

WORLD CLASS SCHOOLS OF LEON COUNTY, INC. PRESENTS



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Best & Brightest Awards Ceremony at Ruby Diamond Theatre
6:30 pm on Wednesday May 11, 2022



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HISTORY OF BEST & BRIGHTEST

Seventeen years ago, a group of community leaders worked together to bring to life an idea conceived by Ron Sachs: to honor and recognize some of Leon County's top high school seniors with scholarships for their work in diverse academic and leadership categories. But, a key difference from other scholarships was the overarching focus on students who have demonstrated a genuine heart and commitment for service. And so it began, in 2006, The Best & Brightest Awards — reflecting a positive partnership among Leon County Schools, Leon County Schools Foundation (during the first year), World Class Schools of Leon County, the Tallahassee Democrat, Envision Credit Union and Sachs Media Group.

In that first year of The Best & Brightest Awards, 81 students were selected for such high honors as school-based winners in Leon County. Major scholarships were then awarded in each of 15 categories in countywide finals, \$500 Winner, \$250 Runner-up, and \$100 Honorable Mention. Then, and in every year since, the students are evaluated on their academic record of excellence, school and community service and leadership. They also demonstrate personal interview effectiveness with a panel of three community leaders who serve as judges

in each of the 15 categories. Through our sponsors' continued support, the scholarships have significantly grown: \$1,500 Winner; \$750 Runner-up; \$500 Honorable Mention — and \$100 for all other school-based winners.

In 2011, we added an annual 8th Grade Essay contest — to reach down to the middle schools and to encourage a culture of service among those students who have been learning about civics and forming their ultimate interests. Public and private schools select their top three essays to compete for the countywide recognition, with scholarships of \$500 Winner, \$250 Runner-up and \$100 Honorable Mention.

More than \$848,350 has been awarded to 2433 seniors and 551 eighth graders during these 17 years. We are proud to celebrate The Best & Brightest Awards by inspiring young people in our community to strive for academic excellence — but to also place a priority on service to others as an ethic to be embraced for life. Every year, the stories, examples and achievements of these outstanding senior high school student leaders inspire their peers and younger students to reach higher — and comfort all of us about the future of our community, state, country and world being entrusted to such fine human beings.

BEST & BRIGHTEST LOGOS THROUGH THE YEARS



2006



2007–2014



2015



2020

HONORABLE MENTION



ANN NGUYEN
Florida State
University Schools

While Ann Nguyen may have seen community service and participating in clubs as just another task required to build her resume, it turned into activities that were able to completely step her out of her comfort zone and open her up to new opportunities throughout her school and community. Nguyen continues to be a pillar in her community through her art, dedication to service, and willingness to inspire those around her.

With Nguyen's artistic ability, she was able to incorporate her art into the activities she involved herself with. "Ann has always devoted her attention, creativity, and detail into the school as a whole, often volunteering to make creative signs and posters for meetings, interest rush, and many more," said Deborah Whetstone, Model United Nations advisor. "Her calm, composed demeanor is already that of a future artist and statesman, able to focus on both beauty and reality."

Nguyen's paintings often reflect her personal life and is a way for her to express her emotions through her artistic capabilities. Whether she was able to do this through colored pens and markers or through digital art, her paintings often uncovered deeper meanings and glimpse into her frame of mind.

Activity Highlights: Teacher's Aid and Madricha at Temple Israel (2018-19); camp counselor

My Legacy: "I hope to leave behind art work that showcases my Judaism. Judaism has been a helpful guide for me in learning the value of community and I would like to show others that being part of the community is very rewarding as well as helpful. My Art has been the most useful tool for me to express my gratitude."

What Others Are Saying: "She has a tenacity for perfection and a work ethic that is rare in a person her age. Talia is a proactive artist, consistently seeking feedback and guidance for pushing her dynamic compositions and technical use of materials."

– Sheri Nilles Marshall, 2D & 3D Advanced Placement Instructor, SAIL

GRACE KERWIN

Leon High School



Awards and Honors: Leon Mosaic Artist; Pierian National Honors Society (2019-22); Varsity Swim Regional team (2018-19); Varsity Golf All Big Bend 2nd Team (2020); Wonder Girl Award; Interact Member (2018-22); Dance Marathon Executive Board and Family Liaison Chair (2018-22)

Activity Highlights: Camp Counselor; Leon Dance Marathon; Cure JDM Classic; TMH Child Life Specialist; designed and donated Lion prints for senior gifts; Student Government Association state conference

My Legacy: "I know every single person has something in their life that they battle. Each day I wake up knowing it is an opportunity to make someone smile. I want people to remember me as someone who made them feel valued as a person. I want to pour into others the same way that people encouraged me on my worst days."

What Others Are Saying: "The three values that are constant with Grace are her spirit filled heart that desires to help others, her unwavering work ethic that I have witnessed during her constant treatments, and her focus on realizing all of her potential."

– Jennifer Hyde, Head Coach, FSU Women's Tennis Program

SARAH MASON

Godby High School



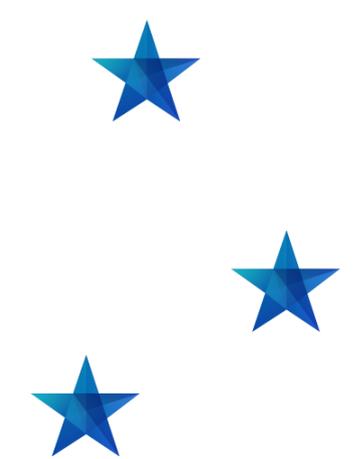
Awards and Honors: FAMU Art Gallery Showcase; Honor Roll

Activity Highlights: volunteer Phenomenal Tresses Hair Salon; Godby Yearbook design

My Legacy: "I want to leave behind the legacy of nonconforming. A legacy that will inspire the coming classes to remember creativity and intelligence and that drives them to be truthful and respectful to themselves and those around them. I want to look back and remember I never followed the crowd but stood strong in what I hoped to achieve."

What Others Are Saying: "She is a bright, hard working and interesting person. She has always shown herself to be a responsible young woman taking on several pages and spreads and using her artistic eye for design to create amazing works of art in our yearbook this year."

– Randi Lundgren, Fine Arts Dept. Chair, Godby



RUNNER-UP



DARELL WILLIAMS

FAMU Developmental Research School

As a strong leader in his community, Darell Williams believes it's vital to "give back to those that gave to you." It's a motto that resonates with Williams and has guided him in his community service, leadership roles, and organizations he is affiliated with.

Williams is an active member of the Omega Lamplighters, a youth leadership organization for young men grades fourth through twelfth. Williams serves as the Vice President and has been an officer in the program for the last two years. The program teaches academic and social skills on top of building networking opportunities and ensuring members success as students and citizens. Williams grew into an advocate for ending gun violence through this organization and became a spokesman for the issue, doing interviews with local media.

"I hope to leave behind a legacy of being a positive leader and succeeding in becoming a freelance graphic designer and illustrator," said Williams. "I want to own my own graphic design making business and give back to the community that gave so much to me."

William's passion for creating comic book illustrations drives him to keep pushing to be successful in his future endeavors and to kickstart his career to create stories for other people to enjoy.

"Everyone on campus knows Sarah Caulley for all the right reasons. She's a vital member of our school's community," said AP English Language and Composition teacher Lee Norment, who is a fierce advocate for Soto. "We all know her for her athletic prowess, for she's one of the top pole vaulters in the region. More, we've also seen her art displayed on our campus and at several local galleries. She's deeply involved in our community and someone who makes our school a better and brighter place."

With everything that Soto has dedicated her time to, her passion lies with her artistic abilities. Whether she was taking pictures of animals in Africa to use in her school's art gallery, taking action shots of Olympic swimmers, or placing in over six art shows for several years, she believes that "inspiring students to channel their emotions and ideas into creative works and sharing these works and stories is vital," Soto said. "Using creativity as a way to inspire other students and bring a light to those around them is incredibly important to me."

SARAH CAULLEY SOTO

Maclay School

Whether Sarah Caulley was dedicating over 600 hours of service to her community, excelling in her studies being top 10% in her class, spearheading the creation of a club at her school, or creating an inspiration art gallery that is showcased in her school's office for her classmates to enjoy, Soto depicts what the Best & Brightest entails and continues to be a vital member throughout her campus and community. Her dedication to serving others can be linked to her passion for art and has allowed her endless opportunities to showcase her talent.

Not only does Soto excel in her field as an artist, but she also dedicated her time at Maclay to becoming a well-rounded individual that is capable of taking on several different interests throughout her four years. As a sophomore, Soto jumpstarted meetings for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, where student athletes could come together in prayer and worship every Friday morning. Through this organization, she was able to create graphics for the club to promote events and upcoming speakers while simultaneously being the backbone for planning meetings and events associated with FCA. Soto is one of the top pole vaulters in the region and was named a Scholar Athlete each season while also raising over \$2000 dollars her sophomore and junior year for Dance Marathon. Further, being named Sponsorship Chair her senior year for her dedication to Dance Marathon.

WINNER



SOFIA MCCLARNON

Rickards High School



Awards and Honors: created the Youth Resilience Award design for Florida Network for Youth & Family Services; North Florida Fair Junior Fine Arts Award winner (2019-2021); Florida Animation Festival Official Selection for stop motion short film; curator and founding member of Rickards S.W.A.N. Artist collective; Envision Credit Union Mural Contest finalist

Activity Highlights: Tallahassee Museum assistant camp counselor; LeMoyné Arts Gallery and Chain of Parks volunteer (2020-22); Experience Asia Tallahassee

My Legacy: "As a founding member and current president of my school's artist collective, I hope to leave behind a legacy of support for student artists and a positive space to create art. I hope that the collective me and my classmates have created will continue to be a supportive environment where students can help, and share opportunities with each other."

What Others Are Saying: "She is a maker: from an early age she began experimenting with materials – how they fit together, interact, and come together to create something new. I don't believe there's ever been a point in her life where she stopped making."

– Jessica Barthle, 3D & International Bachelorette Art Educator, Rickards

CARMEN POWELL

Chiles High School



Awards and Honors: 2021 Mahaska Whitley Student Exhibition General Artist Award; Chiles Academic Achievement Award (2018-21); A/B Honor Roll for 14 consecutive semesters; National Honors Society

Activity Highlights: Gallop's Karate student; Sunday School teacher, leader and vacation bible school volunteer; Love At Work outreach program; Live It Up Club-CHS volunteer

My Legacy: "To help my younger friends and siblings by leading a blueprint of how-to into DRS

the future. I want them to learn from my own mistakes, seek me out for advice and guidance, and not to be afraid they won't succeed."

What Others Are Saying: "Carmen's sensitivity to the nuances of design elements, and her passion for self-expression sets her apart both as a student and as an artist."

– Teresa Coates, AP 2D Design, Chiles

MARIA ZHANG

Lincoln High School



Awards and Honors: National Art Honors Society (2019-22); US International Kuo Shu Championship Tournament (2019); National Honors Society (2019-22); Principal's Award (2019-20); Art Club Vice-President

Activity Highlights: Youth Leadership Tallahassee Class 17; Leon County Public Library Teen Advisory Board; She Codes Art website director; FSU FreeCon promotions artist and event manager; Buck Lake Elementary ESS teacher aide

My Legacy: "Being unapologetically me and not afraid to break rules or challenge the norm, I advocate for the causes I believe in, for others and for myself even when no one else does. I strive to never settle for less; I will be the change I want to see in the world."

What Others Are Saying: "Her sense of responsibility is deeply ingrained in her, as well as her ability to solve problems creatively and efficiently. Aside from her achievements, Maria is witty, hilariously sarcastic, and an overall joy to be around."

– Charise Monroe, Media Specialist, Lincoln



ATHLETICS

Sponsored by: City of Tallahassee

WINNER



LYDIA HANLON

Rickards High School

Lydia Hanlon is not only a decorated swimmer but has simultaneously combined her passion for swim and service into one. Her passion for service can be seen in the way she gives back to her younger teammates and continuously leads by example for the next generation of athletes in her sport. While poised for success, Hanlon is prepared to take her passion for swim to the collegiate level and continue to excel beyond high school.

As a freshman when she was at Chile's High School, Hanlon was selected as the Swimming and Diving Female Athlete of the year and continued to hold that title up until her junior year. Being the Female Athlete of the year is no easy feat, but Hanlon continued to prove just how warranted she was for the title. Hanlon went on to win a State Championship title for the 100-yard Backstroke and Butterfly, further qualifying for the USA Swimming Open Nationals her sophomore, junior, and senior year of high school.

While swimming continues to be a huge part of Hanlon's life, she believes that using her skills acquired from swim has helped her give back to the program and help fellow swimmers just how they have helped her along the way. "To be able to give back to the sport that has given so much to me means the world," Hanlon said. "Knowing that I have helped others and made an impact on my community means the world to me."

One of Hanlon's favorite ways of giving back is teaching swim lessons to younger swimmers. Not only is Hanlon able to incorporate her love for the sport into her service, but she is able to teach the next generation of swimmers how to excel early on. "She brings passion to her teaching and excels at it," said Frances Gilbert, the Office Manager of the Tallahassee Swim School. "Considering the dedication and time commitment Lydia has for her sport, her willingness to give back is highly commendable."

With a busy swim schedule, Hanlon was able to complete over 150 community service hours. As a fulltime athlete, making time for activities outside of your sport can be difficult, but Hanlon has a willingness to go beyond and above what is expected of her. Whether she was volunteering at an Aquatics Club or the Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare Foundation raising funds for the Stroke Center, she has proven that having passion and determination to succeed can go a long way.

"As an athlete, I want to be remembered as someone who was hard-working and put her best efforts into everything," said Hanlon. "It's not all about natural talent or what has been 'given' to us, it's about how we use our talent. "With that being said, I want my 'talent' to be remembered as someone who gave it my all and helped others do the same."

RUNNER-UP



CAILIN DEMPS

Leon High School

Within high school sports, it's unusual to hear of a freshman obtaining a spot on a varsity sports team, nevertheless, having a starting spot on that varsity sports team. However, Cailin Demps defied those odds and made her place on Leon High School's Varsity Volleyball team her first year of high school. From freshman year to present day, she has proven day in and day out her commitment to excellence on and off the court.

"The Leon Volleyball Program strives on pride, tradition, and excellence," said Dr. Angie Strickland, head Volleyball Coach of Leon. "Cailin continues to exemplify discipline, hard work, and dedication to her school and her sport daily."

Cailin continues to set herself apart from the student-athlete crowd by going above expectations and being a champion for service in her community. Demps frequently volunteers at the Kearney Center, giving back to the local homeless shelter by bagging lunches and spending time with the homeless community.

"Having the opportunity to grasp how other people live has allowed me to become more grateful," said Demps. "I've learned to be selfless through the Kearney Center and volleyball. I use every opportunity to give all-out effort and help put other people in positions to succeed."

HONORABLE MENTION



EMMA BRICE
North Florida
Christian School



With a zest to leave a legacy as a leader throughout her community, Emma Brice illustrates what it takes to not only be a great softball player, but a better friend. Playing softball for over seven years, Brice showcases that she is a source of light to those around her and a constant encourager and friend to her fellow teammates and peers.

Brice was awarded two years in a row with the "Lady Eagle Award" through her softball team. The award represents work ethic, chemistry, discipline, and sportsmanship. "For the past seven years, I've watched Emma put others ahead of herself," said Head Coach of North Florida Christian Softball Team Dennis Gorham. "She's proven herself to be a driven person who is willing to do what it takes to serve others and help everyone around her get better."

Brice's service reflects her love of softball and her passion for helping younger players excel in the sport. "I hope I leave an impact on the kids I teach and the teammates I encounter," said Brice. "Stressing the importance of working hard to achieve your dreams is vital and remembering no matter skill level or talent, being a great teammate is what's important."

Activity Highlights: Waterpolo Team; Step Team; Girls2Divas mentorship program; Classroom Assistant; Girls Who Code Team

My Legacy: "Upon graduating, I would like to be remembered as someone who cherishes not only myself and others, but opportunities and experiences, as well. Success and money are equivalent to drugs; you will always want more. Rather than being known for my fame, I would want to inspire people to better themselves, through words and actions."

What Others Are Saying: "Ayliah is a once in a lifetime individual, and the proof of that is scattered along all of her many achievements. However, of all the achievements that she has accrued and all the prominence she has gained, her biggest achievement is how she treats others." – Joshua Alexander Johnson, Godby teacher

JASON "BOONE" HOSEY



Florida State
University Schools

Awards and Honors: National Honor Society; Varsity letters in Soccer and Baseball (2018-22); 2021 All State Florida Athletic Coaches Assn; 1st Team All Big Bend Baseball 2021

Activity Highlights: FSU Varsity Club volunteer; Advent Food Boxes for Astoria Park Elementary; Salvation Army volunteer

My Legacy: "I want to be remembered as one of the hardest working people on and off the field. I want my peers to remember how my character, leadership and accountability didn't stop when I came off the field, and that I continued to lead in the classroom, both academically and socially. I hope these traits make an impression on the younger players and they follow in my footsteps."

What Others Are Saying: "He has taken a leadership role on his baseball team in order to help instill confidence in his teammates by encouraging them to do well academically, behaviorally, in the weight room, and on the field." – Leslie Larkins, 8th Grade Language Arts Teacher, FSUS

RAHUL IYER
Chiles High School



Awards and Honors: National Merit Semifinalist; US National Chemistry Olympiad qualifier; Varsity

Tennis (2018-22); State Quarterfinalist; Chemistry Club Founder and President; Pre-Med Club Co-President (2020-22); National Honor Society

Activity Highlights: Glimpses of India event (2018-22); Chemistry/Mu Alpha Theta tutor; Elite Junior Tennis Youth Tennis Camp assistant coach; FSU Gunjan Lab assistant; FSU Youth Scholars Program

My Legacy: "High School has allowed me to break my previous boundaries and develop a supportive community of friends who share my passion for the activities I adore. I hope my legacy reflects not only a person dedicated to their academics but also one willing to put others before himself and serve as a beacon which has the potential to inspire others."

What Others Are Saying: "Having coached Rahul all four years at Chiles he has exhibited all qualities that a coach looks for. These qualities include work ethic, attention to detail, teamwork and leadership skills – all of which are attributes for a successful athletic career." – Allen Long, Tennis Coach, Chiles

MADELINE-ANNE "MADDY" KOPKA



SAIL High School

Awards and Honors: National Honors Society President; Runner Up Girls Soccer Big Bend Player of the Year (2019-20); Varsity Soccer (2018-22); Honor Roll (2018-22)

Activity Highlights: Tiffany Baker campaign aide; Jack Porter campaign volunteer; FAMU homecoming volunteer

My Legacy: "Leaving a legacy after graduating did not even cross my mind. Now that I have thought about it, I want to leave proof that you can push through anything. I want to show no matter what challenges you face you can get through it. Leaving behind that option and that outlet I hope will help many people."

What Others Are Saying: "She was volunteering on the campaign trail so that she could gain experience for when she runs for office. It is rare that a high school student has the knowledge to pursue their career choice and volunteer for that career at her young age." – Quashier Flood-Strouble, School Counselor, SAIL

BRODY MILLER



Lincoln High School

Awards and Honors: Varsity Soccer Team Coaches Choice Award, Heart of the Trojan Award and Captain (2020-22); 6A Division District Championship 2021; National Honors Society (2018-22); National Society of High School Scholars; Advance Placement Capstone and Principal's Award student

Activity Highlights: Florida Elite Soccer Academy assistant coach; Buck Lake Camp Invention counselor; Green Club volunteer; Sleep In Heavenly Peace

My Legacy: "As a senior nearing the end of my high school journey, I hope to leave a legacy that resembles my success, determination, and passion. As a student athlete, and with everything I've accomplished, my standards represent what it means to be a true Trojan at Lincoln and fulfill the motto, striving for my maximum potential in preparation for my future."

What Others Are Saying: "Brody's involvement in extracurricular activities also allow him to have a voice at Lincoln High School. He is viewed as a 'person to get the job done.'" – Cheryl Henley, AP English Literature, Lincoln

ASTRED NGNEPIEBA



Rickards High School

Awards and Honors: Most Valuable Offensive Soccer Player 2020-21; District Girls Soccer All-Big Bend Honorable Mention Award 2020; North Florida Red Cross Youth in Action President 2020 and Volunteer of the Year 2021

Activity Highlights: American Red Cross International YAC IHL Summit; Dance Marathon Morale Chair; Creative/Social Media Director for GenZ Media; STEMout Program

My Legacy: "More and more as I continue to discern the contagious power of a smile, I seek to never shy away from embracing originality with open arms and eliciting laughter anywhere I go. This expression of authenticity I hope will be my legacy."

What Others Are Saying: "Astred is an extraordinary student with gifts and talents that any teacher, parent, or mentor would be proud of. She is a true humanitarian." – Dana McMillian, Volunteer Engagement Specialist, American Red Cross

CAITLIN O'CONNOR



St. John Paul II
Catholic School

Awards and Honors: Varsity Volleyball (2018-22); Pro Style Travel Team Volleyball Captain; Florida 2A Volleyball State Championship Runner Up; National Honor Society; Dance Marathon Executive Director

Activity Highlights: Squelettes of Mary Club; Backpack Buddies; SJPII Volleyball Camp assistant; Southern Affair Fundraiser silent auction; Dance Marathon for 3 years and organized mini-marathons with Trinity Catholic School

My Legacy: "I am hopeful my legacy was: I am known as a strong independent leader, a great student, and a kind and loyal friend. A teammate who led by example and who followed her faith with strong ethics and morals. I would like to be known as someone who would always lend a hand both in school and in the community."

What Others Are Saying: "Caitlin is an exceptional student with a passion for learning, a competitive, focused hunger to excel, a humble attitude, and a deep compassion for others." – Emily Serpico, Math teacher, SJPII

ELI PADDACK
Maclay School



Awards and Honors: Varsity Lacrosse Team Captain and MVP (2019-22); Varsity Football (2019-22); Varsity Soccer (2018-22); West Point Society of Tallahassee 2021 Leadership Award; National Honor Societies (Art, Spanish, Mu Alpha Theta); President Maclay United Nations

Activity Highlights: Maclay Little Summer Scholars Camp; football and sports camp assistant; Backpack Buddies Service Club; Joe Budd Youth Conservation Center junior counselor

My Legacy: "I want my legacy upon graduating to be a culture of hard work and service. Although some at Maclay may not remember my name once I have graduated and I am at the Naval Academy, I hope my legacy remains an example that inspires others to mentor, tutor, and serve the common good."

What Others Are Saying: "Determination, focus, responsibility, empathy, compassion, care and leadership. Those are also all of the qualities that I would use when describing Eli."

– James Milford, Headmaster, Maclay

SURAYA WASH



FAMU Developmental
Research School

Awards and Honors: Captain of Girls Flag Football Team (2019-22); Basketball (2020, 2021) and Flag Football (2021) Class 2A State Runner Up; A/B Honor Roll; National Honor Society

Activity Highlights: Drama Club; Tutored 10th grade biology students and American Government to elementary school students; Service project to prepare and serve meals in school

My Legacy: "Sports have taught me to accept defeats and appreciate triumphs. I want to leave behind the value of resilience in the face of adversity and the importance of never giving up. Giving everything my all, because that's what it takes to win. Nothing is given to you. You have to work for it, and that is what leads to success."

What Others Are Saying: "No one will outwork her. She will combine her God given talent with a great desire to excel and a work ethic that is second to none."

– Vince Parkey, Girl's Flag Football Coach, FAMU DRS

FINALISTS



AYLIAH CHUKES



Godby High School

Awards and Honors: Swim Team Captain; President of Key Club; National Honor Society Vice President; MLK Dreamers and Doers Award; 2nd Place Black History Brain Bowl Team; National Technical Honor Society



WINNER



KIYLE GARDNER

Leon High School

As a senior in High School, Kiyle Gardner has already successfully stepped foot into the entrepreneurship world and has proven himself a force to be reckoned with. Starting in the Summer of 2020, Gardner was chosen to participate in the BizWorld Program, a twelve-week program that provided the opportunity to establish business plans, sole proprietorship, provisional patent and mentorship. Gardner came out in the end winning a finalist title and five-thousand dollars.

“Regardless of where you come from, what obstacles you face, it does not define you,” said Gardner. “I want to inspire those enduring unfortunate predicaments that they can accomplish their goals through perseverance and commitment to their aspirations.” This motto has driven Gardner to success in his pursuit to help those in his community and his high school.

Being a young entrepreneur, it takes a great deal of time and focus, however, Gardner never lost sight on giving back to his school and community. He consistently placed service as the forefront of his mission in life. Whether Gardner was serving as a member of Leon’s Pierian National Honor Society where he assisted students who were struggling in a certain subject, serving on Leon High School’s yearbook team, or assisting his school’s Key Club he showed that giving back to those that gave so much to him was of the upmost importance. “I am immensely proud of Kiyle,” said Katharine Summerlin, English 2 Honors teacher at Leon High School. “He has the tenacity, ambition,

and work ethic to set the world on fire. He has proven that not only can he take an idea and make it tangible, but he can also successfully launch a business and gather investors.”

With the prize money Gardner received from the BizWorld program, he plans to fund the development of his educational pacifier named, “Soothy.” It addresses the vitamin deficiencies found in infants and provides nutritional fruit/vegetable supplements for the hundreds of thousands born each day. His motivation to design this product goes back to his commitment to serving others. The idea came from volunteering at a food kitchen and assisting individuals in lower income communities. “Through assisting individuals who don’t have access to nutritional meals on a regular basis, it further highlighted the lack of food security in our nation and why this pacifier is needed,” said Gardner.

Gardner continues to prove that he is a pillar in his community and a catalyst for change. “His contributions inside and outside of the classroom do not go unnoticed,” said Pamela Weston, Business Teacher at Leon High School. “Kiyle’s experiences have allowed him to achieve a set of business skills that go unmatched.”

RUNNER-UP



KANENECHUKWU “KANENE” NWOKEJI

Maclay School

When Kanene Nwokeji began volunteering at the Maclay School Kindergarten Camp to fill graduation requirements, she never imagined it to be one of the most transformative acts of service she would take part in. Volunteering at the camp for over 120 hours, Nwokeji learned the importance of pre-planning and organizational skills that she was able to use in her own pottery business that she opened a year after volunteering at the camp.

“I doubt I would have gotten through my first sale selling my pottery without the organizational knowledge that I had gained from my service at Kindergarten Camp,” said Nwokeji. “I hope I have inspired people to dive into the arts and to become entrepreneurs, especially the kids younger than me.”

Among her achievements in being an entrepreneur, Nwokeji competed in Varsity Track and Field and Cross Country, President of the Maclay Book Club, participated in the Multicultural Awareness Club, and won the Jefferson Book Award from the University of Virginia for high school juniors who embrace creativity and innovation.

“Kanene is a remarkable young person who excels in all she does,” said Lee Norment, English Department Chair at Maclay School. “She has made her mark as one of the best students who’s ever attended our school and is one of the most accomplished ceramicists our school has ever had.”

HONORABLE MENTION

UZODINMA “UZO” OTUONYE
Lincoln High School



Throughout his high school career, Uzo Otuonye has continually shown his dedication to service and studies. With over 800 hours of community service on top of managing a stellar grade point average, Otuonye shows what it takes to excel in and out of the classroom.

During the peak of the pandemic, Utuonye volunteered in assisting the Bond Community Health Center with their vaccination campaigns. In the summer of 2021, he was there weekly to support Bond and their patients through the vaccination process. He helped those with limited English complete paperwork, directed traffic, and sanitized equipment. He was able to volunteer for over 300 hours and believed it was a chance for him to give back to his community.

“Volunteering for Bond gave me a chance to increase my knowledge on non-profit organizations as well as learning the business side to it,” said Utuonye. “It gave me a new perspective on empathy towards others on top of helping businesses bounce back and thrive.”

Not only does Otuonye thrive in community service, but he is an active member of the National Honor Society, FAMU Stem Business Program, and the Tallahassee Coalition National Achievers Society.

“Uzodinma has enriched our high school,” said Lincoln High School Spanish Teacher, Rebecca Foe. “He engages in several extracurricular activities and is a huge part of our school.”

FINALISTS

TY’KIRA ADDERLEY
FAMU Developmental Research School



Awards and Honors: NAUW Community Service Award; FAMU DRS Royal Court; Student Government Association Treasurer; Varsity Cheerleading

Activity Highlights: Established her business Kira’s Kosmetics/Hairby Kira; FAMU DRS Boys Basketball Team Manager; FAMU DRS Orientation and Graduation volunteer; Learning project teaching students on building a business; Future Farmers of America (2019-22); Journalism Club (2019-20)

My Legacy: “The legacy I hope to leave behind would be my ability to cheer and lead my team. I plan to leave behind my fortitude, my ambition, and leadership. I plan to become an entrepreneur so that I can improve the Black community.”

What Others Are Saying: “Ty’Kira showed her great business acumen and planned events and created the budget to follow. Not only did she speak on the concerns she saw as road blocks, she also provided solutions and got other members to be actively engaged in the solution process.”
– Anthony Thompson, Social Science teacher, FAMU DRS

ZIKORA ALICHE
Florida State University Schools



Awards and Honors: CPR certification; Executive Board of B.I.G.; Microsoft and Workplace certification

Activity Highlights: CEO of a non-registered non-profit organization; Health Science Club member; Destined Children Orphanage volunteer; FSUS Homecoming; pursuing CNA designation

My Legacy: “I want to leave a legacy of hope and strength. I hope to promote a truly integrated community of students where all voices are heard.”

What Others Are Saying: “I have seen her dedication and compassion for the people that she takes care of and interacts with. She is great with establishing a comfortable rapport with others and has strong interpersonal skills.”
– Amanda Roberts, R.N., FSUS

ANNA HARRINGTON
Leon County Home School



Awards and Honors: Varsity Swim (2018-22); Coaches Award for sportsmanship 2020 and Captain 2021; State qualifier in various swim meets; Florida Bright Futures Medallion Scholar

Activity Highlights: Owner and operator of ACH Lenscapes photography; swim teacher; Tally Cat Café volunteer; Church youth and young adults volunteer and photographer

My Legacy: “Upon graduating, my desire is for others to feel empowered and inspired to step out of their comfort zones and step into growth. As a graduate, I want those younger than me to know that there is no age requirement for anything they feel led to do – you are never too young.”

What Others Are Saying: “She carries herself with confidence and a spirit to learn. If I had to use one word to describe her, it would be that she is a learner. I personally find that to be a great quality, because humility, dedication and hard work is what comes out of learners.” – Marco Mahar, Youth Pastor, Freedom Church



SEAN JACKSON

SAIL High School



Awards and Honors: top ten ranking at SAIL

Activity Highlights: after school volunteer in Art Room at SAIL; Ronald McDonald House volunteer

My Legacy: "I hope my legacy will be to convince those around me to take more interest and involvement in national politics."

What Others Are Saying: "While others capitulated when facing challenges and obstacles, Sean's work ethic and thirst for excellence propelled him to the top of the Business category and made him the obvious choice for this selection."

– Doug Currey, Business & Economics Teacher, SAIL

PRANAV KONDAPALLI

Rickards High School



Awards and Honors: Math Club Region 1 Statistics winner (2021); Science Olympiad regional winner (2018-2021) and ranked in top 10 at ATX Invite; National Honor Society; Team ASG Soccer Captain

Activity Highlights: Key Club; Leon County Teen Court; Varsity Soccer (2018-22); Dance Marathon; Science Olympiad test writer; software developer intern and business intelligence administrator intern; community health centre volunteer in Jaggampeta Town

My Legacy: "No matter the circumstances - perseverance, hard work, and dedication will allow you to triumph over whatever challenges you may face."

What Others Are Saying: "Perhaps even more important than Pranav's many talents and skills is his devotion to using his skills and talents to help others through community service, both at home and abroad."

– Joe Williams, IB Coordinator, Rickards

AVIN MASTER

Chiles High School



Awards and Honors: Tallahassee Debaters Certificate; Mu Alpha Theta; National Honor Society; Youth Leadership Tallahassee Class 17

Activity Highlights: Internships at Venture X and Serendipity Labs; Leon County Public Library Teen Advisory Board; co-founded charitable organization for Shumpura Primary School; Capital Regional Medical Center Junior Volunteer; MathPals Mentoring

My Legacy: "When I think of making a mark upon graduation, I think of leaving a positive impact on the lives of youth by reducing educational barriers. Education is essential to a country's growth and a path to jobs with higher earning power. I hope to make things that I take for granted more accessible to the underprivileged."

What Others Are Saying: "Few people have the maturity and strength of character that Avin Master has already demonstrated. Avin is a talented student who has the respect of his teachers, peers and members of our community."

– Alice Mathis, School Counselor, Chiles

GRACEE TYLER

Godby High School



Awards and Honors: Honor Roll; elected Miss APG 2021; Cheer Captain (2019); lead in school play "She Kills Monsters"; Homecoming Court Attendant (2018-19)

Activity Highlights: Student Government Association; Thespian Society; Beta Club; Second Harvest volunteer; Wakulla National Parks volunteer

My Legacy: "After graduating, I want my legacy to inspire others to work hard for the goals they want to achieve. I especially would like to be a role model to my sister when I leave Lincoln. I hope that my dedication and work over the past four years will inspire her to work hard for what she believes."

What Others Are Saying: "Gracee is a very hard worker and outstanding person who puts her best foot forward. She was quick and efficient, and all the community quickly fell in love with her. The residents were very thankful and appreciative for the service that she was doing for them."

– Dolly Mitchell, Parks Facilities Coordinator, Wakulla County Parks



WINNER



ROHAN CHADHA

Chiles High School

Rohan Chadha is the kind of student that can be found either excelling in the classroom, personally creating a startup organization, or giving back generously to the Tallahassee area. Chadha's ability to excel in various spaces throughout his community has proven his dedication to the diverse range of interests that he serves. With his continuing success, he has showcased his leadership abilities and how hard he is willing to work to make a difference in the lives of those around him.

Originally having a passion just for the arts, Chadha quickly found his other passions lying in environmental technology and health. "Learning how every detail takes into account current standards of global health, public policy, and business has always made me excited to learn and explore more," said Chadha. "I felt torn thinking I'd need to give up on one to become successful in the other." However, after his sophomore year, Chadha created Colors for Coats, an organization that creatively raises awareness about public health and environmental issues.

"I wanted to find a way to showcase that art can have a powerful impact in my community," said Chadha. "I created a donation fundraiser by selling paintings for a local hospital's COVID-19 emergency fund." With the success that Chadha had, he was able to establish 73 chapters of the organization to high schoolers and undergraduates all over the world. He created publicity through opening a website and being featured in several magazines. Not only was

Chadha able to combine his passions of art and environmental technology, but he was also able to incite change in communities through a series of sketches.

While juggling a variety of different activities throughout his high school career, Chadha found purpose in conducting diligent research through Sanitation Products of America as an intern. With the company, he designed and formulated environmentally friendly biodegradable degreasers to combat water pollution while also incorporating his love of art by creating labels, logos, and learning more about marketing for the company.

"Aside from all that Rohan has done, he has shown dedication towards spreading awareness about the public health field," said Neha Iyer, Co-Founder of Colors for Coats. "His passion towards educating students about anything and everything makes him stand out amongst the rest."

In Chadha's years of giving back to his peers and community, he has learned that "no matter what talent, skill, or background you have, there will always be a way to make a real impact in your community from local to worldwide," said Chadha. "Putting your mind to something your passionate about and never letting go of it is what makes an idea turn into reality and opens yourself to new perspectives."

CAREER/TECHNICAL

Sponsored by: CareerSource Florida

RUNNER-UP



GEORGE NESSIM

Lincoln High School

With aspirations to become a pediatric surgeon, George Nessim not only has taken charge in his career goals but continues to flourish in his academic pursuits; further taking on various leadership roles in his community. During his time at Lincoln High School, Nessim has proven that he has a zest for being a leader and guiding the next generation in their endeavors.

The most significant service that Nessim has been a part of was being able to observe over 50 surgeries at the Mustian Center of the Tallahassee Memorial Hospital. There, he was able to become efficient in communication, focus, and intelligence while completing complex tasks reserved for physicians and nurses.

"Being able to take what I had learned from my courses and applying them to the operations that were performed right in front of me was incredibly significant," said Nessim. "This service I know will aide me in my ultimate career goal."

His incredible achievements continue to go way beyond the operating room. Nessim was awarded the "Pix du Jury" award for a French speaking competition which is the highest award for state recitation. He also serves as the vice president of Lincoln High School's Key Club, elected for homecoming court, and serves as an officer on the National Honor Society.

HONORABLE MENTION

JOSHUA ISRAEL
FAMU Developmental Research School



Racking in over 1,000 hours of community service, Joshua Israel serves as a testament to what selflessness represents. Giving most of his time to the Israel United in Christ Church, he learned the importance of giving back to his people and community.

Israel spent most of his time building a sanctuary for the church where he put together walls, help set up electronic equipment, and made back and forth trips to the store for tools and supplies. The project served to construct several rooms inside the sanctuary for future church goers to enjoy.

“Joshua’s best examples of his ability to effectively lead, collaborate and foster good community relationships is revealed through his continuous efforts to represent his family and the community,” said Roger L. Walker, Administrator at FAMU DRS. “His positive attitude and visibility on and off campus shows how he models and maintains academic and social excellence.”

Israel also participated heavily in the robotics club, student government, National Honors Society, and the physics team where he had to maintain a high grand point average to continue participating.

“All of these activities and achievements have helped me to become the young man I am today,” said Israel.

FINALISTS

ELIZABETH “MERCY” CRAPPS
Maclay School



Awards and Honors: National Honor Societies in Math, Science and Latin; Thomas Lewis Academic Excellence Award; US Naval Academy Leadership Summer Seminar; American Youth Foundation National Leadership Award

Activity Highlights: Founding member and President Maclay Astronaut Challenge; Universal Human Rights Initiative; Women’s Weightlifting Captain, Cross Country and Track & Field teams; Spectrum Inclusionary Club; St. Peter’s Cathedral

My Legacy: “I hope my legacy at Maclay will be one of respect for all people, opportunities, and nature. We become accustomed to open conversations, resources that enrich our lives, and beautiful flowers, failing to realize their true value. When we appreciate something’s value, we act with more consideration towards all. That is my hope.”

What Others Are Saying: “Besides contributing her empathy and her passion about human right issues, both which are powerful, Mercy brings her impressive organizational skills, leadership abilities, and creative genius.”
– Paul Berk, History & Social Science Dept. Chair, Maclay

AMAYIA HENRY
Florida State University School



Awards and Honors: Dean’s List at TCC; Florida Ready to Work Bronze and Platinum credentials; College Board National African American Recognition

Activity Highlights: Pearls of Perfection; FSUS Information Technology Department volunteer; Joe Lewis Community volunteer

My Legacy: “Upon graduating, I hope to leave a great impact at Florida State University Schools by being recognized for my hard work and dedication. I hope I have led by example and to encourage others to be successful in their future endeavors. It can be hard and overwhelming at times, but that is just the start of reaching your goals.”

What Others Are Saying: “In the time that I have come to appreciate her ability in the classroom, her intelligence, community involvement, service, as well as her trustworthiness and honor.”
– Kevin Helms, Secondary Dean of Students, FSUS

JAMES HOLLAR
SAIL High School



Awards and Honors: Microsoft specialist and Adobe certification; certified in principles of welding and introductory Shielded Metal Arc Welding

Activity Highlights: YMCA and City soccer leagues; VEX robotics program; built an aquaponic system at SAIL

My Legacy: “I hope my legacy at SAIL High School will be of all the work I’ve put in here to make it a better place, and that I’ll be remembered fondly. I hope I could make a few people’s days better while they were here.”

What Others Are Saying: “His creative self-directed style shows a lot of maturity in his work. It is wonderful as a teacher to see students take their work to the next level and really excel and enjoy the process of learning and creating engineering solutions.”
– Jason Burdick, SAIL

MELISSA MARTINEZ -BARBOSA
Godby High School



Awards and Honors: Welding certification; National Honors Society (2019-22); First Chair for Symphonic Band 2022; Honor Roll (2018-22)

Activity Highlights: Welding assistance and promotion of program at Raa Middle School; Thanksgiving Basket Food drive

My Legacy: “Upon graduating, I would like my legacy to be that I set an example for females who want to pursue a career in welding. Through my work in welding and community, I hope I can inspire other young women to courageously break stereotypical gender norms in career fields that are heavily dominated by men.”

What Others Are Saying: “What I admire about Melissa is her character. She has a steady head on her shoulders, and works as diligently and genuinely with helping others as she does working towards her own goals.”
– Nikki Poey, English AP Literature, Godby

BREYONNE SMITH
Rickards High School



Awards and Honors: National Honor Society; on track for Certified Nursing Assistant designation; Outstanding Scholarship Performance (2018-22); National Achievers Society Vice President

Activity Highlights: SGA Junior Class Secretary; HOSA member; trainer for Rickards Sports Medicine program; Debutante 2022; Leon County Public Library; Jacob’s Chapel Youth Ministry Praise Dance Team; Delta G.E.M.S.

My Legacy: “Upon graduation, I hope my legacy will be, ‘She did what they said she couldn’t’. When I shared my ambitions with people, a lot of them said I couldn’t and to rethink my goals. It was important for me to have resources and believers supporting me. Now that I’ve achieved my high school goals, it’s time for the next chapter.”

What Others Are Saying: “She is a very hard worker, self-determined, dependable with a creative mind and independent work ethic.”
– Tina Hollie, RN, Health Science teacher, Rickards

NAOMI SOMERSET
Leon High School



Awards and Honors: National Honor Society and Math, Science and English Honor Societies; Leon Volleyball (2018-22) and Captain on 2019 State Champion Team; Senior Class Vice President

Activity Highlights: Little Red School House tutor; Volleyball camp assistant; Interact Service Club; Student Government Co-Chair Committee Head; created Redbubble design business

My Legacy: “If you work hard with a pure heart and good intentions, the rest will all fall into place.”



HONORABLE MENTION

FINALISTS

WINNER



SHELBY WATSON

Maclay School

With a plethora of achievements under her belt, Shelby Watson has a drive to excel on and off the stage. Being a member of the Young Actors Theatre (YAT) for over four years while also being the Editor-in-Chief of the Maclay School Newspaper, she has learned the importance of work ethic and striving for excellence in the eclectic schedule she possesses.

The most important life lessons Watson has learned was from her time with YAT. From there, she learned the value of hard work and the importance of effective communication amongst fellow cast members. "The greatest lesson I learned most of all came from participating in the YAT Matinee program," said Watson. "We not only performed for Leon County Students, but some cast members would travel to Thomasville and perform for area school children who could not afford or were simply unable to attend live theatre in Tallahassee."

Her service to the theatre and the life lessons she obtained from it transitioned into her other commitments. Watson served as a Senate Page at the Florida State Legislature where she was able to see firsthand the legislative experience while also participating in a mock legislative session in which bills were debated and voted on by fellow senate pages. Further, her time as the Editor-in-Chief was no easy feat. After an 18-month hiatus due to COVID-19, Watson used the opportunity to reformat the newspaper to a news magazine and

by the second issue, they doubled the content within the paper.

"Shelby is undoubtedly the beating heart at the center of our school's literary culture. Not only has she written for the school's newspaper, for the past two years, but this year, she's serving as the editor-in-chief," said Lee Norment, Maclay's English Department Chair. "Shelby has exceeded every expectation for a student leader and editor and I'm thankful we have someone like her on campus, someone who makes everyone more literate and aware."

With the list of activities Watson is involved with, she continued to place school at the top of her priorities. She served as an AP Scholar with Distinction, participated in the Science, Spanish, and National Honor Society, and was a National Merit Commended Scholar.

"As an extremely well-rounded student, I admire how she has continued to support the theatre, our students, and staff throughout her high school career," said Natalie Futrell, Education Director at YAT. "The characteristics she has shown shows she will be service minded for years to come."

RUNNER-UP



SIBLEY SHIPPEN

Leon High School

With a personality that can light up a room, Sibley Shippen is the kind of student that can be seen making someone's day by seeing the best in others and encouraging her peers to strive for greatness. As a senior at Leon High School, Shippen is a vital student on campus through her inclusive nature and her leadership capabilities.

Shippen's most meaningful contribution to society has been her mission trip to Ecuador the summer of 2018. "This mission changed my life," said Shippen. "It taught me that making a difference doesn't mean you built a new city; it can mean that you touched a group of people with a spark of a new light."

With the experiences she learned in Ecuador, she was able to bring her new perspective on life back to her own community in Tallahassee. Because of this, Shippen pledged a significant amount of her time to helping the Anchor Club and Children's Home Society. Through her volunteer work, she was able to make a difference in the lives of children and continue her passion for service.

Shippen is also passionate about her love of choir and vocal ensemble. Through this, she was able to express herself through song and music. "Sibley has truly been a positive contributor to our Music and Performing Arts program at Leon," said Tabitha Peck, Director of Choral Activities at Leon High School. "She does all of this with a wonderful and polite attitude, constantly encouraging her peers and is a wonderful leader."

ALANI BEAUCHAMP

Lincoln High School



As a natural born leader, there is no doubt that Alani Beauchamp has exceeded expectations and has proven herself indispensable in her community. Through her volunteer work and devotion to excelling as a dancer, she sets herself as an example to the next generation of what a selfless leader looks like.

As a dancer, she believes that teaching the next generation of dancers is of incredible importance. Her most notable volunteer opportunity was assisting the Platinum Dance Center through their summer camps. "Through volunteering, I was able to gain as much as I gave," said Beauchamp. Through helping out at a dance studio, she was able to share her love of dance and allow children to find their own love for it.

While dancing competitively can require an extensive amount of time and dedication, she managed to be an Academic Honor Roll student all four years of high school while also being the French Student of the Year maintaining a perfect grade point average.

"As a director and a coach, Alani is a dream to have as a student," said Lindsey Ansola-Crowley, owner of Platinum Dance Center. "I could not ask for a better person to have in my studio and mentoring young dancers. Beyond her skills as a dancer, she is well-loved by all of her teammates and students, constantly building up those around her and a constant encourager."

JARRETT JOHNSON

FAMU Developmental Research School



Awards and Honors: A/B Honor Roll (2018-22); Honor Roll 2021; Homecoming King; Co-Writer of winter play "Holiday Street"

Activity Highlights: Student Council Secretary; Yearbook; Chorus and Drama; JROTC (2018-22); Big Bend Homeless Coalition volunteer; mentor elementary school students

My Legacy: "I plan to leave behind my individuality and my confidence. Confidence is big for me because it opened door that may have been closed otherwise. When people see you believe in yourself, they are inclined to do the same. I am the kind of person that stands out in a crowd and I have come to appreciate that about myself."

What Others Are Saying: "His leadership, decision making, and interpersonal skills are exceptional. He is a rising young future leader with a committed work ethic to achieve success." – Reginald Howard LTC retired, Senior Army Instructor JROTC, FAMU DRS

EMMA MORGAN

Chiles High School



Awards and Honors: Honors International Thespians Society (2019-22); Excellent and Superior rating in District Thespians competition; Third Degree D Black Belt in Taekwondo; National Honor Society

Activity Highlights: President of Drama Club and Thespian Board Captain; Young Actors Theatre; Desoto Trail Elementary junior counselor (2018-19); Stage Manager and member of troupe at Chiles; Dance classes (12 years); Hang Tough Foundation

My Legacy: "Upon graduation, I hope to leave being known as the girl who always was kind to everyone at school. I want to be known also for my talent and love of performing. I put a lot of hard work learning lines, choreography, and songs

for musical productions and I want my peers to remember me for my talent."

What Others Are Saying: "Emma is a mature learner who exhibits the qualities of an excellent student. She is disciplined and is motivated to learn. Her excellent study skills have helped urge excellence from other students by modeling outstanding projects, performances, and completion of assignments."

– Shannon O'Bryan, Theatre Arts Director, Chiles

VEDANT PATEL

Rickards High School



Awards and Honors: Science Olympiad Regional winner 2nd and 3rd place (2019-20); 5th place at ATX in national competition; Distinguished Delegate Award in United Nation competition (2020); National Honors Society

Activity Highlights: India Association of Tallahassee performer; Asian Festival volunteer; Key Club; Tennis (2018-22); Mu Alpha Theta; Dance Marathon; American Red Cross

My Legacy: "The legacy I would like to leave behind has an impact on future students. I want to help others have a better situation than me. One which allow failures, a legacy that doesn't make students and future high schoolers not scared of failure. One that facilitates learning from failure and lets students not be scared to fail."

What Others Are Saying: "Vedant's devotion to community service and use of his performance skills to help others make him a worthy recipient of a Best & Brightest award in Drama and Performing Arts category."

– Joe Williams, IB Coordinator, Rickards

SYDNEY SHERRY

Florida State University Schools



Awards and Honors: International Thespians Society (2019-22); "Jacksonville Sings" Honors Chorus Invitational; National Honor Society; earned Superiors in District competition; Vice President FSUS Concert Choir; Zoli Award for YAT Best Lead Actress; National Society of Leadership & Success at TCC

Activity Highlights: Young Actors Theatre – performer, production team and teaching assistant; Second Harvest of the Big Bend

My Legacy: "I hope that I've been a positive role model for aspiring young performers and that they always felt included whenever I was around. The performing arts gave me a strong sense of community and taught me how to truly connect and communicate in creative ways. I hope that I can continue to share my passion for the arts with others in my community for many years to come."

What Others Are Saying: "Of all the adjectives that describe Sydney, she is imaginative and authentic. She constantly thinks outside the box and is never afraid to share her point of view."
– Lissette Merlano, Theatre teacher, FSUS

ANNALIESE TRAMMEL

Godby High School



Awards and Honors: National Thespians Society (2019-22); National Honors Society; Yearbook Copy Editor; Certification in Microsoft and Adobe; Dual enrollment at TCC

Activity Highlights: Assistant Director and Stage Manager (2019-22); Godby Yearbook; Assistant Director and Stage Manager at Raa Middle School (2021)

My Legacy: "My two goals in life are to help other people, and to be creative in everything I do. My current position allows me to be there for my peers and is a creative outlet for me to express myself. I want to continue to pour into others and let my artistic nature shine for the rest of my life."

What Others Are Saying: "With her dedication, intelligence, work ethic, grit and amiable personality, Annaliese is a more than worthy candidate and will be successful in anything she pursues." – Meghan Wilder, Mathematics teacher, Godby

LAUREN VICKERY

SAIL High School



Awards and Honors: Wrote and directing spring play 2022; Junior Class President; Cheerleading Captain; Student Government Association Secretary

Activity Highlights: Southern Shakespeare Company; Making Light Productions; MLK Community Service project; Quincy Music Theatre; SAIL's "Be Kind" volunteer

My Legacy: "I'm hoping that my legacy will live on in the students I was in drama club with. A handful of my club members approached me and told me that my play had encouraged them to start writing themselves. I hope that after I depart from SAIL, they will still be encouraged to keep creating, writing, and discovering new ways to express themselves."

What Others Are Saying: "Lauren is a wonderful example of how Drama and the Performing Arts can change the lives of students. Lauren's work ethic and thirst for excellence propelled her to the top of their respective category and made her an obvious choice for selection."

– Jessica Chapman, Assistant Principal, SAIL



ENGLISH & LANGUAGE ARTS

Sponsored by: Sachs Media

WINNER



KATERINA "KATE" KRIZNER

Maclay School

As a respected Editor-in-Chief for Maclay School's literary magazine, Kate Krizner has learned what it takes to not only lead a team to success, but the art of storytelling and the importance of creating awareness of social justice issues that she deems potent. With a drive for humility and kindness, Krizner is the kind of student that puts these traits above self-focus and it continues to make her a selfless leader beyond her years at Maclay.

While Krizner's passion lies in storytelling, her desire to excel beyond her field is worth noting. Krizner has been a four-year member of the Multicultural Awareness Club where she served as President her junior year and the club's Publicist her sophomore year. The club vows to increase awareness of diversity within the school's community. Further, Krizner took great pride in being a student-athlete. As a four-year member of her school's varsity and club volleyball team, she served for three years as a captain and was named to the All-Region Volleyball team in 2019 and 2020. She was even able to represent Florida twice at nationals winning a silver medal in Las Vegas. While Krizner proved herself to have an eclectic schedule, she never stopped striving for excellence and continued to go above and beyond what was expected of her.

"Because of her extraordinary literary talents and peerless intellectual abilities, she has been a vital force on our campus," said Lee Norment, Maclay's

English Department Chair. "She's an intellectually and artistically ferocious student and never fails to rise to any challenge."

As an underclassman at Maclay, Krizner was already awarded the title of being a published short story author for the BBALC Young Authors' Anthology program. Her work won first in the competition in 2019 and runner up in 2020. In 2019, she won first place for her submission, *We Buried Her Among the Wildflowers* and in 2020 2nd place for *If These Walls Could Speak*. With already having published short-story pieces, it was able to enhance her skill set and grow her love of writing.

One moment Krizner continues to highlight is her efforts to launch a storytelling project to allow human trafficking victims to convey the horrors they have experienced. Through this, they could tell their stories through the creation of original poetry and prose. Because of her efforts, there was a special section dedicated in Maclay's literary journal that included poems and narratives produced by the trafficking survivors and works inspired by survivor stories.

While Krizner has been able to succeed early on, she hopes to be remembered as someone who cared more about people than any agenda or ambition she may have. She hopes that her actions during her high school years exemplified kindness and love for her younger leaders and she can be an example for others.

RUNNER-UP



AMELIA KRAEMER

Florida State

University Schools

Amelia Kraemer is no stranger to playing an active role in her community. Being involved with over six different organizations at her school on top of her community service efforts, she is a catalyst for change and can be described as a world-changer by those closest to her.

As her school's National Honor Society President, Kraemer has been able to enhance her skills as a leader and broaden her perspectives. As President, she created the "Weekly Teacher Support Program" to connect students seeking service hours and teachers in need of assistance. Assistance could vary from grading assignments, classroom organization, and maintaining COVID sanitation measures. "It is well worth the time I invested in creating this program," said Kraemer. "The teachers deserve and appreciate the help they receive which makes it all worth it."

"As a solid community leader, an avid learner and a conscientious student, Amelia Kraemer possesses an academic prowess with an athletic ability," said Shannon Axtell, Kraemer's English Teacher. "She demonstrates an ability to juggle multiple facets that include academics, clubs and athletics."

Kraemer possesses a unique ability to excel in any pursuit she faces and is the kind of student and person that will be nothing short of successful past her time at Florida State University Schools.

HONORABLE MENTION

ARRIA HAIGLER
Lincoln School



Arria Haigler can be described as many things; however, she serves as an example of what an academically gifted and creatively talented student looks like. Her will to achieve success and to not accept failure is set for herself in and out of the classroom. Throughout her four years at Lincoln, she has developed into a brighter student, person, and leader and it can be shown through her service to her school and community.

With a passion for writing, Haigler won the Creative Writing Award her freshman and sophomore year on top of being a Midtown Reader Story Slam Winner. Further, she succeeded in writing over 20,000 words in a month for the National November Writing Month all four years of high school.

"I know from experience that students with the passion, dedication, drive and talent that Arria possesses are one in a million," said Rose Bennett, Haigler's English and Creative Writing Teacher. "She always goes above and beyond and understands that growth and learning come from work."

Being noted as the person to "get the job done," Haigler continues to exemplify humility and thankfulness for all she is given. She possesses a knowledge and brilliance that are infectious to those around her and has given her the opportunities to succeed.

FINALISTS

ALEXANDRIA GANDY



Godby High School

Awards and Honors: Honor Roll; Dean's List at TCC with dual enrollment

Activity Highlights: STEM 4 Girls mentor; tutoring students

My Legacy: "I want my legacy to be one of dedication and grace. I want to be remembered as a strong African American woman who values others, who does not stop, and who uplifts all whom she comes across. I want to be remembered as an inspirational success story that stemmed from dedication, I will be a leader of greatness."

What Others Are Saying: "What I admire most about Alexandria is her consistency. She is consistently hard working and kind. Her work continues to reflect her genuine curiosity and desire to learn."

– Nikki Poey, AP Literature teacher, Godby

PIPER GRIESL



Leon High School

Awards and Honors: District History Fair 2019; Superior score at District Thespians (2021-22); Pierian Honor Society Vice President; National English Honors Society; Best Actor Award Thespians Troupe; National English Honors Society

Activity Highlights: Leonettes Dance Team; Student Government Association; Young Actors Theatre assistant teacher; Quincy Music Theatre; Theatre Tallahassee; Editor Leon High Life

My Legacy: "When I graduate, I hope to leave a legacy of compassion, innovation, and progress. I believe whole heartedly that kindness is a trait essential to personal growth. My life's principle goal is to not only treat others with solicitude, but to also strive to improve my community and help it improve for a better future."

What Others Are Saying: "Outside of the classroom, Piper extends a love of stories and communication to others through her passion of theatre. What better way to share great literature and poignant themes than through performance?"

– Melinda Fulton, English Teacher, Leon

YOONMI HWANG



Chiles High School

Awards and Honors: National Merit Scholar-Commended; National English Honor Society President; Killlearn Kiwanis Leadership and Community Service Award (2018-20); Red Cross President; National Spanish Honor Society Co-President 2022

Activity Highlights: Red Cross leadership team; Deerlake Middle School teacher volunteer; Key Club Junior and Senior Director; Dance Marathon; Chiles Live It Up; Chiles Cancer Society

My Legacy: "After leaving my alma mater, I aspire to highlight my consideration for people. Through joining many organizations at Chiles, I was able to meet new people that I will continue to stay connected. The memories and community that I have built here will extend to the future as I diligently work to pursue my academic and career goals."

What Others Are Saying: "Beyond being an excellent student Yoonmi also possesses a magnetic personality that draws people in. And it is with her ability, intelligence, self-motivation and amicable personality that she has earned a diverse array of awards."

– Leisa Johnson, AP Language Arts teacher, Chiles

EMMA MERKHOFFER



Rickards High School

Awards and Honors: State competition for Florida History Day 2019

Activity Highlights: Leon County Humane Society foster parent for cats and dogs; Teacher Assistant for a Middle School language arts teacher

My Legacy: "Upon my graduation, I hope my peers and teachers remember my easy going, flexible personality that contributed to my problem-solving abilities. High School, and specifically IB, taught me how to adapt to any work or situation I was met with, pushing me to balance facets of my life to better my own character."

What Others Are Saying: "She is a voracious reader of Young Adult fiction, and frequently draws from these fictional worlds to provide scenarios that support or rebuke the cultural norm up for debate."

– Jennifer Sullivan, IB Extended Essay Coordinator, Rickards

LORELEI SELMAN



SAIL High School

Awards and Honors: Advanced courses in Literature; Honor Roll (2018-22); Mahaska Whitley Student Exhibition 2021

Activity Highlights: American Red Cross certified volunteer; Second Harvest of the Big Bend volunteer

My Legacy: "High school is a very fleeting time in our lives and I don't think there is anyone who will take note of me and what I have achieved. However, I hope that other students will learn, as I have, to persevere through doubt, mental illness, and stigma. I hope they allow themselves to flourish academically and socially and to not let their mental illness control what happens in their lives."

What Others Are Saying: "A key factor in being nominated was Lorelei's ability to embrace all challenges and hurdle all obstacles that potentially may have hindered her."

– Marlow Matherne, English teacher, SAIL

SHANICE STRONG



FAMU Developmental Research School

Awards and Honors: A/B Honor Roll (2018-22); National Beta Club Secretary; Senior Class Miss Homecoming

Activity Highlights: Drama Club; Tallahassee Animal Shelter; Tutored peers at FAMU DRS in biology and elementary students in English Language Arts

My Legacy: "The legacy that I hope to leave behind will be my dedication, courage and self-motivation to follow your own path and dreams. I plan to leave behind my positivity and respect for others. Remembered by the caring person I am. As generations grow, people have forgotten how far a friendly conversation and smile can go."

What Others Are Saying: "She possesses an inspiring mix of confidence, intelligence and tenacity. I am especially impressed with her potential as a burgeoning writer; it is always a joy to read what she writes."

– Altamese Osborne, Language Arts Instructor, FAMU DRS



WINNER



ANANDA CHATTERJEE

Rickards High School

Those closest to Ananda Chatterjee describe him as the type of student who is exceptional beyond his years and has the ability to influence any room he walks into. His dedication to excelling inside and out of the classroom proves his ability to manage several tasks at once while also shining in every leadership role that he's placed in.

During a childhood trip to India, Chatterjee was exposed to societal inequities where he saw children his own age working on roadside tea stalls. These images remained alive in his mind, and as he grew older, he saw these same inequities across Tallahassee. Because of his passion for storytelling, he decided to film documentaries about what these inequities entailed. "I was pleasantly surprised when my documentary about India's bloody 1947 partition won the National History Day at the local level," said Chatterjee. "Subsequently a documentary I produced on the Selma Voting Rights Movement received first place in the high school documentary division!" As he learned more about societal injustices, he started his own club at school called Generation Z Media which deals with contemporary issues, interviewing subjects, and producing multiple videos and podcasts.

With over 500 community service hours, Chatterjee was able to participate in the Leon County Teen Court, Whole Child Leon and South City Foundation, India Association of Tallahassee, and at the Florida Capitol. With the experiences he garnered in these roles, he was able to learn

more about the Tallahassee area and enhance his leadership skill set, gaining new perspectives and working with diverse groups of people in every role.

"It's impossible to effectively encapsulate Ananda's dedication, adaptability, sense of humor, and intellectual acumen onto a single page," said Jennifer Sullivan, Chatterjee's IB Theory of Knowledge teacher. "He has a commitment to helping others and is always engaging and motivating members in his organizations to be their best."

Chatterjee is also known at Rickards for starting the school's first Model United Nations Club. He serves as the president where he mentored new delegates in public speaking, debate and position paper writing. Further, he organized the logistics of attending state-wide conferences and even increased club membership from 20 members to 60. The Model United Nations Club at Rickards was even able to partner with Florida State University's World Affairs Program to reach delegates across the nation.

With the success that Chatterjee has achieved in a short amount of time, he wants to be the kind of leader that is remembered for never hesitating to take imitative or help people around him. From helping students prepare for AP History exams, or mentoring underclassmen to develop their public speaking skills, his service to others goes above and beyond and never goes unnoticed.

RUNNER-UP



PEYTON GALLANT

Leon High School

Peyton Gallant possesses a set of unique characteristics that set him apart from the crowd at Leon High School. With his bright personality, wit, creative contributions, and willingness to serve, he has developed into a successful leader that serves as an example to his younger classmates.

In his junior year of high school, Gallant had a unique opportunity to produce a story with the local Tallahassee TV station WTXL. The story highlighted food insecurity in Leon County and the Big Bend. Gallant served as a reporter and anchor for the story; researching and interviewing subjects that have been affected by food insecurity. He was able to garner this opportunity through his position as Editor-in-Chief of the Leon High Life.

"His efforts within school and community to lead and serve, his stellar academics and extracurricular involvement, his uniting interpersonal connections, and his responsible handling of the freedom and information entrusted to him demonstrate his outstanding contributions," said Joshua Stewart, Leon High School Student Government advisor.

Gallant hopes that his time as Editor-in-chief serves as a catalyst for change. "I hope my time at Leon inspires students to revolutionize and adapt to current journalistic methods that are accessible and relatable to students," said Gallant. "I want students to continue to inform and shine light upon the stories of Leon High School that deserve to be told."

HONORABLE MENTION



GABRIELLE GILES

Lincoln School

Gabrielle Giles is no stranger to storytelling. As an anchor, co-editor and co-writer of the Lincoln High School's Trojan Talk News Show on top of being Editor-in-Chief of her yearbook staff; she has dedicated an immense amount of time to providing students with news, showcasing student excellence and helping students stay up to date on activities in or outside of school.

"Gabby is resilient and eager to learn," said Charise Monroe, Yearbook Advisor at Lincoln High School. "On top of leading Trojan Talk, she has balanced her responsibilities with yearbook by staying on top of other students' work, editing specialty spreads, and researching developing stories for the book. She is the definition of a well-rounded student."

While being a staple student at her high school, Giles wants to leave a legacy that reflects her willingness to serve. "I hope my legacy will reflect perseverance, gratitude and hope for the future that we are set to lead," said Giles. With a desire to lead by example, Giles depicts what a leader is and further, the importance of storytelling in her community.

FINALISTS



MADELYN AITTAMA

Florida State

University Schools

Awards and Honors: Recognized by FSPA's "All Florida" yearbook; Rho Kappa Honor Society; Mu Alpha Theta Honor Society; Student of the Month-December 2021

Activity Highlights: Yearbook (2018-22) and Co-Editor in Chief; Swim Team Captain; Florida High's Student Athletic Advisory Committee Co-Communications leader; Heritage Health Care volunteer; Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Association volunteer

My Legacy: "Since my freshman year, I have dedicated my time and talents to creating the school's yearbook, which every senior class gets to look back upon and cherish. I hope my legacy will be my dedication and contributions to preserving student life memories through my years on the yearbook staff. As I end my senior year as Editor-In-Chief, I hope to have passed on all that I have learned."

What Others Are Saying: "Her ability to work with anyone, always being professional, and having an eye for what is aesthetically pleasing when it comes to layout and design are her biggest contributions to our staff."

– Shannon Axtell, English Teacher, FSUS



OMAR ATTARI

Chiles High School

Awards and Honors: Honor Roll (2018-22); Top 5 State History Fair 2018; Eagle Scout rank with Boy Scouts of America; Certified in Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator

Activity Highlights: Intern with FSU College of Medicine in Cancer Research lab; Leon County Teen Court; coordinated building concrete planter at Chiles

My Legacy: "I want to be remembered as a hard-working and driven person who would go

the extra mile to deliver the best results for himself and his community. Most of all, I want my two sisters to look up to me and use me as an honorable example not only in school, but anywhere they might be as they progress throughout life."

What Others Are Saying: "He does not give up when times are difficult and tackles obstacles in the way of meeting his goal. He thrives under pressure and can be relied on to allows follow through."

– Natalie Garner, School Counselor, Chiles



ARI DORSEY

FAMU Developmental Research School

Awards and Honors: FAMU DRS Track and Field MVP; Girls JV Basketball Most Improved; 5x Gold Medalist Gallops Karate Sparing Tournament

Activity Highlights: Directed and edited her documentary "How to Survive High School"; conducted interviews with War Veterans

My Legacy: "The legacy that I hope to leave behind will be my determination and how I put my heart into everything I do. I plan to become a film producer while studying at the ILLUSTRIOUS Clark Atlanta University. With being a film producer I plan on changing the narrative of black stories and not always basing them in Atlanta or in stereotypical places."

What Others Are Saying: "She possesses an inspiring mix of confidence, intelligence and tenacity. I am especially impressed with her potential as a burgeoning writer; it is always a joy to read what she writes."

– Altamese Osborne, Language Arts teacher, FAMU DRS



LILIANA HELLER

SAIL High School



Awards and Honors: English Academic Award (2019)

Activity Highlights: Yearbook team; school newspaper; school volunteer

My Legacy: "I think the one mark I'd like to leave with graduating is honestly following your passion, through and through. I've been into Journalist activities since I was really young, and then continued to do a class with my school from 8th-12th. It's truly been an amazing learning experience in most aspects, and has helped me grow in terms of helping others, myself, and in my academics."

What Others Are Saying: "She is creative, dependable, and incredibly hard-working. Her knowledge of English and expertise in writing and composition has been a huge advantage to our journalism program."

– Emily Bell, Journalism Instructor, SAIL

ABIGAIL HUGILL

Maclay School



Awards and Honors: Girl Scouts Gold Award; National Honor Society; French National Honor Society President; Notes from the Underground Poetry Prize winner (2020); Superior rating at Modern Language Expo

Activity Highlights: Children's Home Society Teen Leadership Council; Film School and Midtown Reader Internships; Varsity Tennis (2018-21); Big Bend Hospice; Maclay Community Service Club President; Tennis Camp counselor; wrote and published Betsy and Bernie: Eco Guardians

My Legacy: "With my project being focused on a younger audience around the Pre-K, I want my Legacy to be with helping the next generation of children in passion for nature conservation and education on pollinators in our ecosystem. I hope me instilling these values in children young will continue on as my legacy in Maclay and my community."

What Others Are Saying: "Teaching a student like Abigail Hugill fills me with hope, because I know she'll continue to create art and use her intellectual abilities to help us find new, equitable and engaged and responsible ways of being – a poetics of transformation."

– Lee Norment, English Dept. Chair, Maclay

JAMALACHI WILLIS

Godby High School



Awards and Honors: Yearbook Photo Editor; National Technical Honor Society; certificate from FSU ICamp; featured in Tallahassee Democrat article "Art of Healing"; National School Press Association

Activity Highlights: Youth Leadership Tallahassee Class 17; Student Government Association; Key Club; International Thespians production and sound board; Photographer for Godby school sports pictures and Band; Business owner of Instagram: PixelPerfect_malachi

My Legacy: "Upon graduation, I hope to leave a positive imprint of Godby High School through my photography. I will bolster Godby's image through my images. I will make sure that the community knows that the Cougars are positive and passionate people."

What Others Are Saying: "Throughout the past four years, I have watched him develop both in his artistic eye and his talent for photography, but also as a strong leader who can both lead by example and command." – Randi Lundgren, Fine Arts Dept. Chair, Godby



LEADERSHIP

Sponsored by: Sperry & Associates

WINNER



EVAN MARTY

SAIL High School

Evan Marty serves as a beacon of hope that the future is in good hands with his dedication to serving others and his ability to leave an organization better than he found it. Serving as a leader, actor, and a champion for change at SAIL, he leads by example to his younger classmates while excelling in every role he is placed in.

Marty has the unique ability to balance several organizations at once. With a heavy schedule, he participates in Young Actors Theatre (YAT), is the acting Student Body President, and serves in the Student District Advisory Council for Leon County Schools. However, he believes the most significant work that he's participated in has been with YAT, and he gained new perspectives. "Coming back to my experience at Young Actors Theatre, I would say that I've used all my leadership experiences to grow my technical theatre skills," said Marty. "I was able to focus my attention on my interest of stage management and work closely with staff and alumni to grow my network."

Marty has had several opportunities to showcase his talents that have presented him with awards and honors across Leon County. He was awarded the Fran Award in 2016 and the Legacy Robe in 2017 through Young Actors Theatre, a founding member of the Youth Citizens' Advisory Council for the Tallahassee Police Department, and on-top of all his commitments, he was able to balance his schoolwork, earning A/AB Honor Roll at his high school.

"Evan is the happiest when serving others," said Natalie Futrell, Education Director at the Young Actors Theatre. "While his strengths grew in stage management over the years, I also saw his confidence begin to develop. All his hard work has culminated in many titles, he continues to balance a high GPA and is one of the most organized high school students I have ever had."

With enthusiasm for being a leader, Marty contributes all of his success back to his roots at YAT on top of the unique opportunities he was presented with at SAIL. "I hope I have built an understanding among everyone," said Marty. "Theatre skills are life skills and vice versa; you don't have to be on the stage to wow and audience."

RUNNER-UP



PRABHAS KURAPATI

Rickards High School

Prabhaskurapati's dedication to being a helping hand can be seen in his service. With over 2,000 hours of community service, Kurapati has spent his four years of high school growing as a leader, humanitarian, and encourager to his community. His zest for life and eagerness to go above and beyond is nothing short of admirable to those around him.

Kurapati's most notable experience has been through an organization called Robotics for All. It's a nationally student-run STEM education program that helps underprivileged students from across the nation obtain quality STEM education to kickstart their careers early on. Kurapati volunteered his time for over 300 hours in various roles such as being an instructor, curriculum designer, and curriculum design lead.

"I believe my work in direct and indirect volunteering through Robotics left the biggest impact on my community, local and national," said Kurapati. "I learned valuable lessons in leadership, teamwork, communication, general project development process, and the importance of cultivating the next generation of engineers."

With the numerous leadership roles and experiences that Kurapati has been fortunate enough to be a part of it, he believes that the best way to be happy is to do the things that you're truly passionate about. "Do what you love," said Kurapati. "Success will follow with this passion."

HONORABLE MENTION

BRITTON MILLER
Chiles High School



As Student Body President at Chiles High School, Britton Miller is gifted daily with opportunities to make a difference within her school and community. Miller's involvements at Chiles show her enthusiasm for making positive contributions while simultaneously excelling in academics, athletics, and community service.

Miller's favorite involvement stems from her dedication to service and her love of giving back to those that gave so much to her. For as long as she can remember, being involved with Teacher Appreciation week has been a steppingstone for her leadership abilities. Miller was able to start a school supply drive at Chiles to collect supplies for teachers. To do this, she created flyers and social media posts to push her initiative. "Delivering the supplies to those smiling teachers and administration at Sabal Palm made all the hours going into this event worth every minute," said Miller. "My hope is that this teacher appreciation event and supply drive will continue at Chiles."

"She has set high expectations for herself and initiated a journey towards academic attainment and community involvement," said Kate Strickland, Dance Marathon Coordinator at Chiles High School. "She has demonstrated persistence and a drive to succeed." With dynamic self-motivation, Miller is poised for success and has a bright future ahead.

FINALISTS

COLETTE BELL



Lincoln High School

Awards and Honors: Regional and State Diver (ranked 6th in 2021); FSUS diving record holder; A/B Honor Roll; Ms. LHS Most Spirited 2021; Sophomore and Junior Class President; Student Body President 2021

Activity Highlights: Varsity Swimming & Diving; Dance Marathon Executive Director Board; stat assistant with Lacrosse team; Red Dirt Camp counselor

My Legacy: "I plan to leave many things upon graduation. First, the school will remain a family. With the battles we have fought there is nothing we cannot do together. We brought a new wave of inclusion. Everyone being heard, but more importantly – a new culture with an agenda of grit in the face of adversity."

What Others Are Saying: "What I like about Colette is that she always has a great attitude. She works well under pressure and is always willing to help out in any way. She helps her fellow classmates, friends, and officers in the student body."
– William Jones, US History Teacher, Lincoln

KATHERINE BOUCK



Community Christian School

Awards and Honors: Community Christian Emerging Leader Award (2019); Principal's List (2018-22); Alto of the Year 2020; Youth Choir President 2020; State competition in Cross Country (2018-22)

Activity Highlights: Youth Leadership Tallahassee Class 17; Cross Country Team Captain (2019-22); Varsity Cross Country and Track & Field (2018-22); State Senate Page Program; Mission Trips (2018-22)

My Legacy: "My hope is to prepare the next generation to fill the hole I leave behind. I want people to remember me as someone who inspired them to be better than they thought they could be. I want my successors to succeed. The best accomplishment is being a leader that trains others to do a better job than them."

What Others Are Saying: "Her collaborative skills and persevering spirit were clearly seen on the many leadership trips we took. Rare in students her age, Katherine knows how to switch between a consensus and/or participatory style of leadership to a more directive style when necessary."
– Jeanine Post, High School Leadership Instructor, CCS

RYAN DAUNT



Maclay School

Awards and Honors: Student Council President; Inter Club Council President; National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta; Junior Classical League and Science Honor Societies; Homecoming Court; State History Fair 3rd Place in Group Website; Boys Soccer All State selection

Activity Highlights: Maclay tutor; JPII Healing Center; San Miguel Community Center soccer camp counselor; Good Shepard Catholic Church; Boys Soccer Team and Olympic Development program state team

My Legacy: "I hope to leave behind a ripple effect of positive change. I strongly believe that everything a person does has an impact on others around them. I have made it my mission at my school to put all into everything I do, especially the little things, because through the little things others are inspired into action and positive change."

What Others Are Saying: "It is my belief that Ryan embodies a spirit that instills great promise in all aspects of his life. Faculty and students alike recognize his marked maturity, willingness to be present, and an impressive professionalism."
– Heather Bas, Dean of Student Affairs, Maclay

GRACE DENNIG



Leon High School

Awards and Honors: Pierian Honor Society; Mu Alpha Theta, English and Science Honor Societies; Youth Leadership Tallahassee Class 17; National titles with Elite Competitive Dance; Student Body President; Golf Team Highest GPA Award

Activity Highlights: Founder of non-profit "giving graces"; Co-founder of AACES free math tutoring; Statewide Conference for FL Assn. of Student Councils; Leonettes Dance Team; Interact Club; Anchor Club

My Legacy: "'There's no wheelbarrow behind a hearse,' my grandmother shared before I understood the meaning. Only one generation removed from poverty, my grandmother sought to ensure I understood the importance and impact of my actions in this life and beyond. My legacy will be seeds of service, others will reap what I sow and I pray they too will repeat the cycle."

What Others Are Saying: "Her authenticity in heart, mind, and speech, and graciousness and kindness of interactions with others, have her standing tall as a fine representation of youth and excellence of character."
– Joshua Stewart, SGA Advisor, Leon

DEJA HAIRE
FAMU Developmental Research School



Awards and Honors: Beta Club; National Honors Society, Student Government President; National Achievers Society; MLK Foundation recognition; FAMU DRS 2021 Best Business Venture overall winner

Activity Highlights: Co-writer of play Holiday Street; SMART Academy tutor; Teacher's Assistant; Mock Business presentation to elementary students; JV Basketball and Volleyball

My Legacy: "The legacy I hope to leave will be my SGA leadership. I strive to inspire young Black kids to speak up for themselves and take charge of their liberty."

What Others Are Saying: "Deja demonstrated her ability to be a great leader in performing student teacher responsibilities. She provided leadership in helping her peers come up with interesting and interactive activities during projects."
– Rhonda Cunningham, Math Teacher, FAMU DRS

LEHANA HAIRSTON



Godby High School

Awards and Honors: International Thespian Honor Society (2019-22); Tri-M Music Honor Society (2020-21)

Activity Highlights: Student Government Association; Blue Table Talk; Tallahassee Senior Center sound tech volunteer

My Legacy: "Upon graduation, I want to leave a legacy of confidence, respect and open-mindedness to future leaders. After high school, I want to keep being that one who listens to others that share their concerns with me. I want to be that empowering voice for my school and my local community by setting a great example for them."

What Others Are Saying: "I have come to know her as a truly intelligent and hardworking young woman. She is truly kind and outgoing, and she always manages to foster positive discussions and bring the best out of other students, while showcasing her own knowledge."
– Kathy Barfield, English Teacher, Godby

AUBRIANNA JACKSON



North Florida Christian School

Awards and Honors: National Honor Society President; National Achievers Society Vice President; NFC Class Secretary (2018-19, 2021); State Summit/Brain Bowl Team 2019

Activity Highlights: Youth Leadership Tallahassee Class 17; Tallahassee Future Leader Academy; Ladies Learning to Lead; Talquin Electric Youth Tour; Leon County Public Library; Leon County Teen Court

My Legacy: "The legacy I hope to leave upon graduating is how I am viewed such as, responsible, hard-working, well-structured, and a detailed individual. Also, I want to be remembered for contribution of uplifting my peers and others in the community."

What Others Are Saying: "I was extremely impressed with Aubrianna's communication skills as well as her maturity. She is incredibly gifted and can make an impressive verbal presentation of just

about any topic with confidence."
– Megan Smith, Communications & Outreach Specialist, Talquin Electric Cooperative

ETHAN LEEMAN



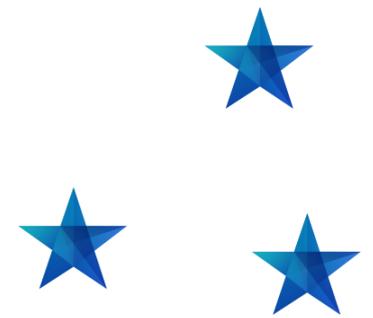
Leon County Home School

Awards and Honors: Air Force Association Cadet of the Year; Cadet Captain – Amelia Earhart Award; Florida Wing Cadet Honor Society; Florida Junior Classical League Annual Forum State Champion; Semifinalist Harvard Certamen Intermediate Level

Activity Highlights: Florida Leadership Academy training aerospace leaders; Winter/Summer encampment training (2019-21); Wreathes Across America; Cadet One Advisory Council Chairman with Civil Air Patrol

My Legacy: "My legacy will be found in the souls of my friends, mentors, and superiors. It will be found in the soul because my legacy points to Christ. It is my goal to let Him use me, not to save the world, but to change the life of one person at a time. I will go where He leads me. CURRAHEE!"

What Others Are Saying: "Ethan is a great teammate, collaborator and leader. He earns the respect of his teammates through his diligence, respectfulness and modesty."
– Kevin Cox, Founder and Director of Midtown Classical



IAN MCFARLIN
St. John Paul II
Catholic School



Awards and Honors: Brain Bowl Team Captain; Aerospace Engineering Team Captain & Student Astronaut Challenge National Finalist; US Equestrian Federation Varsity Letters; Student Body President; Boys State; NSBA Youth of the Year Award 2021

Activity Highlights: Youth Leadership Tallahassee Class 17; Brain Bowl Team Captain; USHJA National Youth Board Member; Hands and Hearts for Horses volunteer; Interscholastic Equestrian Assn.

My Legacy: "I hope my legacy is that of a leader who sought to create new opportunities for my classmates, who inspired by example and who never asked others to give or do more than I was willing to contribute myself. I would like to be remembered as someone who pursued my passions wholeheartedly and who encouraged others to do the same."

What Others Are Saying: "Ian's keen and questing mind, combined with his altruistic spirit, makes him one of the finest students and human beings SPJII has ever seen." – Sara Bayliss, College Advisor, SJPII

ALYSSA PUMARIEGA
Florida State
University Schools



Awards and Honors: Freshman Class President; Student Body Vice President and President (2020-22); National Spanish Honor Society Vice President; National Honors Society

Activity Highlights: Dance Marathon Executive Board (2018-22) and Executive Director 2022; Southwood Harvest Fest; Junior Teen Board

My Legacy: "Upon graduation, my legacy will be a stronger and more united school. As Student Body President, I made a commitment to strengthen our campus community by bringing together all students, faculty, staff and administration. The school spirit we generated this past year is alive and thriving. I'm optimistic that it will continue for many years to come."

What Others Are Saying: "Inside of the classroom, Alyssa is a hard-working student who places a high priority on her academics. She is a highly motivated individual who is polite and respectful towards her teachers and peers."

– Ryan Capas, Student Council Sponsor, FSUS



Chiles High School

MATHEMATICS

Sponsored by: HUB International

WINNER



SANDHYA KUMAR

Chiles High School

In only four short years, Sandhya Kumar has accomplished more than the average person would in a lifetime. At Chiles, Kumar is noted for being a stellar student, person, and friend to all. With a plethora of awards, academic honors, and leadership opportunities, Kumar has placed herself in a position to excel and is poised for success in her future endeavors.

While having a passion for STEM, Kumar often found herself being one of the few girls in classes, clubs, and organizations involving science and math. She credits her success to an all-girls STEM group that granted her opportunities to excel in the field early on. As a fifth grader, Kumar joined SciGirls; an intense two-week camp that introduced her to the joys of conducting science while meeting girls with similar passions. "I saw how powerful science and math are in defining the world," said Kumar. "Everything from how fiber structure and weaving patterns influence fire resistance in fabrics, to modeling how the claw size of crabs influences mating behavior, it has pushed me to pursue a career in math and science." Throughout middle school, she looked forward to this camp, and because of the positive experiences she encountered at SciGirls, it sparked a pursuit within her to give back.

Kumar was able to volunteer as a counselor for SciGirls where she helped younger students understand the basics of scientific inquiry. When the camp was closed due to COVID-19, she volunteered to help develop SciGirls STEM adventures, a TV program aired by WFSU which included interviews from female scientists and

activities. Further, she served on MagLab's first ever youth advisory board to further the development of SciGirls and other STEM programs for students in Tallahassee. Kumar's devotion to STEM has provided her with countless opportunities to serve others while doing what she loves.

"A short conversation with Sandhya would lead anyone to assume they were speaking with an adult, not a high school senior," said Charles Carpenter, Chiles Chemistry and Physics Teacher. "And to her credit, she is incredibly humble. There are no limitations on her potential."

Having a passion for mathematics, Kumar is a competitive member of her high school's Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society. She has won over 50 local, state, and national math awards for her team: her most valuable award being the 2021 and 2022 American Invitational Mathematics Exam Qualifier. With a servant heart, Kumar also helped run the Chiles Mini Mu math competition (the largest Mini Mu in the nation), for elementary and middle school students, by writing and editing tests, proctoring tests, and acting as the master of ceremonies for the award ceremony.

With Kumar already setting a remarkable precedent for herself, she hopes to further her love of science, mathematics, and humanities to enable her to set a higher standard of academic excellence. She hopes that her time leading several clubs and organizations helps others expand on their capabilities and explore the power that learning holds.

RUNNER-UP



DYLAN EPSTEIN-GROSS

Rickards High School

Using the field of mathematics as an outlet for opportunities to excel at Rickards, Dylan Epstein-Gross has been able to use his mathematical skills to give back to his peers, community, and school. His eagerness to be a leader and guide his younger classmates to success is evident in his time and dedication to Rickards and the Tallahassee community.

Putting in over 400 hours of community service dedicated to Rickards, Epstein-Gross prepared for and ran the 2020 and 2021 Math Invitational. With over 1,000 participants, the invitational is the largest math competition in the Southeast. With the first online math competition in Florida, he created a community of students with a passion for math while learning organizational skills and managing a popular competition as a co-director. "Running these competitions has been one of the most stressful yet exhilarating experiences," said Epstein-Gross. "It has taught me the virtues of adaptability and teamwork while allowing me to give back to the community that instilled in me a love of math."

Using his prodigious mathematical talents and skills to help others, Epstein-Gross encompasses what a servant leader looks like and continues to contribute to his environment in ways that are unique and beneficial to all involved.

HONORABLE MENTION

KRISTEN ROSS
Florida State
University Schools



As a top performing student, Kristen Ross holds herself to a high standard. Her commitment to learning, extracurricular activities, and enhancing her leadership skill set is nothing short of remarkable and pushes her to exceed expectations.

Ross is an active member at Florida State University Schools on top of being involved in her community. She serves as the president of the Engineering Society, Mu Alpha Theta President, Latin Club Vice-President, and a co-founder of the Robotics Team. "Working hard is important," said Ross. "It's equally important to have opportunities for fun, connection, and positive experiences at school."

"Kristen is a respectful, eager to learn, and always up for a challenge kind of person," said Kristin Wilson, Science Instructor at FSUS. "Her testament of leadership and character shows through her involvement and guidance in the diverse clubs and organizations at FSUS."

As her time comes to an end at FSUS, Ross hopes that she has instilled in her younger classmates the importance of getting involved within clubs and the positive contributions it brings to a school. Taking initiative and building connections are just two of the many skills that Ross has learned within her time as an active leader on campus.

FINALISTS

MADISON "MADDY" LA PINE
Maclay School



Awards and Honors: Numerous Champion honors at nationally rated equestrian shows; 2021 Year-end CFHJA Champion in the Non-Thoroughbred Hunters; National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta and Science Honor Societies; President French National Honor Society

Activity Highlights: Beginner Equestrian Camp counselor; Peer tutoring; Hands and Hearts for Horses; Maclay Community Service Club; Green Club; Anchor Club; President of Middle Ground

My Legacy: "I would like to be remembered at Maclay as a high achieving student, both academically and athletically. I would like my legacy to be that I went above and beyond and helped my fellow classmates through peer tutoring. I would also like to be remembered as someone who was very involved on campus, through community service, clubs, and honor societies."

What Others Are Saying: "Maddy will go far in life. She has a burning desire to succeed and will not let any obstacles get in her way. She is a proven leader and will succeed wherever her path may take her."
– Matthew Cave, Co-Director of College Counseling, Maclay

AMANDA LOPEZ
SAIL High School



Awards and Honors: Honor Roll (2021)
Activity Highlights: Second Harvest of the Big Bend volunteer

My Legacy: "Upon leaving High School I hope that my legacy is for the upcoming juniors to have a championing spirit of academics. I want my academic accomplishments to lead them into a educated future."

What Others Are Saying: "Amanda is an outstanding example of student scholarship and service. In addition to everything she brings to the class, she is also very respectful, consistent, and honest in terms of academics and life."
– Benjamin Brustad, Math Teacher, SAIL

SIMÓN LÓPEZ-TRUJILLO
St. John Paul II Catholic School



Awards and Honors: National Honor Society; DAR Youth Citizenship Award 2018; Stubbs Educational Foundation Music Scholarship Award in Piano (2019-22); National Hispanic Scholar Recognition Award; Kumon National Top 20 Math Student Award 6th place; Taekwondo International Medalist 2019

Activity Highlights: Pianist for school events; Tiger Rock martial arts mentor; Edge Youth Group; Eagle Scout rank Boys Scouts of America – building fire pit ring for Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

My Legacy: "I practiced my extracurricular activities for many years and saw them through different stages, exploring, learning, applying, and giving back. I did everything with joy, finding what I love about it and showing this to others. The legacy I leave behind is for others to be inspired to find something you love in everything you do in your life."

What Others Are Saying: "Simón's intellect, passion, and persistence are unmatched. Simón is focused on the right things in his journey of learning."
– Emily Serpico, AP Calculus teacher, SJPII

AMYA PADEN
Godby High School



Awards and Honors: National Honors Society; Dean's List TCC Dual Enrollment

Activity Highlights: Virtual Math tutoring; Teacher assistant; Volleyball Team (2018-22) and Captain (2019-22)

My Legacy: "Upon graduating, I want to be remembered as someone who was a pleasure to be around. People tend to forget those who don't make a lasting impression. When recalling interactions with me, I hope people will remember the smile on my face, the way I never lost eye contact, and the way I always made them feel comfortable."

What Others Are Saying: "Amya proved herself to be an exceptional student, continuing to grow through advance placement and dual enrollment courses. Her leadership skills have been evident as a vital member of the team. Her teammates have consistently regarded her as a role model on and off the court."
– Carolina Jimeno, Mathematics Teacher, Godby

BEN STURGES WATTS
Leon High School



Awards and Honors: Mu Alpha Theta placed 5th in 2019 competition; Summa Cum Laude; Pierian Honor Society, Vice President Science National Honor Society; Secretary National English Honor Society

Activity Highlights: ESOL tutoring; Animal Aid hospital volunteer; peer tutoring

My Legacy: "I tutor through the National Honor Society at my school at every opportunity. I hope that my legacy is to be known as someone who was willing to help anyone who came to me. More importantly I hope that those younger than me can look to me as a role model so that they can continue helping anyone who needs it."

What Others Are Saying: "Ben's involvement in the tutoring program has also made him irreplaceable as a mentor and leader. Ben is incredibly good at what he does because of his affable nature and desire to help others."
– Jeannine Meis, AP World History teacher, Leon

NICHOLAS VOSS
Lincoln High School



Awards and Honors: Mu Alpha Theta President and 15th at State Calculus 2021; National Convention Theta 3rd place 2019; Principal's Academic Award and Honor Roll (2019-21); AP Calculus Student of the Year 2021; Superior ratings in Piano

Activity Highlights: Annual FL Assn. Mu Alpha Theta Regional Math Competition volunteer; tutoring peers; MoLab Science Camp counselor; Leon County Teen Court; Marching Band drumline and Symphonic Band percussionist

My Legacy: "Tutoring and participating in Mu Alpha Theta has taught me that the interaction between peers is a valuable learning method. I realize that the commitment, dedication, and perseverance it takes to win a competition is more gratifying than the acknowledgements and trophies. However, the most rewarding part in my experiences is the camaraderie of achieving success together."

What Others Are Saying: "He is a very respectful student, receptive to critique, has a very sharp memory and prepares his program very quickly, using his very good music theory knowledge."
– Nadiya Caspary, Kiev Music Academy in Ukraine, FSU College of Music



WINNER



TAURIQUE CLARK
Godby High School

Taurique Clark is the kind of student that you can expect to see with a trombone in hand, leading the marching band on Friday nights, or excelling in the classroom. In the past four years, Clark has been gifted a surplus of occasions to excel not only as a musician, but as a student and a leader; opportunities that have made him into the kind of person who can captivate the attention of a room and lead an organization to success.

Clark made a name for himself early on at Godby. As a freshman, he was awarded the John Philip Sousa Award. This is the highest award given to students in band that go above and beyond in terms of leadership skills and ability to play. Every year after that, Clark was placed in all the bands that Godby had to offer. Further, Clark has sat within the all-district honor band every year and was appointed band president and the trombone section leader his junior year. His senior year, he was appointed as the drum major which is a position that leads the marching band.

“Throughout high school, I have developed leadership skills and exposure to new people and situations,” said Clark. “Additionally, I have even learned new skills when it comes to music such as learning how to play an instrument that is not my primary instrument and mastering the art of getting people to see the picture I paint every time I play a piece of music.”

Outside of his dedication to music and band, Clark has a heart for service. While a majority of his service comes from marching band, he was able to participate in a shoreline clean up at Cascades Park where he picked up trash with his fellow Key Club members. Further, he volunteered to help special ed students decorate cookies in class before Christmas Break.

“Taurique stands above the rest,” said Jenny Blair, Assistant Principal of Curriculum at Godby. “He is the epitome of a model student. He rose to the top academically as soon as he started his first year in high school and never looked back. He is not afraid to set the tone and be himself and is mature beyond his years.”

With achieving success early on, Clark is poised for excellence in his future endeavors whether that be with music, academics or simply being a community leader. He hopes to leave a legacy behind of no matter how difficult a task and or situation was, he was always able to exceed expectations set by himself and those who didn’t think it was possible for him to do so. Further, he wants to be an example worth following, not an example follower.

RUNNER-UP



ISHAN VEPA
Rickards High School

With a passion for serving his community, Ishan Vepa has shown that it’s more than possible to make a direct impact on your community by honing your creative passions. Through his musical inclination, Vepa has been able to mix his love of music and service into one.

Picking up a saxophone in the 6th grade was the start of Vepa’s musical journey. From there, he has been a part of numerous musical ensembles and performed in front of dozens of crowds for various projects and concerts. However, in the early stages of high school, he felt unfulfilled in his music and did not feel purposeful in what he had created. Because of this, he decided to volunteer at the Westminster Oaks Healthcare Facility where his music could make a direct impact.

“I would periodically play music for residents,” said Vepa. “I would engage in music therapy sessions, care for many of the residents, and in the end, I saw the most impactful work in how they would react to the music.”

While having a gift for being musically inclined, Vepa also made sure to balance his time in being involved with his school’s STEM competition club, the soccer team, national honor society, and being the co-founder of Generation Z Media, a media outlet for young people that address issues through media productions.

HONORABLE MENTION

CHLOE CALDWELL
Chiles High School



Being described as a natural born leader that possesses a dedication to her pursuits, Chloe Caldwell continues to make her mark in the world of music. As the Chiles High School orchestra president on top of the numerous accolades she has been presented with, she serves as an example of what initiative and grit entail.

“I have watched Chloe grow and mature in her artistic technique and capability,” said Christopher Miller, Director of Chiles High School Orchestras. “She increasingly asserts herself as a leader, and ultimately, a teacher.”

Caldwell prides herself on setting an example for the next generation of musicians. As a volunteer for intermediate string camps, she was able to see the vast world of music being taught to young musicians while simultaneously having the opportunity to teach it. “Being able to perpetuate the teaching of music gives me hope,” said Caldwell. “Music is a way for people to connect and a great teacher of leadership, which is vital to teach children early on.”

Caldwell hopes that her dedication to her musical pursuits inspire others to pursue becoming actively involved in the arts. “The personal strengths from music have taught me communication skills and artistic expression,” said Caldwell. “I hope those I inspire use music to build and give back to our community.”

FINALISTS

CASEY CAULKINS
Lincoln High School



Awards and Honors: Principal’s Award (2018-21); Latin III Award; Honors in FL Music Teacher’s Assn. District Competition (2018-21); Lincoln Marching Band; 1st Chair Alto Saxophone; Drum Major (2020-22); Superior rating (2018-22); Tri-State Band

Activity Highlights: Leon County Public Works Adopt-a-Road; mentor Swift Creek Middle School band; Latin Club; National Honors Society; FSU summer music camps

My Legacy: “I want to be remembered as someone who incorporated everyone into the Lincoln Trojan Band and encouraged everyone to do their best. I hope to have made the former band members proud and allow future members to add to the program and progress it even further.”

What Others Are Saying: “His ability to retain information and balance both his academic and extra-curricular workloads at a very high level shows his dedication and drive.”
– Hannah Haugen, Director of Bands, Lincoln

JANE COHEN
Leon High School



Awards and Honors: FMEA All State Concert Band, Symphonic Band; Leon Symphonic Band & Jazz Band Principal Trombone; Superior rating FBA State Solo; National History Day State Finalist 2020; National Merit Commended Scholar; Concours National de Francais Laurent Award; Leon Band Captain

Activity Highlights: Tutor French; Music lessons at Cobb and Raa Middle Schools; performed at Leon events; Tallahassee Youth Orchestra

My Legacy: “After I graduate, I hope to be remembered for my hard work and for my

commitment to Leon and the Leon Band. I want the work I accomplished in high school to continue to have an impact, and I want to serve as a role model and inspiration to others, just like other student leaders have been to me.”

What Others Are Saying: “While it is clear that Jane has a thorough and profound commitment to music and leadership, the real testament for Jane’s leadership comes from her heart.”
– Lee Commander, Director of Bands, Leon

ISABELLA GUERRERO
Florida State
University Schools



Awards and Honors: Superior rating Thespians in Honor Society; Lead roles in FSUS Theater; Chorus Vice President; National Honor Society Vice President; Certified Nursing Assistant; Sunshine State Scholar in STEM; 3rd Place Southern Shakespeare Sonnet Contest

Activity Highlights: Quincy Music Theatre productions; FSUS Clinic volunteer; FSUS K Mentor program; Hope’s Holiday Notes; Young Actors Theatre; Faith Presbyterian Church

My Legacy: “I hope to be an inspiration to others and to be remembered as someone who led by example. I leave a legacy of determination, dependability, and a willingness to accept constructive criticism to learn and grow. Isabella, a strong but compassionate girl who rose to any challenge presented and who wasn’t afraid to be herself.”

What Others Are Saying: “Isabella is a vivacious student who brings excitement about music to others. Isabella’s leadership skills include taking other students under her wing and helping them effortlessly fit into the classroom.”
– Deborah Meade, Choral Director, FSUS

ALEXIS HOWARD

North Florida Christian School



Awards and Honors: Basketball team Superior rating in clarinet

Activity Highlights: Score International Mission volunteer in Kentucky; NFC Praise Band Team

My Legacy: "I hope my legacy graduating from NFC will be a friendly, hardworking, helpful, determined young Christian lady that tried her hardest, gave her all and was willing to help her peers."

What Others Are Saying: "She is an individual that is eager to learn, help other and she always demonstrates a positive attitude. If there is an opportunity to participate in community service or school activities Alexis is always there and is a motivator to her peers to participate."
– Arbernita Richards, Teacher, NFC

MAKAYLAH JACKSON

FAMU Developmental Research School



Awards and Honors: Track and Volleyball; Yearbook Journalism Section Chief; Significant Youth, Inc. Humanitarian Award; Congress of Future Medical Leaders Award of Excellence

Activity Highlights: Cultivating Queens non-profit member; Unique Soundz Music Group; FAMU DRS Entrepreneur Project

My Legacy: "The legacy that I hope to leave behind is my voice and my gift to be creative. I plan to leave behind my authentication, wisdom, and hard work. My goal is to get my degree in business to form my own music business."

What Others Are Saying: "She is articulated and well-spoken about social issues ranging from society to personal well-being. This keen caring for others is not only displayed through class discussions, but also as she had led several musical performances during school functions."
– Anthony Thompson, Chairman of Social Sciences, FAMU DRS

MCKENZIE JACKSON

Maclay School



Awards and Honors: Black heritage music 1st place (2018-19); National Honors Society; French Honors and Art Societies; placed 8th 1A State Javelin FHSAA; Urban Plan Winner 2022; Javacya Arts Conservancy Chamber Orchestra Principal Cellist

Activity Highlights: State House of Representatives Messenger; Volleyball camp counselor; Vacation Bible School; Tallahassee Youth Orchestra

My Legacy: "As I leave my place in high school, I hope to leave musicians inspired to do more, learn more, and grow more. I want to inspire music students to stick with their craft and expound on their craft, and honestly have fun with their craft. Because Music has the power to unite people, and that is what everyone needs, it is unity."

What Others Are Saying: "McKenzie puts a great deal of effort into her academic pursuits. She also contributes to the vitality of our community and the Tallahassee community at a large. I've seen her, too, serve as a leader on our campus."
– Lee Norment, College Advisor, Maclay

SYDNEY "IRIS" SPOERL

SAIL High School



Awards and Honors: National Latin Honors Society; AP Capstone Gifted program

Activity Highlights: Student Government Association; Tallahassee Museum volunteer; Native Naturals Farm volunteer; SAIL Music Ensemble

My Legacy: "My legacy will be my musical achievements. I am in a music ensemble and I have played piano, guitar, and ukulele outside of school for many years, and I hope that this legacy will remain."

What Others Are Saying: "Iris is an earnest student who brings her energy to her classes

and clubs, and has become a model member of Student Government and the SAIL Music Ensemble. Her enthusiasm and strong singing voice inspire enthusiasm in peers."
– Danny Wood, Music Teacher, SAIL

ALYSSA WITHERINGTON

Leon County Home School



Awards and Honors: Superior National Piano Playing Auditions (2019-2020); Tallahassee Music Teachers Assn. Honors Recitals (2019-22); TCC Dual Enrollment and National Society of Leadership and Success;

Activity Highlights: Quincy Music and Community Musical Theatre productions in featured roles; Tallahassee Homeschool Choir; Trained pianist, violinist, tap dancer and self-taught guitarist

My Legacy: "I want to be known as someone who always offers her assistance to anyone in need. I want to create positive change in a world that desperately needs it. I want to be remembered as a kind, honest, respectful, hardworking woman who touched at least one person's heart and positively changed their life."

What Others Are Saying: "She is truly one of the hardest working and most musically talented students I have ever encountered in my 25 years of teaching. The children all looked up to her as a role model as she showed them how to be excellent while also being kind and helpful."
– Stephanie Parker, Tallahassee Homeschool Choir Director



WINNER



DESTINY STEWART

Chiles High School

Equity and charity are just two of the values that Destiny Stewart holds dearest to her heart. This is present in the way that she gives back to her school, community, and the organizations she touches. Over the past four years, she has continually exhibited her passion for being a leader and making positive contributions across the city of Tallahassee.

At Chiles High School, their motto is "Cognosco, Duco, Perficio" - "I learn, I lead, I achieve." Stewart has exemplified this motto in numerous ways throughout her four years of attendance. As a member of the Black History Assembly Committee at Chiles, she noted this organization as her most fulfilling involvement where she was able to become a catalyst for change in her community. As a freshman, she noticed instances of intolerance that revealed an underlying ignorance about race within the student body. "It became evident to me that many of my peers were not adequately exposed to the culture, history, and experiences of their peers," said Stewart. "Especially their black peers." Because of this, Stewart wanted to add a dimension to the organization that would appeal to students in a contemporary way and encourage students to understand black culture.

In 2018, Stewart started her first role in the assembly as a Master of Ceremony and one of the poem readers. As she delivered the poem "Will V-Day Be Me Day Too," to the entire Chiles Student Body, Stewart took risk. She added

inflections, sarcastic tones, and a bit of humor to balance the weight of the poem's meaning. In the end, she was greeted with whistles of approval, laughs, and applause that indicated her reading of the poem was a success.

"For the past two years as head of the program committee, I have introduced a unique aspect to the assembly- Uncomfortable Conversations," said Stewart. "I have the opportunity to discuss topics deemed uncomfortable by most and strive to include many other students of varying backgrounds in these discussions."

Beyond her involvement and incredible achievements within the Black History Assembly, Stewart excels in her academics. As a National Merit Scholar, AP Scholar with Distinction, and a member of the second-place team in the MIT Grand Sustainability Challenge, she proves herself as a stellar student with remarkable academic integrity.

"Destiny has created a tradition and legacy at Chiles High School," said John P. Swape, Assistant Principal at Chiles High School. "Her work is sustainable and impactful through her drive and abilities to organize, recruit and connect, and clearly communicate to large groups of people. Her accomplishments and her potential are outstanding."

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Sponsored by: Florida League of Cities

RUNNER-UP



ARIANNA JONES

Rickards School

Being an active community member in the city of Tallahassee is no easy feat, however, Arianna Jones has used her leadership skill set to pave the way for young leaders in the area and continues to positively impact numerous organizations with her servant heart.

In Tallahassee, Jones is known for her presence in various positions across the city. She serves as the Youth Health Ambassador of the Leon County Teen Coronavirus Vaccination Community Education and Engagement Task Force, the statewide president of the Florida Education Fund's National Achievers Society, president of the City of Tallahassee Police Department's Youth Advisory Board, and the president for the National Society of Black Engineers. Within all of these positions, she has developed a love for service and giving back to a community that has given so much to her.

Jones also serves as Rickards High School senior class president where she has flourished in her role guiding her class to success. She hopes to be remembered as an impactful person who sparked change in her community. "I want to be a key builder of Tallahassee," said Jones. "I want my legacy to highlight the work I continue to do for my community."

HONORABLE MENTION

COLLIN ROBERTS
Maclay School



At Maclay School, teachers and students note Collin Roberts as the kind of person who is fearless, confident and inspiring in anything he pursues. He has the unique ability to captivate the attention of a room with his charismatic personality and the gift to be a friend to all.

Robert's passions lie in his involvement within Maclay's debate program. In this program, he has learned the fundamentals of public speaking within an economic and political environment. The difficulty of presenting logical arguments with mere seconds of preparation was a heavy task to take on, however, Roberts continued to work hard and managed to succeed in most tournaments.

"Debate is not meaningful to me because of the accolades," said Roberts. "The impact on my public speaking skills I have learned through debate has helped me help my community, have meaningful conversations with friends, and analyze problems from multiple perspectives."

"Collin is well-informed, logical, and passionate," said Paul Berk, Maclay School's History and Social Sciences Department Chair. "The level of comfort he exudes allows his ideas to be clearly communicated and makes him persuasive in his arguments. He demonstrates remarkable passion and preparation for topics he discusses."

With the talent the Roberts possesses, he is sure to make a mark on the world with his fearless leadership abilities and persistence to succeed.

FINALISTS

ALANTIS AUSTIN
Godby High School



Awards and Honors: Honor Roll (2018-2020, 2022); Godby Marching Band Section Leader (2020-22); National Thespians Honor Society

Activity Highlights: Godby Intercom Announcements Speaker; Student Government Association; Key Club

My Legacy: "I aspire to make a name for myself and my community by giving back through acts to thoughtful service and genuine kindness. I believe that when you do good deeds, good will inevitably make its way back to you. A simple kind word or positive attitude can inspire the ones around you to be the best that they can be."

What Others Are Saying: "Alantis is an active member of SGA and is always brainstorming ideas to increase school spirit. No matter the capacity in which he serves, Alantis is a leader in an organization or activity in which he participates."
– Zondra Clayton, SGA Co-Sponsor, Godby

ARIEL COLEMAN
Lincoln High School



Awards and Honors: Capstone Scholar; 2nd Place Leon County History Fair 2018; Superior rating 2020 International Theatre Conference; Dual enrollment at FAMU in theatre and voice; Tallahassee Charmettes 2022 Miss Debutante

Activity Highlights: Quincy Music Theatre; Teenage Vaccine Task Force Co-Chair; STEM4Girls mentor and tutor; The Awesome 80's Prom; Gay-Straight Alliance advocate; Mock Trial Captain; Leon County Public Library "Big Read"

My Legacy: "I want to inspire others and serve as a role model for other girls who are like me. Instead of looking for my place in the world, I will make my own place and be the representation I want to see and wish I had growing up."

What Others Are Saying: "One faculty member, who has worked with Ariel for several years, used the term 'advocate'. To know Ariel is to recognize that she has a commanding presence and strength about her. She is passionate about the advocacy of others that need a representative voice."
– Andrew O'Daniel, Guidance Counselor, Lincoln

JACOB GARRETT
SAIL High School



Awards and Honors: Junior Class Vice President; Senior Class President; Honor Roll

Activity Highlights: Capital City Youth Services Youth Advisory Council; All for 411 Teen; Ronald McDonald House volunteer; Backpack Project; Advocate for period poverty on campus

My Legacy: "I hope my legacy upon graduating is that my sole goals were to spread happiness, learn as much as possible, and to create a safe space. I want to be remembered as a person who was sociable and able to be friends with all types of people."

What Others Are Saying: "Jacob was sharpening his leadership and public speaking skills as our school representative on the District Student Advisory Council. He represented SAIL to his peers throughout the District and met monthly with them and Superintendent of Schools Rocky Hanna."
– Nancy Floyd Richardson, English Dept. Chair, SAIL

AMANI HANKINS
FAMU Developmental Research School



Awards and Honors: Third place in FAMU DRS Entrepreneur Fair; Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Physics Scholar program; Honor Roll

Activity Highlights: Sakile, Great Rising volunteer; Atlanta Children's Shelter; Christmas Give Away volunteer; Shiloh High School Band; Shiloh High Baseball Team and FAMU DRS Baseball Captain

My Legacy: "The legacy that I hope to leave behind is my competitive nature on and off the field and my ability to adapt to any situation. I plan to leave behind my resilience, character, and my cooperative nature. I plan to become a sports agent to inspire others to pursue the many jobs surrounding sports."

What Others Are Saying: "When you use the words intelligent, scholarly, professional athletic, and courteous, you are describing Amani Hankins. He is extremely talented and well-rounded in all facets of school and personality."
– Sylvester Peck, Baseball Head Coach; FAMU DRS

WILLIAM HAWKES
Florida State University Schools



Awards and Honors: Eagle Scout ranking Boys Scouts of America; National Honor Society (2020-22); National Youth Leadership Training graduate 2019

Activity Highlights: Varsity Swim Team (2018-22) and Captain; Wrestling (2018-22); coached elementary wrestlers and held tournaments; mission trip to Nicaragua; Jefferson County extension office volunteer; built special needs playground swing set.

My Legacy: "I hope for my legacy to be seeing a need and meeting that need, no matter what confounding circumstances there may be; everyone's background can lead them to see different problems that need to be fixed, and it is up to them to fix those problems."

What Others Are Saying: "Liam has maintained an active presence in Scouting, while participating in school activities, sports, along with his academic schedule. Liam has always been kind to his peers. I have personally watched Liam demonstrate every aspect of the Scout Law."
– Jeffrey Ruby, Troop 10 Scout Master

MADISON MCNEALY
Leon High School



Awards and Honors: Homecoming Queen; Student Body Vice President 2022; National English Honor Society President, Mu Alpha Theta, and Rho Kappa Honor Society; Outstanding Junior

Activity Highlights: Voter Registration Chair; Black Student Union Co-Founder/President (2020-22); Speaker at Cobb Middle School Awards Ceremony; Student Government Association; Girls Weightlifting (2019-21); Varsity Softball Co-Captain (2018-22); Leon sports team athletic trainer; Pearls of Perfection

My Legacy: "I hope that I leave a legacy of diversity and school spirit at Leon. And that the upcoming SGA members or people who are curious about SGA, see that I was the type of young leader that inspired them to become a leader as well."

What Others Are Saying: "Madison's passion for social justice and equality is well beyond her years. This is no surprise, as Madison has always been a leader, highly competent scholar, and calculated risk-taker, which is demonstrated by her numerous awards and honors."
– Dr. Brittany James, Dir. Of Business Development; Healthcare Equity Solutions

RACHEL SCHMIDTCHEN
Leon County Home School



Awards and Honors: State Diving competitor with Chiles High School (2020-22); dual enrollment TCC and Dean's List; Best of Show 4H Chick Chain Project; Teen Court Rising Star Award; Honors Society

Activity Highlights: Youth Health Leadership Chair of Need Committee and Advisory Committee; National Youth Leadership Training; NICHE Interact Rotary Service Club; City Church Kids Ministry; Mini Mu Alpha Theta tutoring; Teen Court

My Legacy: "Ground your purpose in a greater purpose. I am a firm believer that every little task you complete ends up counting for a lot more in the long run. Simply setting a goal for yourself and truly working on achieving that goal is so fulfilling and fruitful."

What Others Are Saying: "Rachel not only sets the bar high for herself but also for her peers and fellow team and club members. She believes they can achieve whatever they put their mind to; she is also the once who will be y their side to assist them in reaching their goals."
– Maggie Crutchfield, Head Swim/Dive Coach, Chiles



HONORABLE MENTION

FINALISTS

WINNER



JEFFREY GEORGE

Rickards High School

Wanting to leave a legacy in his community for fostering scientific growth; Jeffrey George is a remarkable depiction of all the good that the field of science can do. Devoting countless hours giving back to his community, George has learned the importance of identifying needs in his city and leading initiatives to address those needs through the field of science and health.

When George looks back on his four years of high school, the Florida State University Youth Health Leadership Organization was the pinnacle of his career thus far. Selected as one of the nine Youth Leaders admitted into the four-month program, he was exposed to a 3-phase curriculum from the get-go. The first phase involved interactive content sessions that helped him understand the health situation in his community, the second phase involved an application rotation period where he was able to intern under Dr. George Rust, the director of FSU's College of Medicine and Health. Finally, the third phase consisted of a group project where the group was tasked to identify an issue affecting an underserved population and developing a solution.

"This program gave me the tools and knowledge to become a community leader," said George. "In my time working under Dr. George Rust, I learned the importance of bridging the health gap found within the local community through research simulations that examined the effects of underserved populations. Further, I'm returning as an ambassador for the program in hopes of

engaging the next generation of youth health leaders."

Dedicating over 400 hours of community service to the FSU Saltiel Research Group his junior and senior year, George was able to develop research skills and gain connections within the chemistry field. He volunteered as a student researcher under two professors to conduct studies on pine-sap-based plastic. Because of this opportunity, George is currently working on developing a methodology to manipulate the properties of this bio-based plastic using organic chemistry principles.

"I have watched Jeffrey mature over the years and he has greatly impressed me," said Dr. Paula Hall, AP/IB Biology Teacher at Rickards High School. "With Jeffrey's skills, talents, and his impeccable academic background, I believe that he will do well in whatever challenges lie ahead of him. His work ethic exceeds that of even an above average high school student."

George also serves as the Rickards Science Olympiad Invitational director, an organization that has furthered his leadership capabilities. He directed and helped the first ever Science Olympiad to provide remote opportunities to compete in science events during the pandemic. As a director, he oversaw test writing, managed funds, and coordinated in tournament. The invitational is now one of the largest tournaments in the nation with over 2,700 competitors and has raised over 12,000 dollars.

RUNNER-UP



SURABHI KUMAR

Chiles High School

With an exceptional background in the science and health field, Surabhi Kumar has gone above and beyond in her conduction of research, academics, and volunteer opportunities. Kumar prides herself on never giving up no matter how big the hurdle is, which is incredibly evident in her work ethic and the skills she has provided to the science and health field.

As a Junior Research Assistant at the University of Pennsylvania, Kumar was able to dedicate 540 hours of service to the institute. During her time, she conducted and presented research on finding an extrathymic T-cell development pathway and on Myasthenia gravis. Through this program, she developed a passion for research and further inspiring her to pursue a career in health.

"Surabhi's interest in science and scientific research illustrates that she has a vision for improving the welfare of mankind," said Angela Breza-Pierce, Kumar's A.P Environmental Teacher. "She has the unique ability to include others in her love of science which is evident in her selection of volunteer opportunities."

Kumar also has a peer-reviewed publication about the temperature thresholds for detection of skin wetness and dampness on the hand on-top of also having a US Patent. The patent is a design and development of a wetness perception monitor and a process to measure the perception of wetness in humans.

AALIYAH DAVIS

Leon High School



Being involved with numerous activities at Leon High School, Aalyiah Davis has learned the importance of being an active community member within her four years of high school. As a member of academic clubs, sports clubs, and Leon County advisory councils, Davis has matured well beyond her years because of her dedication to service and initiative to be a leader in her community.

Davis' most notable experience thus far was participating in Jack and Jill of America. This organization is dedicated to nurturing future African American leaders by strengthening children through leadership development, volunteer service, and philanthropic/civic duty.

"As chapter president, I have pushed our chapter to participate in more events and service opportunities collectively," said Davis. "This past year, we raised \$15,000 that went towards the Jack and Jill Foundation as well as the Boys and Girls Club."

Beyond Jack and Jill, Davis was the Leon High School Scholar Athlete of the Year for soccer, a member of Mu Alpha Theta, participant for the Black History Brain Bowl, and Leon County's School District Advisory Council. Davis hopes to be remembered as a person who did not confine herself to one box but explored her various passions and pursued them.

ANNA BECKER

North Florida Christian School



Awards and Honors: A/B Honor Roll

Activity Highlights: Thomasville Animal Hospital volunteer assistant (2019-22); Celebration Baptist Church

My Legacy: "Upon graduation, I hope people will remember me for a positive outlook on life and having a strong work ethic. I hope people look past the long, hard days that we have had and remember the fun memories that were created. I hope teachers will remember me for my character and the positive, outgoing spirit that I have. Lastly, I want to be known as someone who never gave up, and also loves the Lord."

What Others Are Saying: "Anna has been diligent to learn as much as she can about veterinary medicine, especially equine veterinary medicine. In addition to her very inquisitive demeanor, she sacrificed many hours of her personal time to help around our office and be present to observe and occasionally assist in procedures in equine medicine."

- V. Todd Cooley, DVM, Thomasville Animal Hospital

NIRMAY BHANDERI

Maclay School



Awards and Honors: National Merit Semifinalist; National Latin Exam medalist; 1st Place Biomedical Sciences and qualifier for International Science & Engineering Fair 2020; USA Coding Olympiad Silver Division; Presidential Scholarship Candidate

Activity Highlights: Bond Community Health Center, American Red Cross Youth Advisory Board; Maclay Tennis coach assistant; Brain Bowl volunteer; Maclay Robotics mentor

My Legacy: "I hope that my legacy following my graduation is that of someone ready to take risks and explore the nuances of the world. I have refused to allow any boundaries or restrictions to prevent me from contributing to the world and I hope that I am remembered as someone who wouldn't shy away from a challenge."

What Others Are Saying: "Nirmay is a highly intelligent and driven individual whose love of learning (particularly regarding fields of science associated with engineering, biology and physics) is evident in everything he does."

- William Perry, Math and Science Teacher, Maclay

JENNIFER "JENN" GARCIA

Florida State University Schools



Awards and Honors: National Spanish Honor Society (2018-22); National Honor Society (2019-22); Mu Alpha Theta; Dual enrollment TCC and President's List; Certified Nursing Assistant program

Activity Highlights: Girls Soccer Team (2018-22); Vacation Bible School volunteer (2018-21); Assistant with Boys Soccer program; WinShape Camp for Communities assistant counselor; FSUS Clinic assistant

My Legacy: "Upon graduating, I would like to leave a legacy that encourages students to hold on and find comfort in the little things. Even on the worst days remember, there's always the sounds of a crunchy leaf, the way the moon illuminates the sky, or the way music makes you feel."

What Others Are Saying: "While in the program she has worked the school clinic and completed rounds at some community based health care facilities. She has demonstrated professionalism while assisting patients in their greatest times of need. Jennifer is extremely compassionate and devoted to making situations."

- Amanda Roberts, RN, FSUS

CONNOR MCCORD

Lincoln High School



Awards and Honors: Awards and Honors: Princeton University Questbridge Scholar; Leon County School Board Member; National Merit Commended Scholar; FL College of Medicine Summer Institute delegate; US Naval Academy Summer Seminar delegate; Undergraduate of Physics Award (2021)

Activity Highlights: Boys State; Latin Club Vice President; Carepoint Health and Wellness Center head volunteer for Promise Zone patients; tutoring peers; park clean up events; Varsity Soccer Team

My Legacy: "I hope that I have lived up to the aspirations my father had for me before he passed and have become a person he would continue to be proud of."

What Others Are Saying: "From the beginning, we could all see his strong work ethic, willingness to learn new things and his kind nature. He was a valuable member of our team and we trusted him to take on assignments usually reserved for someone on staff."

– Patty Ballantine, Chief Operating Officer, Carepoint Health & Wellness Center

JORDAN RACKLEY

SAIL High School



Awards and Honors: CPR Certified and Licensed in Phlebotomy; Honor Roll; Excelling in Fiber Arts (2018-20); Excelling in Algebra 2021; National Healthcareer Association

Activity Highlights: Be Kind Community Service; Tallahassee Animal Shelter; Kids Incorporated volunteer

My Legacy: "What I hope my legacy is upon graduation of high school is to finally get a job as a phlebotomist, attend college to study my passion in becoming a nurse, graduate college within four years, and get my own place."

What Others Are Saying: "Jordan has demonstrated consistent communication and has shown interest in progression to our highest levels of volunteering, in an effort to work with our animals and to provide them the daily care, exercise, and enrichment that is deeply needed."
– Grayson Walters, Volunteer Coordinator, Tallahassee Animal Services

GISELLE RODRIGUEZ

Godby High School



Awards and Honors: ServSafe Certification; Microsoft Certification; National Honor Society; History Fair District Finalist

Activity Highlights: Soccer Team (2019); Yearbook Editor; Talquin Electric Cooperative Youth Tour

My Legacy: "I want to be remembered by my school and family because I took opportunities that have been offered to me. My family never had educational opportunities offered to them, nor the chance to attend college. My motivation has been my family, their struggles and success. Therefore, I applied and received scholarships and will attend a university to study chemistry."

What Others Are Saying: "While on the Youth Tour, Giselle stood out from her peers due to her understated confidence and outstanding effort. Giselle was quick to volunteer and ask questions and showed a genuine interest in the Co-op and Youth Tour program."

– Sara Khan, former Communications & Outreach Specialist, Talquin Electric Cooperative



SOCIAL SCIENCE

Sponsored by: Leon County Government

WINNER



CHRISTOPHER SALVADOR

Rickards High School

Christopher Salvador is a popular and buzzing name throughout Rickards High School, especially within the school's Key Club Organization. Being the president of this service organization, Salvador has furthered his understanding of how essential it is to play an active role in the community while reaping the benefits of establishing a leadership skill set through his service.

Salvador began his involvement in Key Club his freshman year, serving as the freshman director, then moving to sophomore director, secretary, and then finally to president. Salvador first heard about the club by word of mouth from his upperclassman peers. He unknowingly signed up to be a part of it not knowing the impact it would make on himself and his community. From the first event he attended with Key Club, he was instantly hooked.

"As I attended more and more service events, I realized the importance of community," said Salvador. "I realized that as a member of the community, I had a responsibility to be active in it. I've gained a great sense of appreciation for Tallahassee and learned that I take a lot of things for granted. In order to pay it forward and give back to the community, I need to be a part of it."

With Key Club being a start-up for his love of service, Salvador then went on to volunteer for organizations such as the Asian Coalition of

Tallahassee's Experience Asia Performance & Setup, the Fusion World Dance and Music Concert Practice and Performance, and the Big Bend Filipino American Association Festival. With all of these experiences, he developed a love for people and all things social.

"Christopher shows a curiosity to human-kind and has worked to better understand it," said Meaghan Eckerle, Rickards High School Social Studies Teacher. "His ability to connect topics to each other, unprompted, displays the critical thinking skills necessary of any historian or academic wishing to succeed within social studies."

Within his four years at Rickards, Salvador has blossomed into a poised leader that has developed an appreciation for his community and the people in it. After he graduates, Salvador hopes that through his actions and decisions, he was able to offer more opportunities and a better environment for the next generation of students. He hopes that in his time at Rickards, he served as a lesson to those that will come after him, and most importantly, leave the world and his school in a better place than he found it.

RUNNER-UP



DESMOND NELSON

Godby High School

Having a strong affinity towards music, Desmond Nelson served as the Godby High School's band president that oversaw the marching band. His peers and administration at Godby have seen Nelson grow as a musician, scholar, leader and professional through his role that has given him countless opportunities to excel and become a spokesperson for the organization.

Nelson was recently awarded with the John Phillip Sousa Award that he notes as being one of his greatest achievements in high school. The award is given to a student in marching band that has left a positive impact in terms of musicality, leadership, and passion. This award is recognized as the greatest honor that a band director can give.

"His experiences in band have molded him into a respected leader," said Timotheus Harper, Director of Bands at Godby High School. "Within his roles, he has inspired many students to be the best versions of themselves by mentoring, teaching and motivating them to excel musically and academically."

Nelson is a firm believer that challenges are not to be feared; challenges are to be embraced. A motto that has guided him through his journey thus far. He hopes to continue to take on the challenges he faces head on with a passion and humility.

HONORABLE MENTION

GRACYN "GRACYE" WOOD



Leon County Home School

With a variety of interests, Gracye Wood can either be seen on the soccer field or giving over 1,700 hours of service to the Leon County Humane Society. However, with the variety of commitments that Wood takes on, she makes sure that she gives her all to anything that comes her way, no matter how big or small the task is.

With a passion for helping animals, Wood found herself volunteering at a Puppy Camp in Tallahassee that dedicates their time to saving abused, neglected, and abandoned animals, as well as raising awareness for animal adoption. In this role, she placed over 25 dogs and cats in their forever home.

"Puppy camp changed my life forever," said Wood. "This passion is one I will never cease pursuing. The overwhelming feeling when you introduce an animal to a new family for the first time is a feeling words cannot describe."

Beyond puppies, Wood is a competitive soccer player, has competed in multiple Brain Bowl tournaments nationwide, and is on the Leon County Teen Court where she presented a verdict to a court. While having a full schedule, Wood has become an accomplished young leader that's capable of a lifetime of success.

FINALISTS

JONATHAN ANZALONE



Lincoln High School

Awards and Honors: Commended Scholar Academic Award; Mr. Lincoln High School, Varsity Letter for Lacrosse and Cross Country.

Activity Highlights: Lacrosse and Cross-Country Varsity Member; Student Body Vice President; Dance Marathon Morale Head and Comma Club Member.

My Legacy: "I hope to be known as the kid who is always there to lend a hand. I make it my goal to let people know I am here to listen and support whatever they may be going through."

What Others Are Saying: "Jonathan is academically gifted and creatively talented. He is the type of student who never quits even if there appears to be no solution. Working until a resolution is found and never giving up are honest character traits and standards, he sets for himself in and out of the classroom."

– Chery Henley, AP English Literature Teacher, Lincoln

MACKENZIE BROOME



Florida State University Schools

Awards and Honors: AP National Scholar; National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholar; National Rural and Small Town Recognition Program Scholar; Distinguished Delegation at Tallahassee Southern Model United Nations Conference

Activity Highlights: Yearbook; Model United Nations; FSUS Symphonic Band; Mu Alpha Theta; The Tallahassee Ballet; Photography Club; Ballet Arts Conservatory of Tallahassee; National Honor Society Vice President

My Legacy: "After attending Florida High for eleven years, I hope to leave behind a legacy of facing challenges with perseverance and creativity. I sought to fill my school years with a multi-faceted education, ranging from the arts to advanced

sciences. I've made the most of my time as I discovered which subjects I truly enjoyed, allowing me to determine my true aspirations.

What Others Are Saying: "As a high caliber student who is dedicated to the humanities, Mackenzie Broome is the definition of a well-rounded scholar, and an exemplary representative of our school and Leon County. She has time and time again stepped up in my classroom to be an agent of change my demonstrating a strong work ethic and positive attitude."

– Jacob Roberts, Social Studies Teacher, FSUS

ALYSSA COOPER



Chiles High School

Awards and Honors: All "A" Honor Roll; Scholar Athlete in Track and Field; 2019 Delta G.E.M.S Rising Star Award; Most Improved Cross Country Runner

Activity Highlights: Varsity Track and Cross Country; Delta G.E.M.S program; Black History Brain Bowl

My Legacy: "Upon graduation, I hope my legacy as a student will be one that teachers didn't have to worry about. My mom is a teacher and I've always wanted to be the student she would be proud to have in her class. I want my former teachers to think of me as someone who they could always depend on to work hard."

What Others Are Saying: "In my 28 years of teaching history at either the college/university or high school level, I have found that students such as Alyssa do very well upon graduation, often assuming challenging leadership roles in the community. I have little doubt that she will do the same."

– Wes Singletary, Social Studies Dept. Chair, Chiles

JOHN MILLER DAVID



Leon High School

Awards and Honors: Homecoming King; Beta Club award for outstanding character and achievement; Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society

Activity Highlights: Student Body Treasurer; Student Government Association; Varsity Soccer, Florida Association of Student Councils Department Head

My Legacy: "I hope to have left my school and community a better place than how I came into them, allowing future students to further improve upon my legacy."

What Others Are Saying: "John Miller David is highly respected by his peers, by faculty and coaches, and other community members because of his integrity, service, and positive attitude. Watching him lead others and support them in their tasks has been an encouragement celebrating his successes has been a joy."

– Joshua Stewart, SGA Sponsor, Leon

RASHAAD EPPS



SAIL High School

Awards and Honors: Certificate of Recognition and medal from Leon County Schools MLK Dreamers and Doers; General Award recipient LeMoyné Art Museum; Most Improved and Dedication Award for swimming; National Honors Society

Activity Highlights: Student Government Association; Leader of the Volunteer Service Committee; Alpha Phi Alpha Educational Leadership Academy

My Legacy: "As my time at SAIL High School draws to a close, I hope that my memories and impact on others will leave a lasting impression, not just on the remaining students in my high school, but also on my graduating class. Moreover, I hope to have inspired and motivated people who have been impacted by my art."

What Others Are Saying: "With Rashadd's integrity and learning agility, he will be very successful in her career and all future endeavors. He's dependable and able to delegate tasks efficiently."
– Quashier Flood-Strouble, National Honor Society Advisor, SAIL

DANIEL FRANK



Leon County Virtual School

Awards and Honors: Youth Fellowship with the Florida Democratic Party; Honor Roll; Chiles High Academic Letter; Admittance to Duke TIP Summer Program

Activity Highlights: Cast in 8 mainstage shows at Young Actors Theatre; Temple Israel Youth Group Board; Florida Democratic Party volunteer

My Legacy: "I hope to have been able to reach a wide variety of people and enabled those people to be able to make more educated decisions."

What Others Are Saying: "On top of his worth ethic and adaptability, Daniel's passion and desire to learn during his fellowship was evident from the moment it began. Not only is he high motivated to perform his duties to the best of his ability, he showed keen interest in learning more about organizing, local and regional politics, and the party organizational structure. He exceeded every expectation through his passion, work ethic, adaptability, and desire to always learn."

– Alexander Tiro, Supervisor, Florida Democratic Party

LANAIJA MCMILLAN



FAMU Developmental Research School

Awards and Honors: Honor Roll; Black History Essay Contest Winner; Perfect Attendance Award all four years of High School

Activity Highlights: Senior Class President; Black History Quiz Bowl team; Softball Team; Beta Club member; National Achievers Society; Future Farmers of America

My Legacy: "The legacy that I hope to leave behind will be my leadership skills and my ability to be a hard-working student. I plan to leave behind my determination, dedication, and open-mindedness. I plan to become an Obstetrics Gynecologist so that I can help decrease the maternal mortality rates amongst women of color."

What Others Are Saying: "I was impressed with Lanaija when I met her in my Food and Science class. She took charge of class projects and served as an excellent example to her fellow classmates. She is a highly motivated individual who always puts forth her best effort in all assigned tasks."
– Cynthia Holloway, Food and Science Teacher, FAMU DRS

RAMSEY SHIVER



North Florida Christian School

Awards and Honors: : Top Intern Award (2018-22) as President of Intern Campaigns

Activity Highlights: Republican Party of Florida intern; President of Campaigns for the Republican Party of Florida

My Legacy: "I want people to remember through my example that they can. They can look different from the world. That it is okay to question what you are told to believe. That if you simply let go of who you thought you were supposed to be, in Christ, you can embrace who you were made to be."

What Others Are Saying: "Ramsey is a driven and conscientious student with interests in the area of Social Science. With her extensive political science insight and experience, she excels in the classroom and in the community."

– Robert Godfrey, Social Science Teacher, NFC

KATHERINE "KATE" SMITH



Maclay School

Awards and Honors: Varsity Track and Swim Scholar Athlete, Marauder Award for Swim, Most Improved Soccer Player, 6th in the state for 4x100 meter relay Track and Field.

Activity Highlights: Senior Class President, Hang Tough Foundation golf tournament organizer; Dance Marathon; Varsity Girls Soccer (2018-22)

My Legacy: "I want to be remembered as a curious and determined learner who worked beyond the grade toward advanced understanding. More importantly, I hope people think of me as a kind hearted person and passionate leader who strived to make a positive impact in the lives of everyone around me."

What Others Are Saying: "Kate has the dedication and commitment to serve others, but in my opinion, what is the most important is that she has the heart to make a difference. I am so impressed with the way she is always looking for ways to improve herself in the community around her."
– Janelle Irwin, Executive Director, Hang Tough Foundation.

TECHNOLOGY

Sponsored by: Comcast

HONORABLE MEN-

FINALISTS

WINNER



SHREYAS KODELA

Rickards High School

Shreyas Kodela has spent his lifetime instilling the love of service and the importance of being a community leader into himself and his peers. Kodela believes that the smallest acts of kindness have the possibility to produce ripples, which over time can become a tidal wave of positivity and productivity that affects whole communities along the way.

At Rickards High School, Kodela is known for his stellar achievements and involvements within his school. Serving as the Executive Director of Dance Marathon, he oversaw the organization as a whole and directed the first-ever mini-marathon over at Fairview Middle School. On-top of his accomplishments within the organization, he took charge of spearheading fundraising events. As a school, they raised over \$65k for the Children's Miracle Network.

Beyond Dance Marathon, Kodela was a varsity soccer player and served as co-captain his senior year. Further, he also participated in Key Club, was the Vice President of Finance, National Honors Society Secretary, and Mu Alpha Theta's Historian. Juggling a variety of different clubs throughout his four years, Kodela has learned the importance of understanding various perspectives and to pursue a variety of interests.

Kodela has also installed the love of math into various students in his four years at Rickards High School. As a math tutor, he taught students math topics that helped them excel in the classroom setting. Topics ranging from addition to complex

multistep word problems. He even introduced students to programming and basic functions through the Acellus platform where they could take coding classes.

"Shreyas is a leader both on and off campus," said Joe L. Williams, IB Coordinator at Rickards High School. "Using his extensive computer experience - including web design, database administration, web programming, database management, and computer programming- to help others and make our community a better place to live."

Kodela also participates in a variety of community service projects and events that utilize his skills and talents to improve the welfare of Tallahassee. He volunteered for the city of Tallahassee and sewed 750 masks for nurses and workers at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital. Further, he worked with the ZE PowerGroup where he was a database analyst intern. He collected, organized, cleaned, and interpreted reports while working on the ZEMA product.

With an abundance of experience and tangible work that he has completed in his community, Kodela has an unwavering passion for providing positive change in the communities he impacts.

RUNNER-UP



BRIAN MCNULTY

Lincoln High School

Being technologically savvy is a trait that is highly desired in today's digitally based world. Brian McNulty uses his love for technology daily to help others navigate their way into STEM based fields, understand computer based programs, and overall encourage students to become interested in the field through education and learning.

McNulty's most meaningful commitment stems from his volunteer opportunity through the MoLab; a summer camp for elementary and middle school students to inspire them to pursue STEM-based activities.

"I taught students how to use the computers that may have not had an understanding of how to use them before," said McNulty. "I became so passionate about this program because of how MoLab encouraged me to become interested in STEM. Through volunteering, I learned how helping campers today could have an impact on the future of technology."

Through the MoLab, McNulty developed a love for service. He was able to transfer the skills he learned to Lincoln High School's Key Club and National Honors Society. Further, he even excels in his academics; being third in his class, earning the Geometry Student of the Year Award and AP Language and Composition Student of the Year Award.

"Brian will be an asset to any organization that may have the opportunity to work with him," said Aimee Hills, Director of Programming and Operations of MoLab. "His enthusiasm and willingness to help others will continue to serve to his advantage as he explores new horizons."

JANIYA RICHARDSON

Godby High School



Janiya Richardson is known for having an infectious spirit that exemplifies compassion, energy, and a sincere love for others. This can be seen in her mentorship to elementary school students or her presidential leadership role through National Honors Society. With a gift for serving others, Richardson is a staple leader at Godby High School.

Outside of her roles at Godby, Richardson served as a math tutor for third grade students. Every Saturday, she would teach students math songs, participate in math competitions with them, and overall foster a love for mathematics early on.

"The program taught me how to become more patient and compassionate with others," said Richardson. "It was a great opportunity to influence and mentor younger kids and gain leadership skills."

In the future, Richardson plans to break the digital dive by starting a nonprofit that teaches underprivileged and disabled kids technical skills such as computer programming. The program would hopefully encourage students to participate in STEM, just as Richardson has.

"Janiya is the embodiment of a hard-working and self-motivated individual," said Wendy Chan, Godby High School Engineering and Computer Science Teacher. "She is intelligent, attentive and thoughtful and eloquently demonstrates herself to peers, teachers, and others."

NIKKO DAVIS

SAIL High School



Awards and Honors: Toon Boom Certification; Power Point Certification; 3+ Years of A/B Honor Roll

Activity Highlights: National Honors Society; 21st CCLC Volunteer

My Legacy: "After graduating high school I plan to apply to a veterinarian apprenticeship. The legacy I hope to leave after I'm dead and gone is that I helped many animals recovery from the numerous sicknesses plaguing the world. Seeing the faces of owners relived that their companions are going to be ok fills me with joy. Before I retire as a Vet I hope to help at least 100 animals."

What Others Are Saying: "Nikko has so much to offer to any program that he is a part of. He is an intrinsically motivated learner, who has optimal study skills."

- Cornelius L.H Smith, Former Asst. Site Coordinator, 21st CCLC Program, Cobb MS

TREVOR GROSS

Maclay School



Awards and Honors: Certificate for Achievement for Spanish; Marauder Award for JV Tennis and MVP; Video Perfect Score at Ecole 26 Chanson Congres 2021

Activity Highlights: Robotics Team; Multicultural Awareness Club; Kiwanis Club; Maclay Tennis; Universal Human Rights Initiative; Maclay Academic Resource Center tutor

My Legacy: "I have spent much of my high school career as a person to come for aid, whether it be in classes, athletics, or extra-curriculars. More people need to step up within their communities to assist those who seek it and encourage those in need but unconfident in their ability to ask. I want to inspire more people to help."

What Others Are Saying: "As a student in AP Lit, Trevor is remarkable. Clearly, technology and STEM fields are more his speed, but he is taking AP to push himself and to broaden his interests and knowledge. This may seem tangential to his Technology application; but I think it reveals his work ethic and the curiosity and passion that he brings to all his endeavors."

- Craig Beaven, English Faculty, Maclay

CHARLES PRICE

Chiles High School



Awards and Honors: National Youth Leadership Training Certificate for Boy Scouts; Life Rank and Order of the Arrow for Boy Scouts; Adobe Premiere Pro Certificate

Activity Highlights: Mu Alpha Theta; Florida State University Center Club Runner; Boy Scouts of America

My Legacy: "I hope I leave a legacy of dependability. A lot of people have had to help me throughout my life for me to get to where I am today and strive to be that way for others. I hope I was always helpful to people that the people that come after me can do the same."

What Others Are Saying: "Overall, Charles is consistent, creative, and has an amazing work ethic. He's honest, thoughtful, and very dependable. He's an asset to every establishment."

- Cheryl Christie, Digital Media Teacher, Chiles

SRIHARI SANKURATRI

Florida State

University Schools



Awards and Honors: AP Scholar with distinction; Gold Bi-literacy seal; Mu Alpha Theta

Activity Highlights: National Honor Society; National English Honor Society; National Spanish Honor Society; FSUS K-Mentor Program; Swim Team

My Legacy: "I hope to be a person that others can easily rely on, a dependable, loyal friend; a likeable sort of person. I would like to leave a sense of happiness in those I encounter, in order to at least make their lives, better, even if by an insignificant amount."

What Others Are Saying: "As an academic, community member, and a scholar-athlete, Srihari is a role model for his peers and those following behind him. An avid swimmer and tennis player, Srihari has to juggle clubs, athletics, and academics, while maintaining a high-grade point average."
– Shannon Axtell, English Teacher, FSUS

ASHLYNN STENNETT

North Florida Christian School



Awards and Honors: National Honor Society; National African American Recognition Program; Math Certificate; Science and Engineering Fair; Highest Academic Average Certificate

Activity Highlights: President of Ivy Elite Mentoring Group; Secretary of the National Achievers Society; Tennis Team; Senior Class Vice President; Vice President of National Honor Society.

My Legacy: "I hope that I was able to set a good example for other students and encourage them to work as hard as they possibly can, not only in academics but in other areas of their life."

What Others Are Saying: "Ashlynn is one I can depend on to do anything I need. She is also one to help around school in any area and usually does so without seeking recognition. I am incredibly proud of the young lady she is and will miss her leadership when she graduates."
– Holly Gorham, Math Dept. Chair, NFC

CATHARINE TEW



Leon High School

Awards and Honors: Autodesk Inventor Certification; AP Scholar with Distinction Award

Activity Highlights: Assistant Reporter for Technical Student's Association; President of Church Young Women; Librarian of Leon's Capital Singers; Secretary of French National Honor Society; President of Yam Club

My Legacy: "I hope to combine my love for technology and creativity into a career that will expand the boundaries of our current knowledge and abilities and that will help solve some of the problems that society faces. I hope to help people through the creation of innovative and useful technologies, both on a large and a smaller one."

What Others Are Saying: "Catherine is curious, dedicated and above all kind. She always takes advantage of opportunities and finds a way to pay it forward. She works to support those around her while fulfilling her own commitments. Her extensive club and extra-curricular experience speak to her positive influence on our school community beyond academic achievement."

– Amanda Geiger, Social Studies Teacher, Leon



WORLD LANGUAGES

WINNER



ISHRIT GUPTA

Rickards High School

Ishrit Gupta is an example of what dedication to academics and service entails. Being an AP Scholar all four years of high school on top of giving over 500 hours of community service; Gupta is a pillar in the Tallahassee community and a beyond exceptional student.

One of Gupta's most significant service endeavors was working with the Bank of America Leaders projects with other student leaders. More specifically, working with another student to develop solutions for educational and food insecurity, two problems that resonated with Gupta. Applying to this program was significant for him. He wanted to put into practice his social skills that he had been developing alongside learning two new languages.

In wanting to combat food insecurity, Gupta realized that various food banks in the area did not have updated databases for people and sites that they were donating to. In order to help keep track of where all the food was going, Gupta had to get in contact with each of the sites and their respective coordinators. "To my surprise, I ended up having to use one of the languages I was learning, French, to communicate with some of the regional directors and their employees," said Gupta. "Once he gathered the information he needed, he had to compile and database the information with medication and allergy requirements and new contact information.

"This whole experience helped me learn about the importance of direct community relationships,"

said Gupta. "Further, the experience showed me I can impact individuals on a larger scale. I was able to meet with community leaders whose influence on the people around them is far greater than any national politician and understand how important grassroots work is to implement real solutions."

"Ishrit knows that the world is in a precarious place," said Jennifer Sullivan, IB Social and Cultural Anthropology teacher at Rickards High School. "But he is also aware of how communication can tip the scale by investing in simple improvements to quality of life, both locally and globally. His optimism, adaptability, and genuine concern for his fellow human beings will benefit every community he chooses to be part of."

On top of his service, Gupta was awarded with the Best Delegate at 3 Model United Nations conferences, attended Multiple Regional and state competitions for Speech and Debate, received Science Olympiad Regional Medals, and won a Regional Bronze medal in Statistics and Mathematics. On top of all the activities he juggles, Gupta served as the Captain of Rickards High School swim team and was a nominee for Leon County Student athlete award four years in a row. With a stellar record of achievements, Gupta is a powerhouse throughout his school community and the city of Tallahassee.

RUNNER-UP



ELI MEARS

Maclay School

Wanting to leave a legacy at Maclay School of being the kind of person who shows humility, kindness, and compassion; Eli Mears has done just that within his four years. As an active leader at Maclay, he has developed a thorough leadership skill set within athletics and the activities he's involved himself with.

While Mears is an active member at Maclay, volunteering with the Apalachicola Riverkeepers made the most significant impact in his time being a part of the North Florida Community. Within this volunteer opportunity, he was able to participate in local river cleanups and realized the importance of playing an active role in the environment.

"Eli has enthusiasm and a hard-working attitude that separates him from the rest," said Doug Alderson, Outreach and Advocacy Director of the Riverkeepers. "He serves as a great example for young people and the importance of getting involved with environmental issues."

Mears is a member of Mu Alpha Theta, Managing Editor of the Underground Literary Magazine at Maclay, and on the Track and Field team. With a drive to succeed, Mears serves as an example of a servant leader with a willingness to put others before himself.

HONORABLE MENTION

MOLLY NOVIN

Leon High School

With a cheerful spirit, it's no surprise that Molly Novin plays an integral role at Leon High School's Dance Marathon Organization. Novin's most meaningful contribution to her school has been through this program and the experiences and lessons she's learned.

"My sister was born with a congenital heart disease and being involved with Dance Marathon has allowed me to give back to an organization that has helped my family through tough times," said Novin. "Serving as the business sponsorship captain has strengthened my people skills that I will need to maintain when having professional relationships and also serving as a morale member."

"Molly's resilience in tough situations and her ability to bring people together only added to my high opinion of her," said Kate Davis, AP Art History Teacher at Leon High School. "I have no doubt she will continue to be an involved member of our community and prove herself a leader outside of the high school arena."

With the lessons learned from Dance Marathon, she was able to transfer her skills into other organizations as well. Being the Garden Club President, Spanish National Honor Society President, and the Leon High Life Freshman Edition Editor-in-Chief, Novin is equipped with the skills and leadership experiences to continue being successful in her future endeavors.

FINALISTS

ERIC BIZIMANA

Godby High School

Awards and Honors: Honor Roll (2021-22)

Activity Highlights: Soccer Team member; Miles and Minutes Cross Country Club; International Rescue Committee Member (IRC)

My Legacy: "My language skills have opened so many doors for me and I want to use it to help open the door for others. I hope to leave a legacy of compassion and selflessness. I hope to teach others like me that they too can achieve anything they put their mind too."

What Others Are Saying: "I would describe Eric as being dedicated, hardworking, talented, reliable and a team player. His volunteer opportunities include translating from English to Swahili. The quality of his work was outstanding. His volunteer efforts have made a positive impact and are greatly appreciated."

- Shainance Mkoji, Case Worker, IRC.

KATHERINE COX

Leon County Home School

Awards and Honors: Three-time National Champion in Latin Certamen; 4th place in Lillie B. Hamilton Award; Bronze and Gold Medalist on National Latin Exams; Winner of St. Andrew's Society Scottish Essay Contest; 1st place in Mythology at State and Regional Competitions

Activity Highlights: Latin Club President and Coordination of Service Projects; Junior League of Tallahassee Teen Board Member; Tri-M Music Honor Society Member

My Legacy: "I hope those whom I worked with will remember me as the kind, friendly, servant-hearted student. I want to be remembered for how I made people feel, and pray that I have inspired others to generously serve, sharing whatever gifts they have developed from working hard academically."

What Others Are Saying: "Katherine appreciates the imagination of those who came before her, and she sees her learning as a continuation of theirs. Katherine's service efforts related to world language is broad and substantial, it is just a subset of the many other ways she volunteers in our community."

- Kevin Cox, Founder and Director, Midtown Classical

ANTWANIA "NIA" DAVIS

FAMU Developmental Research School

Awards and Honors: All "A" Honor Roll; Rookie of the Year for JV Basketball; Girls State Medal for Basketball and Flag Football; Spanish Most Improved Student

Activity Highlights: Girls Basketball Team; Broward Sista's Organization member; Flag Football Team

My Legacy: "The legacy I hope to leave behind is the passion and energy I showed when it was time to play basketball. I plan to leave behind my positive attitude and the ability to respect others. I plan to become a social worker so that I can make a difference in the lives of other people."

What Others Are Saying: "Antwania exemplifies FAMU's mantra of *Excellence with Caring*. Mrs. Davis is a well-rounded individual with extensive talents in and out of the school setting. Her positive energy and willingness to effectively complete assigned tasks in a timely manner are important skills to possess."

- Ericka Cromartie, Girls Basketball Coach, FAMU DRS

VALENTINA GONZALEZ

Lincoln High School

Awards and Honors: Honor Roll; 2021 Varsity Athletic Award; 2020 Varsity Team Most Valuable Player for Tennis; 2020 High Academic Achievement Award

Activity Highlights: Key Club; Spanish Honor Society; Tennis Team

My Legacy: "To encourage helping others. Spread the desire to love and embrace your culture and language. Giving your best at everything you do and doing it with passion."

What Others Are Saying: "I have witnessed Valentina grow as an excellent, outstanding student and an extraordinary human being. Her work ethics in and out of the classroom always exceed expectations, her personality and behavior set her apart."

- Jose Morales, World Language Dept., Lincoln

JORDAN JACKSON

SAIL High School

Awards and Honors: MLK Doers and Dreamers Award; Honor-Roll (2019-22)

Activity Highlights: Member of the National Society of High School Scholars

My Legacy: "Upon graduating, I want my ultimate legacy to be kindness. The entire reason I am studying any foreign languages is because I want to be able to help as many people as possible and to spread kindness to as many different groups as I can. I want people to think of kindness when they remember me."

What Others Are Saying: "Jordan has had many obstacles come her way and she has not allowed it to throw her off course. Jordan's work ethic and thirst for excellence propels her to succeed. She embraces all changes and hurdles that potentially may have hindered her."

- Jessica Chapman, Assistant Principal, SAIL

MARICEL LOPEZ-MARRERO

Florida State

University Schools

Awards and Honors: AP Scholar with Honor Distinction; Superior ranking Thespians Districts; Superior ranking at Modern Language Exposition; Principals Honor Roll; National Honor Society and Spanish and English Honor Societies

Activity Highlights: International Thespian Society Secretary; Young Actors Theatre

My Legacy: "You can always find inclusion in diversity, and that should be celebrated in every way possible."

What Others Are Saying: "Not only is Maricel a hard-working student and performer, Maricel is kind and optimistic. She looks for the good in every situation, and when asked to help, she strives to make things better than how she found them. She is a rare combination of being efficacious and gracious."

- Lissette Merlano, Secondary Theatre Teacher, FSUS

SRINITHA SRIKANTH

Chiles High School

Awards and Honors: Recognition from Tallahassee Tamil Mandram; Certificate from the Health and Science Exploration Program; Honor Roll

Activity Highlights: Chiles Ambassador; UNICEF Club Social Media Coordinator; Human Relations Club Director of Communications; Senior Class Representative; Leon County School District Advisory Council

My Legacy: "I hope my legacy upon graduation will be the happiness of students at LCS. As someone who cares deeply about societal issues and helping improve conditions for school students, I hope to leave high school with the satisfaction that my voice has been heard and that I helped in creating a safer, caring, and more fun environment for students."



★ SPIRIT OF THE BEST & BRIGHTEST

This award is in honor of Brooks Rogers, who tragically lost his life in an automobile accident in 2011. His passion for life and commitment to helping others exemplifies the "spirit" of the Best & Brightest. Because of the generosity of the Tallahassee community after his death, a scholarship fund was formed to benefit the Best & Brightest Awards recipients. This recognition has been an exciting culmination of the awards program, with a \$2,500 scholarship presented to a student recognized for exemplifying that "Spirit."

The winners are selected among the 45 honorable mentions, runners-up, and winners in each of the categories. The recipient of the spirit of the Best & Brightest award truly exemplifies what it means to have a passion for service and giving back to the community.



Leon County students have continuously achieved high academics and been very active in their schools and in the community. Over the years we have been proud to recognize the Best & Brightest winners of all 15 categories in our printed materials and on our website. Many of these students have continued on their academic path of excellence and attained fulfilling careers. We are very proud to hear that most are still enjoying their passion of volunteering in the places they call home. Congratulations to our past winners since 2006.

★ 2022 SPIRIT AWARD

SHREYAS KODELA Rickards High School



As a founder of HelpingSoup, Shreyas Kodela created the organization along with a few friends to provide basic necessities such as food and water to lower-income areas of Tallahassee. As the Head Front-End Developer, Kodela created a web design for the platform to gather information from a donor about what and when they would like to donate to a soup kitchen. Volunteers then can log in and choose to pick a request from a donor and pick up the goods to take to one of four HelpingSoup's current partner locations in Tallahassee.

Kodela assisted the Sewing Seeds Sewing Comfort Ministry by setting up a social media presence and was inspired to start a Mask Sewing Facebook fundraiser for No Kid Hungry. He sewed masks as an incentive gift to everyone who donated \$5 to provide food for underprivileged children and provide mask for protection during the pandemic. He also sewed 750 masks for nurses at TMH.

Kodela learned through the creation of HelpingSoup that it is possible to help a community through technology and "the smallest acts of kindness can produce ripples which over time can become a tidal wave of positivity and productivity affecting communities along the way."

★ PAST WINNERS

- 2012 Zemoria Johnson
RICKARDS HIGH SCHOOL
- 2013 Sam Kerce
LEON HIGH SCHOOL
- 2014 Mackenzie Teek
LEON HIGH SCHOOL
- 2015 Carina Krehl
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL
- 2016 Zenani Johnson
RICKARDS HIGH SCHOOL
- 2017 Jordyn Berrian
LEON HIGH SCHOOL
- 2018 Khadeja Ahmed
MACLAY SCHOOL
- 2019 Yunus Kovankaya
LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL
- 2020 Maxance Ngnepieba
RICKARDS HIGH SCHOOL
- 2021 Rohan Davidi
RICKARDS HIGH SCHOOL

ART

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>2006
Winner - Courtney Asztalos
Runner-up - Allison Jackson
Honorable Mention - Keon Hogan</p> <p>2007
Winner - Shannon Groves
Runner-up - Matthew Cowdery
Honorable Mention - Ishanna Ible</p> <p>2008
Winner - Erin Harris-Parks
Runner-up - Chelsea Hill
Honorable Mention - Hannah Leggoe</p> <p>2009
Winner - Cosby Hayes
Runner-up - Mary Dunkelberger
Honorable Mention - Allison Cottle</p> <p>2010
Winner - Taylor Hardee
Runner-up - Danielle Bishop
Honorable Mention - Julia Kunberger</p> <p>2011
Winner - Thomas Cooper
Runner-up - Diana Elsner
Honorable Mention - Todd Jones</p> | <p>2012
Winner - Sara Cox
Runner-up - Benjamin Kay
Honorable Mention - Monica Frehn</p> <p>2013
Winner - Kaitlin Duchene
Runner-up - Caroline Manuel
Honorable Mention - Aarron Mosley</p> <p>2014
Winner - Yuqing Wu
Runner-up - Kiara Palmer
Honorable Mention - Kenya Lloyd</p> <p>2015
Winner - Carina Krehl
Runner-up - Torrey Kiele
Honorable Mention - Rhea-Donna Reyes</p> <p>2016
Winner - Akshar Patel
Runner-up - Clara Molina
Honorable Mention - Kari Essary</p> <p>2017
Winner - Alexis Campbell
Runner-up - Abigail Perkins
Honorable Mention - Jay Wenhold</p> | <p>2018
Winner - Karsyn Fletcher
Runner-up - Julia Martinez-Miller
Honorable Mention - Jasmine Blake</p> <p>2019
Winner - Haileigh Walton
Runner-up - Nicholas Williams
Honorable Mention - Kathryn Barnette</p> <p>2020
Winner - Madison Wolfe
Runner-up - Ethan Bonham-Reed
Honorable Mention - Manna Robertson</p> <p>2021
Winner - Roman Le
Runner-up - Emma Bryson
Honorable Mention - Mia Scott</p> |
|--|--|---|

ATHLETICS

2006 Winner - Kristen Ledlow
 Runner-up - Denise Frohlich
 Honorable Mention - Daniel Morris, Jr.

2007 Winner - Seth Walker
 Runner-up - Rebecca Stott
 Honorable Mention - Kacie McCloud

2008 Winner - Laura Hempel
 Runner-up - Maria Harper
 Honorable Mention - Katrina Unglaub

2009 Winner - Thomas Strickland III
 Runner-up - Ryan Welke
 Honorable Mention - Kelly Conroy

2010 Winner - Sarah Rudder
 Runner-up - Melanese Edwards
 Honorable Mention - Catherine Whiddon

2011 Winner - Rosemary Klassen
 Runner-up - Macie Wilkins
 Honorable Mention - Lindsey Duncan

2012 Winner - Sarah Harrington
 Runner-up - Johnny Blue Craig
 Honorable Mention - Jennifer Griffith

2013 Winner - Stefanie Kurgatt
 Runner-up - Joseph Briggs
 Honorable Mention - Alyssa Yambor-Maul

2014 Winner - Darrielle McQueen
 Runner-up - Adrian Hendlin
 Honorable Mention - Phalguna Rupanagudi

2015 Winner - Tyson Murray
 Runner-up - Kathryn Crotty
 Honorable Mention - Julian Greene

2016 Winner - Claire Kercheval-Roig
 Runner-up - Teresa Conroy
 Honorable Mention - Tanner Adkison

2017 Winner - Kelley Breeden
 Runner-up - Morgan Ayers
 Honorable Mention - Johnny Grace

2018 Winner - Alexander Sobeski
 Runner-up - Ana Wallace
 Honorable Mention - Mary Waddell

2019 Winner - Emma McGibany
 Runner-up - Nataki Close
 Honorable Mention - Braidan O'Connor

2020 Winner - Janae Scott
 Runner-up - Shania Cromartie
 Honorable Mention - Saige Kemeny

2021 Winner - Terrance McPherson Jr.
 Runner-up - Daniel Campbell
 Honorable Mention - De'Shawn Rucker

BUSINESS

2006 Winner - Ricquel Jackson
 Runner-up - Kolanda Lewis
 Honorable Mention - Heidi Dhein

2007 Winner - Brittany Pace
 Runner-up - Ashley Carter
 Honorable Mention - Romain Benjamin

2008 Winner - Lauren Rudd
 Runner-up - Brittany Folsom
 Honorable Mention - Sheneka Faison

2009 Winner - Thierry Kayiranga
 Runner-up - Adrian Trautmann
 Honorable Mention - Darius Hands

2010 Winner - Kevin Hill
 Runner-up - Kevy Moore
 Honorable Mention - Charles Cox

2011 Winner - Samuel Cook
 Runner-up - Katie Pullen
 Honorable Mention - William Baldock

2012 Winner - Zemoria Johnson
 Runner-up - William McQuade
 Honorable Mention - Morrie Kim

2013 Winner - Parth Patel
 Runner-up - Jill Smith
 Honorable Mention - Brooke Hunter

2014 Winner - Deanne Roberts
 Runner-up - Brian Leichus
 Honorable Mention - Haley Ashlin

2015 Winner - Emily Schwartz
 Runner-up - Anna Rushin
 Honorable Mention - Irj Tajdar

2016 Winner - Camille Okonkwo
 Runner-up - Taylor Bickett
 Honorable Mention - Andrew Inman

2017 Winner - Craig Mitchell
 Runner-up - James Maguire, Jr.
 Honorable Mention - Kathleen Kelly

2018 Winner - Estella Waczewski
 Runner-up - Elizabeth Zhang
 Honorable Mention - Mallory Morgan

2019 Winner - Jordan Sutherland
 Runner-up - Malachi Jackson
 Honorable Mention - Ky'Rianna Washington

2020 Winner - Conqualla Scott
 Runner-up - Rachael Stockel
 Honorable Mention - Jake Moore

2021 Winner - Isaiah Griffith
 Runner-up - Johnny Liu
 Honorable Mention - Sabrina Zheng

PAST WINNERS
CAREER/TECHNICAL

2006 Winner - Ann Sheddan
 Runner-up - Princess Warren
 Honorable Mention - Amanda Lorenz

2007 Winner - Jennifer Salib
 Runner-up - Vivek Pal
 Honorable Mention - Charlotte Homme

2008 Winner - Candace Rosier
 Runner-up - Sapphire Hinson
 Honorable Mention - Michael Schwarz

2009 Winner - Jordan Rodriguez
 Runner-up - Luka Sharron
 Honorable Mention - Justis Mills

2010 Winner - Michael Ethridge
 Runner-up - Bianca Medina
 Honorable Mention - Michelle Hudson

2011 Winner - Jenna Perlman
 Runner-up - Alexander Schroeppfer
 Honorable Mention - Joshua Kaplan

2012 Winner - Kelsey McWilliams
 Runner-up - Kaci Boylan
 Honorable Mention - Chambre' Maclin

2013 Winner - Chassidy Ferrell
 Runner-up - Gabriela Brown
 Honorable Mention - Michelle Kelley

2014 Winner - Sarah Gurley
 Runner-up - Kayla Parker
 Honorable Mention - Alayna Sibille

2015 Winner - Porter Crapps, IV
 Runner-up - Jada Rose
 Honorable Mention - Katherine Grubbs

2016 Winner - Anunoy Dussa
 Runner-up - Megan Hayes
 Honorable Mention - Rebecca Prater

2017 Winner - Rachel Rumana
 Runner-up - Robert Skrob
 Honorable Mention - Emily Fiorini

2018 Winner - Anvitha Mandapati
 Runner-up - Seth Kemeny
 Honorable Mention - Martine Fredrickson

2019 Winner - Jack Ubben
 Runner-up - Jennifer Uriostegui
 Honorable Mention - Shicloria Bryant

2020 Winner - Ariana White
 Runner-up - Dakota Davis-Jenkins
 Honorable Mention - Kamiya Kendrick

2021 Winner - Sina Mollaei
 Runner-up - Nadia Collins
 Honorable Mention - Jonathan Witmer

DRAMA & PERFORMING ARTS

2006 Winner - Cynthia Jackson
 Runner-up - Chris Hand
 Honorable Mention - Bethany Mihalik

2007 Winner - Waylen Roche
 Runner-up - Jennifer Skene
 Honorable Mention - Jonathan Kubik

2008 Winner - Lauren Bacon
 Runner-up - William Simpson
 Honorable Mention - Michael Dorsey

2009 Winner - Alexandria Collins
 Runner-up - Christopher Frazier
 Honorable Mention - Carly Langston

2010 Winner - Shonn McCloud
 Runner-up - Kayla Valentine
 Honorable Mention - Erik Reed

2011 Winner - Julia Draper
 Runner-up - Ladarian Lilly
 Honorable Mention - Katherine Skene

2012 Winner - Victoria Whitley
 Runner-up - Anna Bradshaw
 Honorable Mention - Laura Johnson

2013 Winner - Lauren Jones
 Runner-up - Lee Moleski
 Honorable Mention - Saint-Claire Mottley

2014 Winner - Roxanne Jester
 Runner-up - Anna Brooks
 Honorable Mention - Mathieu Fredrickson

2015 Winner - Maxx Marshall
 Runner-up - Corrie Ostrander
 Honorable Mention - Jamie Shuman

2016 Winner - Bethany O'Leary
 Runner-up - Briallen Sanchez-Thurber
 Honorable Mention - Mia Pesta

2017 Winner - Jordyn Berrian
 Runner-up - Katherine Jones
 Honorable Mention - Sarah Barton

2018 Winner - Camila Calderon
 Runner-up - Abigail Leaman
 Honorable Mention - Mercy Bickell

2019 Winner - Ashley Campbell
 Runner-up - Jerilyn Fortier
 Honorable Mention - Teresa Fondo

2020 Winner - John Malley
 Runner-up - Mary Casteel
 Honorable Mention - Katie Mulrooney

2021 Winner - Samuel Scriven
 Runner-up - Griffin Stanley
 Honorable Mention - Joelle Campana

ENGLISH & LANGUAGE ARTS

2006 Winner - Catherine Chase
 Runner-up - Maria Diaz
 Honorable Mention - Ariel Adams

2007 Winner - Rebecca Lu
 Runner-up - Alexander McNaughton
 Honorable Mention - David Capelouto

2008 Winner - Anna Beck
 Runner-up - Erin Canter
 Honorable Mention - Elizabeth Seery

2009 Winner - Mark Stern
 Runner-up - Julia Slayden
 Honorable Mention - Lendra Coker

2010 Winner - Taylor Conley
 Runner-up - Rebecca Markell
 Honorable Mention - Aidan Hale

2011 Winner - Ciara Niamh Lepanto
 Runner-up - Jazmyn Reed
 Honorable Mention - India Watkins

2012 Winner - Cecelia Smith-Schoenwalder
 Runner-up - Mary Kathryn King
 Honorable Mention - Christina Mbuya

2013 Winner - Rachel Cannella
 Runner-up - Taylor Harvey
 Honorable Mention - Winston McGriff

2014 Winner - Yasemin Altun
 Runner-up - Brooke Harrison
 Honorable Mention - Emily Ostreich

2015 Winner - Mary Dixon
 Runner-up - Mikayla Murray
 Honorable Mention - Zoe Hume

2016 Winner - Amelia Bunnell
 Runner-up - Kaitlyn Bludau
 Honorable Mention - Marilyn Edmond

2017 Winner - Leteme Ashebo
 Runner-up - Quinlan Mewborne
 Honorable Mention - Rachel Corry

2018 Winner - Sarah Halbert
 Runner-up - Andrea Mendoza
 Honorable Mention - Chloe Caylor

2019 Winner - Anna Daunt
 Runner-up - Jordan Magnuson
 Honorable Mention - Maya Levy

2020 Winner - Julia Hernandez
 Runner-up - Timothy O'Connor
 Honorable Mention - Lilly Simons

2021 Winner - Leah Mazur
 Runner-up - Emily Butler
 Honorable Mention - Kayla Jackson

JOURNALISM & MEDIA PRODUCTION

2006 Winner - Wendy Walters
 Runner-up - Elizabeth Copps
 Honorable Mention - Camille Goethe

2007 Winner - Jessica Moody
 Runner-up - Amber Frydrychowski
 Honorable Mention - Clay Celander

2008 Winner - Eden Joyner
 Runner-up - Alexander Saunders
 Honorable Mention - Sarah Taylor

2009 Winner - Elizabeth Landers
 Runner-up - Kathryn Schofield
 Honorable Mention - Tara Gonzalez

2010 Winner - Dana Edwards
 Runner-up - Madeleine Loeb
 Honorable Mention - Ashira Morris

2011 Winner - Katie Mullaly
 Runner-up - Lisa Gault
 Honorable Mention - Chi-Valry Wu

2012 Winner - Taylor McMahon
 Runner-up - Nigel King
 Honorable Mention - Kylie Parham

2013 Winner - Joni Lindsey
 Runner-up - Elizabeth Santoro
 Honorable Mention - Patricia Moes

2014 Winner - Mina Kaji
 Runner-up - Madison Harris-Parks
 Honorable Mention - Torri Hart

2015 Winner - Muireall Brown
 Runner-up - Rachel Rivers
 Honorable Mention - Dakota Williams

2016 Winner - Celita Summa
 Runner-up - John-Ike Smith-Schoenwalder
 Honorable Mention - Reagan Anderson

2017 Winner - Caleb Riggins
 Runner-up - Julia Chodyla
 Honorable Mention - Saniya Pradhan

2018 Winner - Lauren Shirley
 Runner-up - Hannah Wong
 Honorable Mention - Cristin McKee

2019 Winner - Nadaley Jones
 Runner-up - John Folsom
 Honorable Mention - Helen Bradshaw

2020 Winner - Jacqueline Cruz
 Runner-up - Madelyn Stout
 Honorable Mention - Sarah Crandall

2021 Winner - Cooper Harrell
 Runner-up - Maddelena Kaji
 Honorable Mention - Kacie Ross

PAST WINNERS**LEADERSHIP**

2006 Winner - Michael Jones
 Runner-up - Katherine Davis
 Honorable Mention - Christopher Emmanuel

2007 Winner - Jamel Langley
 Runner-up - Whitney Moore
 Honorable Mention - Brittany Gredler

2008 Winner - Nusaibah Kofar -Naisa
 Runner-up - Netia McCray
 Honorable Mention - Haylee Lamb

2009 Winner - Auriel Rolle-Polk
 Runner-up - Gregory Cummins
 Honorable Mention - Stephanie Post

2010 Winner - Jasmine Holmes
 Runner-up - Kelly Jones
 Honorable Mention - Caroline Maxwell

2011 Winner - Mary Lundberg
 Runner-up - LaCrai Mitchell
 Honorable Mention - Haven Mills

2012 Winner - Jennifer Berrian
 Runner-up - Joi Edwards
 Honorable Mention - Mary Grace Conroy

2013 Winner - Elizabeth Sell
 Runner-up - Kristin Sweeney
 Honorable Mention - Cody Johansen

2014 Winner - Brooke Williams
 Runner-up - Joshua Gallaher
 Honorable Mention - Amina Kamau

2015 Winner - Carolyn Shi
 Runner-up - Matthew Sweeney
 Honorable Mention - Kenidee Webster

2016 Winner - Tylar Hall
 Runner-up - Carlton DiSalvo
 Honorable Mention - Mariam Mckee

2017 Winner - Nia Close
 Runner-up - Rida Darji
 Honorable Mention - Robyn Seniors

2018 Winner - Daniel Sweeney
 Runner-up - Slade Machado
 Honorable Mention - Tareq Salley

2019 Winner - Nicolas Timmons
 Runner-up - Abigail Hansen
 Honorable Mention - Madison Crews

2020 Winner - Jason Gao
 Runner-up - Michelena O'Rourke
 Honorable Mention - Jude Countryman

2021 Winner - Asia Alexander
 Runner-up - Michael Sweeney
 Honorable Mention - Genesis Yoshioka

MATHEMATICS

2006 Winner - Amina Ellison
 Runner-up - Kirk Hansen
 Honorable Mention - Erin Burnside

2007 Winner - Catherine Cottle
 Runner-up - Louis Reis
 Honorable Mention - Weiping Zhang

2008 Winner - Chenyu Lin
 Runner-up - Kavita Chandra
 Honorable Mention - Kyle Trainor

2009 Winner - Suvrat Jain
 Runner-up - William Tsai
 Honorable Mention - Gina Shetty

2010 Winner - Aditi Hota
 Runner-up - Jitesh Kuntawala
 Honorable Mention - Kathleen Park

2011 Winner - Pratik Sachdeva
 Runner-up - Shuai Jiang
 Honorable Mention - Emily Stowers

2012 Winner - Dae Kang
 Runner-up - Breshawn Best
 Honorable Mention - Bailey Ruark

2013 Winner - Grace Ying
 Runner-up - Ralph Wilhelm
 Honorable Mention - Seungbyn Baek

2014 Winner - Jimmy Zhang
 Runner-up - Alexander Yu
 Honorable Mention - Dionte Boddie

2015 Winner - Jessie Chi
 Runner-up - Siddarth Kethireddy
 Honorable Mention - Justin Bartell

2016 Winner - Puneet Sachdeva
 Runner-up - Sadhana Ponnaluri
 Honorable Mention - Amelia Maddox

2017 Winner - James Baggett
 Runner-up - Emily LeHeup
 Honorable Mention - Kyle Chen

2018 Winner - Caroline Englert
 Runner-up - Joanna Wang
 Honorable Mention - Luke McCarthy

2019 Winner - Venkat Kommu
 Runner-up - Yunus Kovankaya
 Honorable Mention - Judith Wang

2020 Winner - Rayyan Darji
 Runner-up - Simon Corpuz
 Honorable Mention - Antonio Nunez

2021 Winner - Rohan Davidi
 Runner-up - David Yang
 Honorable Mention - Xuan Li

MUSIC

2006 Winner - Drew Pattison
 Runner-up - Joseph Sheets
 Honorable Mention - Jake Armstrong

2007 Winner - Kerian Cox
 Runner-up - Matthew King
 Honorable Mention - Raine Guthrie

2008 Winner - Victoria Warnet
 Runner-up - Amanda Mihalik
 Honorable Mention - Jarrod Holland

2009 Winner - Benjamin Pattison
 Runner-up - Christine Hatcher
 Honorable Mention - Jacqueline Saha

2010 Winner - Greta Smidt
 Runner-up - Chase Banks
 Honorable Mention - Hannah Haugen

2011 Winner - Devon Richardson
 Runner-up - Paul Miller
 Honorable Mention - Richard Mattox

2012 Winner - Lindsey Langston
 Runner-up - Alexander Horton
 Honorable Mention - Taylor Williams

2013 Winner - Phillip Mendez
 Runner-up - Diego Hernandez
 Honorable Mention - Jessey Krehl

2014 Winner - Samuel Cherrier-Vickers
 Runner-up - Jatericka Connelly
 Honorable Mention - Justin Fitzpatrick

2015 Winner - Kayla Williams
 Runner-up - Jacob Goldstein-Greenwood
 Honorable Mention - Stephen Barton

2016 Winner - Christie Ger
 Runner-up - Tiffany Vaughn
 Honorable Mention - Adam Rusmisell

2017 Winner - Samantha Crawford
 Runner-up - Roehl-Dean Reyes
 Honorable Mention - Hannah Prasse

2018 Winner - Odessa Deng
 Runner-up - Daniel Spainhour
 Honorable Mention - Claire Thaler

2019 Winner - Dane Seal
 Runner-up - Joshua Kim
 Honorable Mention - Alexis O'Rourke

2020 Winner - Carter Nelson
 Runner-up - India McCary
 Honorable Mention - Hali Alex

2021 Winner - Maxwell van Hoeij
 Runner-up - Cecilia Malley
 Honorable Mention - Hannah Yang

PUBLIC SPEAKING

2006 Winner - Ashley Williams
 Runner-up - Forrest Boone
 Honorable Mention - Jessica Isabelle

2007 Winner - Nicola Menchetti
 Runner-up - Tatiana Galante
 Honorable Mention - Thy Bui

2008 Winner - Madison Grant
 Runner-up - Kathleen Wade
 Honorable Mention - Lauren Hendricks

2009 Winner - Stacia Dudley
 Runner-up - William Liner
 Honorable Mention - Chelsea Moore

2010 Winner - Callie Crumpler
 Runner-up - Samuel Stockstill
 Honorable Mention - Ryan Sweeney

2011 Winner - Austin Mall
 Runner-up - Christopher Hill
 Honorable Mention - Rachel Procaccini

2012 Winner - William Moor, III
 Runner-up - Jamie Holley
 Honorable Mention - Dominique Moreno

2013 Winner - Kinsey Grant
 Runner-up - Samuel Kerce
 Honorable Mention - Tryton Swigart-Johnson

2014 Winner - Amber Borgersen
 Runner-up - Yasmire Whigham
 Honorable Mention - Stuart Garrity

2015 Winner - Maya King
 Runner-up - Nathan Morse
 Honorable Mention - Julia Osagie

2016 Winner - Elyse Thompson
 Runner-up - Irfan Kovankaya
 Honorable Mention - Zenani Johnson

2017 Winner - Jean-Paul Recht
 Runner-up - Micah Joyner
 Honorable Mention - James Williams III

2018 Winner - Katherine Sorrell
 Runner-up - Landon Coles
 Honorable Mention - Morgan Zettle

2019 Winner - Madison Coombs
 Runner-up - Mira Gaitanis
 Honorable Mention - Mamie Odom

2020 Winner - Madeline Feiock
 Runner-up - Iyshwary Vigneswaran Warren
 Honorable Mention - Maxance Ngnepieba

2021 Winner - Kendall Williams
 Runner-up - Megan Peschl
 Honorable Mention - Kolbie O'Neal

PAST WINNERS

SCIENCE & HEALTH

2006 Winner - Ugwechi Amadi
 Runner-up - Irina Kotchach
 Honorable Mention - Chase Pfeifer

2007 Winner - Brittany Garner
 Runner-up - John Turner
 Honorable Mention - Tyler Rowland

2008 Winner - Min Jiang
 Runner-up - Xin Guan
 Honorable Mention - Clara Vu

2009 Winner - Rasheedat Zakare-Fagbamila
 Runner-up - Andrew Wyatt
 Honorable Mention - Derek Hettinger

2010 Winner - Philip Schlenoff
 Runner-up - Esha Atolia
 Honorable Mention - Kejing Jiang

2011 Winner - Eta Atolia
 Runner-up - Stanley Stupski
 Honorable Mention - Linda Wang

2012 Winner - Payal Patel
 Runner-up - Yushan Wang
 Honorable Mention - Luxi Qiao

2013 Winner - Jeremy Jones
 Runner-up - Hunter Brown
 Honorable Mention - Stanley Denny

2014 Winner - Samantha Skrob
 Runner-up - Alyssa Morrison
 Honorable Mention - Stephen Crothers

2015 Winner - Rachel Joyner
 Runner-up - Shwetha Shetty
 Honorable Mention - Jordyn Lee

2016 Winner - Amara Ahmed
 Runner-up - Aneesh Rahangdale
 Honorable Mention - Alexander Alabugin

2017 Winner - Will Rogers
 Runner-up - Aditya Hota
 Honorable Mention - Tiffany Lee

2018 Winner - Khadeja Ahmed
 Runner-up - Cynthia Wang
 Honorable Mention - Charitha Moparthy

2019 Winner - Sripradyumna Donthineni
 Runner-up - Dhenu Patel
 Honorable Mention - Mallika Misra

2020 Winner - Tanvi Haldiya
 Runner-up - Neha Iyer
 Honorable Mention - Lily Rogers

2021 Winner - Spencer Gibbs
 Runner-up - Seth Johnson
 Honorable Mention - Khari Davis

SOCIAL SCIENCE

2006 Winner - Amanda Van Landingham
 Runner-up - Joi Robinson
 Honorable Mention - Lisa Trainor

2007 Winner - Michael McKibben
 Runner-up - Forat Lutfi
 Honorable Mention - Sarah Martin

2008 Winner - Shayla Shane
 Runner-up - Sarah Haston
 Honorable Mention - James Crowley

2009 Winner - Douglas Chico
 Runner-up - Alexandra Sorchych-Hoffman
 Honorable Mention - Taylor Brown

2010 Winner - Christina Ciaravella
 Runner-up - Hunter King
 Honorable Mention - Joshua Berrian

2011 Winner - Marta Perez
 Runner-up - Blanche Brown
 Honorable Mention - Kendrick Smith

2012 Winner - Jasmine Lucas
 Runner-up - Sarah Busby
 Honorable Mention - Kenneth Soyars

2013 Winner - Robert Celander
 Runner-up - Avery Smith
 Honorable Mention - Kaytron Coker

2014 Winner - Kayley Erickson
 Runner-up - Matthew Kang
 Honorable Mention - Cooper Perlman

2015 Winner - Adrian Schell
 Runner-up - Abhinav Harish
 Honorable Mention - Hannah Williams

2016 Winner - Graham Boone
 Runner-up - Megan Choutupalli
 Honorable Mention - Aditya Srivastava

2017 Winner - Cannon Haworth
 Runner-up - William Cannard
 Honorable Mention - Emily Brockmeier

2018 Winner - Andrew Colvin
 Runner-up - John Menton
 Honorable Mention - Doherty Guirand

2019 Winner - Iynkary Warren
 Runner-up - Shivani Kumar
 Honorable Mention - Kaleb Daniels

2020 Winner - Apurva Srivastava
 Runner-up - Bryson Gonzalez
 Honorable Mention - Connor Couch

2021 Winner - Sarah Toole
 Runner-up - Zakari Nelson
 Honorable Mention - Daniela Paredes

TECHNOLOGY

2006	Winner - Kevin Yon Runner-up - David Schubert Honorable Mention - Adam Grayson
2007	Winner - James Fadool Runner-up - Rachel Luczynski Honorable Mention - Ross Nichols
2008	Winner - Ian Elsner Runner-up - Nelson James Honorable Mention - William Lindsey
2009	Winner - Michael DiTanna Runner-up - Jay Christopher Cardenas Honorable Mention - Jared Young
2010	Winner - Scott Atherton Runner-up - Sung Woo Han Honorable Mention - Katelyn Varn
2011	Winner - Ryan David Reyes Runner-up - Jameson Tucker Honorable Mention - Cameron Ridgewell
2012	Winner - Zachary Grayson Runner-up - James Pace Honorable Mention - Jordan Dick
2013	Winner - Emily Gardner Runner-up - Justin Burt Honorable Mention - Joey Cardenas
2014	Winner - Brenna Wonsey Runner-up - Brady Robshaw Honorable Mention - Saikrishnapriya Gunasegaran
2015	Winner - Babar Ahmed Runner-up - Brendan O'Healaigh Honorable Mention - Rachael Steverson
2016	Winner - Daniel Becker Runner-up - Christopher Witmer Honorable Mention - Jessica McNeil
2017	Winner - Sanwal Ahmed Runner-up - Sophie Nelsen Honorable Mention - Elspeth Suber
2018	Winner - Hana Kiros Runner-up - Patrick Hollis Honorable Mention - Ibrahim Fagbamila-Zakare
2019	Winner - Auryndette West Runner-up - QueAndre Ray Honorable Mention - Jawad Khan
2020	Winner - Sanjita Choudhary Runner-up - Andy Jiang Honorable Mention - Katherine Lyons
2021	Winner - Tanusri Mandapati Runner-up - Hannah Gendusa Honorable Mention - Kathryn Merritt

WORLD LANGUAGES

2006	Winner - Olivia Trowers Runner-up - Kelli Frazier Honorable Mention - Jessica Mestre
2007	Winner - Marley Moynahan Runner-up - Sarah Stern Honorable Mention - Morgan Hicks
2008	Winner - Genevieve Tuveson Runner-up - Kristen Ramsey Honorable Mention - Diana Hernández
2009	Winner - Annika Silverman Runner-up - Ethan Rosenblum Honorable Mention - Sophie Lang
2010	Winner - Erinma Kalu Runner-up - Emily Vogelgesang Honorable Mention - Mark Schmertmann
2011	Winner - Jane Darby Menton Runner-up - Heather Claypoole Honorable Mention - Kara Wilcox
2012	Winner - Vasilije Dobrosavljevic Runner-up - Nida Mohyuddin Honorable Mention - Nina Rodríguez
2013	Winner - Amberly Williams Runner-up - Sonia Koul Honorable Mention - Robert King
2014	Winner - Mackenzie Teek Runner-up - Kevin Ramirez Honorable Mention - William Courrèges-Clercq
2015	Winner - Nia Harmon Runner-up - Michelle Fonseca Honorable Mention - Shannon Duncanson
2016	Winner - Catherine Wilhelm Runner-up - Nancy Engel Honorable Mention - Blake Williams-
2017	Winner - Delaney Kaklamanos Runner-up - Erin Mulrooney Honorable Mention - Joseph McCann II
2018	Winner - Brenda Gikunda Runner-up - Aashari Williams Honorable Mention - Jordan Burney
2019	Winner - Dakyung Ham Runner-up - Katherine Resavage Honorable Mention - Hailey Hobbs
2020	Winner - Morgan Hardenburg Runner-up - Katherine Mann Honorable Mention - Ashley Sawyer
2021	Winner - Sonu Patel Runner-up - Isabella St. Pierre-Charles Honorable Mention - Emily Sargent



The Best & Brightest Awards invited Leon County eighth grade students to recognize their potential and dream about their future by participating in the 2022 Best & Brightest Awards Essay Contest. This year, students analyzed the following quote and wrote an essay describing how involvement in volunteer service can make a difference in our community and how it relates to their service in school and community.

“*The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others.*”
- Mohandas Gandhi

WINNER

CECILIE MCGREW
Trinity Catholic School

“Community service is a way for us to find our path in life. By focusing on others, we learn a lot about ourselves. We also get a chance to learn about the world we live in and see how we can make a difference.”

RUNNER-UP

BELÉN RAMBANA
Maclay School

“...we should be selfless in our commitment to others, no matter their gender, religion, or country of origin. I think Ghandi would want us to expand our horizons and try new activities of service.”

HONORABLE MENTION

JONATHAN GEORGE
Fairview Middle School

“Just as Ghandi believed, community service creates this environment of mutual discovery that is the key to driving change. It allows people to develop bonds and build tolerance among neighbors.”

8TH GRADE ESSAY CONTEST

FINALISTS

Christ Classical Academy
Victoria Bernadin
Mason Olimb
Reid Roberts

Community Christian School
Reagan Hughes
Anna Kumar
Serah Ozdemir

Elizabeth Cobb Middle School
Osaima Alhalabi
Taj Ali
Jada Salter

Fairview Middle School
Bilal Agha
Jonathan George
Xavier Hillman

Florida State University Schools
Camille Neff
Chyleigh Sheffield
Sol Veach

Fort Braden School
Sara Aboul Kassi
Gabriel Reams

Griffin Middle School
Aja Colton
Jordan Ervin
Cristian Mendoza

Maclay School
Manny Arisso
Caroline Couch
Belén Rambana

Montford Middle School
Natalie Gibson
Madeline Langford
Scarlett Vermeire

North Florida Christian School
Avery Chapman
Joey Pickles
Genesis Vasquez

R. Frank Nims Middle School
Queen Jimarii Holmes
Jasmin Menjivar-Aragoin
Arianna Morris

Raa Middle School
Jocelyn Anthony
Bailey Corrigan
Wesley Homan

Swift Creek Middle School
Alexander Burnside
Nihal Kalathil
Sarah Marie Woods

Tallahassee Classical School
Carmen Diaz

Tallahassee School of Math and Science
RaKiyah Macajoux

Trinity Catholic School
Jude Anthony Angulo
Briz Yuridia Ba-Trejo
Cecilie McGrew

Woodville Middle School
Victoria Conley
Christian Ferguson
Selena Monroy-Guzman

8TH GRADE ESSAY CONTEST PAST WINNERS

2011	Winner	- Muireall Brown, Elizabeth Cobb Middle School
	Runner-up	- Danielle Federico, Griffin Middle School
	Honorable Mention	- Shane Smith, Montford Middle School
2012	Winner	- Colleen Newton, Fairview Middle School
	Runner-up	- Simone Butler, Maclay School
	Honorable Mention	- Alexandria Rogers, Fairview Middle School
2013	Winner	- Jadaicia Ervin, Montford Middle School
	Runner-up	- Imani Walker, Griffin Middle School
	Honorable Mention	- Rebecca Morales, Maclay School
2014	Winner	- John McCann, Florida State University School
	Runner-up	- Cassidy Stuart, Florida State University School
	Honorable Mention	- Grant Womble, Deerlake Middle School
2015	Winner	- Meghan Gilmore, Fairview Middle School
	Runner-up	- Kirsten Whaley, Deerlake Middle School
	Honorable Mention	- Sarah Schaper, Home School
2016	Winner	- Connor Yablonski, Deerlake Middle School
	Runner-up	- Julia Hernandez, Trinity Catholic School
	Honorable Mention	- Madeleine Roberts, Maclay School
2017	Winner	- Aniketh Mukhirala, Fairview Middle School
	Runner-up	- Natalie Johns, Trinity Catholic School
	Honorable Mention	- Presley Allen, Raa Middle School
2018	Winner	- Zoe Albrigo, Fairview Middle School
	Runner-up	- Grace Dennig, Holy Comforter Episcopal School
	Honorable Mention	- Allie Boyd, Raa Middle School
2019	Winner	- Tallulah King, Fairview Middle School
	Runner-up	- Atticus Miller, Elizabeth Cobb Middle School
	Honorable Mention	- Kimberly NeSmith, Florida State University School
2020	Winner	- Eryn Files, Florida State University School
	Runner-up	- Nathan Reed, Raa Middle School
	Honorable Mention	- Annalisa "Ani" Hatfield, Raa Middle School
2021	Winner	- Angelina Veleta, Swift Creek Middle School
	Runner-up	- Caroline Cox, Leon County Home School
	Honorable Mention	- Nishi Nandineni, Fairview Middle School



JUDGES

ART

Eluster Richardson, Fine Arts Artist
Daniel Taylor, President, Daniel Taylor Consulting, Inc.
Mahaska Whitley, Art Teacher, retired

ATHLETICS

Nicki Ekhomu, FSU Basketball Class of 2020
Maicel Green, Olympic Gold medalist
Owen Long, FSU Tennis Class of 2011

BUSINESS

Keith Bowers, Regional Director, FAMU Small Business Development Center
Steve Evans, IBM Vice President, Retired
Jennifer Gunter, Cash Forecasting & Funds Management Manager, FL Dept. of Transportation

CAREER/TECHNICAL

Dr. Elaine Bryant, CEO/President, EW Bryant Associates
Tracey Lord, Program Director, The FSU Career Center
Dan McGrew, Dan McGrew, Vice-President, Strategic Policy & Performance, CareerSource Florida

DRAMA & PERFORMING ARTS

Miriam Dady, Equity Actress
Lori Elliott, Director of Development, FSU Opening Nights
Evelyn Tyler, Associate Professor, FAMU Essential Theatre

ENGLISH & LANGUAGE ARTS

Terry Lewis, Author and retired Judge
Sara Marchessault, Assistant Professor of Education, Tallahassee Community College
Suzanne Smith, Executive Producer for Television, WFSU

JOURNALISM

William Hatfield, Executive Editor, Tallahassee Democrat
Ben Kaplan, Anchor, WCTV
Dennis Schnittker, Director, FSU University News & Digital Communications

LEADERSHIP

Becky Liner, Director of Operations, James Madison Institute
Julie Lovelace, Director, Code, CivicPlus
J. Lee Marsh, Judge, Leon County Circuit Court

MATHEMATICS

Byron Greene, Project Director, National Science Foundation
Kalynda Holton, Associate Dean, Tallahassee Community College
Dr. Sonya Stephens, Associate Dean, FAMU School of Journalism and Graphics Communication

MUSIC

Dr. Linda Lovins, Minister of Music, Christ Presbyterian Church
Carol Ann Mathews, Music Teacher, retired
Dr. Amanda Stringer, Chief Executive Officer, Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Forrest Boone, Commission Advisor, Florida Public Service Commission
Rick Grant, Rick Grant, Rear Admiral, JAGC, USN (RET.)
Jarrett Terry, Assistant VP/Assistant Provost, FSU Academic Affairs

SCIENCE & HEALTH

Will Liner, Urban Forestry Program Manager, Florida Forest Service
Lisa Spainhour, Professor and Chair-Dept. of Civil & Environmental Engineering, FAMU-FSU College of Engineering
Austin Zorn, PhD., Tallahassee Primary Care Associates

SOCIAL SCIENCE

Carol Bryant-Martin, Development Director, Division of Historical Resources, Florida Department of State
Dr. Carrie Henderson, Executive Vice Chancellor, Division of Florida Colleges, Florida Department of Education
Larry Rivers, Distinguished Service Professor-History, Florida A & M University

TECHNOLOGY

Pam Butler, Owner, Aegis Business Technologies
Dr. Larry Dennis, Professor, FSU College of Communication & Information
Eric Smith, Sr. VP of Information Systems, Capital Health Plan

WORLD LANGUAGES

Aimée Boutin, Professor, FSU - Modern Languages & Linguistics
Rhonda Cooper, Vice President of Community Impact, United Way of the Big Bend
Dr. Maria Pouncey, Administrator for Instructional Services, Panhandle Area Educational Consortium



Anosh Gill, Graphic Design; David Barfield and Karl Sorne, Lonely Fox Photography; Cobb Middle School; Cobb Middle School's Beta Club; Leon County Schools; Leon County School Board; Tallahassee Nurseries; Volunteer Florida; Envision Credit Union's squad of volunteers; the Technical Team at Ruby Diamond Concert Hall; and ALL the teachers, school staff and administrators for inspiring these wonderful students.

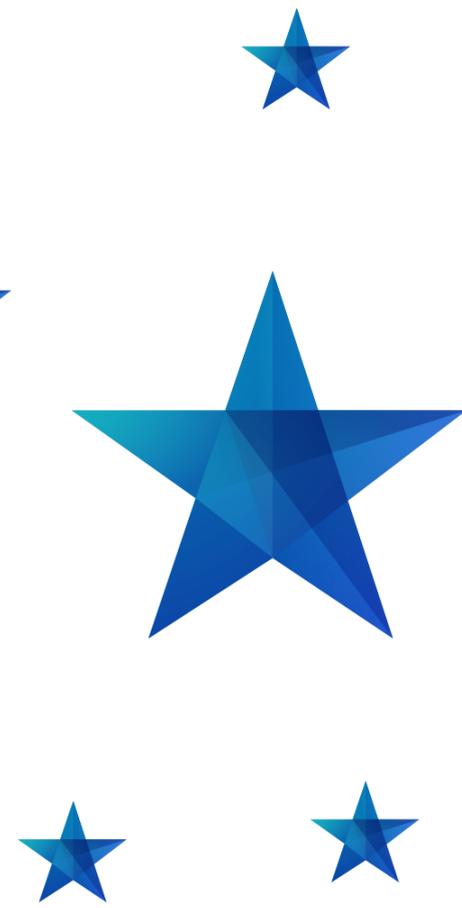


BEST & BRIGHTEST AWARDS COMMITTEE

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