa Omar

Dewayne A. Beery Award (2024–2025)

Anisa Parsons

Statler Scholarship (2024)

Emily Purcell

Statler Scholarship (2024)

Carlos Solorzano

Statler Scholarship (2024–2025)

Maya Turano

Statler Scholarship (2024–2025)

Mariama Zeigler

Statler Scholarship (2024–2025)

### SOCIAL WORK

Andriel Billups

Phi Alpha Honor Society

Allision Boeing

Senior Social Work Strive Award

Katrina Brindley

Phi Alpha Honor Society

Willie Cannon

Phi Alpha Honor Society

Imran Fazal

Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence

Garisha Greer

CORE Social Work

Willie Griffin

CORE Social Work

Ava Grohusko

Phi Alpha Honor Society

Eden Harrison

Senior Social Work Excellence Award

Logan Hurley

Phi Alpha Honor Society

Senior Social Work Strive Award

Diana Hussain

Phi Alpha Honor Society

Kayla Innocent

Senior Social Work Strive Award

Shazeda Islam

National Association of Social Workers  
Student of the Year

Rafaella Palmeri

Senior Social Work Excellence Award

Daniel Paone

CORE Social Work

## 2025 SCHOOL OF THE PROFESSIONS BACCALAUREATE AWARDS

Laura Rupell  
Phi Alpha Honor Society

Demisha Smith  
Phi Alpha Honor Society

Latasha Smith  
Senior Emerging Leader

Gabrielle Snider  
Phi Alpha Honor Society

Angela Spence  
Phi Alpha Honor Society  
Senior Social Work Excellence Award

Megan Stoimenova  
Social Work Intern of the Year Award

Ruthie Swann  
CORE Social Work  
Phi Alpha Honor Society

Gabrielle Wagner  
CORE Social Work  
Caitlynn Weichert-Winkfield  
Phi Alpha Honor Society  
Senior Social Work Excellence Award

Dylan Williams  
Senior Social Work Strive Award

### SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

Alexandra Allard  
SUNY Incremental Funding for Internships

Stephanie Clement  
Laura Ann Wells Memorial Scholarship  
(2024)

Emily Johnson  
Gustave A. and Geraldine S. Werner  
Scholarship (2024)

## 2025 SCHOOL OF THE PROFESSIONS GRADUATE AWARDS

### BUSINESS

Jordon Tylor Greene  
M.S. Business Management Outstanding  
Student Award

### CREATIVITY AND CHANGE LEADERSHIP

Alyssa Bump  
Sidney J. Parnes and Ruth B. Noller  
Creativity Award

Alexa Hefner  
Sidney J. Parnes and Ruth B. Noller  
Creativity Award

Christopher Spitzer  
Sidney J. Parnes and Ruth B. Noller  
Creativity Award

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Olivia Evans  
Morgan Graduate Award

### GREAT LAKES CENTER

Emily Klimczak  
Huppuch Graduate Scholarship

### HEALTH, NUTRITION, AND DIETETICS

Ashley Casillo  
Bengal Internship Award  
WNYAND Scholarship

Franjeline Madera  
Bengal Internship Award (2024)  
Class of 1971 Golden Anniversary  
Scholarship (2023)  
National Supermarket Association  
Scholarship (2023)

Hannah Schmidt  
Bengal Internship Award

Robert Stabler  
WNYAND Outstanding Student (2021–  
2022)

### SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

Chelsea Cohn  
Award for Clinical Excellence in  
Speech-Language Pathology  
Award for Academic Excellence in  
Speech-Language Pathology  
SUNY Incremental Funding for Internships

Hannah Galloway  
Award for Clinical Excellence in  
Speech-Language Pathology  
Award for Academic Excellence in  
Speech-Language Pathology  
SUNY Incremental Funding for Internships  
(2024)

Samantha Huq  
Award for Clinical Excellence in  
Speech-Language Pathology  
Award for Academic Excellence in  
Speech-Language Pathology  
Deborah Moll-Richmond Foundation  
Scholarship (2024)  
Marie Marillo Fellowship (2023)  
SUNY Incremental Funding for Internships  
(2024–2025)

Kaitlyn Hyers  
Award for Clinical Excellence in  
Speech-Language Pathology  
Award for Academic Excellence in  
Speech-Language Pathology  
Merit-Based Scholarship from the SUNY  
Buffalo State Graduate Student Association  
(2024)  
Marie Marillo Fellowship (2023)  
Distinction in Civic Engagement  
SUNY Incremental Funding for Internships  
(2024–2025)

Katelyn Jacobson  
Award for Academic Excellence in  
Speech-Language Pathology  
SUNY Incremental Funding for  
Internships

Abigail Kegler  
Award for Clinical Excellence in  
Speech-Language Pathology  
Award for Academic Excellence in  
Speech-Language Pathology  
SUNY Incremental Funding for Internships  
(2024–2025)

Kailey Kwoka  
SUNY Incremental Funding for Internships  
(2024–2025)

Dylan Loucks  
SUNY Incremental Funding for Internships

Nora MacNeil  
Award for Clinical Excellence in  
Speech-Language Pathology  
Award for Academic Excellence in  
Speech-Language Pathology  
SUNY Incremental Funding for Internships  
(2024–2025)

Viera Mesler  
Award for Clinical Excellence in  
Speech-Language Pathology  
Award for Academic Excellence in  
Speech-Language Pathology  
Marie Marillo Fellowship (2023)  
SUNY Incremental Funding for Internships  
(2024–2025)

Andrea Monk  
Award for Clinical Excellence in  
Speech-Language Pathology  
Award for Academic Excellence in  
Speech-Language Pathology  
SUNY Incremental Funding for Internships  
(2024–2025)

Chloe Morrell  
Award for Clinical Excellence in  
Speech-Language Pathology  
Award for Academic Excellence in  
Speech-Language Pathology  
SUNY Incremental Funding for Internships  
(2024)

Allison Napier  
Award for Clinical Excellence in  
Speech-Language Pathology  
Award for Academic Excellence in  
Speech-Language Pathology  
SUNY Incremental Funding for Internships  
(2024–2025)

Caroline Nowak  
Award for Academic Excellence in  
Speech-Language Pathology  
SUNY Incremental Funding for Internships  
(2024–2025)

Ella Ouimet  
Award for Academic Excellence in  
Speech-Language Pathology  
SUNY Incremental Funding for Internships  
(2024–2025)

Abigail Reith  
SUNY Incremental Funding for Internships  
(2024–2025)

Kaitlyn Silvernail  
Award for Clinical Excellence in  
Speech-Language Pathology  
Marie Marillo Fellowship (2023)  
SUNY Incremental Funding for Internships  
(2024–2025)

Roopitha Vaithilingam  
SUNY Incremental Funding for Internships  
(2024–2025)

*Awards listed were granted in 2025  
unless otherwise noted.*

## SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES CEREMONY 1:00 P.M.

### PRELUDE

The Rockwell Brass

Ricky L. Fleming, *Director*  
*Professor, Music Department*

### PROCESSIONAL

The Rockwell Brass

Gregory J. Wadsworth, *Mace Bearer*  
*Associate Professor, Biology Department*

### CONVENING

Gary Siddall, Class of 2012  
*Member, Buffalo State University Council*

### NATIONAL ANTHEM

Members of the Buffalo State Chamber Choir

Victoria J. Furby, *Director*  
*Chair and Associate Professor, Music Department*

### WELCOME

Bonita R. Durand, Ph.D.  
*Interim President, Buffalo State University*

### PRESIDENT'S MEDAL FOR OUTSTANDING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT

Mathea G. Riley, Class of 2025  
*Bachelor of Arts, English*

#### Presenter

Bonita R. Durand

### SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES STUDENT ADDRESS

Mathea G. Riley

### PRESIDENT'S DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Dion Dawkins  
*Member of Buffalo Bills and Community Leader*

#### Presenters

Gary Siddall

Bonita R. Durand

### DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD

### SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Morgan Hardy, Class of 2003  
*Chief Executive Officer, Leadership Buffalo*

#### Presenters

Stacy E. Lewis Beauford, Class of 2001  
*President, Buffalo State Alumni Association*

Bonita R. Durand

### PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

Amitra A. Wall  
*Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs*

Kelly M. Frothingham, Class of 1994 and 1997  
*Dean, School of Arts and Sciences*

### CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Bonita R. Durand

### BUFFALO STATE UNIVERSITY ALMA MATER

Members of the Buffalo State Chamber Choir

### RECESSIONAL

*Please join the campus community in celebration at a reception in the Campbell Student Union.*

**CAPTURING THE MOMENT** Commencement is an important day and one that our graduates will long remember. As a courtesy, a professional photography company, Island Photography, will capture each graduate's special moment during the ceremony. You are also invited to use the Commencement Garden, in front of the Sports Arena, as a photo backdrop.

## SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD



### MORGAN HARDY CLASS OF 2003

Morgan Hardy (formally Williams-Bryant) is chief executive officer for Leadership Buffalo, where she oversees the growth and professional development and civic engagement of leaders across the Greater Buffalo area. Formerly, she served as the chief impact officer of Girl Scouts of Western New York, where she oversaw all aspects of membership, volunteer training, and girl programming for

nearly 16,000 girls and 7,000 adults in nine counties. Prior to joining Girl Scouts, Ms. Hardy was appointed as the youngest female deputy commissioner of the Erie County Youth Services Division, and also served as director of youth and family services for the Community Action Organization of Western New York.

Ms. Hardy is the founder and CEO of MWB Ignites, LLC, a global consultancy firm that elevates individuals and organizations through leadership development training and workshops to help awaken untapped talents, gifts, and boundless potential. A dynamic motivational speaker and trailblazer in her field, Ms. Hardy has transformed the lives of countless individuals and inspired audiences of all ages to embrace a Champion-level mindset. Her passion for sharing her knowledge and expertise with the public, private, and nonprofit sector is what fuels

MWB Ignites as a strategic force in leading transformational change in organizations and their people. She is the best-selling author of *A Champion's Prayer Journey* and, last fall, she launched her Christian apparel line, *Champion Made*. A devout Christian, Ms. Hardy is a faithful member of Elim Christian Fellowship Church.

Ms. Hardy earned a bachelor of arts degree in broadcast communication from Buffalo State and a master of arts degree in organizational leadership from Medaille University. She has served as an adjunct instructor in business, sociology, and philosophy and human relations at Bryant & Stratton College. Most recently, she earned her accreditation as a certified DiSC instructor.

Ms. Hardy is a Health Leadership Fellow with the Health Foundation for Western and Central New York and a graduate of Leadership Buffalo. She is also a member of the Buffalo chapter of The Links Incorporated and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated, where she serves as chaplain. She currently serves on several boards and committees: Sadie Strong; Project Mona's House; Women Who Lead WNY; and is a former trustee for Medaille College. She also has received a host of honors and recognition including the 2019 Buffalo State College Young Alumnus Award, *Buffalo Business First* 40 Under 40 Award, a finalist for the Buffalo Niagara Partnership Athena Award, and named one of *Buffalo Business First's* Power 200 Women in WNY, Power 100 Business Leaders of Color, and Power 250 Most Influential People in WNY.

## PRESIDENT'S DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD



### DION DAWKINS

Dion Dawkins is a professional football offensive tackle for the Buffalo Bills of the National Football League (NFL). The Bills selected Mr. Dawkins in the second round of the 2017 NFL draft and since that time, he has been a dynamic team leader on the field and an inspirational community leader off the field.

Over the past eight seasons, Mr. Dawkins has helped lead the Bills' resurgence as one of the top teams in the NFL. He has been named to the Pro Bowl four consecutive seasons (2021–2024) and fellow players ranked him as one of the NFL Top 100 Players of 2024. Mr. Dawkins also has been selected by the Bills for each of the past three as their nominee for the NFL's prestigious Walter Payton Man of the Year Award, which recognizes players for their on-field excellence and community service.

Communities all over the country have been positively impacted by the efforts of Mr. Dawkins' foundation, Dion's Dreamers, which provides advocacy, mentorship, and support for vulnerable children, young adults,

and families. Initially, the foundation helped children pursue their interests, like lessons for aspiring guitar players and singers. Since the pandemic, it has also provided essential items such as clothing, food, school supplies, and hygienic products. Through his foundation, Mr. Dawkins shows the power of giving back. He embodies what it means to be a Buffalonian. His deep commitment to underserved communities, sets the tone for future Buffalo Bills who follow in his footsteps.

His in-season community work has also included participating in CPR training of high school student athletes in association with the Buffalo Bills Foundation, Highmark, and the American Heart Association. He also supported the Bills Foundation's initiative, Huddle for Hunger, by donating a truckload of Shnow Crunch cereal towards ending hunger in Western New York.

Mr. Dawkins attended Rahway High School in Rahway, New Jersey, before playing college football at Temple University, where he earned his nickname "the Shnowman." He graduated from Temple in 2017 with a degree in sociology. He was named a First Team American Athletic Conference selection his senior year. He received an invitation to the 2016 Senior Bowl and started at guard for the North team, earning the game's award for top offensive lineman.

**SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES STUDENT ADDRESS  
PRESIDENT'S MEDAL FOR OUTSTANDING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT**



**MATHEA G. RILEY**

Mathea Riley has earned a bachelor of arts in English, attaining a 3.96 GPA while being enrolled in the Combined Pathways Program, a competitive program that allows advanced students to begin taking graduate courses during their senior year of undergraduate studies. English Department faculty members note that Ms. Riley's intellectual acumen and ability to produce original

scholarly writing place her among the top 1% of recent students.

Each of Ms. Riley's professors have lauded her insights on course texts and topics, her skill at constructing arguments, and her rare ability to synthesize complex ideas to draw perspective conclusions. Ms. Riley is a leader in any class and raises the level of discourse with her attention to detail, positive attitude, and diligent work ethic. She has participated in a graduate course on Research in Literature and Language, which culminated in a presentation of a paper on her independent research on the writings of Mary Wollstonecraft.

Ms. Riley has distinguished herself as an enthusiastic participant in class discussions and as an especially lucid interpreter of course texts. She has written response papers on Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*, Toni Morrison's *Beloved*, Angi Thomas's *The Hate U Give*, and the formal and thematic elements of Black Arts poetry. As a student in a graduate seminar, her work on Walter White's 1924 novel, *The Fire in the Flint*, garnered praise for being carefully organized, impressively detailed, and consistently engaging as it shed new light on social justice and representation of the marginalized and disenfranchised.

In addition to her studies, Ms. Riley works as a waitress at Cala's Kitchen and her ability to balance the demands of schoolwork and long hours at work is truly impressive. Ms. Riley also dedicates time to causes she believes in such as running a 5K to raise money for the Epilepsy Association of Western New York.

As a junior, Ms. Riley won the prestigious English Department Excellence in English Award, which recognizes the outstanding student in the bachelor of arts program.



## 2025 CANDIDATES FOR SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

### BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

#### Bachelor of Arts

Mary Adedoyin Adekanbi	Emily Elyse Cooper *	Nicole Hatcher	Alicia Mayes
Antonio Carlo Adrian	Jaedin Cottman	Alexa Hausauer	Max Allan Mayfield
Tofsekul Ahmed	Gianna Isabel Cotto	Jenna Hecker	Niko Anthony Maziarz **
Eunice Alvarado-Resendiz	Adam Cramer-Benjamin *	Drake T. Heckmann	Rusi Mbabazi
Catherine E. Alverson ***	Ion Croitor *	Chelsea Henry	Destinie Nathalia-lee McMullen
Kelly Angelia Anderson	Jasmine Lynn Cruz	Danielle Henry	Christian Andres Medina
Vincent Michael Arno	Jacob Ryan Dannenberg	Dylan Jack Howard	Ehetemariam Mehret
Christopher Bailey-Robinson	Luz Deleon Roman	Brent Paul Howes **	Emily Mietus
Taofeekat Elizabeth Balogun	Madeline Della Vella *	Madilyn Hussey	Andrew Stephen Miles ***
Samantha Grace Banach ***	Elizabeth Denis-Torres *	Jack Williamson Hyde	Alexander James Miley
Angel Barber	Armani Anthony Diaz	Amber Gillain Jackson	Alyssa Nicole Miller
David Robert Bauser **	Lucas Paul Diermyer	Alexis Jordan Johnson	Gabriella Elizabeth Miller
Catherine Grace Baxter ***	Rhiannon Olivia Drajem	Jillian Katie Johnston *	Jessica Sade Miller
Papwla Mqdad Bayz	Elizabeth Dung †	Amira Unique Jones	Richard Marchal Miller
Monira Begum	Cole Jordan Eberle	Alexandra Maria Jucan	Jahnay S. Morehead
Sonya Begum	Nathan Joseph Englander	Matthew A. Karovski ***†	Arianna Gabrielle Morris
Allan Belizaire	Anthony Michael Falzarano	Mads Rose Katz ***	Abdullahi Abdikadir Muhando
John Silvio Belmonte	Nourah Fanny	Fiona Claire Kelly	Edward David Murphy **
Autumn Christine Benedict	Cierra Gwen Fields	Nickolas Ryan Kennison	Lhamo Naoshram
Brigid A. Benson ***†	Daniel Henry Forbes	Poni H. Kenyi-Legge *	Alexis Marie Needham
Lily Bergman	Shanice Forbes	Khadir Unique Keys	Diana Chau Nguyen †
Mitchell Ace Boehnke	Thomas Michael Foster *	Aesha Khanam	Erin Irene Noonan
Joseph N. Book *	Nathalia Francis	Wyland Ernest Granville Kiefer	Audrey Lynn Noreck
Marc Brennan Bovino	Mahlyk Mekhi Fred	Lillyan P. Kingsbury	Kyle Patrick Obrien
August P. Brooks *	Alec Robert Frongetta	Dominic Riley Kitterman	Samuel Okoli
Cecilia Marie Brooks *	Allison Claire Fuller	Caitlin Marie Kleinschmidt ***	Dosiree Okwan
Charlotte Elizabeth Brownell ***	Ronan Daniel Gasser	Angelina Knott *	Danaya Amalia Oliver-Ragland
Aria Artherine Bruce	Christopher Giacobello	Victoria Kohler **	Rachel Nicole Orton
Tyler Jay Buchanan**†	Jonathan Frank Golba *	Hannah Mary Korytkowski	Nastassya Palkhouskaya ***
Antonio Calderon	Joelyne Gonzalez †	Morgan Donovan Koziel ***	Rashad Panton
Gabrielle Grace Capton	Brookelyn Victoria Gorney	Jamaria Da'shuana LaBord	Justin Tyler Pate §
Avery LaVonne Carpenter	Sophia P. Graczyk	Alexius Maree LaFalce	Lar Paw
Dylan Andrew Carter	Elsa Elaine Graf ***	Nicole Ilene Lambert ***	Mae Sariang Paw *
Riana Lynn Catalano	Amanda Lee Grasso	Zachary Louis Laraiso	Devon James Pernell
Emily Elise Cendrowski ***†	Nicholas Micheal Green	Joseph Richard LaScala	Nathan Frank Petrik
Jordyn DoriAnn Chance	Marissa Rose Guercio ***†	Michael Lastique	Rehn John Pielechowski
Teresa Raeshawn Chestnut-Williams	Nathaniel Jeremiah Gunawardene	Rebecca Myriam Laurent	Amanda Michelle Plumley
Drew Joel Chiarmonite	Nolan Hagen	David Lee Lauriano	Amiyah Shanae Pope
Anthony Childs	Nicholas Hahn	Jessica Maribel Lema	Ryan Patrick Popielarski ***
Anna Frances Cinquino	Lexus Ciar'a Hale	Jianhao Liu **	Devin Quay
Aoife H. Clune **	Lady Brazil Hamilton	David Lonneville	Cydney Jade Ramos
Trevor Cohn ***	Lilian Elizabeth Hamlett	Evan B. Maher ** §	Shanae Redwood-Polino *
Gabriella Mae Colton ***	Evan Scott Harrington *	Eva Clare Valentine Maines	Atiyanna Jayden Reed
Sarah Deanna Congelosi	Robert Harris	Adella Rose Malbrough	Alfred LI Ricketts
Rose Constant	Jessica Catherine Harrison	Elias Anthony Martinez	Caitlin Maire Riley
	Britney Marie Hartzfeld ***	Arianna C. Marzello	Mathea Gabrielle Riley ***
	Katherine Stephanie Haskins	Cyara Faith Mattia **	Rayne Robateau

## 2025 CANDIDATES FOR SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Angelina Roberts	Daniya N. Trent	Mary Teresa A. Comerate **	Nathan R. Reiser **
Danielle Kristina Roberts	Courtney Ann Tully	Christopher Croff	Alexa Rae Wery **
Ashanti Rodriguez	Elijah C. Umeh	Mckenna Elise Davis ***	
Zipporah Andrea Rodriguez	Connor Patrick Vander Schaaf *	Eve Elizabeth DiCarlo ***	<b>Bachelor of Science</b>
Emmanuel Louis Rogers **	Keith Larry Vantino	Emily Engel **	Ayoko S. Abaglo
Hayley Cristina Rosa	Rachel Lynn Vitko ***	Rachael Anne Grace	Farhio Mohamed Abshir
Mekhi Lee Russ	Michael Vincent Vullo ***†	Marissa Rose Guercio ***†	Anthoney Akhter
Gavin J. Russell	Daro Wade	Mackenzey Autumn Holmes ***	Abigail Alex *
Shana Rose Saint Philippe	Justin T. Wagner	Riley J. Houde	Maryam Alkhafaji
Bre'jon Jalen Sanders	Brian David Wahl ***	Danielle King	Joel E. Amu
Paw Ku Ku Say **	Elijah Waligur	Sarah Emily Kurdziel **	Pierre Badio Pacheco
James Aaron Shaw	Alec Walker	Sorcha Nicole Lester *	Taylor Ann Baker ***
Rylee Margret Shott **	Bryanna LaToya Walker ***	Spencer L. Marlin *	Cassidy R. Baron ***
Cameron Showers	Zachary Louis Walker	Emily Rose McDorman	Joseph Sam Beazely ***
Sebastian M. Sierra	Alana Watson ***	Alexis Marie Mittelsteadt	Gavin John Bertini ***
Anthony J. Skubis ***	Hannah Olivia West	Mario Moncalian **	Talidy Quinn Blijden
Anna Isabel Smith	Madison Whalen	Kayla Lynn Monti **	Jenna Romelia Britt
Kolden Kyle Smith	Asante Alphonso Wheat	Sydney Moore	Maya Broniszewski
Mallory Virginia Smith	John Francis Whipple *	Melody Nicole Moran	Michael John Brooks **
Tracey Lynn Sobocinski	Kyler-Emil Apollo Wiertel **	Westley M. Olmsted	Tyler Jay Buchanan **†
Daniel Clarence Sorge ***	Jayda Olivia Wilkins	Rachel Lynn Parnella	Christopher David Burgio **
Easton Joseph Speer	Madison Lee Williams **	Maggie Elizabeth Parobek *	Brooke Lynn Buskist
Peter John Spyché	Ale Nathaniel Wilson	Skylar Paige Pasternak	Heather Lee Buskist
Tatiana Genevieve Staniszewski	Jeffrey John Wilson **†	Emily M. Pierce-Delaney **	Chanel Rose Chbat
Morgan Marie Stearns ***	Kathryn Anne Wilson ***	Taylor A. Potenza	Noah Wilder D'Angelo *
Hannah Marie Steiner ***†	Keeya Nashae Wilson	Magdalene Rose Restuccia **	Jake Gustav D'Aprile *
Nyol Peter Straker	Shae Philip Wirt *	Safiyah Sunshine Richardson	Sarah Marie Dauer **
Paige Elaine Suarez	Tanner Wisniewski	Olivia Marie Rodriguez	Devin Nicholas Dulinawka ***
Julian Alessandra Sukel *	Kiara D'Vine Woodward	Zoe Eva Roth **	Alexandra S. Ellison *** §
Daniel Christopher Sullivan **	David Wozniak **	Daniel Noah Roudebush	Hannah Esslie ***
Rabbiatou Sam Sumbundu	Khadara Wright	Mary Katherine Schmitz ***	Abrar Fayaz ***
Ella Deen Susi	Abigail Young	Laura Schneider	Jacob Fuqua
Megan Swaine	Arion I. Young	Andrew Thomas Sheedy *	Shane N. Gelster
Mouhamed Syll	Desiree Alessandra Young	Thomas Connor Shields	Ashbiya Giri
Matthew Francis Szucs	Min Zo	Shelby Ann Stisser ***	Andrew Dylan Gonzalez Kennedy *
James T. Tammaro	Declan Clarence Zumach-O'Brien **	Riley Carmody Thorpe	Christopher Goodlander **
Silvia Shalom Tasner *	Jessica Zwara	Phoebe Lyn Tisdale *	Adam Goodnough **
Ysolimer Tavaréz		Alyna Mary Tomaka **	Emma Grimm
Cameron Taylor **	<b>Bachelor of Fine Arts</b>	Jazmin Sky Tyo	Mira Caroline Grosser
Rachel Danielle Teape	Ashley Lynn Aaron ***	Sydney Ellyn Wade **	Courtney Lynn Gutowski *
Lauren Thomas	Ameera Mohammed Albayed ***	Ellie Cate Weidner ***	Christopher Matthew Hurley
Tatyana Lajuan Thomas	Kifaya Mohamed Albayed ***	Maxwell N. Weiner	Abigail Catherine Jacobs ***
Alicia Elizabeth Tobias	Mitchell Ryan Anderson ***	Caroline Claire Williams ***	Martie E. Jones
Leslie Renee Tobin	Christine N. Barr		Samantha Ann Kaufman ***
Shannon Margaret Todd *	Samantha Marie Bryk **	<b>Bachelor of Music</b>	Jacob M. Kierejewski *
Devin Tolbert	Paula Carver ***	Anthony Choops **	Alyssa Susan Kilonsky
Zion Wellington Treadwell	Christian James Chambers	Cameron Lynn Juzdowski **	Nathan Paul Klein *

## 2025 CANDIDATES FOR SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Melodie Konde  
 Brandon James Kroll  
 Cora Kubiak \*\*\*  
 Crystal Ann Kulaw  
 Shaun Laper  
 Corinne Lapp  
 AJ Marchioli  
 Joseph David McDonald  
 Patrick Murphy McMahon-Eagan  
 Allen Mendez  
 Fayyaz Mohiuddin  
 Nicholas Moore  
 Declan Morrow \*\*\*  
 Monica Rhae Murphy  
 Vanessa Nzubahimana  
 Camryn O'Hara \*  
 Brian Okyere Offei  
 Allison Christine Panek \*\*\*  
 Brennan George Postich \*\*\*  
 Sarah Ptak \*\*\*  
 Anthony Michael Puleo  
 Jenna Renee Raczka \*\*  
 Destiny Yesenia Rivera  
 Emma Louise Rogacki  
 Sarah May Schelble  
 Dylan Edmund Schobert  
 Jennifer M. Segura Lopez \*  
 Ryan Hogan Sherk \*\*\*  
 Maxwell T. Shoemaker  
 Lillian Strusienski  
 Coralie Theogene \*  
 Cal Walter Tomaka \*\*\*  
 Tyler Nicholas Troyer \*  
 Cassidy Amya Tucker  
 Mapendo Tumaini \*\*\*  
 Michael Vincent Vullo \*\*\*†  
 Joshua Walter  
 Owen Waring  
 Megan Louise Weisedel  
 Mykayla J. Williams  
 Jeffrey John Wilson \*\*†  
 Philip Woods  
 Jonathan Donald Worden \*\*  
 Jafar Ahmed Yahuza  
 Wentao Zhou

### MASTER'S DEGREES AND GRADUATE CERTIFICATES

#### Master of Arts

Joseph Kane Armstrong  
 Devon Blankenbaker †  
 Elisse Deanna Brautigam  
 Elise Nicole Cabral †  
 Sophie Oriana Church †  
 Vu Bac Do †  
 Kostantinos Rafael Grigoras  
 Renata Bogumila Gumkowska †  
 Hope E. Haley  
 Sutton Elizabeth Hastman †  
 Shaniah Irving  
 Amanda Lynn Jacobs  
 Krystal Maria Johnson  
 Marcus Zachary Kenline  
 Emily Ryan Klimczak  
 Tahynnis D. Newsome  
 Alif Ann Noor  
 Lauren Marie Smith  
 Zachary Smith  
 Charlotte Starnes †  
 Andrew Szumla  
 Connor D'Artagnan Tait  
 Sara Thornburg †  
 Madison Myers Whitesell †  
 Samantha C. Wild  
 Grace Graham Wilkins †  
 Jing Yang

#### Master of Music

Lauren Katherine Beauchamp  
 Jacqueline Elizabeth Bedrey  
 Kirsten Nicole Brady  
 Brittanie Elizabeth Darling  
 Daniel Joseph Fronckowiak  
 Claudia Hovey  
 Stephen Daniel Lightner  
 Emma E. Schutt  
 Madison Szablewski  
 Brianna Yaghy

#### Master of Public Administration

Musah Abubakar  
 Hope Alexis DeGarie  
 Jeremy T. Howard  
 Paul A. Land

Julia Ann Lange  
 Todd Archie O'Bryan  
 Derek L. Smith  
 Lily Marie Wright

#### Master of Science

Tylor Nishel Adams  
 Fahim Alam  
 Chelsea N. Allen  
 Denyel Beiter  
 Devon Blankenbaker †  
 Elise Nicole Cabral †  
 Anthony Calvin Cashaw  
 Sophie Oriana Church †  
 Tia M. Dabney  
 Vu Bac Do †  
 John Robert England  
 Allison Lee Feras  
 Catie Fuentes  
 Kamal Nikhil Gokavarapu  
 Kimberly Goodwin  
 Nidhish Abhijit Gore  
 Renata Bogumila Gumkowska †  
 Sutton Elizabeth Hastman †  
 Alyssa Marie Heisler  
 Sophia Houston  
 Kaitlyn Marie Ignaszak  
 Surya Komandooru  
 Daniel D. Kozlowski  
 Sagar Lamsal  
 Samuel Shemen Lee  
 Kimberly Marte  
 Andriy Martynshyn  
 Navya Mehta  
 Mariah Murphy  
 Yash Bhushan Patil  
 Max Alan Pilat  
 Bishal Pokharel  
 Grace Catherine Poleto  
 Urvish Hiteshbhai Raval  
 Michelle Marie Sanabria  
 Angel Alexa Schwartz  
 Narendra Shrestha  
 Harvey Keith Smith  
 Anjali Solanki  
 Charlotte Starnes †  
 Mahabub Sultan

Mohammad Sultan  
 Sara Thornburg †  
 Liam Tovey  
 Madison Myers Whitesell †  
 Grace Graham Wilkins †  
 Samantha Woughter

#### Master of Science in Education

Stephanie Atzrott  
 Christina Michelle Birt  
 Bailey Rose Buckley  
 Andrew David Calire  
 Willard Henry Crosby  
 Timothy Loren Dorr  
 Brendan Dougherty §  
 Megan T. Doyle  
 Jillian Mary Duffy  
 Amanda Feraldi  
 Matthew J. Ferrara  
 Sydney Hafner  
 Timothy Howard Hensel §  
 Michele Hovey  
 Brett Librock  
 Jason M Lindhurst  
 Makayla R. Malachowski  
 Michael Patrick Mendola  
 Kianna M. Norman  
 Jenna B. Outten  
 Taylor Mackenzie Payne  
 Jacob J. Riedel  
 Maeghan Roberts  
 Nicolas Joseph Sitzman  
 Lindsey Carol Supparits  
 Jarrett Robert Whipple  
 Jessica Jane Wier  
 Charlotte Ann Wiesmore  
 Austen Gunner Winquist

List compiled May 8, 2025.

\*\*\* *summa cum laude* 3.80–4.00

\*\* *magna cum laude* 3.65–3.79

\* *cum laude* 3.50–3.64

† *dual degree*

§ *veteran*

## 2025 SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES BACCALAUREATE AWARDS

### AFRICANA STUDIES

**Makhia Laster**  
Dean's Award for Excellence

### ANTHROPOLOGY

**Anthony Falzarano**  
Lambda Alpha National Anthropology Honor Society (2024)

**Angelina Knott**  
Lambda Alpha National Anthropology Honor Society (2023)  
Dean's Award for Excellence  
David Vernon Bullough Memorial Award  
Honors Research: "Prostitution in Ancient Athens: Using Archaeology to Understand the Practice and Social Complexities of Sex Work in Antiquity"

**Victoria Kohler**  
Lambda Alpha National Anthropology Honor Society (2024)

Lewis Henry Morgan Award  
Collins/Tomashevich Award  
Honors Research: "The Impacts of Malnutrition on the Juvenile Skeleton"

**Jessica Lema**  
Lambda Alpha National Anthropology Honor Society (2024)

### ART AND DESIGN

**Ashley Aaron**  
Across the Visual Arts: Dean's Creative Associates Award

Barbara Schillawski Mautz Art Education Scholarship (2024)

Joyce Homan Scholarship in Memory of Leona McNulty O'Sullivan, '55 (2024)

Sylvia Garafolo Miller, '43, Art Student Award (2024)

Janet Mattes Endowed Art Education Scholarship (2024)

**Paula Carver**  
Across the Visual Arts: Dean's Creative Associates Award (2024)  
Riveting Creativity Award for Metal/Jewelry (2023)

Dr. Margaret E. Bacon Best of Studio Award (2022)

James E. Hofmeister Metals/Jewelry Scholarship (2022)

John J. Jauquet Student Award for Creative Excellence (2021)

**Mckenna Davis**  
John J. Jauquet Student Award for Creative Excellence (2024)

Sylvia Rosen Special Support Award in Ceramics (2024)

Across the Visual Arts: Dean's Creative Associates Award (2023)

**Emily Engle**  
Earl Wolfgruber Award (2024)

**Joelyn Gonzalez**  
Across the Visual Arts: Dean's Creative Associates Award

**Mackenzey Holmes**  
Barbara Schillawski Mautz Art Education Scholarship (2023, 2024)

Janet Mattes Endowed Art Education Scholarship (2023)

William Schmidt/Doris Eckert Scholarship (2021)

**Sarah Kurdziel**  
Across the Visual Arts: Dean's Creative Associates Award (2024)

**Sorcha Lester**  
Across the Visual Arts: Dean's Creative Associates Award (2023)

**Alexis Middelsteadt**  
Joyce Homan Scholarship in Memory of Leona McNulty O'Sullivan, '55

Across the Visual Arts: Dean's Creative Associates Award (2024)

Barbara Schillawski Mautz Art Education Scholarship (2024)

**Mario Moncalian**  
Dean's Award for Excellence  
Hyatt's Award for Excellence (2024)

**Kayla Monti**  
Riveting Creativity Award for Metal/Jewelry

Dr. Margaret E. Bacon Best of Studio Award (2024)

Across the Visual Arts: Dean's Creative Associates Award (2023)

John J. Jauquet Student Award for Creative Excellence (2023)

Hyatt's Award for Excellence (2022)

**Mae Sariang Paw**  
Dr. George Hole Award for Excellence in Painting

Hyatt's Award for Excellence (2024)

Barbara and Donald Nelson Scholarship in Fine Arts (2024)

**Magdalene Restuccia**  
Barbara Schillawski Mautz Art Education Scholarship (2024)

William Schmidt/Doris Eckert Scholarship (2021)

**Safiyah Richardson**  
Barbara L. Czurlis-Nelson and Donald J. Nelson Scholarship in Design (2023)

**Alfred Ricketts**  
Robert C. and Marilyn Wilson Painting Scholarship (2024)

**Caitlin Riley**  
Across the Visual Arts: Dean's Creative Associates Award (2024)

Hyatt's Award for Excellence (2023, 2024)

Dr. Margaret E. Bacon Best of Studio Award (2024)

Young Sculptors Award (2024)

**Paw Ku Ku Say**  
Dr. George Hole Award for Excellence in Drawing

Hyatt's Award for Excellence (2024)

Dr. Margaret E. Bacon Best of Studio Award (2024)

**Mary Katherine Schmitz**  
Barbara Schillawski Mautz Art Education Scholarship (2023, 2024)  
Gertrude Angert Victor Art Education Scholarship (2024)  
William Schmidt/Doris Eckert Scholarship (2021)

**Phoebe Tisdale**  
Drs. Paul A. and Margaret Eschner Bacon Scholarship (2023)

**Sydney Wade**  
Victor Shanchuk Jr. Art Education Award

**Maxwell Weiner**  
Dr. Margaret E. Bacon Best of Studio Award (2024)  
Award for Photography and Documentary Studies (2024)

**Caroline Williams**  
Across the Visual Arts: Dean's Creative Associates Award (2024, 2025)

Mike Lang Wood/Furniture Studio Award for Excellence (2022–2024)

John J. Jauquet Student Award for Creative Excellence (2024)

Dr. Margaret E. Bacon Best of Studio Award (2023)

### BIOLOGY

**Catherine Alverson**  
Honors in Biology  
School of Arts and Sciences Dean's Award for Excellence in Biology  
May Brett Science Travel Award  
William C. Scheffler Memorial Award for Excellence in Computational Biology  
David Vernon Bullough Memorial Award to an Outstanding Biology Senior

**Brigid Benson**  
David Vernon Bullough Memorial Award to an Outstanding Biology Senior  
Honors in Biology

**Madeline Della Vella**  
William C. Scheffler Memorial Award for Excellence in Computational Biology  
Honors in Biology

**Nicholas Hahn**  
Honors in Biology (2024)

**Danaya Oliver-Ragland**  
Sarah LoBrutto Bihl Scholarship in Biology (2024)

**Julian Sukel**  
Honors in Biology

**Bryanna Walker**  
Dean's Award for Excellence in Biology  
Honors in Biology  
Carol Wright Henry Award

### CHEMISTRY

**Jake D'Aprile**  
Phi Lambda Upsilon Honor Society Award (2024, 2025)

**Michael Vullo**  
ACS Undergraduate Analytical Award (2023)

Edward M. Schulman Memorial Award (2023)

ACS Inorganic Chemistry Award

ACS Organic Award (2024)

ACS Physical Chemistry Award

AIC Award (2024)

Dr. Surjit Singh Memorial Physical Chemistry Award (2024)

Dean's Award for Excellence

ACS Distinguished Student Award

Saul Barron Memorial Award

Albert A. Himmel Memorial Award

Phi Lambda Upsilon Honor Society Award (2024, 2025)

## 2025 SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES BACCALAUREATE AWARDS

### COMMUNICATION

Catherine Baxter

Outstanding Senior in Communication Studies

Christopher Giacobello

Outstanding Senior in Journalism

Evan Harrington

Outstanding Senior in Journalism

Jenna Hecker

Outstanding Student in Public Relations and Advertising

Alicia Mayes

Outstanding Senior in Communication Studies

Nastassya Palkhouskaya

Outstanding Student in Media Production

Hannah Steiner

Outstanding Student in Public Relations and Advertising

Alec Walker

Outstanding Student in Media Production

### ECONOMICS AND FINANCE

Joseph Beazely

Outstanding Student Award

Ashbiya Giri

David Vernon Bullough Award

Daniel Sullivan

Dean's Award for Excellence in Economics and Finance

### ENGLISH

Charlotte Brownell

Excellence in Writing, B.A.

Joseph Cannizzaro

Angela Lambrix Award

Excellence in English, Post Baccalaureate

Matthew Finsel

Excellence in English, B.A.

Zoe Harris

English Department Student Award for Writing on Issues of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice

Mads Katz

School of Arts and Sciences Dean's Award for Excellence

Isabella Lamberty

James J. Morris Jr. Scholarship

Mathea Riley

English Department Student Award for Writing on Issues of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice

President's Medal for Outstanding Undergraduate Student

Jennifer Segura Lopez

Excellence in English Education, B.S.

Anthony Skubis

Excellence in English, B.A.

Aglaya Zinenko

Professor Arthur L. Bradford Award

### GEOSCIENCES

Jessica Auge

National Center for Geographic Education Excellence of Scholarship Award (Geography)

Heather Buskist

Carl Seyfert Memorial Award for Geology

Martie Jones

Irving Tesmer Award for Excellence in Geology

Samantha Kaufman

School of Arts and Sciences Dean's Award

John Murtaugh Award for Excellence in Geology Field Work

Allison Panek

Katheryne T. Whittemore Award for Outstanding Student in Geography

Brennan Postich

David Vernon Bullough Award for Overall Academic Excellence, GIS Certificate

School of Arts and Sciences Dean's Award

Cal Tomaka

David Vernon Bullough Award for Overall Academic Excellence, Earth Sciences

### GOVERNMENT, PLANNING, AND PHILOSOPHY

Eunice Alvarado-Resendiz

Standout Political Science Award

Jaden Brice

School of Arts and Sciences Dean's Award for Excellence in Philosophy

Ion Croitor

Outstanding Student in Political Science Award

Meghan Donacik

Raymond P. Stone Memorial Award

Brennan Postich

School of Arts and Sciences Dean's Award for Excellence in Political Science and Planning (2024–2025)

Western New York American Planning Association Student Merit Award

Mia Raj

David Bullough Memorial Award

Mapendo Tumaini

National Center for Geographic Education Excellence of Scholarship Award

### HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATION

Abigail Alex

Kathleen Mallea Award of Excellence in Social Studies Education

Talidy Blijden

Norman Weaver Award for Excellence in Historical Research and Writing (2024)

Michael Brooks

Anthony Sokolowski Award

Courtney Gutowski

Anthony Sokolowski Award (2024)

Brandon Kroll

Ann K. Lupo Award

Andrew Miles

School of Arts and Sciences Dean's Award  
Bernard and Nancy Belfer Award (2024)

Declan Morrow

Kevin J. Shea Memorial Scholarship Award (2024)

Norman Weaver Award for Excellence in Historical Research and Writing

Ryan Sherk

Ann K. Lupo Award (2024)

G. Allen McFarren Award for Excellence in Student Teaching

Dylan Schobert

Eric Brunger Award of Merit

### MATHEMATICS

Trevor Cohn

Math Achievement Award (2023, 2024)

Sarah Dauer

Math Achievement Award (2023–2025)

Adam Goodnough

Math Achievement Award (2024)

Abigail Jacobs

Ruth E. Heintz Award

Math Achievement Award (2022–2025)

Jacob Kierejewski

Douglas R. King Award

Math Achievement Award (2023)

Dominic Kitterman

Dean's Award

Math Achievement Award (2023)

Jianhao Liu

Math Achievement Award (2024)

Niko Maziarz

Math Achievement Award (2022–2024)

Sarah Ptak

Mabel D. Montgomery Award

Math Achievement Award (2022–2025)

### MODERN AND CLASSICAL LANGUAGES

Cassidy Baron

Charles A. Messner Latin Scholarship (2024)

Frances Cruz Ramos

Javier Ortiz-Calderon and Maribel Garrett Award

Elizabeth Denis-Torres

Dean's Award for Excellence

Sigma Delta Pi (2024)

Javier Ortiz-Calderon and Maribel Garrett Award (2023)

Madeline Della Vella

Ernest S. Falbo Scholarship (2023)

Amanda Plumley

Sigma Delta Pi (2024)

Ernest S. Falbo Scholarship (2024)

### MUSIC

Jennifer Balazadeh

Lenore Rollett Wright Award

Cameron Juzdowski

School of Arts and Sciences Dean's Award

Paul and Kathryn Homer Award (2023)

Christian Medina

Charles and Mary Mancuso Award

## 2025 SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES BACCALAUREATE AWARDS

### PHYSICS

#### Christopher Burgio

James Wells Award (2023, 2024)

Rustgi Family Memorial Award (2023)

Robert A. and Dorothy Stender Sweet Physics Award (2023, 2024)

Sigma Pi Sigma Award (2024)

#### Abrar Fayaz

David Bullough Award (2023, 2024)

Dewayne Beery Physics Award (2023, 2024)

Rustgi Family Memorial Award (2023, 2024)

Sigma Pi Sigma Award (2024)

School of Arts and Sciences Dean's Award

#### Cora Kubiak

David Bullough Award (2023, 2024)

Dewayne Beery Physics Award (2023, 2024)

Rustgi Family Memorial Award (2023, 2024)

Robert A. and Dorothy Stender Sweet Physics Award (2023, 2024)

Sigma Pi Sigma Award (2024)

### PSYCHOLOGY

#### Cassidy Baron

Dr. Jack Morganti Award for Excellence in Service

Psi Chi International Honor Society (2024)

#### Emily Cooper

School of Arts and Science Dean's Award for Excellence

#### Elizabeth Dung

Psi Chi International Honor Society (2024)

#### Christopher Goodlander

Psi Chi International Honor Society

#### Elsa Graf

Dr. Esther McGinnis Award for Exemplary Academic Achievement in Psychology

Psi Chi International Honor Society (2024)

#### Brent Howes

Psi Chi International Honor Society (2023)

#### Nickolas Kennison

Psi Chi International Honor Society

#### Coralie Theogene

David Vernon Bullough Outstanding Senior Award in Psychology

Psi Chi International Honor Society (2023)

#### Tatyana Thomas

Psi Chi International Honor Society

#### Kyler-Emil Wiertel

Psi Chi International Honor Society (2024)

#### Kathryn Wilson

Psi Chi International Honor Society (2024)

### SOCIOLOGY

#### Joseph Book

Alpha Kappa Delta Initiate (2023)

#### Avery Carpenter

Herbert Aurbach Social Action Award (2024)

#### Thomas Foster

School of Arts and Sciences Dean's Award for Excellence in Sociology

Kenneth J. Downey Award

Alpha Kappa Delta Initiate (2024)

#### Gabriella Miller

Alpha Kappa Delta Initiate

Conrad Vogler Award (2025)

#### Jordan Nass-deMause

Herbert Aurbach Social Action Award

#### Kayleigh Smith

Alpha Kappa Delta Initiate

Neuman-Clements Scholarship

#### Shannon Todd

Alpha Kappa Delta Initiate

### TELEVISION AND FILM ARTS

#### Angel Barber

Sterling Scholarship

#### Edward Murphy

School of Arts and Sciences Dean's Award

### THEATER

#### Gianna Cotto

Donald J. Savage Theater Arts Award (2024)

#### Arianna Morris

Mina S. Goossen Award for Excellence in Theater

#### Paige Suarez

Michael Dominico Jr. Performing Arts Award

#### Min Zo

Dean's Award for Excellence

### WOMEN, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

#### Nicole Lambert

Dean's Award for Excellence

Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Graduating Senior Award

Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Outstanding Student Award (2024)

## 2025 SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES GRADUATE AWARDS

### ART CONSERVATION

#### Devon Blankenbaker

Mellon Foundation Fellowship, 2022–2024

Buffalo State University Diversity Tuition Scholarship, 2022–2024

#### Elise Cabral

Mellon Foundation Fellowship, 2022–2024

National Endowment of the Humanities Fellowship, 2022–2024

Marks Family Art Conservation Fellowship, 2023

Garman Family Art Conservation Fellowship, 2023, 2024

Buffalo State University Diversity Tuition Scholarship, 2022–2024

#### Sophie Church

Mellon Foundation Fellowship, 2022–2024

National Endowment of the Humanities Fellowship, 2022–2024

Balbach Family Art Conservation Fellowship, 2023

Garman Family Art Conservation Fellowship, 2023, 2024

Buffalo State University Tuition Scholarship, 2022

Linton Vincent Tuition Scholarship, 2023

Conservation Training Diversity Fellowship, 2023, 2024

#### Vu B. Do

Samuel H. Kress Foundation Fellowship, 2022, 2024

Saxe Family Art Conservation Fellowship, 2023

Mellon Foundation Fellowship, 2023, 2024

National Endowment of the Humanities Fellowship, 2024

Garman Family Art Conservation Fellowship, 2024

Buffalo State University Tuition Scholarship, 2022–2024

Fulbright Funding Award, 2022–2024

#### Renata Gumkowska

Mellon Foundation Fellowship, 2022–2024

National Endowment of the Humanities Fellowship, 2022, 2023

Garman Family Art Conservation Fellowship, 2023, 2024

Balbach Family Art Conservation Fellowship, 2023

Samuel H. Kress Foundation Fellowship, 2024

Linton Vincent Tuition Scholarship, 2022–2024

Buffalo State University Tuition Scholarship, 2022–2024

#### Sutton Hastman

Mellon Foundation Fellowship, 2022–2024

National Endowment of the Humanities Fellowship, 2022, 2023

Fannie Kestenbaum Paull Family Art Conservation Fellowship, 2023

Garman Family Foundation Fellowship, 2023

Linton Vincent Tuition Scholarship, 2022–2024

Buffalo State University Tuition Scholarship, 2022–2024

#### Charlotte Starnes

National Endowment of the Humanities Fellowship, 2022

Mellon Foundation Fellowship, 2022, 2023

Linton Vincent Tuition Scholarship, 2022–2024

Buffalo State University Tuition Scholarship, 2022–2024

#### Sara Thornburg

Mellon Foundation Fellowship, 2022–2024

National Endowment of the Humanities Fellowship, 2022, 2023

Garman Family Foundation Fellowship, 2023, 2024

Bandrowski Family Fellowship, 2023

Linton Vincent Tuition Scholarship, 2022–2024

Buffalo State University Tuition Scholarship, 2022–2024

#### Madison Whitesell

National Endowment of the Humanities Fellowship, 2022–2024

Mellon Foundation Fellowship, 2022, 2023

Garman Family Foundation Fellowship, 2023, 2024

Brost Family Foundation Fellowship, 2023

Ross B. Kenzie Family Art Conservation Fellowship Fund, 2023

Linton Vincent Tuition Scholarship, 2022–2024

Buffalo State University Tuition Scholarship, 2022–2024

#### Grace Wilkins

Mellon Foundation Fellowship, 2022, 2023

National Endowment of the Humanities Fellowship, 2022, 2023

Garman Family Foundation Fellowship, 2023

Gross Family Foundation Fellowship, 2023

Marks Family Art Conservation Fellowship, 2023

Linton Vincent Tuition Scholarship, 2022–2024

Buffalo State University Tuition Scholarship, 2022–2024

### BIOLOGY

#### Alif Noor

Easton Graduate Award in Biology

#### Lucas Schultz

Easton Graduate Award in Biology

#### Samantha Wild

Easton Graduate Award in Biology

### CHEMISTRY

#### Alyssa Heisler

Iota Sigma Pi Honor Society Award

Phi Lambda Upsilon Honor Society Award

#### Kaitlyn Ignaszak

Graduate School Teaching Assistant Award

Iota Sigma Pi Honor Society Award

Phi Lambda Upsilon Honor Society Award

#### Grace Poletto

Buffalo State University Chemistry Alumni Award

Iota Sigma Pi Honor Society Award

Phi Lambda Upsilon Honor Society Award

### COMMUNICATION

#### Chelsea Allen

Outstanding Student, M.S. in Public Relations

#### Ginger Geoffery

Outstanding Student, M.S. in Public Relations

#### Rachel Vitko

Dean's Award for Excellence in Communication

### ENGLISH

#### Bailey Buckley

Excellence in English Education, M.S.Ed.

#### Elijah Hundley

Excellence in English, M.A.

#### Jarrett Whipple

Excellence in English Education, M.S.Ed.

## SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND INDIVIDUALIZED AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIES CEREMONY 5:00 P.M.

### PRELUDE

The Rockwell Brass

Ricky L. Fleming, *Director*  
*Professor, Music Department*

### PROCESSIONAL

The Rockwell Brass

Kevin J. Miller, *Mace Bearer*  
*Professor, Exceptional Education Department*

### CONVENING

Robert M. Zak  
*Member, Buffalo State University Council*

### NATIONAL ANTHEM

Members of the Buffalo State Chamber Choir

Victoria J. Furby, *Director*  
*Chair and Associate Professor, Music Department*

### WELCOME

Bonita R. Durand, Ph.D.  
*Interim President, Buffalo State University*

### PRESIDENT'S MEDAL FOR OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT

Kirby R. Briggs, Class of 2025  
*Master of Science in Education*

#### Presenter

Bonita R. Durand

### SCHOOL OF EDUCATION STUDENT ADDRESS

Kirby R. Briggs

### PRESIDENT'S DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Tonja M. Williams Knight  
*Superintendent, Buffalo Public Schools*

#### Presenters

Robert M. Zak

Bonita R. Durand

### DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD

### SCHOOL OF EDUCATION COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Karen Saxon, Class of 2003  
*Music Educator*

#### Presenters

Stacy E. Lewis Beauford, Class of 2001  
*President, Buffalo State Alumni Association*

Bonita R. Durand

### PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

Amitra A. Wall  
*Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs*

Wendy A. Paterson, Class of 1975 and 1976  
*Dean, School of Education*

### CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Bonita R. Durand

### BUFFALO STATE UNIVERSITY ALMA MATER

Members of the Buffalo State Chamber Choir

### RECESSIONAL

*Please join the campus community in celebration at a reception in the Campbell Student Union.*

## SCHOOL OF EDUCATION COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD



**KAREN SAXON**  
**CLASS OF 2003**

Karen Saxon is a distinguished music educator, accomplished musician, and dedicated community leader based in Buffalo, New York. A proud alumna of Buffalo State University, where she received her bachelor of arts in vocal performance in 2003, and the University of Scranton, where she received her master of science in education in educational administration in 2008, she has devoted 27 years to music education in the Buffalo Public Schools. Currently, she serves as a vocal music instructor at City Honors School and as an adjunct voice professor at Buffalo State University.

Ms. Saxon is a highly skilled pianist, professional vocalist, and expert choral conductor. She made history as the first-ever musical director for Shea's Performing Arts Center's production of *Once On This Island* and Ujima Theater's collaboration with Second Generation Theater for *The*

*Color Purple*. Her leadership in musical direction has helped elevate the Buffalo arts scene.

In 2025, Ms. Saxon co-founded AnsariSaxon Productions alongside Naila Ansari Carbonell Catilo, establishing an African American, female-owned professional production company committed to artistic excellence. She also serves on the board of directors for Starring Buffalo and the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, advocating for arts accessibility and education.

A dedicated servant leader, Ms. Saxon is the minister of music at First Shiloh Baptist Church and the chair of the Buffalo Branch NAACP ACT-SO Committee, where she works to uplift and mentor young artists and scholars.

Ms. Saxon is happily married to Darrell M. Saxon, president and CEO of Thomas T. Edwards Funeral Home Inc. Together, they cherish their three wonderful children: Nathalie (Terrence), Christnell, and Karrenngton Williams.

## PRESIDENT'S DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD



**TONJA M. WILLIAMS KNIGHT**

Tonja M. Williams Knight, Ed.D., a leading voice on education, has been the superintendent of the Buffalo Public Schools, the second-largest school district in New York State, since July 14, 2022, when the Buffalo Board of Education unanimously appointed her as superintendent. She has worked for the Buffalo Public Schools for 32 years, rising from the position of school counselor to that of director of guidance and counseling, school principal, assistant superintendent, associate superintendent, interim superintendent, and then superintendent. She is also a proud alumna of the Buffalo Public Schools, having attended School #90, West Hertel Middle, and Riverside High School.

As a lifelong learner, Dr. Williams Knight has earned degrees in both executive leadership and business administration, as well as professional and administrative certifications. Her doctoral dissertation work on African American students and the college application process was chosen as the "Most Scholarly Dissertation" by her graduating doctoral cohort. Dr. Williams Knight also earned a Harvard University School Leader Turnaround Certificate. Her work also has included administrative

positions at Alfred University and Johnson C. Smith University, a historically black college or university in Charlotte, North Carolina. At Canisius College and Bryant & Stratton Business Institute, she served as an adjunct professor.

Dr. Williams Knight has received *Business First's* 40 Under Forty Leader Award, City of Buffalo Mayor's Distinguished Educator Award, Woman Touching the World Recognition, Heart of an Educator Award, Buffalo Black Achiever Award, and Leadership Buffalo 2003 Cohort. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., as well as Friendship Baptist Church.

As superintendent, Dr. Williams Knight has actively engaged parents, caregivers, students, staff, and the Board of Education to ensure that every student attending a Buffalo public school has access to high-quality instruction that considers their cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

Dr. Williams Knight attributes much of her success to her parents, Mr. Anthony Benson Jr., and Ms. Elizabeth Benson, who instilled in both her and her sister, Michelle, the qualities of persistence, hard work, and honesty. Dr. Williams Knight, a widower, is the proud mother of two adult daughters, Desiree and Kelly Williams, and one grandson, Cortland Boone. Dr. Williams Knight is married to Mr. Major Knight Jr.

**SCHOOL OF EDUCATION STUDENT ADDRESS  
PRESIDENT'S MEDAL FOR OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT**



**KIRBY R. BRIGGS**

Kirby Briggs, a passionate educator and advocate, has earned a master of science in education (7–12 generalist) with a 3.74 GPA. While completing her graduate studies, she served as a resident intern in the Exceptional Education Department through a highly selective partnership with local school districts—an opportunity extended to only a few top-tier teacher candidates.

She is the published author of *D is for Different: An ABC Guide for Disabilities and Differences* and its companion activity workbook, designed to engage students and families in conversations about inclusion and acceptance.

Ms. Briggs completed her teaching residency at Erie 1 BOCES Maryvale Work Readiness Program, where she provided specialized instruction to high school students with severe disabilities. She also is the founder and executive director of Kirby’s Korner, a nonprofit organization that has supported minority youth with physical disabilities for more than seven years, amplifying their voices and advocating for equity in education and

community resources. Ms. Briggs is passionate about students because of her own life experiences living with a physical disability herself.

In recognition of her academic excellence, Ms. Briggs was inducted into Kappa Delta Pi in 2024, an international honor society that celebrates the top 20 percent of professionals in the field of education. She also is a proud life member and former vice president of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. A committed community leader, she was a featured speaker at the Bengals Dare to Care event, where she addressed the stigmas surrounding disability in the Black community and the importance of representation for disabled students.

Her professional experience extends beyond the classroom—Ms. Briggs has worked as a community school navigator at Say Yes Buffalo, coordinator at Buffalo All-Star Extreme, as well as a youth adviser for the Kappa Lambda Gamma Jr. sorority, which she participated in during her adolescent years. In 2024, Ms. Briggs was appointed by the Mayor to the City of Buffalo’s Disability Advisory Committee and now holds the chairperson position on the committee. The committee collaborates with city leaders to improve accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities. She currently serves on several boards, including Black Boys Read Too.



## 2025 CANDIDATES FOR SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND INDIVIDUALIZED AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

### BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

#### Bachelor of Science

Chloe Kristen Adams  
 Lilliana A. Adimey \*  
 Nofa Ali Alawdi \*  
 Taraifa Ali Alawdi \*\*  
 Ahmad S. Altabbaa  
 Alissa Marie Backert  
 Allison Paige Barnas \*\*\*  
 Camille Sheree Barnes \*  
 Destiny Gabriella Barnes  
 Moolah Bay  
 Matthew Joseph Berger \*\*\*  
 Liliana Josephine Billi \*\*\*  
 Anna Katherine Bilski  
 Shaughnessy Claire Butler  
 Kassidy Ryanmarie Caldwell  
 Dana J. Carrigan \*  
 Yetsira Eden Carrillo  
 Alicia Carroll  
 Cora Grace Casselman \*\*  
 Emily Ann Cecere  
 Daniel Leonard Choppolla \*\*\*  
 Kayla M. Cirulli \*  
 Xamani Clarke  
 De'Avion Dalton  
 Shantelle Marie Damon  
 Shawn Michael Davis \*\*\*  
 Emma Christine Diebel \*\*\*  
 Gabriella Renee Farinacci  
 Alaina Marie Faulise \*  
 Jennifer M. Flick \*\*\*  
 Aniya Renee Flowers  
 Marley Deborah Fern Gertler  
 Marisa Marie Girling \*\*\*  
 Kathleen Rose Goldstein  
 Mackenzie Lynn Gozdziaik \*\*  
 Madelin Pearl Groffenberg  
 Rhianna Cambry Guenther  
 Grace Elizabeth Hanifin \*\*\*  
 Hannaa Benaich Harding  
 Robert Hunter Harhigh \*\*  
 Hailey Hope Heiss \*\*\*  
 Samia Hussain \*  
 Natajah S. Jackson  
 Mya Angelina Jones \*\*\*  
 Sencere Trust Jones \*\*  
 Jack David Kaczmarowski \*\*\*  
 Demetria Rose Kellogg  
 Lucy Rose Kloepfer \*\*\*  
 Hannah Komenda \*\*  
 Alec John Konopczynski  
 Christina Catherine Lamb \*\*  
 Kailey Mae Ludlow \*\*\*  
 Sean Christopher Mahn \*\*  
 Jared Wesley Wada Milford  
 Magnolia Elizabeth Miller  
 Alexis E. Mountain \*\*  
 Jersey Neff \*\*\*  
 Haley A. Nichols  
 Allison Marie Nunzio \*\*\*

Iris Neida Ofray Rivera  
 Deanna Nicole Pastor \*\*\*  
 Tooly Paw \*  
 Samantha Valerie Pietrzak \*\*\*  
 Michaela Mae Polak \*\*\*  
 Sarah Margaret Pratt \*\*\*  
 Anna Jane Puchalski \*\*\*  
 ShyAsia Reeder  
 Ryan Robinson \*  
 Alexis Leann Sayers \*\*\*  
 Amir Kalim Shropshire \*\*  
 Abigail Lynn Silsby \*\*  
 Sydney Emma Pheonix Smith \*\*  
 Brenna Jeanne Snyder  
 Tyler Spencer  
 Ashley Lynn Sprenger \*  
 Lily Margaret Stafford \*\*\*  
 Brianna Rose Starzynski \*\*\*  
 Meghan Sterner \*\*\*  
 Samantha Ann Sullivan  
 Jocelyn Swierski \*  
 Erin Marie Taylor  
 Magdalynn Rose Tibbetts  
 Hayden Rose Trapper \*\*\*  
 Jessica Chase Tyrrell  
 Paw Eh Wah \*\*\*  
 Talia L. Washington  
 Jeremiah Nathanel White §  
 James Joseph Wilson  
 Amaya L. Woods  
 Selen Tutku Yucel \*\*\*  
 Stephanie Louise Ziccarelli \*\*

#### Bachelor of Science in Education

Isabella M. Batcho \*\*\*  
 Lauren E. Biegner \*\*\*  
 Hailee Elizabeth Cipollina \*  
 Kaylin Elizabeth Craig \*\*\*  
 Kellen Ann Daboll  
 Samara Danis \*\*  
 Michael John Delfino  
 Hunter Doran  
 Jillian Christina Dry  
 Adrianna Frerichs \*\*\*  
 Taylor Lynn Gehen \*\*\*  
 Carson V. Hensley \*\*\*  
 Deborah A. Perez  
 Anna Grace Stein \*\*\*  
 Skylar Marie Stychalska \*\*  
 Alexis Katarina Tinoco \*\*  
 Kaiona Marie Vallance \*  
 Chloe Isabel Zahm

### INDIVIDUALIZED STUDIES

#### Bachelor of Science

Hafsah A. Abdulhalim  
 Collisha Spirit Princess Alexis  
 Meghan R. Baio \*\*  
 Trinity Lanez Battle  
 Nya Benitez

Brigid A. Benson \*\*\*†  
 Shaniya Renee Boyd  
 Chanea L. Bramwell  
 Ashley Latrice-Renee Brown  
 Gwendolyn Marie Brown  
 Tatianna Starr Burt  
 Julie Ann Caizza \*\*\*  
 Toiya N. Carr  
 Magdalena M. Casiano \*  
 Cristina Rose Catalano  
 Breyan Lorraine Clifford  
 Tashawni Leone Cornfield  
 Christine Cynkar-Dagonese  
 Sabrina Danilovich  
 Leasah Israella DeLeon  
 Lisa DeLeon  
 Nya Tamara Dias  
 Frances M. DiFrancesco  
 Jaylah I. Duncan  
 Melissa Shannon Fayson  
 Raven Sa'Naa Geneva Gadsden  
 Sabrina Gomez Hernandez  
 Pedro Gonzalez  
 Shannya Julien Gonzalez  
 India Green  
 Scarlett Anne Hanley  
 Morgan Elizabeth Hayes  
 Jaliyah Faith Heard  
 Thomas Shawn Hollander  
 Shaianne Kristen Hunter  
 Kyreshia Quinntevia Jackson  
 Bakri Kadib Alban \*  
 Matthew A. Karovski \*\*\*†  
 Kayla F. Kudlowitz  
 Selvana R. Labib  
 Zachary Robert Lyness  
 Brianna K. Maddan  
 Marisol J. Matias  
 Neahsia Maye  
 Mollie Barbara McCann Poblocki \*  
 Marlene Mejia Tacuba  
 Lakeisha Mongrel  
 Michele Christina Morrocco  
 Albaneh Mosed  
 Jada Mia Murphy §  
 Hannah Elizabeth Nichols  
 Megan Nicole Partsch  
 Clarisa Pascual  
 Saima Rahman  
 Delen Ramovic  
 Natalie Teah Reid  
 Christopher Martin Reinhardt  
 Breanna Lynn Robirds  
 Victoria Naashika adzekebi Sackey  
 Tasnima Sultana Sagida  
 Ayanna Sanders  
 Kaila Jeannette Shabazz  
 Leann S. Shaw  
 Calli Rene Simmons

Tyron Major Smith  
 Ibrahim Sylla  
 Gabrielle Turri  
 Mary Catherine Ventura  
 Christina L. Virella \*\*\*  
 Maurae Columbia Williams  
 Ashley Zapp

### MASTER'S DEGREES AND GRADUATE CERTIFICATES

#### Master of Science

Christina Noel Arroyo  
 Liudmyla Artinger †  
 Lacole Bernadette Brumfield †  
 Matthew Jude Carney  
 Lauren Brooke Cerisano  
 Suzanne Colligan  
 Santazzia Jerre' Collins  
 Jailene J. Colon  
 Kayla Jennie DeLange  
 Marissa Frances Diem  
 Vanessa Scala Erickson  
 Michael Anthony Ferraro  
 Jamayne Lorenzo Fleming  
 Grace Pauline Gallagher  
 Alexandra Christine Ann Green  
 Tori D. Hackett  
 Gabrielle Elizabeth Job  
 Christopher Marchitelli  
 Adrienne N. Morton  
 Adaeze Ndame  
 Grace Katherine O'Leary  
 Brigitte Ortiz  
 Dominique C. Parke  
 Danielle Ralph  
 Wissberline Rene  
 Samantha Saunders  
 Janelle Sekyere  
 Serena Sordetto  
 Madelynn Rosar Stearns  
 Kelis Tamar Swain  
 Steven R. Swiatek  
 Kimberly Tomaszewski  
 Caitlyn Marie Vishion  
 Andrea Lynn Whitney  
 Amanda Wrobel  
 Jessica Wyntjes  
 Michelle Lynne Young

#### Master of Science in Education

Pedro G. Aguirre  
 Duncan James Allan  
 Quinn Joseph Allen  
 Angela Grace Amrhein †  
 Jessica T. Andol  
 Chloe Marie Avino  
 Kamryn Paige Avis

## 2025 CANDIDATES FOR SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND INDIVIDUALIZED AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Willow Katherine Baginski  
 Emily Marie Bailey  
 Maria Santina Ball  
 Hope Balling  
 Jemia Bennett  
 Paige Bernhardt  
 Brittany Lynn Bisher  
 Rebecca A. Blackley  
 Rachael Lynn Blair  
 Emily Elizabeth Bonner  
 Veronica Brittany Borzynski  
 Marilyn Brauer  
 Amanda Frances Breier  
 Kirby Renee Briggs  
 Elizabeth A. Butera  
 Rebekah Elizabeth Calhoun  
 Jaclyn Nicole Campfield  
 Christina Joy Canedo  
 Kayli Lynne Carlsen  
 Sierra Grace Cawthard  
 Laura Brooke Cedrone  
 Alessondra Rose Chimera  
 Hannah Grace Chorey  
 Emily Rose Christmann  
 Jenna Marie Churik  
 Laura Ciminelli  
 Hailey Clark  
 Madison Victoria Clark  
 Gracie Alexandra Cognion  
 Sean Edward Colby  
 Courtney Coningsby  
 Alexander Charles Conmy  
 Julia Ann Connerton  
 Marissa Contangelo  
 Jenna M. Corrao  
 Brian Carl Cotroneo  
 Kaitlyn Victoria Cottrill  
 Elyse Suzanne Crimi  
 Amber Chelise Crittenden  
 Grace Noelle Czyz  
 Grace Marie Dauer  
 Palmina De Miglio  
 Samira Debiew  
 Brianna Morgan Denver  
 Ashley Desiderio  
 Gabriela Camilla-Rose Devero  
 Annaliese J. DiCarlo  
 Thalia T. Dinh  
 Holly Jean Dolan  
 Stacy Doll  
 Kristen Marie Doohan  
 Kaylee M. Dumas  
 Benjamin Spencer Duque  
 Jennifer Marie Durante  
 Sara Therese Dworzanski  
 Renee Marie Edbauer  
 Cheri Ann Enright  
 Jenna Elizabeth Eszak  
 Laura Michelle Evans

Madison Polley Farkas  
 Raana Mohsin Farooqui  
 Emily J. Felong  
 Cassidy Fleming  
 Jaylah Donae Florence-Reed  
 Madison Rae Foley  
 Julia Diane Frank  
 Josette F. Franzone  
 Sophia Fusari  
 Gabrielle Lynn Gajewski  
 Brandon James Garcia  
 McCartney Elizabeth Geartz  
 Sarah Ann Gemmer  
 Meghan Mary Gill  
 Cody Giras  
 Mary Grace Gojevic  
 Shannon Graham  
 Summer Grandinetti  
 Holly Lynn Grayson  
 Lee Gugino  
 Renee Tiana Haase  
 Emily Marie Hannon  
 Michael Donald Hardy  
 Elizabeth A. Harm  
 Alyssa Leanne Hartman  
 Teddi Joanne Hastreiter  
 Blerina Haxhiu  
 Audra Kay Hazelton  
 Samuel J. Hellert  
 Matthew David Henry  
 Danielle E. Herberger  
 Samantha Himes  
 Emily Anne Hoerner  
 Gabrielle Horvath  
 Kelsey Alyse Hosken §  
 Halima Abdi Hussein  
 Xiandra Lee Inwood  
 Alyssa Ann James  
 Natalie Jean Jankowski  
 Valerie Janora  
 Dierra J. Jenkins  
 Alexis Nicole Jones  
 Pashauna Renae Jones  
 Victoria Taylor Kalita  
 Alicia Karski  
 Jennifer Lynn Kelly  
 Suesue Esther Kie  
 Christopher Charles Kilgus  
 Julie Danielle Kilmer  
 Alex M. Kostek  
 Cameron Jolie Kowal  
 Emma Marie Kwiatkowski  
 Taylor Y. LaClair  
 Morgan Patricia Lawton  
 Kaitlyn M. Leaty  
 Jenna Anne Lee  
 Erik Lipa  
 Rebekah Ann Lobur  
 Kara Janette Londres

Tyler M. Lotempio  
 Mackenzie Thomas Luby  
 Toriana May Lucas  
 Johann Mangual  
 Megan Renee McAfee  
 Jada Rosalie McClendon  
 Laura Rose McKenna  
 Jillian Kate Mckinney  
 Meghan McMahan  
 Marissa Grace McMurtree  
 Zachary Gerald Meal  
 Reghan Elizabeth Meek  
 Me Meh  
 Caitlyn Rose Mericle  
 Samantha Lynn Messing  
 Elianna Mikulik  
 Rachel Minor  
 Emilee Anne Misener  
 Jelyn Moyler †  
 Margaret Perry Neureuter  
 Rachel Marie Newman  
 Maryalice May Niver  
 Krista Lynn Noonan  
 Claire Blakeley O'Connor  
 Kristen Oleksy  
 Xavier MJ Orton  
 Daron Stephen Outten  
 Faye Panagopoulos  
 Kayla Marie Paolini  
 Lindsey N. Parini  
 Marissa Parker  
 Ilana Parris  
 Katherine Victoria Pellow  
 Devon Perri  
 Emily Pflieger  
 Thun Wanna Phyo  
 Connor Pignatora  
 Jenna Loral Pilecki  
 Ross J. Pochatko  
 Masha Anais Polk  
 Collin Angelo Polyachyk  
 Danielle Priester  
 Madison Elizabeth Reardon  
 Brianna Ashley Reilly  
 Juliane Marie Reimer †  
 Jacob Michael Rhodes  
 Kathryn Elizabeth Rice  
 Kyle Anthony Ricotta  
 Taylor Alice Robb  
 Amiya Gabrielle Roberts  
 Jessenia Rosado Rivera  
 Ariana E. Roseboro  
 Kristen Royster  
 Ygeutte Nabintu Rudahindwa  
 Melissa Leann Rufus  
 Casey Lynne Rymarczyk  
 Abigail Reynolds Sakowski  
 Katrina Arianna Santiago  
 Arden Lincoln Schadt

Breanna Samantha Schilling §  
 Alyssa Schmitt  
 Jasmine J. Scott  
 Isabella Marie Scozzaro  
 Georgia Marie Sherer  
 Ralia Sherif  
 Brett William Shickluna  
 Lauren Isabell Skalski  
 Abbey Frances Smith  
 Alexander X. Smith  
 Hannah Grace Smith  
 Winter Ciara Smith  
 Chloe Solomon  
 LeAnn Steff  
 Dawn Lynn Stewart  
 Alexandria Megan Stoness  
 Jake Thomas Storey  
 Hannah Sullivan  
 Kelly Anne Taylor  
 Angelica Tennant  
 Iris C. Thomas  
 Cassandra Rose Thurn  
 Stephanie Lynn Tilton  
 Stephen Gregory Travis  
 Alexis Maria Turan-Seaman  
 Rachel May Van Alstine  
 Izabella Ventresca  
 Brianna Frances Virgilio  
 Morgan R. Vullo  
 Cecilia Margaret Mary Wade  
 Megan Walker §  
 Abigail A. Ward  
 Shevon Cassandra Weeks  
 Mackenzie Marie Weinholtz  
 Kaylee Marie-Skye Whalen  
 Natalie Elizabeth White  
 Jenna Willey  
 Clara Nicole Wittman  
 Brianna R. Wright  
 Quinn Wu  
 Austin Thomas Wuerch  
 Kelsey Lynn Zabawa  
 Elizabeth Louise Zackey  
 Jenna Lynn Zamrok  
 Delaney Ann Zander  
 Samantha Marie Zier  
 Ashley Lynn Ziomek  
 Kylie A. Zsebehazy

### Certificate of Advanced Study

Angela Grace Amrhein †  
 Mary Belile  
 Pamela Lynn Choolokian  
 John Fitzgerald Clay  
 Kristen M. Davis  
 Holly Jean Dolan  
 Emily J. Felong  
 Callie Elizabeth Georger

## 2025 CANDIDATES FOR SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND INDIVIDUALIZED AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Veronica Ramona Golden  
Kevin Hurley  
Nicole G. Johnson  
Lisa Ann Josker  
Madeline Ellen Keyes  
Daphne C. McNab  
Jelyn Moyler †  
Austin Louise Nagelhout  
Gianna Grace Palermo  
Juliane Marie Reimer †  
Joshua James Twarozek  
Brianna Michelle Ware

### Graduate Certificate

Luisa Arias  
Liudmyla Artinger †  
Lacole Bernadette Brumfield †  
Martina Calhoun †  
Amanda Kathryn Cataldo  
Justin Alexander Crossfox  
Jenet Gwaki †  
Lisa Hoy  
Sabrina K. Kyte †  
Katelyn Letizia  
Mayeley Ruiz Torres  
Cristina Sarmiento  
Kenia Tavarez

### MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

#### Master of Science

Fiza Mir Abbas  
Samah Mohamed Abdelmoula  
Hassabelnaby  
Najat Abou Chakra  
Rana Abouzeki  
Dilwar Ahmed

Lujain Al Allaf  
Rahaf Al Otaibi  
Hamda Al-Subaey  
Rasheedah Jalal Alashqar  
Mais Bassam Alfuqaha'a  
Fatima Amro Alhumaidi  
Alhanouf Alkhalifa  
Mohammed Alsayed Mahmoud  
Jamila Noor Alshamari  
Alaa Sami Alshantaf  
Lucas de Farias Ribeiro Altmicks  
Christian Ambrosioni  
Gabrielle Tineke Elisabeth Anderson  
Mihai Gabriel Andriescu  
Emefa Ekui Annobil  
Raymonda Georges Antoun  
Nada Melad Arafige  
Asiya Ateeq  
Duygu Avci  
Hanaa Faeq Awad  
Lina Ibrahim Nasry Awwad  
Myriam Azar  
Janine Botha  
Andrea de Azevedo Rajo Cal  
Martina Calhoun †  
Bilkish Cassim  
Michael Anthony Chodkowski  
Nazia Chowdhury  
DeeDee Cieslinski  
Dina Khalil Dawani  
Sara De Ases  
Rezarta Dehima  
Gabriela Diaconu  
Lara Nassim Dissi  
Marie Kristine Clavel Dy Jongco  
Cassandra Kelly Eagan  
Hayat El Siss

Ruby El-Kerdi  
Emad Elqaryouti  
Chante Erasmus  
Rachel Fuller  
Badhma Sini G  
Harlene Fernandez Garcia  
Trevor Gardner  
Jenet Gwaki †  
Amber Quinn Hall  
Isabel Cristina Hermida Cornelio  
Gabriela Elise Hochberg  
Sharmen Casim Ibarrientos  
Maria Paola Jimenez Castro  
Katie de Castro Tourinho Jones  
Sirine Kacem  
Venka Kaselj  
Birjees Kawosa  
Monica Rose Kenney  
Elizabeth Ann Kreppel  
Moegamad Sadruddin Kriel  
Andrew Robert LeBlanc  
Aadelah Limalia  
Manuela Lopez  
Cheuk Kit Ma  
Tamara Rafaat Madanat  
Riley Marshall  
Myriam Cristina Medina Martel  
Nadine Fawzi Merheb  
Jose Raimundo Leal Miranda  
Ngesihle Fortunate Mkhize  
Rosa Maria Montano del Alcazar  
Ardiana Morina  
Momenah Rajab Muslih  
Eliene Silva Neres  
Sarah Elias Nino  
Rayan Abdallah Omeish  
Ioana Georgiana Pescaru

Thamika Pillay  
Feb Ruth Gacao Pinos-an  
Rada Ramadan  
Madison Ramsey  
Roshna Robert  
Ailyn Adanza Royo  
Alberta Sackey  
Maisaa Mahmoud Salameh  
Merjem Salihagic  
Raniah Samhan  
Oscar Almeida dos Santos Neto  
Daniel Anthony Scriven  
Heidy Seas  
Andrew Jordan Shinker  
Malda Shakantana  
Luqmaan Sidat  
Selena Singh  
Fernanda dos Santos Pereira de Souza  
Karina Campos Souza  
Kathryn Lorraine Spychalski  
Sabrina Nicole Stream  
Albana Sylva  
Cassie Sylvain-Champagne  
Luisa Maria Urrea  
Natasha van Rheede van Oudtshoorn  
Harry Jack White  
Nicholas Zoumaris

List compiled May 8, 2025.

\*\*\* *summa cum laude*

\*\* *magna cum laude*

\* *cum laude*

† *dual degree*

§ *veteran*

### PRESIDENT'S MEDAL

The President's Medal is the highest honor the university awards to its graduating students. It recognizes excellence and distinction in scholarship, service to the university and community, and overall achievement.

### 2025 PRESIDENT'S MEDAL FOR OUTSTANDING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT FINALISTS

Gianna A. Casali  
Aoife H. Clune, *Distinction in Research and Creativity*  
Imran Fazal  
Elsa E. Graf

Jacob M. Frothingham, *Distinction as an Agent of Change*  
Lorinda M. John  
Matthew A. Karovski, *Distinction in Service at Buffalo State University*

Samantha A. Kaufman  
Allison C. Panek, *Distinction in Civic Engagement*  
Coralie Theogene, *Distinction in Research and Creativity*

### 2025 PRESIDENT'S MEDAL FOR OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT FINALISTS

Veronica R. Golden, *Distinction in Civic Engagement*

Kaitlyn M. Hyers, *Distinction in Civic Engagement*

Tahynnis D. Newsome  
Sophie Tversky

2025 award information is listed at <https://commencement.buffalostate.edu/student-awards>

## 2025 SCHOOL OF EDUCATION BACCALAUREATE AWARDS

### ELEMENTARY EDUCATION, LITERACY, AND EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Taraifa Alawdi  
Circle of Excellence (Spring 2025)

Ahmad Altabbaa  
Circle of Excellence (Spring 2025)

Destiny Barnes  
Circle of Excellence (Spring 2025)

Yetsira Carrillo  
Circle of Excellence (Fall 2024)

Jennifer Flick  
Circle of Excellence (Spring 2025)

Hannaa Harding  
Circle of Excellence (Spring 2025)

Demetria Kellogg  
Circle of Excellence (Spring 2025)

Lucy Kloepfer  
Lenore Levy Award for Exemplary Performance in Urban School (Fall 2024)  
Circle of Excellence (Fall 2024, Spring 2025)

Hannah Komenda  
Circle of Excellence (Spring 2025)

Zoe Oliver  
Circle of Excellence (Fall 2024)

Deanna Pastor  
Circle of Excellence (Spring 2025)

Magdalynn Tibbetts  
Circle of Excellence (Spring 2025)

### EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION

Isabella Batcho  
Gustave and Geraldine Werner Undergraduate Award (2023–2024)

Kaylin Craig  
Dorothea and Mildred Seegler Endowed Scholarship Award (2023–2024)

Grace Eeley  
Dorothea and Mildred Seegler Endowed Scholarship Award (2024–2025)  
Horace Mann Endowment for Exceptional Education Scholarship (2022–2023, 2023–2024, 2024–2025)

Adrianna Frerichs  
Dorothea and Mildred Seegler Endowed Scholarship Award (2023–2024)

Deborah Perez  
Horace Mann Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Exceptional Education (2022)

## 2025 SCHOOL OF EDUCATION GRADUATE AWARDS

### ELEMENTARY EDUCATION, LITERACY, AND EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Willow Baginski  
Circle of Excellence (Fall 2024)

Emily Cecere  
Circle of Excellence (Fall 2024)

Grace Eeley  
Circle of Excellence (Fall 2024)

Laura Evans  
Norma Munger Sutter Award (Fall 2024)  
Circle of Excellence (Fall 2024, Spring 2025)

Carson Hensley  
Circle of Excellence (Fall 2024)

Suesue Kie  
Circle of Excellence (Fall 2024)

Me Meh  
Circle of Excellence (Fall 2024)

Caitlin Morris  
Circle of Excellence (Fall 2024, Spring 2025)

Samantha Pietrazak  
Circle of Excellence (Fall 2024)

Brenna Snyder  
Circle of Excellence (Fall 2024)

### EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION

Matthew Carney  
The Children's Guild Foundation ABA Scholarship (2022)

Kayla DeLange  
Horace Mann Scholarships for Exceptional Education Students (2022–2023, 2023–2024)  
The Children's Guild Foundation ABA Scholarship (2023)

Grace Gallagher  
The Children's Guild Foundation ABA Scholarship (2023)

Grace Gallagher  
The Children's Guild Foundation ABA Scholarship (2023)

Cody Giras  
Dr. Judith Bondurant-Utz Early Childhood Award (2024)

Horace Mann Scholarships for Exceptional Education Students (2022–2023)

Tori Hackett  
The Children's Guild Foundation ABA Scholarship (2022)

Alyssa Hartman  
Dr. Bernard Yormak Award for Outstanding Graduate Student in Exceptional Education (2024)

Samantha Saunders  
The Children's Guild Foundation ABA Scholarship (2022)

Janelle Sekyere  
The Children's Guild Foundation ABA Scholarship (2024)

Jake Storey  
Dr. Bernard Yormak Award for Outstanding Graduate Student in Exceptional Education (2022)

Joseph and Mary Daly Varga, '43, Graduate Award (2024)

Caitlyn Vishion  
The Children's Guild Foundation ABA Scholarship (2022)

Shevon Weeks  
Horace Mann Award for Outstanding Graduate Student in Exceptional Education (2023)

### HIGHER EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION AND ADULT EDUCATION

Liudmyla Artinger  
Adult Education Spring 2025 Comprehensive Examination Award

Marissa Diem  
Adult Education Fall 2024 Comprehensive Examination Award

Michael Ferraro  
Robert A. Davis Endowed Scholarship (2024)

Steven Swiatek  
Thomas J. Quatroche, Ph.D., Memorial Scholarship (2024)

*Awards listed were granted in 2025 unless otherwise noted.*

## 2025 BACCALAUREATE AWARDS

### CIVIC AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Kelly Anderson  
President's Certificate of Recognition:  
Neighborhood Activist

Imran Fazal  
Deborah K. Renzi Social Advocacy Award  
(2024)

Shazeda Islam  
President's Certificate of Recognition:  
Active Citizen

Mollie McCann Poblocki  
President's Certificate of Recognition:  
Active Citizen

Nathan Palmer  
Fred Howe Outstanding Student Volunteer  
Award (2023)

Jessie Ricotta  
Frederick Howe Outstanding Student  
Volunteer

Demisha Smith  
Outstanding Service-Learning Student

### DEAN'S HONORS PROGRAM

Jaeko Salas Batista

### EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

Kelly Anderson  
Martha Pierce Student Recognition Award

Iris Ofray Rivera  
Alumni Association Award

Daniel Paone  
Alumni Association Award

Kiara Woodward  
EOP Director's Award  
Norman R. McConney Jr. Award for  
Student Excellence

### INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

Jessica Auge  
Buffalo State Scholar-Athlete (2023–2025)

Nicholas Bauer  
Buffalo State Scholar-Athlete (2023–2025)

Connor Bizal  
Buffalo State Scholar-Athlete (2023–2025)

Samantha Coakley  
Buffalo State Scholar-Athlete (2023–2025)

Sarah Congelosi  
Buffalo State Scholar-Athlete (2023–2025)

Ayden Cristales  
Buffalo State Scholar-Athlete (2023–2025)

Ion Croitor  
Buffalo State Scholar-Athlete (2023–2025)

Sarah Dauer  
Buffalo State Scholar-Athlete (2023–2025)

Eve DiCarlo  
Buffalo State Scholar-Athlete (2024, 2025)

Justin Emerson  
Buffalo State Scholar-Athlete (2023–2025)

Hannah Esslie  
Buffalo State Scholar-Athlete (2024, 2025)

Domenic Ferguson  
Buffalo State Scholar-Athlete (2023–2025)

Jason Gatti-Ezard  
Buffalo State Scholar-Athlete (2024, 2025)

Josef Glamos  
Buffalo State Scholar-Athlete (2023–2025)

Sophia Graczyk  
Buffalo State Scholar-Athlete (2023–2025)

Madalyn Hannon  
Buffalo State Scholar-Athlete (2023–2025)

Eden Harrison  
Buffalo State Scholar-Athlete (2023–2025)

Adiya Jones  
Buffalo State Scholar-Athlete (2023–2025)

Samantha Kaufman  
Buffalo State Scholar-Athlete (2023–2025)

Demetria Kellogg  
Buffalo State Scholar-Athlete (2023–2025)

Julian Maloney  
Buffalo State Scholar-Athlete (2023–2025)

Nicholas Moore  
Buffalo State Scholar-Athlete (2023–2025)

Dodou Ndow  
Buffalo State Scholar-Athlete (2024, 2025)

Camryn O'Hara  
Buffalo State Scholar-Athlete (2023–2025)

Keyni Onama  
Buffalo State Scholar-Athlete (2023–2025)

Manu Prieto  
Buffalo State Scholar Athlete

Sage Running Rabbit  
Buffalo State Scholar-Athlete (2023–2025)

Sebastian Sierra  
Buffalo State Scholar-Athlete (2023–2025)

Tyler Spencer  
Buffalo State Scholar-Athlete (2023–2025)

Shae Wirt  
Buffalo State Scholar-Athlete (2024, 2025)

David Wozniak  
Buffalo State Scholar-Athlete (2023–2025)

### MURIEL A. HOWARD HONORS PROGRAM

Ayoko Abaglo  
Chloe Adams  
Noah Adams  
Catherine Alverson

Jessica Auge  
Samantha Banach  
Cassidy Baron  
Catherine Baxter

Brigid Benson  
Moss Bertini  
Liliana Billi  
Connor Bizal

Talidy Blijden  
Jaden Brice  
Cecilia Brooks  
Christopher Burgio

Kassidy Caldwell  
Emily Cendrowski  
Stephanie Clement  
Aoife Clune

Gabriella Colton  
Mary Teresa Comerate  
Sarah Congelosi  
Emily Cooper

Nicolina Creasey  
Ion Croitor  
Daniel Dale  
Chelsea Daley

Sarah Dauer  
Samayah Daughtry  
Madeline Della Vella  
Elizabeth Denis-Torres

Madison Dobucki  
Devin Dulinawka  
Thomas Dupee  
Grace Eleey

Hannah Esslie  
Anthony Falzarano  
Josette Fleming  
Jennifer Flick

Ashbiya Giri  
Christopher Goodlander

Elsa Graf  
Evelyn Grapes  
Ava Grohusko  
Eden Harrison

Isabelle Hillestad  
Mackenzey Holmes  
Samia Hussain  
Abigail Jacobs

Martie Jones  
Mya Jones  
Sencere Jones  
Madison Joyce

Cameron Juzdowski  
Jack Kaczmarowski  
Aliyyah Karam  
Matthew Karovski

Samantha Kaufman  
Demetria Kellogg  
Danielle King  
Cora Kubiak

Bethany Kulikowski  
Lisbet Lopez Paz  
Sean Mahn  
Haley Mazgaj

Hannah McMahon  
Caitlin Morris  
Edward Murphy  
Alyssa Norton

Anisa Parsons  
Amiyah Pope  
Brennan Postich  
Sarah Pratt

Amy Ramos  
Delaney Reid  
Magdalene Restuccia  
Shimla Rima

Olivia Rodriguez  
Isaiah Ruth  
Mary Schmitz  
Jennifer Segura Lopez

Andrew Sheedy  
Rylee Shott  
Abigail Silsby  
Keely-Ann Simpson

Anthony Skubis  
Demisha Smith  
Daniel Sorge  
Joshua Spaulding

Anna Stein  
Hannah Steiner  
Shelby Stisser

## 2025 BACCALAUREATE AWARDS

Ruthie Swann  
Tyler Troyer  
Leanna Tse  
Abigail Verner  
Rachel Vitko  
Michael Vullo  
Alana Watson  
Notebook Wiertel  
David Wozniak

### ROSS B. KENZIE FAMILY PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Ayoko Abaglo  
Mya Jones  
Olivia Rodriguez  
Jennifer Segura Lopez  
Keely-Ann Simpson

### STUDENT AFFAIRS

Ndow Dodou  
Phillip Santa Maria Memorial Award (2024)  
Imran Fazal  
Phillip Santa Maria Memorial Award  
Ashbiya Giri  
Phillip Santa Maria Award for Student  
Leadership in Equity and Campus Diversity  
(2025)

Matthew Karovski  
Mildred Keller Campbell Student  
Leadership Award

Ruthie Swann  
Minnie and Joe Engel Student  
Humanitarian Award

Coralie Theogene  
Luis M. Antonetti Student Humanitarian  
Award

## 2025 GRADUATE AWARDS

### CIVIC AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Cassandra Carter  
President's Certificate of Recognition: Active  
Citizen (2024)

Michele Hovey  
President's Certificate of Recognition:  
Neighborhood Activist (2021)

### GRADUATE STUDIES

Santazzia Collins  
SUNY Diversity Fellowship Award  
(2024, 2025)

Olivia Evans  
SUNY Diversity Fellowship Award  
(2024, 2025)

Raana Farooqui  
SUNY Diversity Fellowship Award  
(2024, 2025)

Veronica Golden  
SUNY Diversity Fellowship Award  
(2024, 2025)

Kimberly Goodwin  
SUNY Diversity Fellowship Award  
(2024, 2025)

Mikala Highsmith  
SUNY Diversity Fellowship Award  
(2024, 2025)

Halima Hussein  
SUNY Diversity Fellowship Award  
(2024, 2025)

Me Meh  
SUNY Diversity Fellowship Award  
(2024, 2025)

Justin Moore  
SUNY Diversity Fellowship Award  
(2024, 2025)

Mariah Murphy  
SUNY Diversity Fellowship Award  
(2024, 2025)

Anuoluwapo Olatunji  
SUNY Diversity Fellowship Award  
(2024, 2025)

Faye Panagopoulos  
SUNY Diversity Fellowship Award  
(2024, 2025)

Ralia Sherif  
SUNY Diversity Fellowship Award  
(2024, 2025)

Derek Smith  
SUNY Diversity Fellowship Award  
(2024, 2025)

Kelis Swain  
SUNY Diversity Fellowship Award  
(2024, 2025)

Samantha Wild  
SUNY Diversity Fellowship Award  
(2024, 2025)

*Awards listed were granted in 2025  
unless otherwise noted.*

### STUDENT MARSHALS

Outstanding graduating students from our three academic schools will be designated as student marshals. Two baccalaureate degree candidates and one master's degree candidate will represent their respective schools at their Commencement ceremony. Student marshals are chosen on the basis of their academic achievement, engagement within their program, and involvement in curricular and extracurricular pursuits.

### SCHOOL OF THE PROFESSIONS

Gianna A. Casali      Kaitlyn M. Hyers      Amy Ramos-Paredes

### SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Catherine E. Alverson      Emily R. Klimczak      Michael V. Vullo

### SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Jennifer M. Flick      Alexandra C. A. Green      Mya A. Jones

## ACADEMIC TRADITIONS

### ACADEMIC PROCESSIONAL AND RECESSIONAL

The academic processional begins with the entrance of the seating marshals, who lead the degree candidates to their seats. Faculty marchers follow, escorted to their places by the head marshal. The mace bearer then leads the platform party, which includes the dignitaries, honorees, and university administration, to the stage.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the recessional order is reversed: the last to have entered the arena are the first to recess, in accordance with the ceremony's ecclesiastical origins. The mace bearer leads the platform party, headed by the university president, at a quicker and more celebratory pace than in the processional. The platform party is followed by the faculty marchers and, finally, the graduates, while guests witness the pageantry to its close.

### THE MACE AND MEDALLION

By tradition, seals of office and tools of authority have been incorporated in the ceremonies that invest individuals with the responsibilities and power of official leadership. Today purely symbolic, these objects once effected control themselves, the mace having been originally an iron club capable of breaking armor.

About the middle of the thirteenth century, the mace was adopted for civic purposes. Much earlier, seals, from which the university medallion was derived, constituted the official signatures of heads of church and state. Today, the academic seal, representing the office of the university president, and the mace, standing for order and authority, have become part of the pageantry of symbolism involved in formal academic ceremonies.

For Buffalo State, both mace and medallion are enhanced by their being the design and work of faculty members. The gold medallion was designed by the late Earl W. Wolfgruber, a member of the Design Department faculty for 20 years. A gift of the Class of 1968, it was first used that year for the inauguration of President E. K. Fretwell Jr. and has been worn on official university occasions since. A neck piece was added in 1987, designed and crafted by Stephen F. Saracino, professor of design.

The 1968 inauguration was also the first occasion for the use of the rosewood and silver mace, designed and built by Douglas E. Sigler, at that time an assistant professor of design. The flaring silver flanges that circle the crown of the mace carry the engraved names of each president of the university. Incorporated in the total design are abstract concepts of flame, dove, and hands, used by the university to signify learning and aspiration. All formal academic processions are led by a mace bearer with this staff of authority in hand.

### ACADEMIC ATTIRE

Academic attire—cap, gown, and hood—is higher education's link with its long and illustrious past. Like judicial dress, it originated in the twelfth century with the medieval clergy, whose ecclesiastical dress probably derived, in turn, from civilian attire at an earlier age. Medieval scholars were almost all clergymen, and the earliest illustrations available show gowns that somewhat resemble cassocks. Universities of the period were primarily education guilds, the term “bachelor” denoting an apprentice, “master” a full member of the guild, and “doctor” one who had attained the highest degree of learning in a particular field.

In the United States, academic attire began to be used extensively at the end of the nineteenth century. It has given America a beautiful and impressive method of signifying academic honors.

The bachelor's gown is black and worn closed, distinguished by its long, pointed sleeves; the master's gown is designed to be worn open and has long sleeves with square base and arc cut; the doctor's gown, worn open or closed, has velvet panels down the front and three bars on the round, full sleeve. The color of the velvet may signify the field of study.

The hood is the most distinguishing feature of academic attire. Its colors indicate the degree of the wearer and the institution attended. The bachelor's and the master's hoods are similar in design, but the bachelor's is 3 feet long while the master's is 3½ feet long. The colors of the silk lining exposed in the center of the hood are those of the institution conferring the degree, for example, blue and gold for the State University of New York. The edging of the hood indicates the academic discipline.

Since the hood no longer serves as a head covering, the mortarboard, which originated in English universities, is worn. A long tassel of black or of a color appropriate to the degree is fastened in the middle of the top of the cap. The doctor's cap may have a gold tassel. Recently, soft velvet tams have become popular for holders of advanced degrees.

Academic attire serves two purposes: it gives a sense of dignity and tradition to the ceremony, and it links those who wear it—students, faculty, and professionals—to all the men and women who have sought learning over the past centuries.

### Degree colors are as follows:

agriculture . . . . .	maize
arts, letters, humanities . . . . .	white
business . . . . .	drab
dentistry . . . . .	lilac
economics . . . . .	copper
education . . . . .	light blue
engineering . . . . .	orange
fine arts . . . . .	brown
forestry . . . . .	russet
journalism . . . . .	crimson
law . . . . .	purple
library science . . . . .	lemon
medicine . . . . .	green
music . . . . .	pink
nursing . . . . .	apricot
pharmacy . . . . .	olive green
philosophy . . . . .	dark blue
physical education . . . . .	sage green
public administration . . . . .	peacock blue
public health . . . . .	salmon pink
science . . . . .	golden yellow
social science . . . . .	cream
social work . . . . .	citron
speech . . . . .	silver gray
theology . . . . .	scarlet
veterinary science . . . . .	gray

## ACADEMIC TRADITIONS

### GRADUATE HOODING AND VESTING CEREMONY

Buffalo State master's degree recipients are individually recognized by the ceremonial placement of their degree-appropriate hoods, called hooding, during the Commencement ceremony. Certificate of advanced study (C.A.S.) recipients are vested with black-and-orange stoles, while graduate certificate recipients receive a white and orange cord.

### STUDENT HONORS ACHIEVEMENT STUDENT ORGANIZATION AFFILIATIONS

#### The Gold Honors Cord

Graduates wearing gold cords at Commencement have achieved the distinction of graduating with academic honors. An honors citation is given to bachelor's students who have maintained a minimum 3.50 grade point average for all work completed at Buffalo State. Graduates who have completed a minimum of 60 credit hours at Buffalo State with an average of 3.80 to 4.00 are designated summa cum laude, 3.65 to 3.79 magna cum laude, and 3.50 to 3.64 cum laude.

#### The Gold Tassel

Graduates wearing gold tassels on their mortarboards have completed the Buffalo State Muriel A. Howard Honors Program or the Dean's Honors Program. Qualified students enter the programs as freshmen from high school, sophomores already attending Buffalo State, and when transferring from community colleges. Many honors program students receive academic scholarships, with funds provided by private donations and administered by the Buffalo State Foundation.

#### Military Honors Cord

The red, white, and blue cord is used nationally to recognize honorably discharged U.S. veteran students, current students serving in the U.S. military (active duty, National Guard, Reserves), and Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) students commissioned upon graduation. Military-affiliated faculty and staff processors may also wear this cord.

#### Honor Society Cords

Students who are inducted members of national honor societies affiliated with Buffalo State are eligible to wear the appropriate honors cords designating their disciplines and honor societies.

#### Student Organization Regalia

Student members of campus professional and cultural organizations are eligible to wear the stoles representing their groups.

#### International

Students with international affiliations may wear stoles in accordance with their cultural traditions.

### PAST AWARDS

For a historical listing of State University of New York award recipients, Buffalo State award recipients, and Buffalo State Distinguished Alumnus Award recipients, please visit <https://academicaffairs.buffalostate.edu/previous-buffalo-state-award-recipients>.

### ACCREDITATIONS

Buffalo State is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, 1007 North Orange Street, 4th Floor, MB #166, Wilmington, DE 19801. The Middle States Commission on Higher Education is an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. secretary of education and the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation. Buffalo State also is accredited by the Board of Regents, University of the State of New York. In addition, the following professional organizations have determined that Buffalo State programs meet their accreditation requirements:

- *Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND)*<sup>1</sup>
- *Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (Weigel Health Center)*
- *Accreditation Commission for Programs in Hospitality Administration (ACPHA)*
- *Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC)*
- *American Alliance of Museums (Burchfield Penney Art Center)*
- *American Chemical Society (ACS)*
- *Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering (ATMAE)*
- *Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA)*<sup>2</sup>
- *Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)*<sup>3</sup>
- *Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA)*
- *Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)*
- *Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission (ETAC)*<sup>4</sup>
- *Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC)*
- *International Association of Counseling Services (Counseling Center)*
- *National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD)*
- *National Association of Schools of Music (NASM)*
- *National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST)*

Accreditation papers may be reviewed in the Provost's Office, Cleveland Hall 519.

<sup>1</sup> SUNY Buffalo State's Nutrition and Dietetics program is accredited by Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). Email: ACEND@eatright.org; Phone: (800) 877-1600, ext. 5400; Mail: 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190, Chicago, IL 60606-6995; <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend>.

SUNY Buffalo State's Dietetics Program is accredited by Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). Email: ACEND@eatright.org; Phone: (800) 877-1600, ext. 5400; Mail: 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2190, Chicago, IL 60606-6995; <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend>.

<sup>2</sup> CAA, Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology, is the accrediting body of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), <http://www.asha.org/academic/accreditation/>, of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 2200 Research Boulevard #310, Rockville, Maryland 20850; (800) 498-2071 or (301) 296-5700.

<sup>3</sup> The initial and advanced level education programs at SUNY Buffalo State are accredited by The Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). 1140 19th St NW, Suite 400 Washington, D.C. 20036; (202) 223-0077.

<sup>4</sup> The Electrical Engineering Technology, Electronics and Electrical Engineering, Smart Grid programs are accredited by the Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission of ABET, <http://www.abet.org>.

## 2025 COMMENCEMENT

### MARSHALS

#### University Marshal

Howard M. Reid  
Professor, Psychology Department

#### Faculty Marshals

Lee Ann Grace  
Associate Professor Emerita, Modern and Classical Languages Department

Kimberly J. Jackson, '84  
Deputy Director of Commencement and Ceremonial Events, Academic Affairs Office

Raquel J. Schmidt, '94, '96  
Associate Dean, School of Education

#### Seating Marshals

Lisa Marie Anselmi  
Chair and Associate Professor, Anthropology Department

Atta A. Ceesay  
Associate Dean, School of Arts and Sciences

Julian C. Cole  
Interim Associate Dean, School of Arts and Sciences

Molly L. Holinger, '16  
Interim Chair, Creativity and Change Leadership

Susan A. McCartney  
Director, Small Business Development Center

Raquel J. Schmidt, '94, '96  
Associate Dean, School of Education

Amy B. Wilson  
Chair and Professor, Higher Education Administration and Adult Education Department

### ANNOUNCERS

Saqib M. Ahmed  
Associate Professor, Engineering Technology Department

Jevon D. Hunter  
Woods-Beals Endowed Chair, School of Education

Drew J. Kahn  
SUNY Distinguished Service Professor, Theater Department; Director, Anne Frank Project

Meg E. Knowles  
Associate Professor, Communication Department

Amy M. McMillan  
Director, Muriel A. Howard Honors Program

Gerard J. Puccio, '85, '88  
SUNY Distinguished Professor, Creativity and Change Leadership

Gehan Senthinathan  
Assistant Professor, Social and Psychological Foundations of Education Department

Jennifer J. Toohey  
Coordinator, Theater Department

### COMMENCEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Molly L. Holinger, '16, Committee Chair  
Interim Chair, Creativity and Change Leadership

Marko J. Miletich, Committee Vice Chair  
Assistant Professor, Modern and Classical Languages Department

Gliset C. Morales, '03, '08, Immediate Past Committee Chair  
Associate Professor, Exceptional Education Department

Howard M. Reid, University Marshal  
Professor, Psychology Department

LeVar N. Burke, President's Representative  
Chief of Staff, President's Office

Carolyn A. Morris-Hunt, President's Representative  
Director of Presidential Events and Protocol, President's Office

Kimberly J. Jackson, '84, Provost's Representative  
Deputy Director of Commencement and Ceremonial Events, Academic Affairs Office

Alexis S. Greinert, Operations Subcommittee Chair  
Interim Director, Events Management Office

Brian C. Kantz, Communications Subcommittee Chair  
Creative Services Director, Marketing and Communications Office

Gehan Senthinathan, President's Medal/Chancellor's Award Subcommittee Chair  
Assistant Professor, Social and Psychological Foundations of Education Department

Jennifer J. Toohey, Honorary Doctorate Subcommittee Chair  
Coordinator, Theater Department

Catherine A. Cook, Committee Secretary  
Administrative Assistant 2, Academic Affairs Office

Katelyn M. Brickhouse, '22  
Director, Alumni Engagement Office

Atta A. Ceesay  
Associate Dean, School of Arts and Sciences

Julian C. Cole  
Interim Associate Dean, School of Arts and Sciences

Kathy R. Doody, '03  
Professor, Exceptional Education Department

Ricky L. Fleming  
Professor, Music Department

Abigail M. Gammel  
Student Representative

Abdollah Hajikandi  
Director of Academic Services, Educational Opportunity Program

Jude M. A. Jayatilleke  
ACE Program Director, Vice President for Enrollment Management Office

Amanda M. Marzolf  
Executive Assistant to the Dean, School of the Professions

Bernadette K. Matre, '01  
Director Emerita, Events Management Office

Amy M. McMillan  
Director, Muriel A. Howard Honors Program

Lisa T. Morrison-Fronckowiak  
Chief Diversity Officer, Institutional Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Office

Eyad J. Naseralla  
Assistant Professor, Psychology Department

Shantell M. Reid, '06, '14  
Assistant Professor, Fashion and Textile Technology Department

Josue Rosario-Caliz  
Interim Director, Student Leadership and Engagement

Raquel J. Schmidt, '94, '96  
Associate Dean, School of Education

Madison E. Sierra  
Student Representative

Vida Vanchan  
Professor, Geosciences Department

Sherri M. Weber  
Associate Professor, Elementary Education, Literacy, and Educational Leadership Department

Kenneth J. Williams  
Coordinator for Veteran Services, Veteran and Military Services

Amy B. Wilson  
Chair and Professor, Higher Education Administration and Adult Education Department

Shawnte A. Wilson  
Director of Student Success, Vice President for Enrollment Management Office

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*Buffalo State is deeply grateful to the many members of the university community who volunteered their time as marchers, hooders, and ushers during the Commencement ceremonies honoring the Class of 2025.*

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Merryl H. Tisch, *Chairman*  
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Courtney E. Burke  
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Marcos A. Crespo  
Robert J. Duffy  
James F. Haddon  
Giovanni Harvey, *Student Representative*  
Keith Landa, *Faculty Representative*  
Eunice A. Lewin  
Stanley S. Litow  
Edward M. Spiro  
Cary F. Staller  
Candice Vacin, *Faculty Representative*  
Camille Joseph Varlack  
John B. King Jr., *Chancellor*

## BUFFALO STATE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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James J. Rehak Jr., '95, <i>Secretary</i>	Abdollah Hajikandi
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James Brandys, '71, '73	Anthony Nanula
Jody E. Briandi	Thomas T. O'Brien
Robert W. Christmann, '75	EuGene Alexander Peters, '84, '88
Vincent M. Cutrona, '00	Daniel O. Proto, '70
Kathy R. Doody, '03	Kenneth J. Sodaro, '85
Bonita R. Durand	David P. Taggart, '89

## BUFFALO STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Stacy E. Lewis Beauford, '01, *President*  
Jane E. Gilbride, '91, *Vice President*  
Maureen Hammett, '85, '88, '92, *Secretary*  
David J. Zapfel, '85, *Treasurer*

## BUFFALO STATE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

Linda A. Dobmeier, '71, <i>Chair</i>	Gary Siddall, '12
Patricia Farrell	Mo Sumbundu, '13, '17
Allen F. "Pete" Grum	Robert M. Zak
Kevin Horrigan, '92	Michelle Cox, <i>Student Representative</i>

## BUFFALO STATE COUNCIL EMERITI

William J. Bissett	JoAnn M. Mikulec
Charles G. Blaine*	Walter E. Moxham Jr.
James Brandys, '71, '73	Matthew J. Murphy Jr.*
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Anne Laura Koessler Brosnahan	Alphonso V. O'Neil-White
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Sylvia Callistein*	Yvonne Scruggs-Leftwich*
Mildred K. Campbell*	Olivia Smith-Blackwell
Louis P. Ciminelli	Richard H. Speranza*
Paul P. Cohen*	Margaret G. Swift*
Peter D. Corson*	Paul A. Tokasz, '71
Peter Fleischmann	Timothy J. Toohey
Pasquale Greco*	Jody B. Ulrich, '82
Mylous A. Hairston, '86	Ruth W. Urban*
Walter B. Holland Jr.	Raymond P. Weil Sr.*
John T. Hoskins Sr.*	Kate Butler Wallis Wickham*
Edward T. Hunt Jr., '52	Howard A. Zemsky
Arlene F. Kaukus, '75	Leslie Zemsky
Ross B. Kenzie*	
David J. Laub*	
Randolph A. Marks*	
Brenda Williams McDuffie, '74	<i>*deceased</i>

## BUFFALO STATE ADMINISTRATION

Bonita R. Durand, *Interim President*  
Amitra A. Wall, *Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs*  
James A. Thor, *Interim Vice President for Financial Operations and Comptroller*  
Lisa H. Krieger, *Interim Vice President for Management and Operations*  
James M. Finnerty, *Vice President for Institutional Advancement and External Relations; Executive Director of the Buffalo State Foundation*  
David P. Loreto, *Interim Vice President for Enrollment Management*  
Wayne Brumfield, *Interim Vice President for Student Affairs*  
Lisa T. Morrison-Fronckowiak, *Chief Diversity Officer*  
LeVar N. Burke, *Chief of Staff; Council Secretary*  
Kelly M. Frothingham, '94, '97, *Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences*  
Carol A. DeNysschen, *Dean of the School of the Professions*  
Wendy A. Paterson, '75, '76, *Dean of the School of Education*

