



# HISTORY OF BEST & BRIGHTEST

Eighteen 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 from

the public and private high schools 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.

A total of more than \$931,800 has been awarded to 2,579 seniors, 596 eighth graders and to the schools during these 18 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.



**2006**



**2007-2014**



**2015**



**2020**

# ART

BEST &  
BRIGHTEST

## WINNER

JESSIE POWELL

*Chiles High School*



Jessie Powell takes art to the next level as she lets it be the drive behind everything she does. Whether it's spearheading a service class at her school, winning countless awards for her art, or designing graphics and t-shirts for various clubs and events, Powell exemplifies what it means to be the best and brightest. Her dedication and passion toward service have allowed her to delve even deeper into her art.

Not only does Powell excel in her art, she also has shown a commitment to leave Chiles High School a better place than when she found it. Powell, ardent about service, recruited enough students to have her school establish the Engaged Citizen and Service Learning Class into the curriculum. While in that class, she was able to create an environment to give back to the community and spread her passion for service throughout the school. The class focused on researching local nonprofits and learning their history, then sewing items to help them and their beneficiaries. They completed projects such as sewing bibs for children at Gretchen Everhart School, quilts for elderly Meals on Wheels recipients, and Port Pillows for cancer patients at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital. "The most important thing I learned while enrolled in this class was the necessity of staying attentive to issues within my community, and the importance of peer collaboration and expression of individual creativity," said Powell. The class had such a substantial success rate, the administration agreed to create a second level of the class for students to continue through the program. Powell herself contributed over 90 hours of

service in and out of the classroom while in this program.

In addition to initiating and ensuring the lasting impact of service on her campus, Powell has received countless awards and accolades for her inspiring art. She placed in various art shows, including two-time recognition as a Mahaska Whitley Student Exhibition General Award Winner and a 2023 Florida State Fair Wall of Excellence Winner. She also was awarded the Fine Arts Department Award for Outstanding AP.

Powell has had a deep impact on her school, our Tallahassee community, and the people around her. "Jessie is a natural leader," said teacher Sandie Hanna. "She has a sense of community that recognizes that we are all some part of a 'larger whole.' Her peers see this in her and it inspires them; she is one of a kind." Her incorporation of art and service is inspiring. Whether she is designing her senior class shirt, sewing masks for workers at TMH during COVID-19, or placing in over eight art shows across Florida, Powell has left her mark on this community.



## RUNNER-UP

CITLALI PATINO

*Leon High School*



Racking up over 190 service hours, Citlali Patino has demonstrated a clear passion for service, and they let it drive all they do. From volunteering at the library, to being a volunteer summer art camp counselor, to assisting in the production of the Henry Box Brown Production, Patino is actively working to leave their mark on our community.

Patino is an active member in Leon High School's Marching Redcoats Band, serving as flute section leader and acquiring a superior rating at both the district and state levels for their Solo and Ensemble flute choir performance. Further, they are a distinguished member of Model United Nations, taking home the Distinguished Delegation Award and placing in the top five for best paper for General Assembly.

Whether it's being Art Club President, National Art Honor Society Vice President, or runner-up in the Tallahassee Winter Festival Youth Fine Art Competition, Patino does it all. Their dedication to their art and the thirst that drives them as an artist has led to two of their original works being published in the Leon High School Mosaic Magazine. Patino's drive to leave an impact on the Tallahassee community is apparent and inspiring. "I hope to be a comforting presence to others," said Patino. "I had people I could look up to, and I'd like to be that person for others like me."

Malcolm Gambles exemplifies what it means to be the best and brightest, from leading clubs and entering art contests to serving his community,

# ART



## HONORABLE MENTION

### MALCOLM GAMBLES II

Rickards High School



Taking inspiration from his father, Gambles is active in his community. The Reach One Youth program is one of the most impactful aspects of Gambles' community service. The program is designed to mentor and create relationships through sports and recreational activities for underprivileged and neurodiverse children. By serving over 130 hours with this program, Gambles has created a long-lasting relationship with the organization and the students he has mentored.

Without a doubt, Gambles' service and leadership are inspiring and impactful for our community, but his artistic ability takes his talent one step further. Gambles has a dedication to his art and has spent time creating stories that he describes with his art. "He engages the viewer with non-traditional perspectives, thinking carefully about the composition of his work and how it can best communicate," said his IB and AP Art teacher, Jessica Barthle, about Gambles' portfolio and story pieces.

In addition to his inspiring art, Gambles was nominated for Big Bend Preps Athlete of the Week for boys soccer. He also received MaxPreps Player of the Game, as well as Rickards Best Defensive Player for the 2022 season. Being a leader on campus extends through his athletics, his service, and his art. Gambles is President of the Rickards Anime Club and hopes to leave a legacy of inclusion and expression.

# FINALISTS



### Peyton Crumpler

Maclay School

**Awards and Honors:** National Art Honor Society; Cum Laude Society; Kicks Collective Competition shoe design national 7th place; Maclay Spring 2022 Art Show; Science National Honor Society

**Activity Highlights:** 2022 Marauder Award Girls Lacrosse; Girlsweightliftingteam Captain; Freshman Challenge Counselor (2021-2023); i9 Sports Academy Head Volleyball Coordinator (2020-2023); Gulf Specimen Marine Lab (2021-2022); Maclay Art Camp (2019-2021)

**My Legacy:** "I want to show to my peers what it means to be who you are. Even when everyone is making fun of you or battling you down, never quit getting back up, brushing yourself off, and getting stronger. I also want to show them what it means to be a leader, to put others before yourself."

**What Others Are Saying:** "Peyton uses her art with her community in mind, and her genuine care and concern for creating a cleaner world through her creative pursuits prove her excellence in the field and her commitment to community." – Sarah Painter, Public Art Manager, Council on Culture & Arts



### Sneha Giri

Lincoln High School

**Awards and Honors:** 2021 & 2022 Academic President's List; 2022 Outstanding Portfolio 2 Art Award; Adobe Certified Professional in Visual Design

**Activity Highlights:** Tennis 2021-2022; LeMoyne Summer Camp; FSU Merchandise Booth volunteer; Key Club 2019-2022; Lincoln Green Club

**My Legacy:** "After graduation, I hope to leave behind a legacy of dedication, hard work, and determination. I want to be remembered as a person who always gave their best effort and worked towards their goals, no matter how difficult they may have seemed. I hope to leave a positive impact on those around me."

**What Others Are Saying:** "Sneha is a determined, innovative, hard-working, positive, and enthusiastic young woman. Her ability to plan and problem solve compliments her organizational skills." – Marilyn Proctor-Givens, Lincoln Art Teacher

# ART

BEST &  
BRIGHTEST



**Benjamin Gjendem**  
SAIL High School

**Awards and Honors:** 2022 Mahaska Whitley Student Exhibition; Agriculture Associate Certification; Outstanding Achievements in World History, Algebra II Honors, and Marine Biology; National Honor Society Secretary

**Activity Highlights:** Gadsden Arts Center & Museum's Teen Art Council; Be Kid Community Service intensive; Feeding the Gulf Coast

**My Legacy:** "Once I've graduated, I hope that I will have been an inspiration to those around me to explore their own creativity and use their abilities to give back to the community that has provided so much for them."

**What Others Are Saying:** "Ben is always the person who steps up when we need an extra hand for any event, volunteer drive, or activity on and off campus that requires student engagement. We can always look to Ben to be a leader among his peers." – Sheri Nilles Marshall, SAIL Art Instructor



**Jael Meyer**  
Community Leadership Academy

**Awards and Honors:** Certificates of Excellence in Spanish 3, English 2, Art and Social Science; National Honor Society; Student Project of the Year "Diversity in the Media" research paper; National Merit Commended Scholar; 2022 "Best in Show" North Florida Fair Fine Arts Exhibit

**Activity Highlights:** Foundation 4 Arts; Luv Michael Granola Company; Emerge Church volunteer; LeMoyné Arts Center; Sisters with a Purpose (SWAP); created a jewelry design company

**My Legacy:** "I want to be known as someone who is accepting of others and willing to go out of their way to help those who need it. In regards to my art, I want people to recognize my work as a celebration of diversity and inclusion."

**What Others Are Saying:** "Jael has a passion to use her artistic talents and creativity to inspire others with stories of hope and healing, and to create worlds in which all kinds of diversity becomes the normal representation of our shared human experience." – Trisha McKenzie, CLA Guidance Counselor



**Sofia Rios**  
Florida State University Schools

**Awards and Honors:** President of FSUS Arts Club; National Honor Society Vice President; LeMoyné Art Center exhibitor; National Arts Honor Society Vice President; "Best Artist" superlative for Class of 2023

**Activity Highlights:** FSUS events artist; Challenger Learning Center muralist; Camuy Puerto Rico mission trip; FSUS Reading Buddies (2021-2022); Fat Cat Café volunteer

**My Legacy:** "Upon graduation, I hope to have left a large enough imprint to garner more attention towards the vitality of art in our planet. I wish to inspire younger generations and engrain the knowledge that following one's passion is something to do with pride and joy surging from the soul."

**What Others Are Saying:** "She has been a student who takes great joy in the creative process. I believe that Sofia will succeed in any creative endeavor that she pursues because that is who she is, art truly feeds her soul." – Katharyn Jones, FSUS 2D Art Instructor



**Zakiya Schwender**  
Godby High School

**Honors:** National Honors Society 2021-2023; TCC Dean's List with dual enrollment; Senior Class shirt design creator; designed a Chamber of Commerce Access to Reading Little Library Book Box

**Activity Highlights:** Brehon Family Services; Healthy Families Gadsden; Girl Flo volunteer; "A Full Summer" volunteer

**My Legacy:** "Upon graduating, I want my legacy to encourage others to love and respect Godby in the ways that I do. It is a place where I learned the hardest lessons and made the best friends. I want to pass down the example of how I helped those in need while also learning valuable skills that helped me."

**What Others Are Saying:** "She has proven to be a bright young woman that exhibits a determination to have an impact in her community and global world around her... her walk to do good, justly and do so with humility is a bigger attestation to the amazing character of person she is and strives to be." – Pamela Banks, Brehon Family Services Program Manager

# ATHLETICS



## WINNER

### JAYSONI "JAY" BEACHUM

Florida State University  
Schools



If you look up “best and brightest” in the dictionary, you might see a picture of Florida High athlete Jay Beachum. From her outstanding statistics in her time playing softball to her dedication to the community, Beachum is an all-around outstanding student-athlete.

Beachum moved to Tallahassee from South Carolina two years ago after she committed to play D1 Women’s Softball at Florida State University. In the two years since the move, she has had more of an impact on this community than many have in their entire lives. Through her high school years, she has volunteered at places such as the Boys and Girls Club, The Ark (an affordable housing service for homeless or displaced adults), the Leon County Public Library, and Pet Alliance. But, she says, the one that had the most impact on her was her time volunteering with the Florida Department of Corrections. “I know that getting an education is of paramount importance,” said Beachum, “but helping someone else achieve their educational goals to brighten their future has forever changed my life.” Beachum’s dedication to her work with the Department of Corrections did not go unnoticed. Melvin Herring, Assistant Chief of Education at the agency’s Central Office, said, “Jaysoni has been a model of consistency and hard work while volunteering with the Florida Department of Corrections, [she] has embodied our mission statement of inspiring success by transferring one life at a time.”

While accumulating over 115 service hours, Beachum still held her dedication to softball

at the center of what she does. Beachum has been varsity lettering in softball since sixth grade, and once she entered high school she immediately became a star. She has racked up over 15 athletic awards including Big Bend Player of the Year and the 2021 Alabama 3A All-State Hitter of the Year. In addition to those accolades, Beachum was also a part of the 2022 All-Big Bend Softball First Team and was a USA All American player.

Through all that she has done, Beachum, to her core, has exemplified what it means to be a good student, person, and leader. When asked about what she wants to be remembered for, she responded, “I not only want to be remembered for my athletic ability, but for my character too.” Beachum’s legacy in this community will without question be a strong one.



## RUNNER-UP

### WYATT TOWNSEND

Chiles High School



One sport wasn’t enough for Wyatt Townsend. While attending Chiles High School, Townsend spent four years on the varsity teams of three sports: swim & dive, track & field, and cross country. This commitment to athletics led him to be a state qualifier for cross country in all four years of high school, but also helped him place in the top ten at the FHSAA 4A Track and Field State Championship in the 3200m. He was the captain of both the Chiles cross country and track & field teams, where he broke the school record in the 4x1600m relay with a final time of 18:25. All of this has led him to commit to William and Mary to compete in both D1 cross country and track and field.

Outside of athletics, Townsend has amassed over 570 service hours. This includes 450 hours at South City Multisport and the South City Foundation, where he led nutrition and exercise-positive classes with youths under Whole Child Leon. He also was an officer of Chiles’ Random Act of Kindness Club, where he and other students created a positive environment at the school by participating in “random acts of kindness.” In addition to his outstanding service, Townsend is an AP Scholar and has held honor roll status during his entire time at Chiles. Townsend wants to be remembered as “being someone who put their all into everything they did – academically and athletically.”

# ATHLETICS



## HONORABLE MENTION

### ESRAEL YANT

Godby High School



Athletics is only the start to Esrael Yant's impressive resume. Yant has played on the Godby High School varsity men's basketball team for his four years at the school. During this time, he was on the Hitchcock Challenge All Tournament Team. This year, Yant served as captain of the basketball team and led his team through the season.

In and outside of basketball, Yant proves his leadership. This past year, he was a part of Youth Leadership Tallahassee Class 18. Additionally, he is a member of the National Honor Society. Outside of school, he is involved in the Distinguished Young Gentleman of America, where he has volunteered over 60 hours of his time doing service with the organization. Because of his efforts within the group, he was recognized with its Dante Cager Superior academic achievement award. Earlier this year, he was also the recipient of the Martin Luther King Dreamer and Doer Award.

Yant has volunteered over 125 hours of his time to give back to the Tallahassee community. His most impactful service endeavor has been with Direct Auto Exchange Outreach. In his time volunteering with that program, Yant helped fill and pass out backpacks that included school supplies, school supplies and grocery bags with food inside of them. Yant wants to be remembered as "a great student athlete and an active person in my community."

# FINALISTS



**Jordan Boulware**  
Community Leadership Academy

**Awards and Honors:** 2020 and 2022 CLA Female Athlete of the Year; 2020 Volleyball Magazine "Top 20 Underclassmen to Watch"; 2019-2021 First Place P1440 National Championships; National Honor Society; 2019 Holocaust Reflection Contest (Film); 2020 CLA Business Pioneering Award

**Activity Highlights:** Page and Messenger program for State of Florida; 2021-2022 CLA Gymnasium volunteer for indoor volleyball team; developed a line of cosmetic products

**My Legacy:** "My hope is that I help the girls that I coached find a love for volleyball like I have. I hope I was able to introduce the girls that I coached to this awesome game, because a lot of them were new to volleyball. Being able to be on a team and compete with your classmates and friends is an experience that I believe everyone should experience, and I wanted to give the girls the best of that experience while they work hard, get better and have fun."

**What Others Are Saying:** "Beyond the qualities that make Jordan an excellent student athlete, she is also one of the most well-liked young ladies you will meet. Her zest for life, enthusiasm, encouragement, and kindness towards others make her a valued teammate, friend, and classmate to all who are around her." – Trisha McKenzie, CLA Guidance Counselor



**Shane Croston**  
Maclay School

**Awards and Honors:** Soccer (2020-2022) State Runner up 2020; Football (2019-2022) Captain and All Big-Bend Honorable Mention 2022; Track & Field (2020-2023) State Meet in high jump; Decathlon AAU Nationals Qualifier; National Honors Society

**Activity Highlights:** Maclay football and summer sports camp counselor (2019-2021); Hope Community; Maclay Student Ambassador

**My Legacy:** "I hope my teammates and classmates will look to me as an example that hard work pays off and treat others with respect. It is important to build relationships with your teachers, coaches, and peers because they can help you be successful, and you might help them. Always remember to put others before yourself and offer help to others in need."

**What Others Are Saying:** "Shane Croston has somehow been able to find a nearly perfect balance between the two, for he is one of the most accomplished and ambitious students on our campus and he's the most athletically engaged young person at our school." – Lee Norment, Maclay College Advisor  
"Shane Croston's plan and problem solve compliments her organizational skills." – Marilyn Proctor-Givens, Lincoln Art Teacher

# ATHLETICS



**Jake Edwards**  
Rickards High School

**Awards and Honors:** National Honors Society; STEMout President; 2022 High School Heisman winner; Golf Team (2021-2022) Captain and MVP; Soccer; NASA BIG Ideas Challenge Finalist

**Activity Highlights:** volunteer and grant recipient for STEMout; Center for Intelligent Systems, Control & Robotics; Leon County Humane Society; Tallahassee Scientific Society Board member

**My Legacy:** *“I hope my legacy upon graduation is one of dedication. Since 9th grade I have worked arduously to accomplish my goals for high school and set myself up for my goals for the future.”*

**What Others Are Saying:** *“He impressed me with his hunger to learn. He is one of the few students who capitalized on the online education experience. His ability to navigate unfamiliar territory successfully evidences his tenacity, autonomy and integrity as a learner.”* – J. Melodee Thompson, IB Spanish Teacher



**Jonah Hendricks**  
Leon County Home School

**Awards and Honors:** 2019 FJCL Region 2 Third Place Test Placements; Community Christian School Varsity Swim Team Captain; Summer Championships Finalist 2022; FHSAA

1A-1 District Champion 200IM (2021) and State 18th placement 100 Butterfly (2022); 2nd Team All Big-Bend Swimming 2022

**Activity Highlights:** Lakeland food bank; Mobile County Youth Detention Center volunteer; Light of the City Boys & Girls Club camp volunteer; Celebration Baptist Church and Lynden Community Church

**My Legacy:** *“I hope my legacy toward the people that have known me through my high school years is that anyone and everyone should always be joyful, whether rain or shine; I also hope that I have led people to remain content under any and all circumstances.”*

**What Others Are Saying:** *“Jonah’s strengths include a passion for life that is contagious, displaying natural leadership, and a positive attitude that is infectious. He takes pride in his work and takes seriously being a responsible person.”* – Laurie Arnaldo, Celebration Baptist Church Student Ministry Assistant



**McKinley Hill**  
North Florida Christian

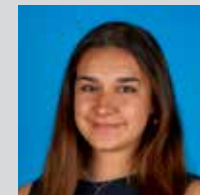
**Awards and Honors:** FACA All Star Classic Volleyball Team 2022; District Champion Volleyball Team (2019-2022) and Captain; District Champion Softball Team (2019-2023) and Captain; Daughters of American Revolution Citizenship Award

**Activity Highlights:** NFC Baptist Church Kids Ministry Sunday School; NFC gymnasium volunteer; Woodlands Camp asst. counselor; Student Government Association; Youth Leadership Tallahassee Class 18

**My Legacy:** *“I hope that I will be remembered as someone who was kind. I*

*am a firm believer in the statement: ‘People don’t always remember your words, but they remember how you made them feel.’ When I graduate, I hope the lower-classmen will say that I was a good example to them and that I always left people with a smile.”*

**What Others Are Saying:** *“McKinley overall is a good student, athlete, and person. She is a true example of a leader. Constantly putting others above herself for the good of the whole.”* – Gianna Hooper, NFC Volleyball Coach



**Mackenzie Kittel**  
Leon High School

**Awards and Honors:** Pierian National Honor Society Historian; Interact Club Secretary; Key Club; Science National Honor Society; Varsity Volleyball, Track and Field, and Beach Volleyball; All Big-Bend Volleyball 2nd Team 2022

**Activity Highlights:** Trousdell Gymnastics Team Choreography Assistant; Dance Marathon (2020, 2022); Second Harvest Food Bank volunteer (2019-2022); Volleyball Tournament referee (2020-2021); Leon HS Volleyball summer day camp (2021-2022)

**My Legacy:** *“I hope that my legacy is not just shown in academic or athletic success. I hope that it’s not able to be measured by any tangible thing, but shown through my character. I want to be remembered a making people feel loved, not for their skill or talent, but for their character and passion for what they do.”*

**What Others Are Saying:** *“The Leon Volleyball Program strives on pride, tradition and excellence. Mackenzie has exemplified discipline, hard work, and dedication to her school and to her sport.”* – Dr. Angie Strickland, Leon HS Physical Education Teacher



# ATHLETICS



**Stephen Machado**  
Community Christian School

**Awards and Honors:** Varsity Soccer (2021-2022) and Captain; State Championship Varsity Cross Country (2019-2022); Certified Soccer Referee; Honor Council Secretary and President; CCS Honor Award

**Activity Highlights:** CCS Immersion Week volunteer; Heart Ministries volunteer; ASG Soccer Camp; Camp Crosspoint recreation counselor; Mission trip to Oglala-Lakota Reservation

**My Legacy:** *"I hope my legacy will be embodied by the Latin phrase 'Semper Excelsior' which means in English 'Always Higher'. My goal is to set a good example for the younger students at my school of strong leadership, service, and good attitude, all while glorifying God."*

**What Others Are Saying:** *"Stephen is intelligent, athletically gifted, humorous, and a great leader...He regularly takes the initiative to volunteer to complete tasks that others are unwilling to do." – Jeff Collier, CCS Teacher*



**Corey Stavres**  
St. John Paul II Catholic School

**Awards and Honors:** Varsity Soccer Co-Captain (2021-2022) and First Team All-Big Bend; Cross Country MVP and Regional Qualifier 2022; Baseball (2020-2023); Student Astronaut Challenge (2020-2023); Aerospace Engineering Competition Team Co-Captain

**Activity Highlights:** Boys State; Florida State Soccer Referee; All-Star Soccer Camp Coordinator; Talquin Electric and National Cooperative Youth Tour; His Hands to Go Mission trip; SJPII teaching assistant and tutor

**My Legacy:** *"I hope to be remembered as a student and athlete that has modeled hard work, integrity, persistence and accountability. Not because I am the brightest in a classroom or most athletic on the field, but because of my ability to see the bigger picture and guide others along the way, regardless of the outcome."*

**What Others Are Saying:** *"He earned 'student of the year' as both a sophomore and junior not only because of his academic achievement but also because of his leadership in and out of the classroom. Corey's leadership style is relaxed and confident, matter of fact and not forced." – Emily Serpico, SJPII Math Teacher*



**Skyla Sutherland**  
Lincoln High School

**Awards and Honors:** Volleyball (2020-2023); Captain 2021; American Volleyball Coaches All-American Watchlist 2023; USAV Beach Volleyball Nationals 2021; National Honors Society; All Big-Bend Second Team 2023

**Activity Highlights:** JV Lincoln Volleyball referee; Volleyball Camp Counselor; Beach Volleyball Team Manager; Crochet Club

**My Legacy:** *"One doesn't need a label to be a leader. One just needs a good heart, positive attitude, and some confidence."*

**What Others Are Saying:** *"Skyla does not shy away from an academic challenge, instead she chooses to step up and get the job done. Skyla has been a great example of how to prioritize being a student while also excelling on the court as an athlete." – Laura Chen, Lincoln Volleyball Coach*

# ATHLETICS



**Jarron Taylor-Wimbush**  
SAIL High School

**Awards and Honors:** Autodesk CAD Certification; CPR Certified; Soccer Club Team Captain; Frisbee Club Team Captain; Junior Achievement Entrepreneurship class winner; completing Lively College Certified Nursing Assistant Program

**Activity Highlights:** Centre Point Nursing Home volunteer; Concession sales volunteer

**My Legacy:** *“Unlike most, I don’t plan on going to college after graduating. I plan on working hard to become an Olympic boxer and achieve gold. Then I will take my athletic career further to make it in life and give back to those who helped me. I wanted to be remembered as a person who took care of those around him.”*

**What Others Are Saying:** *“Jarron has a passion for people and his motivational drive is just tremendous. Life can be difficult at times, and this drive and caring nature has made him a compassionate and respectful young man that will assist others for the rest of his life.”* – Danielle Williams, Gilchrist Elementary School Teacher



**Rashard White**  
FAMU Developmental  
Research School

**Awards and Honors:** Varsity Basketball District winners 2021 and Captain 2023; Royal Court student ambassador; Mr. FAMU DRS

**Activity Highlights:** Kearney Center volunteer; Gymnasium volunteer; Thanksgiving Harvest Lunch volunteer; Christmas Stocking Drive

**My Legacy:** *“I hope when I graduate people will remember me as someone who worked hard towards their goal no matter the critics or adversity. It’s easy to tuck your tail and hide from the pressure but you only see growth when you attack the pressure and don’t cheat yourself on your craft and that’s for anything you set your mind to.”*

**What Others Are Saying:** *“...he exhibits integrity and a passion for commitment to excellence; a combination that should carry him far in life. In my humble opinion much of Mr. Johnson’s success may be attributed to his greatest strengths which include effective and continuously evolving written and oral communications, accentuated by a naturally calming, yet quite dignified demeanor.”* – Wendy Holt, FAMU DRS



# BUSINESS



## WINNER

**KAYLIN JEAN-LOUIS**

*Florida State University  
Schools*



Kaylin Jean-Louis is a name you'll want to remember, because she's headed toward the top of the business world. At age 17, Florida High's Jean-Louis has created a legacy for herself that many strive to achieve over their entire lives. Already, she has been named one of the Tallahassee Democrat's 5 Young Women to Watch in 2023, Capital Outlook's Young Entrepreneur of the Year, The Classic Modern Day Woman Honoree, the Oasis Center for Women & Girls "Girls Can Do Anything Award" Winner, and SHE Academy Inc. "SHE'S the Boss" Honoree.

Accompanying this long list of honors, Jean-Louis has also volunteered over 550 service hours to the Tallahassee community during her high school career. Over 300 of these hours were spent serving as the Executive Director of her own nonprofit, Kaylin's Caring Konnection Inc., whose goal is to "see all children smile and feel cared for, despite their circumstances." She has planned, promoted, and hosted various drives and events designed to meet the needs of children, single-parent families, the homeless, and others in our Tallahassee community. As a part of Kaylin's Caring Konnection Inc., Jean-Louis hosts and produces a podcast titled Inspiring Moments with Kaylin, in which she talks with other community leaders about issues from a positive perspective in an effort to spread hope to listeners.

While doing all this for our community, Jean-Louis makes sure her education comes first. While attending Florida High, she dual-enrolled at Tallahassee Community College

(TCC) and will be graduating with both her high school diploma and her associate degree. While at TCC, she made the President's List all five semesters she attended. Additionally, she was awarded the College Board National African-American Recognition Program Scholar Award for Excellence in Academic Achievement 2022-2023. Teacher Christina Jean described Jean-Louis as "indeed an outstanding scholar, leader, and role model." At Florida High, she also received the Future Business Leaders of America Outstanding Member Award.

Jean-Louis shows passion for our community in everything she does. "I hope my legacy inspires others to make a difference in their communities, one step at a time," said Jean-Louis, "that my heart for caring for others will motivate future generations to do the same, in a world that seems to care less." From her education to her dedication, Jean-Louis has undoubtedly left her mark on Tallahassee and will continue to do so for years to come.



## RUNNER-UP

**LUCILLE "LUCY"  
WHITEHEAD**

*Maclay School*



Lucy Whitehead is cooking up a storm, in and out of the kitchen. A student at Maclay School, Whitehead is quite involved and active in her school. She serves as the Junior Classical League President, a Maclay Student Ambassador, a member of National Honor Society, and a member of the Maclay Pep Band. Along with these numerous involvements at Maclay, she has donated over 180 hours of service to various community causes. She also received the College Board National African-American Recognition Program Scholar Award for Excellence in Academic Achievement 2022-2023, while remaining at the top of her class.

In addition to her vast activities at school, Whitehead owns a freelance cooking business, Lucy's Kitchen. She serves as a personal chef and creates gourmet meals and meal preparation for her clients. Whitehead takes her love of cooking seriously, and has interned at various restaurants to hone her craft and excel in all forms of food preparation.

Whitehead continues to impact our community and enjoys the work that goes into doing it. "Through my work advocating for and educating my peers on different social causes, I have seen my school become a more tolerant and open place," said Whitehead, "I hope that my legacy inspires those around me to see the value of growth and persistence." From her gusto for cooking to her enthusiasm for education, Lucy Whitehead is a trailblazer in our community.

# BUSINESS



## HONORABLE MENTION

**JULIA ZHU**

*Chiles High School*



Julia Zhu makes being one of the best and brightest look like a piece of cake – literally. Chiles High student Zhu has a long list of accolades, including starting her own baking company, Julia Can Bake. Her baking business specializes in custom cakes and cupcakes and has taken the internet by storm. On various social media platforms, Zhu has amassed over 20,000 followers, 1.5 million likes, and 9 million views on her account @juliacanbake. Her popularity comes from her unique and extravagant custom cakes, and she shows her process start to finish.

In addition to her business, Zhu also maintains a strong level of involvement within the community. With over 295 service hours and multiple community involvements, Zhu is leaving a lasting impact on Tallahassee. Her most personal impactful involvement is Youth Health Leadership Tallahassee (YHL). Through the program, she formulated an environmental sustainability initiative with her cohort, titled “People for Planet,” a 5-hour Earth Day program. Through YHL, she also proposed and presented a campaign titled “Exposing ED” to inform the public on eating disorders in youth.

Through all of this, Zhu has still managed to put school first. She currently serves as National Honor Society President and has achieved status as an AP scholar with distinction in her sophomore, junior, and senior years at Chiles. Zhu “hope[s] to inspire others to pursue their passions despite others’ expectations.”

# FINALISTS



**Jamal Barkley**

*SAIL High School*

**Awards and Honors:** apprentice at Snap-On; completing Lively College Certified Nursing Assistant Program

**Activity Highlights:** assisted on property clean up

**My Legacy:** *“Upon graduating I hope that I bring a shining legacy to SAIL High School, my family, and the Leon County community. I want to work in the nursing field using my CAN certification, while earning a degree in physical therapy. I will pursue opening a business as a physical therapist which will help my community.”*

**What Others Are Saying:** *“...Jamal’s work ethic never falters. Jamal is business oriented and has plans to conquer entrepreneurship when he leaves SAIL.” – Stormy Koch, SAIL High School Registrar*



**John Gay**

*Leon County Home School*

**Awards and Honors:** Boy Scouts of America Troop 51 Eagle Rank; Northeast Interact Club of Home Educators (NICHE) Service Director on Student Leadership Board and Vice President; dual enrollment TCC; owner of The Lawn Medic

**Activity Highlights:** Bradfordville First Baptist Church; Choir, Youth Worship Band and recreation director; Wallwood Trail maintenance; built Pregnancy Help & Information Center ADA ramp; NICHE Board member

**My Legacy:** *“I hope to leave an example that reflects one who follows Christ and sets an example in speech, conduct and service. My goal is to be someone others can trust, and have a vision, act and lead to achieve that vision. Although I have demonstrated a character of integrity, I recognize the arduous task to continued commitment to these standards.”*

**What Others Are Saying:** *“...but the thing I saw in him most was his strength in leadership combined with a humble, meek spirit. That combination is what I believe makes a great leader, I have seen it grow in JD from youth to adult without swaying.” – Brian Schaper, CEO Dermatology Associates of Tallahassee*

# BUSINESS



**Mandy Liu**  
Leon High School

**Awards and Honors:** CupsofCare Co-owner; LushCreations Co-owner; Lombardi and Stamps Nominee (2022-2023); Honor Roll 4 years; Top 10 Nationals History Fair 2021; AP Capstone Diploma; Key Club Treasurer

**Activity Highlights:** InnovateTLH Social Media Intern; Student Government Association Senior Rep; Interact Club; Youth Leadership Tallahassee (YLT) Class 18; Leon Healthy Lions Co-Founder; TPD Youth Citizen Advisory Council; Kate Sullivan Elementary School Junior Counselor

**My Legacy:** *"I hope that as I graduate high school, I'll leave behind my legacy of being blue. I hope that I'll continue to inspire and encourage others to have aspirations as high as the blue sky and as vast as the blue sea."*

**What Others Are Saying:** *"Her drive and motivation have and will continue to be instrumental in laying the groundwork for her future in the business world."* – Casey Erin Grigsby, YLT Class 18 Program Chair



**Amelia Mohr**  
Lincoln High School

**Awards and Honors:** Outstanding Early Childhood Award (2020); Class President in Sophomore and Junior Year and Student Body President 2022; Dance Marathon Executive Board (2021-2023)

**Activity Highlights:** Vacation Bible School volunteer; Scottsdale Academy volunteer; 'Battle of the Bands' volunteer; Younglife; Varsity Cheerleader; Lincoln's Trojan's Tots; Cheer Academies

**My Legacy:** *"I have thought about this many times. I want my legacy to inspire others to work hard to complete all their goals. I want students to remember my dedication and the hard work I put in to achieve my goals and to be a positive role model for the future students of Lincoln."*

**What Others Are Saying:** *"What I like about Amelia is that she always has a great attitude. She works well under pressure and is always willing to help in any way."* – Pat Jones, Lincoln Social Studies Dept. Head



**Jasmine Xie**  
Rickards High School

**Awards and Honors:** 3rd Place State Science Olympiad Event 2019; Key Club; National Honors Society

**Activity Highlights:** China First manager; Pangaea Korean Pop remix; Counselor in Training Tallahassee Museum of Natural History; E-sports Club; American Red Cross

**My Legacy:** *"Upon graduating, I hope my legacy is showing people that you don't need to follow social norms. Just because other people want certain things from you, that doesn't mean that you have it. I hope my legacy is showing people that, one of the best things that can happen is when you are being just you and not what other people want."*

**What Others Are Saying:** *"Jasmine's ability to balance all of her clubs, work twenty hours per week, and volunteer numerous hours with various organizations is even more impressive when you consider the rigorous course load she has in the IB Program."* – Meaghan Eckerle Barriner, Rickards Social Studies Teacher

# CAREER/TECHNICAL

## WINNER

### HEAVEN WARD

Maclay School



Heaven Ward is on a mission to ensure that her community is welcoming and open to all who wish to be in it. She has a passion for education and academics, and actively works to spread her enthusiasm to others.

Ward has dedicated a great deal of her time and energy to creating a positive and welcoming environment at Maclay. She is active on campus, including serving as a Maclay student ambassador, a role in which she greets new parents and students as well as incoming freshman events and activities. Ward also serves as a Teacher Assistant several days a week, helping students who come in with questions or assignments regarding English, math, or science. Ward is eager to help students reach an “epiphany of understanding,” the moment where the topic “clicks” in their mind. She also serves underprivileged children of immigrants in Quincy by providing academic lessons. To Ward, this isn’t just a way to get service hours -- she genuinely wants the students she helps to grow in confidence of their abilities and lean on her as a mentor. “When students begin to feel confident and see their own growth over sessions of getting help and working hard,” said Ward, “I am overjoyed and grateful to be a part of such a thoughtful and loving community.”

Ward excels at writing and poetry, using these skills to express herself in compelling and unique ways. Her teacher, Lee Norment, describes Ward and her writing: “Her efforts to improve her written expression, her desire

to bravely consider her own experiences, and her willingness to share her essays and poems with the world reflect in microcosm Heaven’s supreme intelligence, diligence, empathy, and courage – virtues you’ll see, too, if you’re lucky enough to meet her.” Her impressive writing has led her to win the poetry prize for the fall issue of *Notes from the Underground*, Maclay’s literary journal. Additionally, Ward is a two-sport varsity athlete, competing in both track and field and weightlifting.

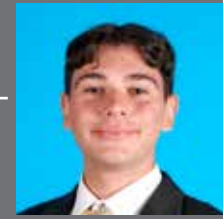
Everything Ward does is to make sure her peers feel welcomed at her school and in the community. She creates an environment of acceptance, confidence, and kindness. “I hope my legacy is to take advantage of every opportunity you have to help those around you – and in learning to help and fulfill others, you will do the same for yourself,” Ward shared, “Inner peace and self-work is not a task you have to do alone.”



## RUNNER-UP

### JULIAN BERRIOS

Leon High School



Julian Berrios has the skills and the drive for his passion: cooking. Berrios, a full time at-home cook, is ready to take his desire to the next level after graduation. A student in Leon High School’s culinary arts program, Berrios has learned how to make a variety of dishes, from pastries to pastas. While participating in the program, he also competes in statewide culinary competitions in which participants create edible centerpieces or properly set tables and plate dishes. Berrios also values food safety, as exhibited by his certification in three different food safety programs.

Outside of the kitchen, Berrios is an active member of Leon’s Marine Corp JROTC (MCJROTC). During his involvement in the program, he has received various awards including the Outstanding Cadet Award, American Legion Award for Scholastic Excellence, Civic Service Award, Distinguished Military Training Award, and the Ocer Leadership Award. Berrios also has a servant’s heart – out of his 180-plus community service hours, his most impactful involvement is tutoring ESE students at Elizabeth Cobb Middle School, teaching and helping students with math-related subjects. Berrios says this opportunity taught him the “importance of being an active member of my community.”

Berrios has had a wide impact on Leon and the larger Tallahassee community. He hopes to be remembered “as someone who deeply cared for others and could always be relied upon as a shoulder to lean on or a voice that could speak up for others.”

# CAREER/TECHNICAL

## HONORABLE MENTION

### TANMAY HALDIYA

*Rickards High School*



Whether the topic is data science, programming, or analytics, Tanmay Haldiya can excel at it. Haldiya cares deeply about technology and doing good in our community. His achievements in each of his areas of involvement speak for themselves, but there is much more to know about Tanmay Haldiya.

Haldiya has placed in over eight national competitions in such areas as programming, data science, and mathematics. These recognitions include first place-individual in Data Science at the University of Texas-Austin's Science Olympiad and first place-team in SMEC Algorithms and Heuristics competition. With his vast knowledge, Haldiya created an online tutoring website amid COVID-19. When schools were shut down in 2020, Haldiya wanted to make sure free education remained accessible, so he worked with another Rickards High student and created ViralTeach, a website that offers help in over 50 subjects including general courses, exam preparation, and extracurricular for both middle and high school students.

At Rickards, Haldiya plays an active role in the campus community. He hosts the multimedia podcast "Stuck in the System," where he and fellow students discuss various topics. Haldiya is also co-director of the Rickards fall invitational and president of the programming club.

As Haldiya graduates, he knows that if he has "invigorated a passion for STEM education in my younger peers, I will have left far more than just a legacy."

## FINALISTS



### Marisa Abarca

*Lincoln High School*

**Awards and Honors:** National Honor Society; Certification in DCF Abuse and Neglect and Child Growth and Development; TCC Deans List (2022); True Trojan Award for exemplary Leadership in association with Lincoln Volleyball (2020); 2x District Weightlifting Champion

**Activity Highlights:** Ronald McDonald House Volunteer; Lacrosse Manager for Lincoln; Weightlifting team; JV Girls Volleyball Captain (2020); Beach Volleyball

**My Legacy:** "Upon graduating; I hope to leave behind a legacy of integrity. Integrity means to do the right thing even when no one is looking. Having integrity is a strong moral of mine that I try my best to uphold every day. I plan to leave this legacy by influencing those around me to hold themselves to a high standard every day."

**What Others Are Saying:** "Marisa is a fantastic young woman who is willing to stand up for others and what she believes in; but always with respect. We need more people like Marisa in this world." – Taylor Zornes, Head Volleyball Coach, Lincoln High School



### Nyx Atkins

*SAIL High School*

**Awards and Honors:** Certifications in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Autodesk Fusion 360 and Inventor; Leon County Apprenticeship; FSU/FAMU College of Engineering ACEE Electrical Engineering Summer Camp; FSU/FAMU College of Engineering ACEE AI Coding Summer Camp

**Activity Highlights:** It's Meow or Never Cat Rescue Program; LGBTQ+ Support Group

**My Legacy:** "When I graduate, I would like to leave behind the idea of improving the world via personal growth."

**What Others Are Saying:** "Nyx is clever; creative; tenacious; and possesses a career-minded mentality not often present among adolescents, and I look forward to the day when I see their name in the credits of a Hollywood film." – Jana Miller, CTE Coordinator, SAIL High School

# CAREER/TECHNICAL



**Leila Evans**  
FAMU Developmental  
Research School

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**Awards and Honors:** Honor Roll; Certified as a Medical Administrative Specialist

**Activity Highlights:** JROTC; FAMU DRS Future Center; FAMU DRS K-8 After School Program; Girls on the Run of the Big Bend; FAMU DRS Black History Program

**My Legacy:** "The legacy I aim to leave at FAMU DRS is one of compassion and self-love. I acknowledge that many young women don't have the resources/support to attend a higher institution, but I aim to make all women, regardless of background and opportunity feel like they matter."

**What Others Are Saying:** "I have witnessed her growth into a hard-working, confident, and strong young leader. As a senior Cadet, Leila served as the JROTC executive officer in charge of five staff members in support of the Battalion operations. Her support in feeding and clothing the homeless and less fortunate has left an undeniable impact on her community and school." - Reginald Howard, FAMU DRS



**Jeremy Roberts**  
Community Leadership  
Academy

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**Awards and Honors:** National Honor Society Officer; Fellowship of Christian Athletes Officer; Outstanding Dual Enrollment Student; HVAC Certified; Excellence in Community Service Award

**Activity Highlights:** CLA Middle and Elementary Track and Field Assistant Coach; Jeremy's Jumpers & More LLC

**My Legacy:** "I hope my legacy following graduation will reflect my appreciation of the countless teachers and administrators who have invested their time in my education. I hope they remember me as a student that not only cared about my schoolwork, but also cared about my community. I hope to inspire other students who are interested in career technical education."

**What Others Are Saying:** "He is a team player and is able to utilize the resources available to him in a very effective way. He is innovative in his approach to problem solving; and he is an out of the box thinker." – Chris Windham; COO and General Manager; Tony Kelly Hearing & Air Conditioning



**Madelyn Scaringe**  
Chiles High School

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**Awards and Honors:** Homecoming Court; Howl of the Wolf Leadership Award; Florida Athletic Coaches Association All Academic and All State Awards; 2x Chiles Scholar Athlete Award; AP Scholar

**Activity Highlights:** Chiles Dance Marathon; Executive Director; Chiles Varsity Girls Soccer Captain; Hang Tough Club Vice President; Good Shepard Mission Trip; Chiles Girls Soccer Camp; H2Engineering

**My Legacy:** "The legacy I hope to leave is one of respect and support. I hope to inspire others to see the good in helping those in their own community and how much joy being kind to others can bring into your life. I hope to teach others the positives of being respectful to everyone around you and how important it is to stick to what you think is right."

**What Others Are Saying:** "Madelyn demonstrates a concern for hers well beyond her years. She has joined clubs; participated in community organizations and has joined school athletics; which demonstrates her enthusiasm and desire to both help others and become involved with the community." – Kate Strickland, Social Studies Teacher, Chiles High School



**Andrew Watson**  
Florida State University Schools

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**Awards and Honors:** Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Alpha Millennial Leadership Program Outstanding Oratorical Contest Overall Winner 2022; Certification in Adobe Photoshop; Illustrator; InDesign; Microsoft Word; and PowerPoint; National Honor Society; National English Honor Society; National Spanish Honor Society

**Activity Highlights:** Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society; FAMU Retreat: Business & Auxiliary Services; FAMU Anti Bullying Workshop; Tallahassee Community Covid-19 Taskforce; K Mentor Program Projects; Fellowship of Christian Athletes; Building Incredible Generations (B.I.G)

**My Legacy:** "When I graduate, I hope to encourage other students, especially African Americans, to work hard in everything they do; whether it's academics, athletics, or arts. Really put your effort into not only your schoolwork but into making "you" your best self. I really think that's the most important lesson I learned from high school."

**What Others Are Saying:** "It has been an honor to teach Mr. Watson as he is a kind intelligent respectful young man who strives for the absolute best in all that he does. He is a well-rounded individual liked by all of his peers and participates in various school activities." – Michelle Hartsfield, Assistant Professor, FSUS



# DRAMA & PERFORMING ARTS

**WINNER**

**JENNA JEON**

*Rickards High School*



Jenna Jeon is the epitome of a best and brightest student. From her academic endeavors at Rickards High to her dedication to service and the arts, Jeon is impressive and deserving of this honorable title. Though she has distinguished herself in performing arts, Jeon's academic focus is on the STEM field, and she hopes to further her education in the area of public health and advocacy. She has participated in the Science Olympiad Team and won countless medals, and served as a junior volunteer at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital this summer, volunteering nearly 100 hours.

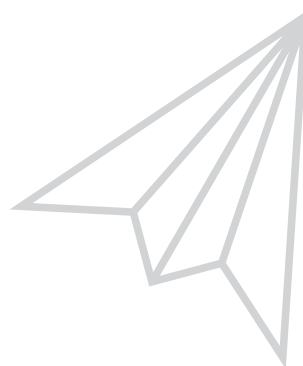
Her interests also run to advocacy. For four years, Jeon has been an active member of Leon County Teen Court, and she has spoken in court on nearly 150 cases varying from cyberbullying to domestic violence. In court, Jeon advocates for 12- to 18-year-old juveniles who end up at teen court for a wide range of reasons. Jeon strives to fight for sanctions that not only help develop character but encourage goals for the juveniles' futures. Her dedication to Teen Court did not go unnoticed, and she won the Teen Court Leadership Award, Teen Court Prosecutor Award, and Distinguished Service Award for Dedicated Service for three consecutive years. Jeon also received the honor for the highest amount of participation among more than 30 student attorneys, with over 400 hours.

Jeon's artistic passion lies in music, where she is a triple talent: violin, piano, and singing. She is very active in her church's worship team and lends her talent to Allegro Senior Home

Living, when she plays piano and violin for the residents.

At school, Jeon is very active in extracurricular activities. She serves as president of the Rickards Model United Nations Team, president of National Honor Society, student director of the Rickards Pangaea Cultural Festival, and class director of Rickards Key Club. Jeon is highly regarded by students and teachers alike for all she does for Rickards and her community. Teacher Jennifer Sullivan said, "Layering on her talent for the performing arts, both on stage and as a director, with her already generous heart, it is clear that Jenna will be an asset to whichever community she becomes a part of in the future."

Jeon hopes to break one stigma involving the arts, explaining, "I never understood why the 'STEM students' were discouraged from participating in extracurriculars centered around public speaking and the arts. I hope my example of success and leadership in such areas helps break the misconception that they're 'unuseful' and 'impossible' for specific future careers." Her passion for STEM, advocacy, and the arts is an admirable and impressive feat that leaves Jeon with a strong legacy for future students to follow.



**RUNNER-UP**

**MERRELL WEBSTER**

*Maclay School*



Merrell Webster always has her best foot forward, and that's why she's one of the best and brightest! Dancer, writer, volunteer ... she's a triple threat! Webster started her dance career when she was just 3 years old, and has loved it ever since. Once she reached 6th grade, she successfully auditioned for the Tallahassee Dance Academy (TDA) competition team, and has been a member for six years. For the past two years, Webster has been a principal dancer with TDA. In her decade of dance, Webster's zeal for dance has only grown. She said, "Dancing is one of my biggest passions – it has allowed me to express my emotions on a deeper level and has given me the strength to pursue what I love."

Outside of dance, Webster is very involved at Maclay School. She is the print editor and Chief of the Andalusian Newspaper as was recognized as the 2022 Andalusian Newspaper Member of the Year. She is a member of multiple honor societies, including the National Honor Society, Quill and Scroll Society, and National French Honor Society. Webster is also a dedicated member of Maclay Dance Marathon, serving as the event's 2023 Sponsorship Co-Chair. Webster has also participated as a Springtime Tallahassee Belle for four years and was crowned Miss Congeniality this past year. As Webster takes her final bow at Maclay, she looks forward to doing amazing things in the future.

# DRAMA & PERFORMING ARTS

HONORABLE  
MENTION

ELSPETH ANN  
ABBOTT

Florida State University Schools



Lights! Camera! Action! It seems Elspeth Ann Abbott is always on stage and ready to perform! Having performed in over five productions, including the Florida High Circus, and choreographed countless numbers, Abbott is a star in her own right. From dancing at the Harlem Globetrotters halftime show to performing as Clara in a jazz version of the Nutcracker, Abbott has dedicated a majority of her time to the performing arts.

Abbott is very active in the community. Her passion project is her work with a special group of students at J. Michael Conley Elementary School, where since 2019 she has worked with the Exceptional Student Education (ESE) program, assisting teachers in creating safe and helpful learning environments within the school.

At Florida High, Abbott has had a large impact. She currently serves as the National Honor Society President and is involved in the Certified Nursing Assistant Program. Her work at Florida High has been instrumental in continuing the success of various programs, including the Help a Teacher and Yearly Sock Drive programs. She remains fervent about the arts at school as well, performing in the school choir and choreographing for Thespians. Abbott has received numerous awards for her work, including a superior for choreography at the Regional Thespians Competition. Abbott wants to leave her school know for "the courage to try new things and that through hard work and determination you can exceed the goals you set for yourself."

## FINALISTS



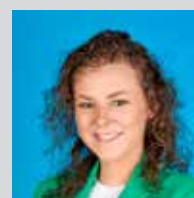
**Lily Byington**  
Chiles High School

**Awards and Honors:** Best Junior, Theater Department; Best Leading Actress, Superior Group Musical, Excellent Small Group Musical, Excellent Duet Musical, Excellent Choreography, Florida Thespians; Carnegie Hall Choral Performance Certification

**Activity Highlights:** Chiles Chorus; One More Child; Hands and Hearts for Horses; Chiles Anchor Club; Chiles Thespians Troupe Captain

**My Legacy:** "Rather than having a legacy measured by the amount of performances and successes, I would prefer to be remembered by the measurements of the compassion I have shown to others and the love that I have given to people. I wish to be seen as a match that lights others' flames to encourage them to continue to do the same."

**What Others Are Saying:** "Lily is a positive personality who always encourages others to do their best and seems to be able to sense when there is a need and fill it whether with peers or adults- a gift valued by all." - Shannon O'Bryan, Theater Arts Director, Chiles



**Mackenzie Clement**  
North Florida Christian School

**Awards and Honors:** National Honor Society, Christian Character Award; NFC Diamond Girls; Science Fair, 3rd Place

**Activity Highlights:** Varsity Track Team; Varsity Basketball Team; Student Body Officer, Vice President; Prop and Stage Manager, NFC Theater; Student council; Junior Civitan; Girls Bible study, Co-leader

**My Legacy:** "I hope when people look back at my high school experience, they recall me as someone who was honest, loyal, and dependable. Someone who always showed up, participated, and gave it her all. I hope people remember my character and that I am a woman of faith."

**What Others Are Saying:** "She has a clear understanding of what both the director and actors need and puts together a plan to make it happen. I count on her leadership now for our younger students as they are just learning the ropes of a drama production." - Nicolette Phillips, NFC Elementary

# DRAMA & PERFORMING ARTS



**Jeramine Edwards**  
Leon High School

**Awards and Honors:** All State Concert Choir; Superior, Best in Show Ranking, at Thespian Districts; Tri-M, Music Honor Society; Dreamers and Doers Award Winner; I AM DREAMS Honoree

**Activity Highlights:** Youth Leadership Tallahassee Class 18; Beautillion Chapter of the Links; Leon Band, French Horn Section Leader; Capital Singers Base Section Leader; Celebration Baptist Church, Worship Leader in Quincy Music Theater

**My Legacy:** "There are many black boys my age who are scared of being in chorus, band, and theater. Growing up most black boys are pushed towards sports or other 'manly' activities and leave all the Performing activities to the girls. Like the other black young men that encouraged me to be on stage, I want to do the same for other black young men."

**What Others Are Saying:** "Jermaine has always been an incredibly respectful student - highly regarded by his teachers and his peers. He shows an incredible passion for his art and is fully committed to the things in which he is involved" - Tabitha Peck, Chorus Teacher, Leon



**Kayla Garland**  
Godby High School

**Awards and Honors:** Superior rated solo at regionals; Best Actor in 'Once on this Island'; Best Supporting Actor in 'Chicago'; Miss Congeniality, Godby Band; National Honor Society; National Thespian Society

**Activity Highlights:** Cougarettes, Captain; The Longest Table; Parade Performances, Mardi Gras, FAMU Parade, Springtime Tallahassee

**My Legacy:** "Once I graduate, I want people to remember that what I did was not fully for the present, but my actions represent the courage of my role models from the past. My mission will always be bigger than me - it's for my tribe."

**What Others Are Saying:** "She leads by example, always being prepared and always doing her best. She is a beautiful example of the power of individuality. She is extremely creative and has an amazing career ahead of her." - Randi Lundgren, Godby



**Nichols Griffith**  
Community Leadership Academy

**Awards and Honors:** 3x Outstanding Theater Student of the Year; National Honor Society, Vice President; General Aviation Certification; Honor Roll

**Activity Highlights:** Freedom Kids; Hope House; Community Leadership Academy Track and Field, Assistant Coach; Jingle in the City; Christmas in Juneberry

**My Legacy:** "My legacy upon graduating is that with Freedom Kids I have helped create a sustainable program for Freedom Kids that will continue to impact the lives throughout the Tallahassee Community. Within the program, I have impacted the lives of the kids who will remember and rely on the lessons that they have learned through the program."

**What Others Are Saying:** "What makes Cole so unique is his ability to connect with both young and old alike, on-stage and off-stage. He is never seeking attention or personal accolades but is always looking to serve." - Trisha McKenzie, Community Leadership Academy Principal

# DRAMA & PERFORMING ARTS



**Samuel King**  
FAMU Developmental  
Research School

**Awards and Honors:** National Honor Society; MLK Doers and Dreamers award; NAS Achiever of the Year Award; Honor Roll

**Activity Highlights:** JROTC, 1st Lieutenant; FAMU DRS Freedom School's Summer Play: The Uprising: "A Plant'atory Mayhem" Co-Writer; Yearbook; Orange and Green Marching Machine Band; NAS Secretary, 100 Black Men Inc

**My Legacy:** *"Being a voice for the voiceless and making sure the stories of those who are condemned for telling their stories, are told, and accurately. My legacy and hope is that upon graduating the stories I've told through characters on stage, songs sung, and conversations had between my peers and teachers will continue to spread through the halls of FAMU DRS."*

**What Others Are Saying:** *"Mr. King is responsible for leading his peers through a pivotal time, he excels at this task. He delegates meetings with confidence. He offers guidance, when necessary. What's more, Mr. King is kind; he listens to questions."* - Altamese Osborne, FAMU DRS



**Lila Knowlton**  
Lincoln High School

**Awards and Honors:** National Latin Exam, Magna Cum Laude; 24K Yearbook Recognition; Top Ten in Advanced Classical Art Exam, Latin State Competition; AP Scholar with Honor; Principal's Award

**Activity Highlights:** Burke's Karate Academy; Platinum Dance Center, Senior Competition Team; Yearbook, Lincoln Chorus; Bardlings; Key Club; Miccosukee Land Co-Op Drama Camp; Latin Club

**My Legacy:** *"I hope that my legacy will be one of hard work and optimism since I have been a part of many clubs that have had to rebuild since Covid-19. My leadership position in chorus post-quarantine has led to increased socialization between grade levels and my high positions in Latin Club created greater participation and growth within the National Club."*

**What Others Are Saying:** *"If I had to describe Lila in very few words, it would be that she is wholesome and giving. There is not a time I can think of when Lila has not stepped up to the plate to take over as a leader, to assist anyone who needs help, or to make someone laugh."* - Lindsey Ansola-Crowley, Platinum Dance Center



**Elisabeth "Finley" Tanenbaum**  
SAIL High School

**Awards and Honors:** Drama Club, President; Production of Peter Pan; Production of CLUE

**Activity Highlights:** Tallahassee Animal Shelter; LGBTQIA+ Club; Young Actor's Studio; Theater and Drama Club

**My Legacy:** *"At SAIL, I want to be remembered as someone who devoted their time and energy to their passions. As I go on to college, where I will continue pursuing my areas of interest and then onward to my future career, I hope to continue leaving this impression on others and to be someone respectable."*

**What Others Are Saying:** *"There are a dedicated student, a talented actor, a leader and an incredibly kind person. They always had a great attitude during rehearsals in class and learned their lines quickly and acted with truth and deep emotions"* - Sierra Service, SAIL

**What Others Are Saying:** *"Lily is a positive personality who always encourages others to do their best and seems to be able to sense when there is a need and fill it whether with peers or adults- a gift valued by all."* - Shannon O'Bryan, Theater Arts Director, Chiles

# ENGLISH & LANGUAGE ARTS

## WINNER

### CAMILLE RESAVAGE

*Leon High School*



For Camille Resavage, service is at the forefront of her deepest interests. She utilizes her talent in verbal and written language arts to give back to the community and to plan and execute various service events. Her reach doesn't stop in Tallahassee, but expands worldwide.

At Leon High School, one of Resavage's biggest roles is as head of the school's SGA Community Service Committee, where she creates and leads service projects for the entire student body. Through this role, Resavage co-lead the Leon vs. Cancer fundraiser that raised \$36,750 for the Tallahassee Memorial Hospital Cancer Center, pushing the total raised past \$500,000 since the event began 15 years ago. Resavage also founded The Big Event Jr., a student-run day of community service, which saw volunteers serve at the Ronald McDonald House, Salvation Army, Kearney Center, and various local food pantries. Resavage spent some 100 hours over two years creating and executing The Big Event Jr., and says, "I have learned the importance of effective language arts, the power of volunteerism, but most importantly, that service is a gift." She was the creator and instigator of the inaugural event in 2022 and continues to serve as chairman for the 2023 event as it expands beyond Leon High School to include other local schools as well. In addition to these two roles, Resavage serves as president of the Interact Service Club.

Resavage is also an active member of Global Philanthropy Leaders, a non-profit program that introduces students to an

organization that facilitates microloans for struggling entrepreneurs across the globe. In her two years participating in the program, Resavage has provided 10 loans to individuals in nine different countries, donating money she makes at a part-time job. Resavage continues to expand her global impact with her service mission experience in Ecuador. Once back in the U.S., she continued to be an advocate for the program, presenting and sharing her experience with large groups.

Even with her hands full from her many service roles, Resavage still finds the time and effort to dedicate to her education, earning the AP Scholar with Distinction Award after receiving a score of 3 or higher on five or more AP exams.

"I hope I leave behind a legacy as someone who was always willing to lend a helping hand," Resavage says. "Whether that's helping a peer find a classroom, or giving a friend advice, I hope my interaction with them was beneficial in some way."



## RUNNER-UP

### EMILY TAYLOR

*Rickards High School*



Emily Taylor's love of writing and language arts is evident in all she does. Whether at school, at home, or in her day-to-day activities, she leaves room to show her creativity.

Founder of the Rickards Creative Writing Club, Taylor created a space for students to express their creativity through their passion for writing. Taylor created the club within her first month as a freshman at Rickards, too zealous to go without a space to meet with other students. She led the club through the publishing of its own book, a compilation of members' stories during the COVID-19 pandemic. Taylor additionally is a member of the Rickards Junior Classical League, nicknamed the Latin Club, where she has competed and won in regional and state level competitions. In addition to these involvements, Taylor also competed on the varsity swim team, where she qualified and attended the state championship meet.

"I hope to leave my mark in creating a safe space for self-expression through writing and a collaborative community where people can create and share their stories with others," Taylor says. Her dedication to writing and her tenacity to create opportunities and spaces for other students to express themselves will leave a strong legacy at Rickards.

# ENGLISH & LANGUAGE ARTS

HONORABLE  
MENTION

LEAH PAGAN

Lincoln High School



Leah Pagan puts her pen to paper with hopes of changing the world. A student, writer, and dancer, Pagan has incorporated her passion for language arts throughout her wide range of activities..

Pagan has an excitement for writing and the opportunities and importance it creates in others' lives. She has studied creative writing throughout high school, and is now enrolled in the highest level creative writing class offered at Lincoln High School. Outside of her formal education, Pagan works for the Tallahassee Writers Association (TWA), where she is able to connect with distinguished authors and aspiring writers in the community. She worked as an intern for the Seven Hills Contest, where she was allowed to create her own workshop for TWA to host, centering around songwriting. Pagan has also been a competitive dancer since 2019 and has received multiple awards, including platinum and double platinum status on multiple group and solo performances. These commitments have not curbed Pagan's academic success – she was recognized as a National Recognition Scholar, as well as awarded the Creative Writing Award at Lincoln.

"I plan to leave a legacy of dedication and the positive outcome of personal initiative," said Pagan. Her dedication to creativity and her expression exemplifies what it means to be an outstanding student.

## FINALISTS



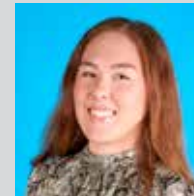
**Jenna Adams**  
Maclay School

**Awards and Honors:** National Honor Society; National Art Honor Society; National Spanish Honor Society; AP Scholar; Talquin Youth Tour Representative and Scholarship Winner; Poetry Award

**Activity Highlights:** Notes from The Underground, Staff Member; Poetry Editor; Company Club, Director; Class Secretary; Multicultural Awareness Club, Vice President; Maclay Student Ambassador; First Baptist Church Youth Choir

**My Legacy:** "Through my time on the staff at Maclay's literary journal, "Notes from the Underground," I hope I have encouraged new artists to create and be proud of their creations. Knowing the incredible talent that often stays hidden or uncultivated, I hope my work inspires anyone to pursue and share their artistic interests that make the world a more beautiful place."

**What Others Are Saying:** "I think that is the true mark of her academics: she brings original insights to text I've taught a thousand times. I think this is clearly related to the passion she feels for the subject." - Craig Beaven, Maclay School



**Avery Cronin**  
Chiles High School

**Awards and Honors:** AP World Language Department Award; Relentless Award and Congeniality Award, Chiles Varsity Swim Team; Honor Roll

**Activity Highlights:** SGA, Committee Head; Drama Club, President; Chiles Anchor Club; No Kid Hungry Club, Inaugural Treasurer; Chiles Ambassador

**My Legacy:** "I want to be known as a good person. My life's mission is to create good in the world wherever I go. I am constantly involved in service projects and want to be a positive, helpful influence on my peers. I may not be perfect, but I know I can always be a good person and create a positive community."

**What Others Are Saying:** "Avery has always answered the call to help her community in a variety of ways. She is a reflective and conscientious thinker who applies her moral compass to the needs of the community." - Joseph Burgess, Chiles Principal

# ENGLISH & LANGUAGE ARTS



**Faeryn Gainey**  
Godby High School

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**Awards and Honors:** Honor Roll; Candidate for English Student of the Year

**Activity Highlights:** McDaniel Family Daycare Home; Teacher Aide

**My Legacy:** *"I hope my legacy will be one of academic success and achievement, as well as service and aid to others. I want to leave a legacy that will not only inspire the next generations, but encourage everyone to work hard for what they want."*

**What Others Are Saying:** *"She is honest dependable and incredibly motivated. Her dedication to her education is unsurpassed and this is obvious daily."* - Kathy Barfield, Godby teacher



**Emma Gorham**  
North Florida Christian

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**Awards and Honors:** Honor Roll; National Honor Society

**Activity Highlights:** SGA officer, President (9th), Vice President (10th); Softball Camp; Courage through Cancer Walk; North Florida Baptist Church; Cheer Camp, Coach; Harvest Fest; TCC Dual Enrollment

**My Legacy:** *"The legacy I'm hoping to leave after graduating is one of being involved. Whether it was being a part of a sports team, supporting other teams at their games, being a member of SGA and planning different*

*school events, planning church events through my youth group, whatever the case, I want to be remembered for participating in anything and everything I could not just watching from the side."*

**What Others Are Saying:** *"She is a go-getter! Leadership is probably one of her stronger character traits. She leads primarily by example."* - James Lieser, North Florida Christian School



**Jordan Myatt**  
SAIL High School

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**Awards and Honors:** Honor Roll; Department Award of Excellence, Outstanding Achievement in Geometry Honors, Excellence in U.S. History, Top Grade Average in Integrated Science

**Activity Highlights:** Political Campaign Volunteer; WT Moore Elementary, Junior Camp Counselor

**My Legacy:** *"I wish to leave a positive impact on the school and anyone that I have had the pleasure of interacting with during my time here, in order to sustain the environment that kindly welcomed me when I first joined this community."*

**What Others Are Saying:** *"Another quality I came to recognize in Mr. Myatt was integrity and understanding that the path to education requires that assignments be approached with honesty and open-mindedness."* - Marlow Matherne, SAIL



**Molly Russell**  
Florida State University  
Schools

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**Awards and Honors:** FSUS Science Fair, 1st Place; AP Scholar; National English Honor Society, President; National Honor Society, Vice President; Tallahassee Community College Dean's List

**Activity Highlights:** Rho Kappa; Varsity Soccer, Captain; Florida Elite Soccer Club; Walker Ford Community Center; FSUS Extended Day Counselor, Literacy Enrichment Program; Little Free Library

**My Legacy:** *"I hope my legacy will include the continued success of the National English Honor Society and promoting literacy in the community as well as the cultivation and growth of the Literacy Enrichment Program I have created for my school."*

**What Others Are Saying:** *"Molly's enthusiasm for helping others shone bright throughout this entire project. Her persistence and drive motivated others to help and ensured that this library was successful."* - Christine Russell, Florida State University Schools

# JOURNALISM & MEDIA PRODUCTION

## WINNER

### KRYSTEN HOOD

*FAMU Developmental  
Research School*



Watch out, world, because Krysten Hood is about to take over. From writing to service to public speaking, Hood is a master of many trades.

Since 2019, Hood has been an active member of the FAMU DRS Yearbook program. Her knowledge and expertise in creating the yearbook continue to grow as Hood dedicates her eagerness to the project. Teacher and yearbook advisor Tatyana Wilson has nothing but praise for Hood, observing, “She’s so knowledgeable about design and copy and the publishing system that she even took the time to teach me and the new yearbook staff how to navigate the website and make the yearbook great.” Her work in journalism has led to her acceptance as a Tallahassee Future Leaders Academy Student at the FAMU School of Journalism and Graphic Communication. Hood has also had the opportunity to represent FAMU DRS as the National 4-H delegate and as the Comcast Rule Your Future STEAM Symposium delegate.

Though journalism is her primary activity, Hood doesn’t let just one interest define her. Hood’s involvement extends beyond her journalistic endeavors. At FAMU DRS, Hood serves as president of both the National Beta Club and FAMU DRS Future Farmers of America Chapter. She has also participated in the FAMU DRS Theatre and Performing Arts Program since 2019. In the community, Hood is in Youth Leadership Tallahassee Class 18, and serves as president of the Delta Sigma Theta

Sorority Tallahassee Alumnae Chapter Youth Empowerment Summit.

One activity especially important to Hood is Cultivation Queens Corp., a nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve the community through service, awareness, and community events. As president, Hood leads members through service projects, activities, and awareness discussions. During her time with the organization, Hood worked with other officers to create the organization’s now-annual prom dress drive, which gives back to high school girls in need.

Hood has established a large impact throughout the community and the journalism field at FAMU DRS. “My personal values magnify service, advocacy, and awareness,” said Hood. “My mission is to use my voice, resources, and abilities to empower myself, those connected to me, and those beyond me. I strive daily to be seen and heard by all means available and necessary.”

## RUNNER-UP

### SHANIA BROWN

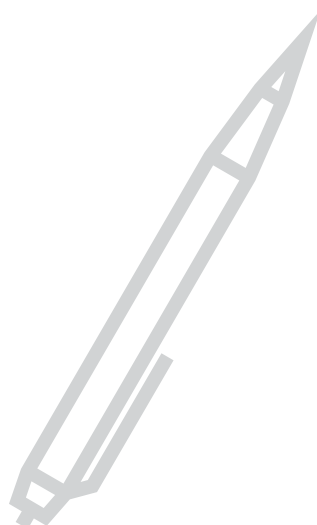
*Godby High School*



Shania Brown is a best and brightest achiever in a wide range of areas – filming, networking, or writing, she can do it all.

Serving as the Editor-in-Chief for the Godby yearbook, Brown utilizes leadership, immense skill, and her passion for the memories her book creates to lead a team of student editors creating a time capsule of the year 2023. She also serves as the senior class representative for SGA and treasurer for National Honor Society at Godby High. Her involvement at Godby does not end there. Brown, who labels herself the “film girl,” is frequently seen at sporting events capturing footage for various Godby teams. This fun and new experience for Brown enabled her to feel more at home while giving back to her school community. Brown was led to the swim team through this experience, where she is now the team captain. As captain, she has used her skills in journalism and networking to reach out to local journalists to promote fundraising for the team – an effort that garnered \$10,000 for the Godby swim team.

Brown says this about life: “You make your own reality. So, grab a hold of your life and act like you are in control, because you are! Never allow your mind’s fear to stop you from doing the things you desire. Always remember you are capable of anything.” She hopes people are inspired by her words and the legacy they leave.





# JOURNALISM & MEDIA PRODUCTION

## HONORABLE MENTION

ROBERT "RJ"  
HOSAY

Maclay School



Robert Hosay ensures every step of the way that he is setting a foundation for the next generation, starting right now. His zeal and drive for journalism and inclusivity are the qualities that make him one of the best and brightest.

Hosay serves as the Online Editor-in-Chief of the Maclay newspaper, the Andalusian. In this role, Hosay was able to hone his skill in writing and editing and win multiple awards from the Florida Scholastic Press Association, including the All-Florida Award. He was also accepted into the Quill and Scroll National Honor Society for Journalists.

Beyond the Andalusian, Hosay is active in the Maclay community. He serves as captain of the varsity soccer team and on the Student Athlete Advisory Committee for the 2022-2023 academic year. Hosay additionally serves as a Maclay School Ambassador, where he regularly attends events to speak on behalf of the school. Serving the community is a major part of his school involvement, including participation in various service clubs including Key Club, Beta Club, and National Honor Society.

Hosay will leave Maclay with a strong legacy behind him. "My goal has been servant leadership," he says, "to be inclusive of others, and not take the opportunity for equal education for granted."

## FINALISTS



**Margaret Giles**  
Leon High School

**Awards and Honors:** Leon Pierian Honors Society; National Honors Thespian Vice President; National English Honors Society President; Winner of "To Tell A More Beautiful Story" Award; Tri M Music Honor Society

**Activity Highlights:** Founder of Leon National English Honor Society's Book Club; Dance Marathon Executive Team (2019-2023); Thespians Director's Notebook and Melodear performances; Young Actors Theatre (2019-2023)

**My Legacy:** "I want to have created systems that will outlast me. I hope my involvement and leadership in Leon's National English Honor Society creates a club that will continue having intelligent literary conversations, passionate service project, and create a sense of community for students long after I graduate."

**What Others Are Saying:** "Maggie creates and connects her words. In a time when words are used to tear down and disconnect us from each other, Maggie uses the power of story and words to make this world a better, more collaborative, and more caring place." – Lea Marshall, Leon Theatre Director



**Molly Kilcrease**  
Florida State University  
Schools

**Awards and Honors:** AB Honor Roll (2019-2022); Chalk Walk "People's Choice" and "Judge's Choice" 2021; FSPA Spring 2022 Digital Contest "Excellence"; Mahaska Whitley Student Exhibition; COCA's Winter Festival "Honorable Mention"; Yearbook Editor

**Activity Highlights:** Big Bend Hospice; LeMoyne Art Camp assistant; Fat Cat "For Art's Sake" volunteer; Reading Buddies; Challenger Learning Center; founded FSUS National Junior Art Honor Society

**My Legacy:** "My goal is to foster a greater sense of community for the artists at school. Community is a pillar of functional society and is incredibly important to me as an artist. With a strong enough foundation, I know the community would develop and become stronger. I hope my legacy is the foundation I built for the community I love."

**What Others Are Saying:** "Not only is she conscientious and excels in academia, but she's also incredibly kind and compassionate towards others. Other students gravitate toward her because they know she will be patient, helpful and respectful." – Shannon Axtell, FSUS English Teacher

# JOURNALISM & MEDIA PRODUCTION



**Catherine Lucas**

*St. John Paul II Catholic High School*

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**Awards and Honors:** “Best Mission Patch Design” 2020 Higher Orbits: Go For Launch; National Honor Society; Florida Junior Classical League (2019-2022); “Excellent” Award in Art & Literary Magazine 2023; Art Club President (2022-2023); AP Scholar Award

**Activity Highlights:** Brain Bowl Team; Leadership Florida Communications & Graphic Design internship; Editor-In-Chief for Blue & Gold Literature & Arts Magazine

**My Legacy:** “In an increasingly polarized world, students are reticent to express their ideas and opinions. My goal is to leave a nurturing environment in which ALL of my peers feel free to express their inner-most selves through any number of mediums.”

**What Others Are Saying:** “She is self-motivated and organized and confident. I remain impressed at her leadership and management skills, and she runs the magazine with professionalism and grace.” – Jennifer Freeman, SPJII English Teacher



**Peyton Mears**

*Lincoln High School*

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**Awards and Honors:** Academic Excellence in Media Production; Editor-in-Chief of The Lincoln Legend Yearbook 2023

**Activity Highlights:** The Longest Table; Production Manager of Trojan Talk daily news 2022; graduation photo assistance

**My Legacy:** “The phrase ‘leave it better than you found it’ has always been the motivation behind my involvement at Lincoln High School. I hope to foster an environment which allows future Lincoln students to receive the best possible versions of the programs that I have worked alongside staff to create and maintain.”

**What Others Are Saying:** “Peyton’s cheerful demeanor and no-nonsense attitude about accomplishing these goals puts them not only in the perfect position to lead the team, but also to be an outstanding anchor and scriptwriter.” – Jane Duross, Lincoln Media Specialist



**Cody Osborne**

*SAIL High School*

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**Awards and Honors:** Certified Autodesk Inventor and Adobe Dreamweaver; FAMU VEX District Robotics Competition Winner 2022; Editor of SAIL news broadcasts

**Activity Highlights:** Tallahassee Science Festival 2022; STEM Club; Disc Golf; Produced 3 yearbooks (2020-2023); School newspaper

**My Legacy:** “SAIL is shorthand for School for Arts and Innovative Learning and many people focus on the ‘Art’ part of our name and don’t know that we also have great STEM programs. So for my legacy I want SAIL to be known as a STEAM school for both the arts and STEM programs.”

**What Others Are Saying:** “He is well-versed in media production and always willing to mentor and assist novice students. His leadership in Journalism has been essential in producing/editing news broadcasts and maintaining a robust journalism program.” – Emily Bell, SAIL Teacher

# JOURNALISM & MEDIA PRODUCTION



**William "Parker" Penn**  
Chiles High School

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**Awards and Honors:** Certified in Adobe After Effects, Illustrator, Photoshop, and Premiere Pro 2022; Director and Co-Senior Editor for Wolfcenter News Show

**Activity Highlights:** Southwind Younglife Camp assistant counselor 2021; WolfCenter Club video production

**My Legacy:** *"My hope for my legacy is that it is one that is memorable. I hope that many years from now people will remember who I am, because of my future goals of succeeding in the film industry."*

**What Others Are Saying:** *"He is very hardworking and has held several after-school jobs. He has great moral character and possesses the skills to work with a variety of people."* – Cheryl Christie, Chiles Digital Media Teacher



**Akhil Walia**  
Rickards High School

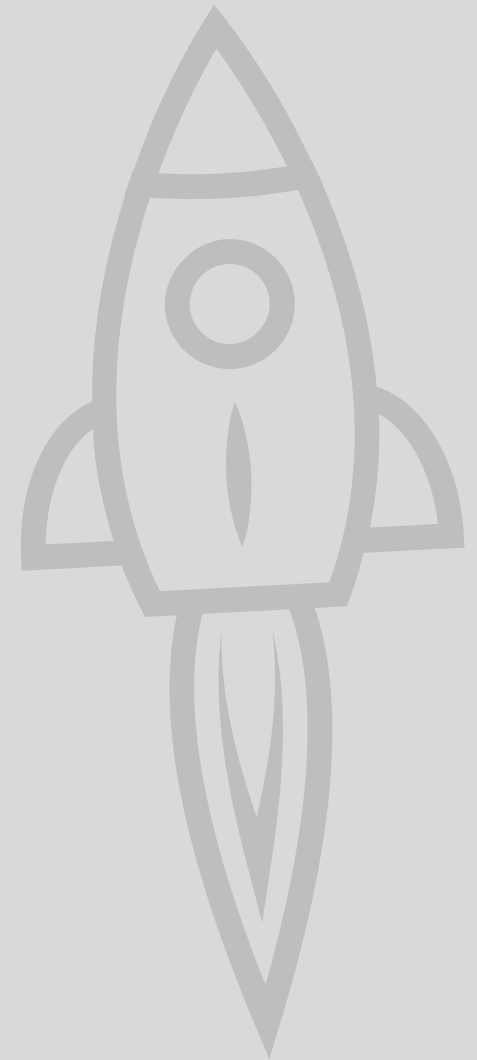
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**Awards and Honors:** Mu Alpha Theta National Convention 1st place in Team; Rickards Newsletter Club President; Rickards Students Working Against Tobacco Secretary 2022; Secretary-General of Rickards Model UN; founder and President Newsletter Club (2020-2022); Yale Young Global Scholars program

**Activity Highlights:** Leon County Teen Court (2020-2022); founder and President KnowTeenRights.org; Youth Leadership Tallahassee Class 18; Varsity Tennis Team and Tennis Club; Math Club Secretary

**My Legacy:** *"Upon graduation from Rickards High School, I plan to pursue in the Humanities area of academics at a university. With the knowledge and experience I gain from this, I plan to take the LSAT and get admitted into a top law school, where I can train to eventually become an attorney."*

**What Others Are Saying:** *"Akhil's thirst for knowledge is what makes him stand out among his peers...I have gotten to know him as a curious, patient, and dedicated young person."* – Rachael Cross, Rickards IB Mathematics Teacher



# LEADERSHIP



## WINNER

**AMAYA WAYMON**

*Rickards High School*



Amaya Waymon is the very definition of a leader, and she has the work product and awards to prove it. Her dedication to her community and its well-being is what makes her such a compelling and successful pacesetter.

Waymon is a decorated leader, having received countless awards and recognitions including PERIOD's Youth Champion in Service Award, Presidential Volunteer Service Award Silver Tier, Oasis Center for Women and Girls: Girls Can Do Anything Award, and National Achievers Society Community Service Award. She was also named one of the Tallahassee Democrat's 5 Young Women to Watch 2022. Most of these accolades come from Waymon's work with The Girl Flo, a service initiative she founded in 2020 that strives to end period poverty in schools. What started as an initiative at Rickards High School has turned into a statewide movement that feminine products are accessible in all Florida schools. In two years, The Girl Flo has raised over \$20,000 to provide feminine products in schools, including dispensers installed in every school in Leon County.

At Rickards, Waymon serves as president of Student Government and the National Achievers Society. Her impact on Rickards has been enormous and will last far beyond her graduation. AVID Coordinator Earl Hankerson noted, "Amaya is an excellent role model and productive citizen encouraging her peers and making our community a better place." In the

community, Waymon serves as Student District Advisory Council Chair and Zeta Phi Beta Youth Club president, and sits on the Oasis Center for Women and Girls Youth Board. She was also a part of Youth Leadership Tallahassee Class 18. While doing all this, Waymon also maintains an active role in Girl Scouts and is a candidate for the Girl Scout Gold Award.

Waymon's passion for advocacy shows in her work. Her attendance at Girls State allowed her to gain experience in public affairs. Since then, she has advocated for legislation regarding summer learning programs, drafted bill proposals for The Girl Flo, and served as a page in both the Florida Senate and House chambers.



## RUNNER-UP

**NIA TERRY**

*Florida State University Schools*



Nia Terry has fully embraced what it means to be a student leader and continues to make strides in student activism every day.

Terry serves as president of Building Incredible Generations (BIG), where she organizes events, service projects, and fundraising for social activism and social justice at Florida High and in the community. Through BIG, Terry has assisted in the development of programming within her school's K-12 programs designed to appreciate and celebrate heritage and culture. As president, Terry has transformed BIG from just a student activism club to one that engages the entirety of her school's community in activism and celebration.

She also serves on the PeaceJam Youth Leadership Council, the Volunteer Florida (Healthy Minds Summit) planning board, and Florida High's Student Council. Through all her endeavors, Terry has been recognized with multiple honors, including the MLK Doers and Dreamers Award, the Scott Dietrich Award, and the 2022 Tallahassee Democrat's 5 Young Women to Watch. Additionally, Terry is a member of Youth Leadership Tallahassee Class 18, Mu Alpha Theta, National Honor Society, National Spanish Honor Society, and National English Honor Society.

"My leadership positions with BIG have allowed me to implement programming and design curriculum that combats the fear and darkness that comes with the unknown with the beaming light that comes with knowledge and understanding," Terry said, "paving the way for the Next Generation to experience more inclusive educational practices."

# LEADERSHIP



## HONORABLE MENTION

KATHERINE ROTH

SAIL High School



Supporting her peers, uplifting others, or being an advocate, SAIL student Katherine Roth creates an open and respectful environment wherever she leads. Her dedication to kindness shines through all her endeavors.

Roth's focus is on mental health advocacy and support. She strives to bring resources to both the community and her school. She partnered with the National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI) Tallahassee to advocate for mental health on her campus, and arranged for the organization to provide presentations and resources on SAIL's campus at various times throughout the school year. Roth is also the founder of the Random Acts of Kindness club at SAIL, focused on uplifting the school and local communities through service. She also serves on SAIL's Student Government as head of the Fundraising and Outreach Committee. In recognition of her dedication to SAIL and the mental health of her peers, she was awarded the Medallion Award honoring outstanding citizenship.

"I hope...people will see my legacy as a friend," Roth said. "Someone they feel they could speak to about anything and not be judged or overlooked. I hope I have left a lasting impact on my school and community by being an encourager and helping hand."

# FINALISTS



**Bryan Alex**  
Lincoln High School

**Awards and Honors:** President's Award; Academic Bar and Academic Letter; Tallahassee Parks & Recreation Leadership Award; Mock Trial Team Captain; National Honor Society; Players Award in Tennis; Key Club

**Activity Highlights:** MoLab camp counselor (2019-2021); Varsity Tennis; Chorus Stage Manager; 4-H Teen Leadership Council President; Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare; Camp Invention Leadership intern (2019-2021); Camp Crosspoint (2019-2022) and Camp Cherry Lake camp counselors; Vacation Bible School

**My Legacy:** "We must act with a sense of urgency, there is always a need around our community, and I emphasize the need to bring people together in the community. Unity is all the world needs through the most troubling times, unity."

**What Others Are Saying:** "Along with being a dedicated and hardworking student, Bryan is constantly looking for ways to improve and grow. He is a communicator, a skilled problem-solver, and a team player." – Cheryl Henley, Lincoln English II Honors teacher



**Robert "Oakley"  
Deison**  
Maclay School

**Awards and Honors:** National Honor Society President (2021-2022); School Spirit Chair & Class Representative; Marauder Award and Captain of Varsity Tennis; Aurelian Honor Society of Yale University Book Prize; Superior rating District Ensemble & Solo Competition; Spanish Honor Society (2020-2022)

**Activity Highlights:** Key Club; Varsity Cross Country; Model UN; Student Ambassador Club (2019-2023); Multi-Cultural Awareness Club; North Florida Animal Hospital intern; Maclay Camp Counselor; Concert Band

**My Legacy:** "I hope my legacy will be that I was an engaged learner who was not afraid to ask a question or assume a challenge. I hope that I will be remembered as a hard worker who brought positivity and school spirit to my surroundings."

**What Others Are Saying:** "I see a bright future for Oakley, as he will engage with his local communities with unyielding excitement and dedication." – Heather Bas, Maclay Dean of Students

# LEADERSHIP



**Kyla Edwards**  
Community Christian School

**Awards and Honors:** Outstanding Crew Member Award (2020-2022); School Honor Council; High Honor Roll (2019-2023); National Honor Society; John Wycliffe Bible Literacy Award; CCS Outdoor Leadership Program Squad Leader

**Activity Highlights:** Youth Group Worship Band; Belly Boutique volunteer; CCS Theatre Backstage Manager; Mission trips in South Dakota and New Orleans; Immersion week for local charities

**My Legacy:** "I hope I have inspired others to take the first big step and reach out to others. This can make a lifetime of a difference to someone, and hopefully it makes a difference in you too."

**What Others Are Saying:** "Kyla's default attitude when a chance to serve others arises is one of initiative. She will volunteer to complete the project, enlist the help of others to assist her, and make the plan to make it happen." - Jeff Collier, CCS Director of Leadership



**Major Hartman**  
Chiles High School

**Awards and Honors:** Scouts BSA, Eagle Scout; Triple Crown of National High Adventure Award (2019-2021); National Honor Society (2020-2023); Varsity Football and Lacrosse Captain;

numerous Big Bend athletic awards; LCS Lamp-of-Learning pins (2019-2023)

**Activity Highlights:** Second Harvest Food Bank; Centerville Conservation Pedway; Leon County Adopt-a-Road; Youth Leadership Tallahassee Class 18; Timberwolves United Special Olympics and 2022 USA Games

**My Legacy:** "I expect the continuing legacy of my actions will have a meaningful impact on people, animals, and the environment because they originate from my focused mission to be an honorable, authentic, integral, honest, loyal, communicative, inclusive servant leader of character who performs with an enthusiastic sense of duty and best excellence in academics, athletics, citizenship/community service, and leadership development."

**What Others Are Saying:** "Major's sustained commitment to volunteer service to Leon County has contributed to making Leon County a more beautiful place for families and businesses to continue to want to live, work, and play." - Dean Richards, Leon County Right-of-Way Management Supervisor



**Julia Lehman**  
Leon County Home School

**Awards and Honors:** Thomasville Road Baptist Church Leadership Team (2021-2023); Northside Interact Club for the Home Educated (NICHE) President; NICHE Community Service Recognition Award 2022; Junior Classical League Girls Long jump Regional Forum winner 2020

**Activity Highlights:** Church Youth Band Keys player (2019-2023); Sub-Zero Camp leader; Mission trip to Springfield, MO; preschool assistant; Florida Baptist Children's Home; Swim Team (2019-2022) and Captain 2022

**My Legacy:** "Upon graduation I want my community to remember me warmly, and to know me as someone they could rely on who would always have their back. If I accomplish this then I will have accomplished everything I wanted as a leader."

**What Others Are Saying:** "When I think of all the qualities I admire and look for in a leader - integrity, joy, determination, tenacity, hard work, and leadership - I think of Julia." - Jeanna Kite, NICHE Advisor



**Robert "Atticus" Miller**  
Leon High School

**Awards and Honors:** Leon Student Government Outstanding Freshman of the Year; Daughters of the American Revolution Youth Citizenship Award 2019; Presidents Award for Educational Excellence; SGA Class Vice-President (2019-2023); National Honor Society

**Activity Highlights:** Leon County Sheriff's Youth Cabinet; ElevatED Conference Student Panelist; Whole Child Leon; Youth Health Leadership Tallahassee; LCS Student District Advisory Council

**My Legacy:** "When I graduate high school, I hope to leave a legacy that showcases balance. I want to be viewed as someone of good character, morals, and emotional intelligence. Simultaneously, I hope to represent the value that comes from immersing oneself in different walks of life, and the importance of making yourself vulnerable in situations that could lead to judgement or failure."

**What Others Are Saying:** "Whether it is tutoring special needs students, volunteering and serving on projects and programs that support those in poverty or disadvantaged

# LEADERSHIP



situations, or leading clubs and organizations on campus, Atticus has proven himself to be both competent and capable as a force for good.” – Joshua Stewart, Leon SGA Advisor



**Rebecca Presnell**  
North Florida Christian School

**Awards and Honors:** West Point Society of Tallahassee Leadership Award; Honor Roll (2019-2023); Varsity Cheer Captain and National Scholar Athlete Award 2023; Science Fair District winner (2020-2021); Varsity Tennis Captain; Talquin Electric National Youth Leadership Tour; Student Government Association President

**Activity Highlights:** Civil Air Patrol (2019-2023) Chief Master Sergeant; Yearbook Editor-in-Chief; Florida House of Representatives Page and Messenger; Leon County Teen Court; Rags 2 Bag; Tallahassee Memorial Animal Therapy volunteer

**My Legacy:** “I would like my legacy to be one of inspiration to others to serve their communities and demonstrate concern for the well-being of others. I want to lead by example, promoting duty to service, honoring family and faith, and uplifting those in need.”

**What Others Are Saying:** “During those years, Rebecca has impressed her peers and her teachers with her passion, focus and determination. Rebecca’s leadership and passion set her above the rest.” – Rachelle Scott, NFC Coach



**Maisie Vickery**  
Godby High School

**Awards and Honors:** Spirit of the Godby Band Award 2022; Trumpet Section Leader (2021-2023); Band President; National Honor Society (2021-2023)

**Activity Highlights:** Peer Partners in Learning ESE student aid; band mentor

**My Legacy:** “I hope to be remembered as the student and friend who always drove her classmates to strive for and to be the best even if they could not find the motivation on their own.”

**What Others Are Saying:** “Within those roles over the past four years she has inspired many students to be the best versions of themselves by mentoring, teaching and motivating them to excel musically and academically.” – Timotheus Harper, Godby Director of Bands



**Brianne Weathers**  
Leon County Virtual School

**Awards and Honors:** Leon County Schools Outstanding Youth Volunteer Award 2021; Apex Twirling Academy Teammate of the Year Award 2019; Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society 2022; TCC President’s and Dean’s List 2022; Novice Miss Majorette of Florida Pageant Winner 2019

**Activity Highlights:** Children’s Business Fair Judge 2019; Chiles Color Guard Varsity letter; Bri’s Surprizies for Big Dog Rescue; sewed masks for Raa; tutor of children with disabilities

**My Legacy:** “Once I graduate, I hope to leave behind a legacy of gratitude. When you work with a mentality and a heart of gratitude, volunteering is no longer a chore but a privilege. Being able to care for other souls, including animals, is an honor that should not be taken for granted.”

**What Others Are Saying:** “She is an amazing young lady with a heart for helping animals and non-profits. Brianne is creative, involved and not afraid to get her hands dirty (literally).” – Sheree Brown, Tallahassee Big Dog Rescue Secretary



**Jordyn Webb**  
FAMU Developmental Research School

**Awards and Honors:** Junior Class President; Beta Club Vice President; National Honor Society; Student Government Association Vice President

**Activity Highlights:** Sounds of the South Unity Chorus; FAMU DRS spirit, pep rally and computer lab volunteer; 2nd Infantry Regiment USCT Living History Association (2019-2023); Yearbook Club; Cultivating Queens Inc; Physics with Phones; Delta G.E.M.S.

**My Legacy:** “Upon graduating, I hope that my name holds a lot of weight. I want students to look to me as a role model and someone they want to be like upon their completion of high school. I want my involvement in school activities to be memorable. I simply want to be remembered in a more positive light by my peers.”

**What Others Are Saying:** “I saw Jordyn use her Beta platform to express concerns that the students were having with their voices not being heard. Jordyn served as the voice of the students.” – Tausha Evans, FAMU DRS Academic Coach

# MATHEMATICS



## WINNER

**KARTHIK VEDULA**

*Rickards High School*



Karthik Vedula is a whiz when it comes to math, and his emphasis on accessibility and education make him an exceptional addition to the Best & Brightest family.

From attending math camp to placing in the top 15% in the nation in Math Olympiad, Vedula seemingly knows anything and everything about math. At Rickards High School, he serves as president of the Florida Association of Mathematics, Mu Alpha Theta, and the Language and Linguistics Club. He also serves as vice president of the Rickards Programming Club. Vedula is admired by teachers and students alike. “Karthik Vedula is honestly the best student I have had in all my ten years,” says teacher Rachel Cross. “Not only is he brilliant but he’s everyone’s friend. I can’t imagine anything he can’t do.”

Vedula used his thirst and skill in mathematics to give back to the community around him in various ways. Using his skills to help others who were struggling, he taught interactive weekly lessons to fellow Rickards students, ranging from algebra to calculus. In addition to his math tutoring, he also taught a class in computer programming and programming languages. Vedula has also volunteered his time and skills to various nonprofit organizations that are committed to making STEM more accessible to students.

Vedula wanted to create an opportunity to compete on a higher level for other students who enjoy math the way he does. Rather than just create a simple math contest, Vedula organized and hosted the largest high school-

run mathematics competition in the nation, with 800 competitors. Not only did he organize the contest, he wrote and edited all of the tests and served as head of the grading team. And he didn’t stop there – he also created a contest for middle school students that brought over 300 attendees together at at Fairview Middle School. Prior to the contest, he held sessions that taught concepts and strategies for middle school math contestants.

Math is more than numbers and variables on a page. It brings people from far and wide together, from all walks of life, to ponder in amazement the hidden language of the universe,” says Vedula “I hope that I can share its beauty with others through math competitions and teaching, showing everyone that math is more than the feared school subject.” Vedula’s approach to the subject is inspiring and his actions to encourage math have left a lasting impact on Rickards, Tallahassee, and the world of math as a whole.

## RUNNER-UP

**WESLEY CHEN**

*Chiles High School*



From national competitions or tutoring his peers, Wesley Chen creates opportunities for math to grow. Serving as president of Chiles High School’s Mu Alpha Theta math honor society, Chen got the opportunity to give back to his community and support upcoming students in developing their math skills. As a part of Mu Alpha Theta, he tutored fellow students once a week in their math coursework and assisted them in concepts. He also helped organize the Chiles Mini Mu math competition. Each year since 2020, he has assisted in some capacity, until this year he had the opportunity to lead the event. In addition to Mu Alpha Theta, Chen is involved in Chiles Science Olympiad and Chiles Inter-Club Council. Outside of Chiles, Chen has participated on the Florida Elite soccer team for four years. Chen has also been named a National Merit Semifinalist as well as an AP Scholar, both with distinction.

“I hope my legacy will be one of kindness and positivity,” Chen says. “It is often easier to overcome [obstacles] knowing that there are people around you to support and encourage you.” Wesley Chen leads with a caring heart and incorporates his skill for math in all he does.





# MATHEMATICS



## HONORABLE MENTION

RACHEL BETHKE

Maclay School



No one can accuse Rachel Bethke of being single-mindedly focused on just one thing. During school hours at Maclay School, she is a math genius with a knack for computer science; after school, she's a record-breaking track star.

Bethke has received a variety of awards for her work in STEM fields, including the Wesleyan Book Award for an anti-cryptocurrency argumentative research paper and first place in a Flight Simulation Competition as part of a Student Astronaut Challenge. Bethke is a member of both the Computer Science National Honor Society and the Science National Honor Society.

In addition to her interest in STEM, Bethke is an all-star athlete. She has played on an outside club volleyball team since the fourth grade and played varsity volleyball at Maclay, where she was honored with All-Academic Team recognition. In addition to volleyball, Bethke is a member of Maclay's the varsity track team and placed first in the AAU Regional Jr. Olympic Qualifier 200m and 400m. She was also honored as All Big Bend First Team Sprinter.

"I wish to be remembered as proof that whatever you want to do, it can be done. My legacy will be materialized on the track record board," said Bethke, "but I hope to be remembered for also managing clubs, websites, and classes eloquently in spite of my dedication to athletics. A reminder that, although sacrifices are necessary, balance is possible."

# FINALISTS



**Jacob Boeshaghi**  
Lincoln High School

**Awards and Honors:** Mu Alpha Theta (2019-2023) President 2022; AP Excellence Award; National Merit Scholar; AP Human Geography Award; National Honor Society

**Activity Highlights:** Math tutor; Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare Teen Summer Volunteer

**My Legacy:** "I am a firm believer in the importance of hard work for success. I hope to serve as a reminder that you can do anything you set your mind to as long as you put in the effort to get there and wish to inspire further generations to chase their dreams."

**What Others Are Saying:** "I have had plenty of time to watch him progress as a student and person, and this amount of time has been ample to determine that he is capable of achieving any intellectual pursuit he chooses and deserving of the chance to do so." – Randy Skewer, Lincoln Mu Alpha Theta Director



**John Patrick "JP" Evans**  
Leon High School

**Awards and Honors:** Mu Alpha Theta (2021-2023), Treasurer; Young Actors Theatre (YAT) Best Actor Award 2022; Honors Chorus (2020-2023), Treasurer; National Honor Society; International Thespians Society Treasurer

**Activity Highlights:** Young Actors Theatre Assistant Director; QLab Designer; math tutor; Florida Junior Classical League

**My Legacy:** "In my theatre and school communities, I hope to be remembered for always going above and beyond, for constantly striving to improve and leave things better than I found them and building upon the working relationships between YAT and Leon. At YAT, I have paved the way for more students to work in technical theatre and define the role of student director."

**What Others Are Saying:** "Every staff member loved working with JP because of his eagerness to learn, dependability, and raw talent. This young man possesses the grit, reliability, and character of someone far beyond his years." – Natalie Futrell, YAT Managing Director

# MATHEMATICS



**Maximillian "Max" McJunkin**  
SAIL High School

**Awards and Honors:** Perfect Attendance; Algebra and Geometry Level 5 scores

**Activity Highlights:** SAIL Media Center; SAIL Drama

**My Legacy:** *"My legacy upon graduating will be stellar. I want to be known as a student who was a good person. A student who was decent to all who were around hm. A student who cared about others and who was cared about. I also want to be known as a student who made cool animations."*

**What Others Are Saying:** *"As his teacher, I have watched him blossom as a problem solver and a student. I feel Max is an outstanding example of student scholarship and service. In addition to everything he brings to the class, he is also very respectful, consistent, and honest in terms of academics and life." – Benjamin Brustad, SAIL Math teacher*



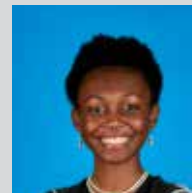
**Michael Rubin**  
Florida State University  
Schools

**Awards and Honors:** National Merit Scholar Semi-Finalist; National Rural and Small Town Recognition Award; Brain Bowl/National Academic Quiz Tournament Captain (2019-2021); Superior rating Symphonic Band (2020-2023); Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society Secretary (2019-2023)

**Activity Highlights:** Block Family Religious School; Temple Israel; Varsity Tennis and Basketball; Latin Forum; Dave Markel Teen Philanthropy Initiative; Mu Alpha Theta tutor

**My Legacy:** *"I would like to be remembered as a well-rounded and accomplished person; someone capable of balancing academics, sports, music, clubs, employment, and more, while still finding time to give back to my community. I hope my high school career is evidence that you aren't limited to being one-dimensional. With enough determination, you can be successful in a plethora of areas."*

**What Others Are Saying:** *"Michael has been a positive dedicated student, helpful in all respects, willing to work hard and advance in all facets of his academic and extracurricular activities." – Joanna Piris, FSUS Latin Instructor*



**Saniah Warren**  
FAMU Developmental  
Research School

**Awards and Honors:** Beta Club Award 2020 and Vice President 2022; Future Farmers of America (FFA) Award 2022 and Treasurer; Honor Roll (2019-2022); Class Leader award

**Activity Highlights:** FAMU DRS after-school program; Future Farmers of America Club; RATTLR Summer Camp FAMU College of Agriculture & Food Services

**My Legacy:** *"My legacy would be to finish high school and do well in the cyber security classes that I am taking right now. Complete my two years of college I have left for my major to get my master's degree. Then get a job in the major and save."*

**What Others Are Saying:** *"Saniah is energetic, enthusiastic, and friendly not only with her peers but also with her teachers." – Cynthia Holloway, FAMU Agriculture & Food Science teacher*

# MUSIC

BEST &  
BRIGHTEST

## WINNER

**BRANDON BOURDEAU**

*Chiles High School*



It's as if music in Brandon Bourdeau's DNA. He serves as drum major for the Chiles High School Timberwolves Marching Band, leading the band and instructing during performances and rehearsals. In this role, he works directly with the band director to ensure the success and happiness of the band and its members. Bourdeau has also dedicated time to the Big Bend All-District High School band, sitting as a first chair all three years he has participated. Through Bourdeau's dedication to band, he has been recognized with numerous prestigious awards and accolades, including Outstanding Student Fine Arts Department Award and multiple Superior ratings for state and district Solo and Ensemble performances for Horn, Brass Trio, and Sax/Percussion Ensemble. Bourdeau's excellence in music has enabled him to write several pieces of music for strings that have been performed by Chiles' top orchestra.

Outside of school, Bourdeau is a principal horn player in the Tallahassee Youth Orchestra (TYO) Symphony. He leads the horn and brass section to create cohesive and beautiful performances. He also serves on the TYO Student Board and dedicates a great deal of effort into ensuring the efficiency and success of the board.

Bourdeau also uses his talent and musical expertise to give back to the next generation of musicians, volunteering at Montford Middle School to provide music lessons to students and assist the music director with classroom preparations. At Chiles, Bourdeau served as a

teacher's assistant in the Advanced Placement Music Theory course to share his passion for music with other students. Music Director and teacher Christopher Miller spoke to Bourdeau's passion, saying, "He is always eager to help and share his own excitement for the whole process. Brandon Bourdeau makes the world a better place and those who are fortunate enough to get to know him are better for it. I am one."

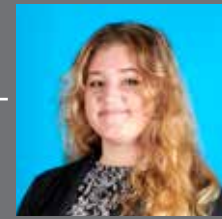
Bordeau also strives to use his talent to inspire joy. With the Tallahassee Youth Orchestra, Community Orchestra, and Orchestra outreach program, he volunteered and performed free concerts at elder care facilities and civic events. "I want to leave behind a family of musicians who enjoy what they do. Music is a powerful language that speaks to all, and has the ability to bring people together," said Bourdeau, "My goals as a leader are to make sure people grow as musicians, as people, and most importantly, have fun while doing it."



## RUNNER-UP

**EMMA RODGERS**

*Leon High School*



Emma Rodgers uses music as the center of her life, whether for service, education, or expression.

Rodgers serves as drum major for the Leon High School Marching Redcoats. In her time in the Marching Redcoats, she has received straight superiors at the district marching MPA. Rodgers is also a member of the Leon symphonic band, which was awarded the Programs of Excellence Blue Ribbon award. Additionally, she is a part of the Leon Jazz Band, where they placed third at the "Best of the West" jazz competition.

To Rogers, music education is an important passion, and she gives back to the future of music by providing lessons to members of the Cobb Middle School band. This year, she served as head of the Communication and Connections Committee for Leon's Tri-M Music National Honor Society, where she reached out to middle school performing arts directors around the county to support middle school arts programs. Through that role, she has been able to support two middle schools' band programs.

Rodgers' dedication to music and its success in schools has allowed her to leave a lasting legacy. "I couldn't have gotten as far as I am without the role models I've had and the support I've been given," said Rodgers. "Upon graduating I hope to have left a lasting impact on those who I've helped and supported in any capacity: upperclassmen, leader, friend, etc."

# MUSIC



## HONORABLE MENTION

**JA'LONA EDWARDS**

*Godby High School*



Ja'lona Edwards' enthusiasm for music is contagious to all who are near her, and her music is a wonderful thing to hear.

Edwards, a senior at Godby High School, has been a part of the school band since her freshman year. This year, Edwards serves as drum major for the Godby High band, as well as the section leader of the euphonium section. During her time in the band, she has earned five superior medals for Solo and Ensemble performances. This year, in addition to her endeavors at school, Edwards was chosen for the All-State Honor Band. Throughout her band career, she has performed at various community and service events to improve her skill and bring joy to the community.

"I hope that when I move on, my bandmates, and freshmen to come, will learn together and influence each other positively with proper skills and good discipline," said Edwards. "I hope that my accomplishments show them that they can take as long as they need to succeed as long as they are attentive, show up, and practice good habits." Edwards' passion for music and her determination and stamina to succeed are compelling and inspiring to all.

# FINALISTS



**Rachel Baek**

*Lincoln High School*

**Awards and Honors:** Florida All-State Honor Band Top Four Oboist; Superior ar District Solo and Ensemble; Superior at State Solo and Ensemble; National Merit Semifinalist; Mu Alpha Theta Top Five Individual Award; First Runner Up Class 3A District 2 Tennis Tournament, no. 4 Girls singles, no. 2 Girls doubles; National Honor Society

**Activity Highlights:** Key Club, Vice President; Green Club; Tallahassee Animal Services; Salvation Army; Trojan Band, Drum Major

**My Legacy:** "I hope to leave behind the motivation to always try your best in anything you strive for, as well as the eagerness to promote a community of inclusivity, acceptance, and open-mindedness."

**What Others Are Saying:** "She leads by example while continuing to find ways to improve and challenge herself. She always maintains an encouraging demeanor and lifts the other students up." - Hannah Haugen, Band Teacher, Lincoln High School



**Kameryn "Kammy" Casebone**

*SAIL High School*

**Awards and Honors:** School Band, President 2022

**Activity Highlights:** Student Council, President; SAIL Music Ensemble; Saturlina Band; Vaccine Clinic at St. Mary Primitive Baptist Church; Section Leader, SAIL chorus

**My Legacy:** "I hope my legacy upon graduation is to create and influence as many people as possible through my music. I want to bring comfort and inspiration to the world around me, all while trying and learning to better understand it myself."

**What Others Are Saying:** "Kammy Casebonne takes initiative! If there is a part that needs to be played, she will be the first one to learn it and rise to the challenge." - Danny Wood, Teacher, SAIL High School

# MUSIC



**Elijah Davis**  
Rickards High School

**Awards and Honors:** Superiors at Solo & Ensemble Music Competition in piano, concert snare, marimba; Tri-State Ensemble Selection; National Honor Society Member; Percussion Section Leader; Completing the NCCER "Core" requirements

**Activity Highlights:** Raider Band; Boy Scouts; Making Light Productions; Salvation Army

**My Legacy:** "I hope that my legacy is one of persistence and loyalty. I want people to remember me by my commitment to the groups I was a part of and how giving up was not an option for me."

**What Others Are Saying:** "Despite his immense talent, Elijah is also humble and generous with his time and service towards our community." - Dr. Joe L. Williams Jr, IB Coordinator, Rickards High School



**Param Mehta**  
Florida State University  
Schools

**Awards and Honors:** First Place winner of the 2022 Big Bend Community Orchestra Young Artist Competition; Finalist in the 2022 NFSO John Leatherwood Concert Competition; Chamber Music Competition: 2022 spring music; All-State High School Honors Orchestra; Most Valuable Musician (2022)

**Activity Highlights:** Tallahassee Youth Orchestra; Hilton Head Chamber Music Institute; NOLA Chamber Fest; Varsity Tennis; Chiles Pit Orchestra; FSUS Tri-M Music Honor Society; Mu Alpha Theta; Renegades Spirit Club

**My Legacy:** "As a musician, I hope to inspire others to follow their passion for music. Through hard work, dedication, and persistence, one can succeed at being a young musician."

**What Others Are Saying:** "One quality that I admire about Param is his ability to be present as a mentor while also maintaining his own high standards of performance. The ability to look out for the needs of others without sacrificing one's own goals requires a great deal of sophistication and poise." - Lee Taylor, LAMP Chamber Players



**Ashlynn Peebles**  
Community Christian School

**Awards and Honors:** Mission Trip Leader

**Activity Highlights:** Beauty and the Beast Musical; Youth Band; Youth High School Missions; Thomasville Road Baptist Church; Community Christian School Immersion Week

**My Legacy:** "I hope that my legacy will be viewed as selfless and full of compassion. I never pass up an opportunity to help those around me and I hope that the incoming freshmen will understand this and learn from it. I do not want to be popular, I want people to feel inspired to help others with my life."

**What Others Are Saying:** "Ashlynn Peebles has been involved in various volunteer service projects, both through her school and on her own. Ashlynn has a servant's heart. She is willing to do what is needed to serve others." - Lorna Wolfkill, Teacher, Community Christian School



**Robert "Bruce" Wood**  
Maclay School

**Awards and Honors:** National Honor Society; French Honor Society; Awarded Eagle Scout; All-State High School Honors Orchestra; Third Chair Cellist

**Activity Highlights:** Tallahassee Youth Orchestra Chamber Group, Symphony; Maclay School Music School; Maclay School Glee Club, Student Music Director; Boy Scouts of America

**My Legacy:** "When I graduate, I hope that I will be remembered as someone who pursued what he loved and shared that fascination with the school. Leadership, hard work and dedication coupled with a keen desire to introduce others to the joys of music have been highlights of my high school experience and are central to my development as a person."

**What Others Are Saying:** "Robert ranks as one the most responsible, thoughtful, and genuinely motivated young people I've ever taught. He is an excellent student but an even better person." - Lee Norment, English Teacher, Maclay School

# PUBLIC SPEAKING



## WINNER

### SHUBHAM DIXIT

*Rickards High School*



Shubham Dixit lights up any room he walks into, and he knows how to stand up for what he believes in to make a change. His drive for a better tomorrow informs all he does.

Dixit is an active member of the Tallahassee community, volunteering since 2015 with the India Association of Tallahassee, a nonprofit cultural organization. He also volunteers at the Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation USA, a nonprofit that helps individuals in rural India acquire sufficient education. In his time supporting Ekal Vidyalaya, Dixit has collected over \$20,000 in donations.

Dixit is heavily involved in the Model United Nations (MUN) at Rickards High School, participating since his freshman year. He has served as the lead mentor and delegate for the club, taking part in organizing the RaiderMUN 2021 National Conference with FSU. Through this, he has received six national awards for his work with the Model UN and was recognized by the United Nations and the Australian government for his work as International Model United Nations Director of Public Relations and Outreach. He received a \$1,000 grant from the two organizations, which was used to provide free MUN courses for children in rural areas.

At Rickards, Dixit serves as the founder and president of the Speech and Debate Club and as the president and captain of the Quiz/Brain Bowl club, where his team is a four-time NAQT Championship qualifier. Additionally, Dixit is captain of the Rickards varsity swim team and is a two-time state championship finalist.

Dixit is a people person who is not afraid to step out of his comfort zone and help others. His personality and charisma are what makes him such an outstanding leader and friend to others. “Shubham is an ambitious and responsible young man who will grow up to make a genuine impact in our world, and I am certain that he will be a trailblazer in whichever field he ultimately chooses to pursue,” says teacher Seth Reedy. “He will be greatly missed at Rickards High School.”

Dixit also served as the Commissioner’s Summer Youth Intern for Leon County Commissioner Rick Minor’s office. In that position, he conducted research and created a “Housing First” initiative to combat homelessness in Leon County, which he presented to the Board of County Commissioners.

“Every interaction paves a new segment of my road,” Dixit says. “I strive to better the lives of my community members. I am them. Their stories are mine. Not conforming to society’s sometimes unfounded expectations is what defines me.”

## RUNNER-UP

### LAUREN PRICE

*Maclay School*



Lauren Price is an inspiring and impressive student who does not let odds defy her – she is a childhood cancer survivor who has turned her circumstance into a passion for helping others like her.

After treatment at UF Health Shands Children’s Hospital, Price dedicated her time to giving back to the hospital that supported her. She serves as a public speaker for both the Children’s Miracle Network (CMN) and Dance Marathon, traveling locally and statewide to attend multiple events a month sharing her story and fighting for children currently at Shands. Her work has led to her selection as CMN’s local champion for UF Health Shands. In this capacity, Price speaks to people of all ages: high school and college students participating in dance marathons, adults, and even surgeons and other doctors.

Beyond this, Price maintains an active involvement as a student at Maclay School. She serves as a student ambassador, Music Club president, Jazz Band director, and Glee Club vice president, and is a member of the National Honor Society.

“I hope my legacy will be one of perseverance, optimism, and kindness. Keeping a positive outlook and always treating others with kindness has helped me get through times that seemed hopeless,” says Price. “Additionally, I hope that I have and will continue to inspire young women to use their voices to make a difference in their own communities.”



# PUBLIC SPEAKING



## HONORABLE MENTION

### MARY GRACE SLEMP

Community Christian School



Mary Slemp has a passion for serving, teaching, and leading and uses her voice to achieve change and have a positive impact in the community.

Slemp is a senior at Community Christian School, where she serves as a senior leader and is part of the National Honor Society. Her dedication to service comes from her faith – she spends the majority of her time volunteering with her church or other outreach and community service programs. Her service ranges from volunteering as a camp counselor for a free camp for children in Alabama to participating in Vacation Bible School – and even serving in Rapid City, SD, on a service mission trip. Through all these service endeavors, Slemp has taken to public speaking to inform people of the importance of service and the impact of her work. She has been able to use her voice to engage in her community and uplift her peers.

Slemp's commitment to leadership and service is exemplified in all she does. "Building up leaders who will take my place once I leave is highly important to me. It is not about what I do, but what I can do for others' success," said Slemp. "The true test of a leader is the outcome of their followers. My greatest desire is to see the next students take my place and fill it better than I did."

# FINALISTS



### Hayden Center

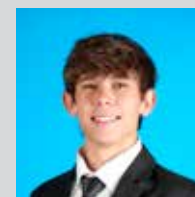
Florida State University  
Schools

**Awards and Honors:** National Honor Society; National English Honor Society; Sportsmanship Award; 4th Place National Equestrian Competition

**Activity Highlights:** Youth Leadership Tallahassee, Class 18; Rho Kappa; Fellowship of Christian Athletes; Environmental Club; Interscholastic Equestrian Association; Florida High Dance Marathon, Executive Director; Senior Class Vice President

**My Legacy:** "Get Involved! Being involved in the school community benefits you as much as it does the school. From cheering on the football team at state, to running club rush for all the freshmen, and helping our school be the best creates memories that stay with you forever. Being involved breeds love for one's school community therefore benefiting the greater good."

**What Others Are Saying:** "People respect her for her values, enthusiasm, commitment and, most importantly, her ability to communicate with vision." - Dr. Stacy Chambers, Superintendent, FSUS



### Ashby Culpepper

Leon High School

**Awards and Honors:** Pierian National Honor Society; Tracey Biletznikoff Memorial Scholarship Recipient; National Honor Society; Leon Foundation Ambassador

**Activity Highlights:** Student Body President; Leon Varsity Basketball Team Captain; Spirit Committee, Leon SGA; Youth B.E.A.T St. John's Episcopal Church; Leon Cancer Fundraiser

**My Legacy:** "After I depart from Leon, I hope to leave a legacy of not only myself and the impact I've left on this school, but to leave the rest of my student body and teachers a sense of pride of who they are and emphasize the importance of being a Leon Lion. As I always end my morning announcements, 'Take pride in knowing that you are a Leon Lion.'"

**What Others Are Saying:** "His enthusiasm for life exudes from his tone, inflection, and sincerity with which he approaches even this (seemingly) menial task-- but he does it with excellence and vigor. It is rare to find a student with such a positive and productive outlook on each day, and life in general, who is capable of communicating and rallying others to the many worthwhile causes that surround us." - Joshua Stewart, Leon Social Studies, SGA Advisor

# PUBLIC SPEAKING



**Kamaya Ervin**  
FAMU Developmental  
Research School

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**Awards and Honors:** Daughters of America Award; Ms. Junior Attendant; Ms. Delta GEMS; National Honor Society; Ms. Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Developmental Research School; Cultivating Queens Corporation, Miss Congeniality

**Activity Highlights:** Ankobea Women's Society; Beta Club; Junior Class Vice President; JROTC Staff Officer; Youth Leadership Tallahassee Class 18; Rockstar Ravens Assistant Cheer Coach

**My Legacy:** "Upon graduating high school, I hope to leave a legacy of making a lasting impact through meaningful work. As I leave my Mark at FAMU DRS I want to be remembered not only as Ms. DRS but as a great influencer for the next generation. I would like to be recognized as a leader of excellence and a determined individual."

**What Others Are Saying:** "She provided leadership in helping her peers come up with interesting and interactive activities during projects. Kamaya possesses a positive attitude and enthusiasm on tasks. She has a great rapport with her teachers and fellow peers." - Rhonda Cunningham, Teacher, FAMU DRS



**Zamari Lewis**  
Lincoln High School

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**Awards and Honors:** National African American Recognition; Peer to Peer Certificate of Acknowledgement; JV Volleyball Offensive Player of the Year; Mentor to Peer Certificate of Acknowledgement

**Activity Highlights:** Tallahassee Future Leadership Academy; Future Business Leaders of America; Lincoln High School Externship; Key Club

**My Legacy:** "Upon graduating, I hope that I will have helped people open up and inspired them to let their voices be heard."

**What Others Are Saying:** "Zamari has a strong moral compass and is a great role model. Zamari does everything wholeheartedly. She does not take shortcuts or the easy way out." - Amanda T. Sapp, Mathematics Teacher, Lincoln High School



**Jordan Marik**  
SAIL High School

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**Awards and Honors:** Honor Roll; InkTober Art Competition Winner; CAD Certification; "Powerline" displayed at LeMoyné Art Show

**Activity Highlights:** Senior Class and Student Body President; Shrine Tallahassee Program

**My Legacy:** "Upon graduating, I hope that the SAIL community will remember me fondly for who I am and what I have accomplished. I hope that my positive influence will be felt and carried on by the community. As a good friend, I want to continue to be remembered for my goofy sense of humor, good nature, and cool art."

**What Others Are Saying:** "He's a great champion of SAIL initiatives and exudes contagious school spirit to all he encounters. Jordan has truly demonstrated a growth mindset, and he inspires his peers to adopt that valuable perspective, too." - Caitlin Starkey, SGA Sponsor, SAIL High School



# PUBLIC SPEAKING



**Linse Lane Meyer**  
Chiles High School

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**Awards and Honors:** National Honor Society, Vice President; Tallahassee Dance Academy Leadership Award; AP Scholar Award

**Activity Highlights:** Senior Vice President, SGA; Chiles High School Dance Marathon, Executive Director; Chiles Anchor Club; Mu Alpha Theta

**My Legacy:** *"I want to leave my community inspired to be part of something bigger than themselves. I want to leave my peers with the ambition to grow into the person they aspire to be and to develop the motivation to defeat obstacles in their path. I want them to utilize their voice, for its power is limitless."*

**What Others Are Saying:** *"She leads with kindness and enthusiasm but ensures their structure and progress. Linse Lane demonstrates a concern for others well beyond her years. Linse Lane has a talent for managing both people and events where she makes certain tasks are complete and represent the organization in the best way possible."* - Katie Strickland, Social Studies/AP Teacher, Chiles High School



**Queenie Rene**  
Godby High School

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**Awards and Honors:** Award of Excellence from the Congress of Future Medical Leaders, National Society of High School Scholars

**Activity Highlights:** Bright Future Christian Academy; church volunteer

**My Legacy:** *"Upon graduation I hope to leave a legacy of being the girl who contributed to her community, was always determined, hard-working and reliable, as well as always having a smile on her face."*

**What Others Are Saying:** *"She is truly kind and outgoing and always fosters positive discussions and brings out the best of other students while showcasing her knowledge."* - Kathy Barfield, Teacher, Godby High School

# SCIENCE & HEALTH



## WINNER

**ARIBAH AHMED**

*Rickards High School*



Aribah Ahmed is an advocate in the community and leads with a caring and empathetic heart. Whether volunteering for a cause she's passionate about or teaching young children the importance of health, Ahmed rises to the occasion and puts her all into her leadership.

Ahmed maintains a high level of involvement at Rickards High School, where she serves as a Women in STEM mentor, helping young women find their voice and use it to advocate for themselves in the STEM field. She is president of the Red Cross Club and of Students Working Against Tobacco, chair of Marathon Events for FSU Dance Marathon's community event at Rickards, and founder and executive chair of the Culture and Humanity Club. Because of her leadership, Ahmed was offered membership in both the National Honor Society and the Summa Cum Laude Society. Additionally, Ahmed participates in Science Olympiad and has won various awards within the program since her start in middle school.

Ahmed is even more involved outside of school. She was selected as a member of the National Youth Advisory Board for Making Care Common at Harvard's graduate school, where she contributed to research to devise solutions to moral and social issues that today's youth face. Through this, she created an outreach program called "Kindness Squads," a youth-run outreach program that spreads compassion and empathy to students in K-12 schools in the Tallahassee community. Ahmed

is also a member of Youth Health Leadership Cohort 8, where she raised over \$1,000 for homeless youth during the pandemic in collaboration with Capital City Youth Services. She also helped teach homeless youth how to stay healthy and safe against COVID-19. She serves as a research assistant at the FSU College of Medicine, assisting in the creation of guidelines that help caregivers of patients with dementia, and attended FSU's College of Medicine Summer Institute, where she was awarded the "Doctor Who" award recognizing her love for learning and inquiry.

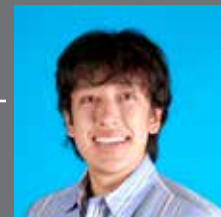
Ahmed's passion for people and her dedication to public health has driven her to receive her certification to be a nursing assistant, as well as to serve the Tallahassee community. She serves at the Neighborhood Health Center as a volunteer helping in case management through the Capital Medical Society's "We Care" network. Additionally, she volunteers with the Alzheimer's Association to raise awareness and funds for patients with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. The people around Ahmed recognize the impact and dedication she has to her community. "In so many aspects of her life, Aribah shows a kindness and passion to help people," says teacher Angela Madden. "She always tries to lift the spirits of those around her with a kind word."

Aribah Ahmed is a standout student who goes above and beyond because of her love for the community. "Exhibiting compassion through leadership, advocacy, and service is essential to improve the quality of life in Tallahassee and those who need it most," she says. Ahmed is continually making strides toward a better tomorrow and is a prime example of what it means to be the best and brightest.

## RUNNER-UP

**CYRUS NADIZADEH**

*Chiles High School*



Cyrus Nadizadeh is a triple threat – a scholar, an athlete, and a philanthropist. He uses his science and health background to push forward various community initiatives for the betterment of those around him.

Nadizadeh is a three-time American Invitational Mathematics Examination qualifier. He placed third in the 2022 North Florida Brain Bee and is a National Merit Commended scholar. Additionally, he has been recognized as an AP scholar with distinction. Not one to shy away from leadership, Nadizadeh serves as president of the Science Olympiad, president of the Pre-Med Club, and co-director of Helping Hand Tutoring.

In addition to his wide range of academic achievements, Nadizadeh is captain of the varsity swimming and diving team at Chiles High School. He placed fourth in the 400m freestyle relay at the 2022 FHSAA 3A state championship, and is a four-time regional qualifier in the 100m butterfly.

Through his volunteer work playing piano for residents at Azalea Gardens, Nadizadeh has developed a passion for helping those affected by Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. His interest in this disease pushed him and three classmates to create an Alzheimer's and Dementia Awareness group, which strives to raise awareness about Alzheimer's and how to care for family members with the condition. Nadizadeh says he hopes to be "an example who can show future generations that consistency and anything is the key to success."

# SCIENCE & HEALTH



## HONORABLE MENTION

### ANNE OSTERHAUS

Leon High School



Anne Osterhaus uses her interest in STEM and her dedication to service to give back to the community that lifts her up.

Osterhaus is extremely active at Leon High School, serving as president of the Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society, vice president of the Interact Service Club, Vice President of the Anchor Girls Service Club, and historian for the Science Honor Society. She also has been a member of Leon Dance Marathon for four years and a leader in the Lions United Special Needs Inclusion Club.

Osterhaus has a strong dedication to service and the betterment of the community. Her interest in science and health directly correlates with her passion for service through her participation in Dance Marathon. After her older sister was diagnosed with juvenile idiopathic arthritis and treated at Shands Hospital, Osterhaus knew she wanted to make an impact for other children like her sister. This led to her involvement as a morale captain. She hopes her legacy after graduating will be "to encourage others and push them to do their best... To inspire people to treat others as they want to be treated and motivate them to work together to achieve important goals."

# FINALISTS



### Ja'Liyah Aliteri

Godby High School

**Awards and Honors:** All-A Honor Roll

**Activity Highlights:** Dr. B.L Perry Branch Library; Child Growth and Development LLC; Florida State University College of Medicine; AVID

**My Legacy:** "The legacy I hope to leave behind is that students can preserve and achieve the goals they have set forth despite any unexpected obstacles and situations that can occur, such as COVID. I also want them to know that they can still adapt to any environmental changes."

**What Others Are Saying:** "Ja'Liyah's experience has greatly prepared her to be well equipped to grow and adapt to any challenges she is presented with." - Monika Frisby, AVID and AP Psychology, Godby



### Sommer Goolsby

North Florida Christian

**Awards and Honors:** Certified Junior Lifeguard; Licensed Certified Nurse Assistant; Certificate in Professional Development

**Activity Highlights:** Lake Jessup Covid

Vaccines; Breast Cancer Awareness Walk; Florida State concessions; Second Harvest; Estella Byrd Whitman Wellness Center

**My Legacy:** "I want to leave a very meaningful legacy when I graduate high school. I want to be remembered as the one who always cared for everyone, one who could make anyone smile, one who gives up her time to help others in need, a leader on the sports teams, a scholar, a last but not least friend"

**What Others Are Saying:** "Summer is a role model to her peers at school and in her community. She has an eagerness to learn and she has a heart to serve those around her." - Arbernitia Richards, Educator



### Clayton Knox

Maclay School

**Awards and Honors:** National Honor Society; National Science Honor Society; AAU National Championships; All Big Bend 1st Team; 12th place in the 3200 at 2021 State Championship meet; MVP Award; 2x Coaches Award

**Activity Highlights:** Cross Country, Captain; Track and Field, Captain; Upper School Student Council; Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Leader; Student Athlete Advisory Committee, President; Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare

**My Legacy:** "When I graduate, I hope to leave a legacy of leadership among my teammates and classmates. I know that the values of hard work, discipline, teamwork, and

# SCIENCE & HEALTH



leadership will be carried forward by my peers because I already see it in them. In sports and also in the classroom I want to leave a legacy of scientific curiosity.”

**What Others Are Saying:** “His ability to communicate and collaborate with others has made him a leader among his peers.” - Coleman Mackie, Director of Biomedical Studies, Maclay School



**Luxmi Narayan**  
Florida State University  
Schools

**Awards and Honors:** AP Scholar with Distinction; National Honor Society, Vice President; Scholar Athlete, Varsity Golf

**Activity Highlights:** Yearbook, Copy Editor; Latin Club, Technology Coordinator; Varsity Golf; Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare, Leroy Collins Leon County Main Library; Leon County Animal Services; Mu Alpha Theta

**My Legacy:** “At my 5th grade graduation, every student was awarded a superlative and I received ‘most helpful.’ I’ve always loved being the one to help fellow classmates spell difficult words or give someone a hair tie when they need it. When I graduate, I hope I can be remembered as the girl that anyone could turn to when they needed help.”

**What Others Are Saying:** “I believe this ability to connect with others and to see the humanity in these difficult and delicate situations will set Luxmi apart in the medical field. Her desire to practice medicine combines her academic Joys with her innate desire to help and care for those around her.” - Haley Mehta, FSUS



**Christal Norman**  
FAMU Developmental  
Research School

**Awards and Honors:** VEX Robotics Certificate of Excellence; Certificate of Academia; Cultivating Queens Inc. ‘Queen of the Year’; Tally Teenpreneur Certificate

**Activity Highlights:** Future Farmers of America, secretary; SGA Junior Class Secretary; SGA Executive Branch Secretary; Beta Club Secretary; Yearbook Editor; Physics with Phones Summer Program; Cultivating Queens

**My Legacy:** “As a student, I strive to spread positivity and to be someone who is more than just a title holder. I value responsibility, accountability, and respect, which I work daily to always exemplify.”

**What Others Are Saying:** “Ms. Norman is the type of person that her aura gives everything around her notice that not only is Excellence required but great character and heart will be experienced as well” - Andrew Thompson, FAMU DRS teacher



**Catherine “Cat” Wigen**  
Lincoln High School

**Awards and Honors:** Honor Roll; Principal’s Award; National Honor Society; National Latin Exam, Magna Cum Laude; Certificate of ATV Safety; AEST Certification; All District Band

**Activity Highlights:** Lincoln High School Band; Backwoods Crossing, Gardener; FSU Saturday-at-the-Sea; Tall Timbers Research

Station and Land Conservancy; Coastal Plains Institute; Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Adventure Camp

**My Legacy:** “Through dedication to the preservation of protected species and ecosystems, I hope to emulate the importance of caring for the people and biodiversity that surrounds us. My work with the conservationists has allowed me to realize the amount of respect, compassion, and cooperation that goes into advancements in science. Through continuation in this field, I hope to continue and share this mindset.”

**What Others Are Saying:** “It is clear that she sees her life experience as a holistic one where she gives as much as she takes from the natural and human-made communities she lives in.” - Lori E.S. Molina, Ph.D., FSU



**Mya Williams**  
SAIL High School

**Awards and Honors:** Citizenship Award; Award of Excellence; Pirates Medallion Award; Certified Phlebotomy Technician Certification

**Activity Highlights:** Griffin Heights Resource Center; I Grow Garden; DLOPI; Alternative Resources and Technical Services Inc.

**My Legacy:** “Upon graduating, I hope to inspire more students to participate in the opportunities available to them that will help further their understanding of any career path they may be interested in.”

**What Others Are Saying:** “She demonstrated a vast amount of personal knowledge of the community’s needs and was able to communicate to her peers with professionalism the seriousness of the task at hand.” - Audrey Lewis, Executive Director, ARTS

# SOCIAL SCIENCE



## WINNER

**DANNY ALEX**

*Rickards High School*



Danny Alex is outstanding not just as a student, but it carries through to his dedication to his Rickards High School peers and his neighbors in the Tallahassee community.

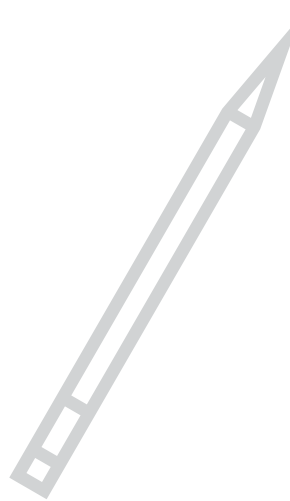
Alex is a member of Model United Nations with various distinctions, including outstanding delegate at more than four university events. Alex is also active in Science Olympiad, and served as the environmental captain and the chemistry captain this past year. He has placed in the top five in various competitions around the region and country, and earned fourth place in environmental chemistry at the Georgia Scrimmage National Invitation. Alex also serves as president of his school's Money Matters Club and as co-president of Speech and Debate, placing first in The Optimist Oratorical Contest at the club level. His accomplishments and involvements paved the way for him to be a member of the National Honor Society and receive the superlative for hardest-working student his freshman year. His dedication to leadership and service is apparent to all at Rickards. "He is analytical, communicative, curious, and systematic," said teacher Bryan Koller. "Although Mr. Alex is in high school, his work quality far surpassed that of many of my previous University students."

In addition to his academic extracurriculars, Alex served as the varsity tennis captain for the past two years. Over the course of his tennis career, he was a state doubles quarter-finalist and a district singles and doubles champion. He was also named All

Big-Bend Honorable Mention and was a finalist at the "A New Beginning" tennis tournament.

Alex's most meaningful involvement was his participation in the Youth Health Leadership (YHL) program sponsored by FSU. During his time in YHL, he served as chair of the community leadership board and currently serves as an ambassador. Alex led YHL's "Connecting During COVID-19" program in collaboration with Elder Care Services, enabling elderly residents to have safe social interactions with one another and volunteers to encourage physical and mental health during the pandemic. "YHL further cemented my long-term goal of becoming a physician: making an immediate difference in the health of others," Alex said. "I can never truly know what someone may be experiencing, so I hope to be someone that can personally relate to my patients and is empathetic about the challenges they face in their lives."

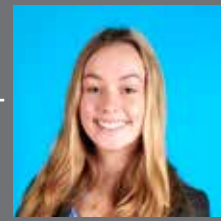
Danny Alex shows a dedication not only to leadership but also to his community. His advocacy for public health and passion for science has enabled him to be one of the best and brightest students in Leon County.



## RUNNER-UP

**ALYSSA MALESZEWSKI**

*Lincoln High School*



Alyssa Maleszewski keeps her schedule busy and makes sure to utilize every second to have the biggest impact she can.

At Lincoln High School, Maleszewski is heavily involved in the Latin Club, serving as the historian and then parliamentarian. Through this club, she has received various awards for her work, including first place regional Latin Creatives award and second place regional Latin Customs award. She also earned Summa Cum Laude and Gold Medal distinction on the national Latin exam. In addition to her Latin involvements, she serves as leader of the mock trial team and as Key Club treasurer. Outside of her academic endeavors, Maleszewski is on the varsity cheer team and is a UCA All-American (cheer).

In addition to her many extracurricular endeavors, Maleszewski keeps service at the center of her activities. She volunteers countless hours performing a variety of work, from working at a food bank to environmental cleanups. She is most proud of her work with the Kearney Center – in 2021, she organized a service project fundraiser to benefit the Center, raising over \$1,000 to purchase requested items during the winter.

"I hope my legacy is that there are vast and varied opportunities at Lincoln that can be lost if you simply walk out the school doors at 1:50," Maleszewski said. "I joined every activity that interested me, and those connections and experiences gave me opportunities for leadership, community service, and genuine connections."

# SOCIAL SCIENCE



HONORABLE  
MENTION

CALIAH PEARSON

FAMU Developmental  
Research School



Caliyah Pearson has an interest in social sciences and what it means to give back to the community. She has combined this interest in social change with the sense of fulfillment she receives from giving to motivate herself to enact change for the betterment of our community.

Her passion for leadership and social issues has enabled her to make an impact on the FAMU DRS. She serves in the school's Student Government Association and advocates for her peers. Pearson also participated in the schoolwide Black History Bowl and helped organize the Black History Month program for three years. Pearson is also a varsity cheerleader and uses her position on the team to spread joy. During her time at FAMU DRS, she was crowned the Queen of the Orange and Green and was Miss Student Government Association at May Day.

When asked what she hopes her legacy will be after graduating, Pearson responded, "I want to be remembered as one of the student leaders who devoted themselves to their craft and made a lasting impact on their peers." Pearson has a dedication to social justice and creating a just and welcoming environment for all, and will leave a legacy of leadership, service, and impact when she graduates.

## FINALISTS



**Nyla Gray**  
Godby High School

**Awards and Honors:** Daughters of the American Revolution Scholarship 2023; Word and Powerpoint Certification

**Activity Highlights:** Tallahassee Animal Services Feline Friend; Big Brothers/Big Sisters (2020-2023); tutor; Aviation Club; Art Club

**My Legacy:** *"I want to be remembered as someone who never scorns those seeking knowledge and as someone who encourages others to learn."*

**What Others Are Saying:** *"Nyla is not only up for the challenge but it is clear that she values a genuine love of knowledge. She is happy to help peers and is intuitive and respectful when traversing differing opinions."*  
– Nikki Poey, Godby English III teacher



**Helen "Tallulah" King**  
Leon High School

**Awards and Honors:** Charles & Connie Barnes Commemorative Scholar Award; Florida House of Representative Messenger; top 5 National History Day Award "Best in Show"; Florida State Girls' Golf Academic Championship Team; US President's Volunteer Service Award 2020

**Activity Highlights:** remodel of Frenchtown Family Education Center; Thomasville History Center; St. Peter's Anglican Church; The Longest Table Co-Chair & Chair; FSU Basketball camp; Dance Marathon Events Chair; Grace Mission

**My Legacy:** *"My chosen activities illustrate what might be my legacy: Advocating for civil discourse by giving everyone a seat at the table; Using my privilege and resources so that at-risk children have the same access as I do; creating spaces that are welcoming and warm; Doing my part to add beauty to the world."*

**What Others Are Saying:** *"I suspect that Tallulah's path will continue to lead her down a road of service and big ideas, and I predict that this is just the very beginning of the great things we will see her accomplish."* – Jeannine Meis, Leon AP World History Teacher

# SOCIAL SCIENCE



**Isabel McDaniel**  
Maclay School

**Awards and Honors:** Cum Laude Society (2021-2023); National Honor Society; Upper School Student Council Secretary and Academic Chair Leader; Dr. Robert Strayer Collegiate History Book studies; Wharton Global High School Investment Competition team winner 2020

**Activity Highlights:** Editor-in-Chief Literary Magazine Notes from the Underground; Maclay Community Service Club President; Junior Classical League; Tennis summer camp counselor; Key Club; Dreamin Big Eventing

**My Legacy:** "I hope to encourage other students to take advantage of the opportunities offered to them as Maclay and within their community. There are so many amazing things to participate in and if you don't try new things, you may never find what you are truly passionate about."

**What Others Are Saying:** "No matter where she goes or what she does, I know she'll be an inspiring force, someone who makes everyone around her better, bolder, and beautifully engaged and alert." – Lee Norment, English Department Chair, Maclay



**Francisca Puiatti**  
Florida State University  
Schools

**Awards and Honors:** 4-H Leadership Award; Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society President; National Honor

Society Community Service Coordinator; Gold Biliteracy Seal; Coach's Award in Basketball; Certified Nursing Assistant certification plan

**Activity Highlights:** Crazy 8 Ranch; 4-H Day Camp counselor; Thomasville Road Baptist Church; Westminster Oaks Nursing Home; Florida House of Representatives Page

**My Legacy:** "Knowledge of America's political system is paramount to continue building an educated and enriched world. I hope that my legacy stresses the importance of familiarizing the next generation with their legislative system, including how to get involved and make change in their new world and work towards a version of America we can all be proud to call home."

**What Others Are Saying:** "Francisca's passion for her school, community, and social studies shows her willingness to go above and beyond to make these experiences happen for her peers." – Cierra Young, Rho Kappa Sponsor, FSUS



**Janya Samuel**  
SAIL High School

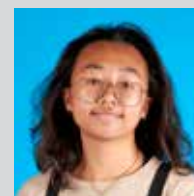
**Awards and Honors:** MLK Dreamers and Doers; High Honor Roll; US History and AP Psychology EOC top scores

**Activity Highlights:** SAIL Be Kind Community Service; Advent Health Hospital; Humane Society; Hang Tough; The Backpack Project

**My Legacy:** "For my legacy, I hope that my teachers and peers will remember me as someone who was motivated, passionate, successful, and kind. I want to have inspired others to go out and achieve the things they

want to and to become the best version of themselves."

**What Others Are Saying:** "Janya has been an outstanding asset in the classroom, making relevant observations when various topics are discussed. Not only does she have a good analytical mind, but Janya complements that with compassion for others." - Doug Currey, US Government Teacher, SAIL



**Jessica "Jessie" Zheng**  
Chiles High School

**Awards and Honors:** AP Scholar with Honors; A/B Honor Roll (2019-2023); Honors Badge Tallahassee Animal Shelter; National Honor Society

**Activity Highlights:** Key Club Vice President; Photography Club (2019-2023), President; Tallahassee Animal Shelter; Mu Alpha Theta; Varsity Track & Field; UNICEF; Engaged Citizenship Services

**My Legacy:** "Upon graduating, I hope to have encouraged others in the community to live with a heart of gold and have endless love to give. The world could never run out of the need for more love and compassion. The kindest people are not born, but they are constructed and shaped – I aspire to be a light in the darkness."

**What Others Are Saying:** "Jessica's achievements both in and out of the classroom have been grounded in her courage to participate in activities that reflect her interests, creative talents and unwavering values." – Kate Strickland, AP Social Studies Teacher, Chiles

# TECHNOLOGY



## WINNER

**SRUTHI SENTIL**

*Rickards High School*



Whether from volunteering thousands of hours of her time or placing in national competitions for her expertise in technology, Sruthi Sentil will leave a lasting impact wherever she goes.

Of her many accomplishments to date, perhaps the Rickards High School student's biggest was her creation of BuddyKnit, a nonprofit peer relationship organization Sentil started while virtually tutoring seven students in the foster care system. Through her experience as a tutor, she came to empathize with her students and understand the disparities that plague the Tallahassee community. She saw a lack of opportunity for people her age to make an impact because of age requirements for mentorship. BuddyKnit establishes long-term peer relationships joining high school and college-age volunteers with lower-income youth in a way that creates long-term, reliable, and relatable support for these youths. Currently, BuddyKnit has over 200 volunteers and students with 80 active one year or longer matches in Pensacola, Leon, and Gadsden counties. The organization has also created robotics clubs across Title 1 partners, establishing in-school maker spaces for students. Sentil's goal is to expand BuddyKnit to the entire state of Florida. "BuddyKnit remains the shining star of my legacy, with the foundation I built seeping deep into the Florida community," said Sentil. "By promoting more active and personable forms of giveback, my work has helped break societally placed boundaries, building a connected and

empathetic community of upliftment. Values instilled at a young age are carried throughout each volunteer and impacted child's lifetime."

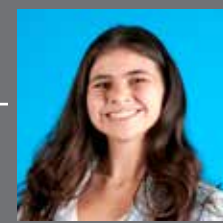
Sentil's dedication to service has not gone unnoticed. She was honored this year as one of Tallahassee's Five Young Women to Watch by the Tallahassee Democrat. Additionally, she has won multiple state Science and Engineering Fair Awards for her work in Intelligent Machines and Robotics. She was also recognized with the Regeneron Science Talent Search Scholar Award and the National Center for Women in Informatics and Technology National Award. Sentil has been awarded over \$8,000 in grants to go toward her work with BuddyKnit.

Aside from her nonprofit passions, Sentil was involved in the teen board of the Junior League of Tallahassee and served as a regional affiliate for the NCWIT Aspirations in Computing. At Rickards, she serves as the Key Club webmaster and volunteers at Fairfield Middle School, where she founded an annual mini-mu math competition. A National Merit Finalist, Sentil is also co-chair of the Leon County Schools Student District Advisory Council. Her positive impact has been felt – and recognized -- by both the Tallahassee and Rickards communities.

## RUNNER-UP

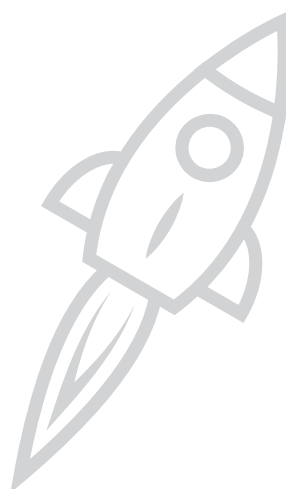
**GRACE TRAN**

*Leon High School*



Watching her mom battle skin cancer, Grace Tran made it her goal to educate her peers on skin cancer and how to prevent it – leading her to create the Leon High School Health and Wellness Club. The club enabled her to educate her peers, but she wanted to go a step further. She then lobbied state legislators and the Florida Department of Education to advocate for the inclusion of skin cancer prevention education in the Florida curriculum. This work earned her the Girl Scout USA Gold Award from an organization she has been involved with for over ten years. She was also recognized as an AP Capstone scholar for her skin cancer education work. Additionally, Tran is an active member of the Leon High School Student Government Association and serves as president of the school's French National Honor Society.

Tran hopes to leave a legacy statewide with her work in sun safety. "I started out with a mission to better understand skin cancer risk, but that soon evolved into my dedication to educating others on how to prevent skin cancer," said Tran. "I hope that students will instill sun safety habits into their daily lives."





# TECHNOLOGY



## HONORABLE MENTION

### JACKSON KOTTKAMP

Maclay School



Jackson Kottkamp's enthusiasm lies within film – how he can capture moments and create art with them. At Maclay School, he has worked with the school's librarian on video production and livestreaming, gaining invaluable experience with equipment operation, event coordination, and film as a whole. Kottkamp has worked on over 30 livestreams and continues to help with them. He has also worked as a production assistant on two FSU College of Motion Picture Arts student productions, assisting in the management and operations of filming.

Kottkamp serves as his school's Film Club president and is a member of multiple honor societies, including the Quill and Scroll International Honorary Society, the Spanish Honor Society, the National Honor Society, and the Cum Laude Society. Kottkamp is also involved in Maclay's Community Service and Key clubs.

"More than anything, I hope that I have served as an example. I hope that people look at how I treated others, how I worked, how I pursued my calling and tried to help others on their way, and think that's how it should be done," said Kottkamp. "I hope I'm remembered as someone who cared about living how we're meant to." Kottkamp has left an impact of helpfulness, leadership, and creativity toward his peers.

# FINALISTS



### Dean Berrien

Godby High School

**Awards and Honors:** AP Computer Science Exam Score of 5; Certified in Autodesk Inventor, AutoCAD, Python and Adobe Premiere Pro; Big Bend/Leon Assoc. for Science Teaching Student Excellence in Science Award 2022

**Activity Highlights:** Keep Tallahassee-Leon County Beautiful; mentorship with coding of Periodic Table

**My Legacy:** "I hope that I can be remembered for my art and inspire people who are serious about art to present themselves more. Likewise, I hope that I can invoke more interest in technology and coding."

**What Others Are Saying:** "His intent was to bring life and fun back to learning for students, and others, trying to accomplish a difficult task of memorizing the periodic table. His programming and coding knowledge, along with his desire to create an interactive, useful tool, resulted in a super cool game for all to enjoy." – Susan Barrineau, Godby School Counselor



### Miles Johnson

FAMU Developmental Research School

**Awards and Honors:** 2022 Sunshine Scholar; National Beta Club; AEST Certified Agriculture Associate; TCC Dual Enrollment; Student Government Senior Class Secretary; National Honor Society; 4 times World Bronze Medalist in Teakwondo

**Activity Highlights:** FAMU DRS Theatre production; numerous FAMU DRS projects; Black History Month Brain Bowl (2021-2023); First Harvest food distribution events; Black Belt 3rd Degree, Level 3 and Instructor

**My Legacy:** "I hope that by the time that I am graduating, I will be known as the best to ever do it. I would like to be held in high regard amongst my peers and instructors."

**What Others Are Saying:** "He is honest, loyal, and dedicated to being a keen communicator, which are all traits of a great student and a great person overall. Outside of school, he teaches martial arts to children and adults, which I believe is where his cool and calm demeanor comes in handy." – Anthony Thompson, Teacher FAMU DRS

# TECHNOLOGY



**Ryan Kinney**  
Florida State University  
Schools

**Awards and Honors:** FSUS Honor Guard President; IT Fundamentals Pro and Adobe InDesign Certification; Mu Alpha Theta Honors Society; TCC National Society of Leadership & Success; National Arts Honor Society Secretary; recipient of Billy Mitchell Award & Amelia Earhart Awards with Civil Air Patrol

**Activity Highlights:** FSUS IT Department; Tallahassee Composite Squadron Civil Air Patrol Color Guard (2019-2022); Youth Advisory Council School Rep for Leon County Sheriffs; City of Tallahassee Future Leaders Assoc; Leon County Sheriffs Explorer Competition Team; Martial Arts instructor Tiger Rock

**My Legacy:** "When I graduate, I hope my legacy inspires others to seek various service opportunities that will continue to make a positive impact in their school and community."

**What Others Are Saying:** "It has been an honor to teach Mr. Kinney as he is a kind, intelligent and respectful young man who strives for the absolute best in all that he does." – Michelle Hartsfield, Asst. Professor, FSUS



**Shilpa Shiju**  
Chiles High School

**Awards and Honors:** Invitational Science Olympiad 7th place (2021-2022); Winner at Capital Regional Science & Engineering Fair in

Environmental Design 2019; numerous awards in Tower Take Over Vex tournaments; Leon County History Fair 3rd Place 2020; Grip Tape Challenger Award 2022; AP Scholar with Distinction (2020-2022)

**Activity Highlights:** TMH Summer Surgical Technician internship; Vex Robotics Summer Camp; Good Shepherd Catholic Church; Azalea Gardens Assisted Living social activities volunteer; Asian Cultural Festival; Chiles Vex Robotics Club (2019-2023), President 2023

**My Legacy:** "I hope my legacy would be inspiring students to pursue their interest in STEM. My role is to show people what is possible in the field of technology. While also exhibiting how important collaboration and knowledge of other fields of science can lead to new ideas."

**What Others Are Saying:** "She has a natural curiosity that seeks to understand, and cannot be intimidated by any task and she rises to any challenge." – Jason Clark, AP Computer Science, Chiles



**Matthew Tabet**  
SAIL High School

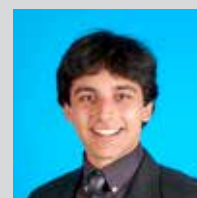
**Awards and Honors:** MLK Dreamers and Doers Award; Autodesk Certification and Certified Professional Award; Department Award of Excellence for Engineering

**Activity Highlights:** Soccer Club President; Fellowship of Christian Athletes Club Vice President; Astoria Park Extended Day program; Tallahassee School of Math & Science volunteer; SAIL mentor and volunteer; Ultimate Frisbee Club

**My Legacy:** "Once I graduate from high school, I hope to go on to college and get a bachelor's in computer science. Afterwards, I plan to become a game developer and create games that can help

people through various mediums. By doing this and other activities, I feel I can make a positive impact on my community and the whole planet."

**What Others Are Saying:** "He is a top performer, passionate about his work, and focused on helping others and doing something great with science and technology." – JaSun Burdick, AP Computer Science, SAIL



**David "Elan" Wygodski**  
Lincoln High School

**Awards and Honors:** National Honor Society; Offensive Most Valuable Player in Soccer 2022; 1st place National History Fair at Lincoln in 2019 and 2020

**Activity Highlights:** Cross County (2019-2020); Robotics Club (2021-2022); FSU Magnet Lab Tesla Science Camp volunteer; JV Soccer Team; Temple's Camp Shalom summer volunteer; Tallahassee Youth Orchestra

**My Legacy:** "Throughout my years at Lincoln High School, I tried to inspire and create opportunities for fellow students. I have helped motivate them to do their best and be more passionate about technology and its advancements. My influences impact the community and encourages others to pursue their dreams to promote a more exciting and enriching future."

**What Others Are Saying:** "Elan's main contribution was keeping the team going. His eagerness to learn and try new things helped the team improve the robot after each competition." – Katherine Boutin, Teacher, Lincoln

# WORLD LANGUAGES



## WINNER

**COLLEEN "BRYN"  
CINTRON**

*Rickards High School*



Bryn Cintron is a passionate student who is always on the quest for more knowledge and opportunities to share her findings with the world around her. Cintron is dedicated, whether she's sharing her love for diverse languages and cultures or volunteering in the community.

Cintron, who speaks both English and Spanish, serves as co-president of Chiles High School's Spanish Honor Society, where she has led a group of high-achieving students as they continued to learn the Spanish language and culture. Cintron also volunteered her time as a translator at various occasions and events. She was a Spanish language instructor for her school's social worker, assisting in translating important information for Spanish-speaking parents, and translated two different international ballet intensives. Cintron also mentors her peers, tutoring students in Spanish coursework and assisting in their learning of the language.

Cintron's most rewarding endeavor was her community service with the Kearney Center. Since middle school, she has volunteered with the center, trying to contribute to reducing food insecurity in the Tallahassee area. She has remained a dedicated volunteer for over five years, doing various work ranging from preparing and delivering bagged lunches to helping supply packaged foods and ingredients for hot meals.

At Chiles, she serves as Interact vice president, where she creates service opportunities for members to participate in.

She is also on the model United Nations board and is a member of the junior Classical League. Cintron has poured her passion into being a great student and an even better leader, and that is not lost on the Chiles community. Her teacher, Matt Yates, said, "Bryn is an amazingly bright student whose classroom presence has always added so much in so many ways ... her excellence, paired with her positive influence, have made my classroom a better place." Outside of school, Cintron is a Pas de Vie principal dancer and is a recipient of the Orlando Ballet International Intensive Acceptance Scholarship. She is extremely supportive of the arts, especially dance.

Cintron hopes to leave behind a Chiles that is better than when she arrived. "During my time at Chiles High School, I greatly enjoyed learning alongside peers whose life experiences differ from my own and working with teachers to master new skills," says Cintron. "I hope to leave behind a legacy of intellectual curiosity and a sense of collaboration among students and faculty members to address challenges on both campus and in the broader community."



## RUNNER-UP

**RAINE WILLIAMS**

*Leon High School*



Raine Williams is an all-around student. She uses her passion for serving others to leave her community a better place than she found it.

Williams was a member of the Leon High School varsity volleyball team, where she received the Leon volleyball academic award for three years. She and her team won the district championship in 2021. Outside of school, Williams played competitive volleyball and her teams captured placed first place in multiple tournaments across the Southeast. Williams also studied Mandarin Chinese during her time at Leon and is also a national African American recognition scholar.

Williams has achieved all this despite her personal struggle with type 1 diabetes, and has made it her passion to help others like her, which inspired her to volunteer at the FSU College of Medicine Summer Institute. While there, she had the opportunity to shadow physicians in Chattahoochee and recognized how her community struggles to receive adequate medical care. This camp ignited her passion for remedying health care crises faced by hers and other communities, and she hopes to advocate for patients and personnel just as physicians did for her. Williams hopes "people will remember me as a hard worker who never let anything get in the way of my dreams and who did their best to support those around me reaching for their own dreams ... My legacy is my bond that can be repeated by all."

# WORLD LANGUAGES



## HONORABLE MENTION

TERESA MORGADO

*Maclay School*



Morgado has been a member of the Junior Classical League for four years, and through this she took the national Latin exam and received a perfect score, as well as gold distinction in other years. In the 2022 FGCL State Forum, she took second place in Latin vocabulary advanced and third place in Latin derivatives advanced. She's also involved in the Sociedad Honoria Hispanica, the Spanish Honor Society. At Maclay, she is co-president of the Community Service Club and a member of the Multicultural Awareness Club.

Morgado was inspired by her time volunteering for ReFood Portugal during the summers when she was in middle school. She joined student United Way in 2020 and created the idea of a Food Waste Awareness Drive. Morgado organized a competition between Maclay and Leon to see which student body could donate the most non-perishable goods from their own pantry to donate to Second Harvest. The event led to the donation of more than \$330 worth of food to Second Harvest.

Morgado's experiences in other countries and speaking to others has given her a broader world view that goes well beyond Tallahassee. "I hope to inspire others to pursue foreign languages not for the sake of good grades or mere practicality," said Morgado, "but with the intention of truly being able to form new connections with people around the globe, better understanding their experiences, and acquiring a new world view."

# FINALISTS



**Maya Brangaccio**  
*Lincoln High School*

**Awards and Honors:** National Latin Regionals and State Convention ranked 1st thru 4th place (2010-2022); Latin III Department Award; Key Club Service Leadership Recognition and President; Homecoming Court

**Activity Highlights:** Latin Club, President; Cheer Team Co-Captain; Choral Program, President; Key Club park clean up project; Summer Theatre program; Asian Culture & Food Festival

**My Legacy:** "I hope that I leave an imprint for future officers, members, and Trojans to follow in the clubs I reached while in high school. I hope my dedication to bettering my community does not go overlooked and that I am remembered as an officer that truly did care."

**What Others Are Saying:** "In a nutshell, Maya Brangaccio is one of the most energetic, get-the-job-done Key Club members with whom I have had the pleasure to work with." – Howard Pardue, Lincoln Advisor, Capital City Kiwanis Club



**Meenakshi Nalla**  
*Rickards High School*

**Awards and Honors:** Rickards Culture & Humanities Founder (2021-2023); National Honor Society, Historian; Most Valuable Player Volleyball (2020-2023); Heisman High School Scholarship School Winner; Girls Who Code Certification

**Activity Highlights:** Indian Association of Tallahassee – Glimpses & Ugadi; Nekyou Scans online translator; Youth Leadership Tallahassee Class 18; Dance Marathon Events Chair; BuddyKnit Compassion Officer; Tom Brown and Southwood Park volleyball coach

**My Legacy:** "Being a woman of color (WOC) that is a team captain for Volleyball, I want to pass the torch of solidarity to other WOC to become an exemplary example of leadership. Demonstrating that leadership triumphs despite our team's diversity. A good leader is someone who others look up to and aspire to be."

**What Others Are Saying:** "Meenakshi strives for excellence and is tireless in her efforts for self-development academically, culturally and artistically." – Jamilah Loriston, Rickards Head Volleyball Coach

# WORLD LANGUAGES



**Jaidan "Jay" Neal**  
Godby High School

**Awards and Honors:** Duolingo in 5 languages-Spanish, Japanese, French, Russian, Korean; Mr. Band Homecoming Court 2023; Autodesk Certification; National Honor Society (2020-2023); Superior rating in State Clarinet Choir

**Activity Highlights:** City Parades performances; The Longest Table; mentor Raa Middle School musicians; Swim Team, Teadora Dance Ballet; Band (2020-2023)

**My Legacy:** *"The legacy I want to leave at Godby upon graduating is you can have multiple commitments with the right mindset. I am simultaneously committed to band, part of the swim team, in a play, a dance group, all while working a part time job and serving on Student Government Association (SGA)."*

**What Others Are Saying:** *"He has learned and is fluent in multiple languages just because he wanted to learn them and he did so on his own time, not for school. He wants to master everything he tries and puts the effort to do so." – Randi Lundgren, SGA Co-Sponsor, Godby*



**Skylar Motiska**  
SAIL High School

**Awards and Honors:** Honors in dual enrollment English

**Activity Highlights:** TMH Summer Surgical Technician Internship Course; National Youth Leadership Forum: Law & CSI; MoLab at Cornerstone Learning Community; Lively Technical College nursing skills training; SAIL teacher aide and mentor

**My Legacy:** *"I hope that teachers and classmates look back on our time together and think of me as someone who guided students through high school, was responsible, smart, and caring. I hope people from high school will look at me as a role model and someone to aspire to be, who was kind to others and was always willing to help."*

**What Others Are Saying:** *"As my teaching assistant this year...she helped me organize my materials and provided one on one tutoring in class to struggling students, always doing so in a way that leaves them feeling good about themselves. Indeed, this is Skylar's greatest gift." – Dr. Jennifer Bartlett, SAIL Spanish Teacher*



**Shruthi Sankuratri**  
Florida State University  
Schools

**Awards and Honors:** Bilingual in Telugu; AP Scholar with Honor award and National Rural & Small Town Recognition Program Award; National Honor Society; place top 5 in Latin Regional Competitions; Certified in Excel, Word, Powerpoint

**Activity Highlights:** Latin Club (2021-2023); Mu Alpha Theta; founded Spectrum Awareness Club; Varsity Tennis (2019-2023); FSUS IT volunteer; Hispanic Heritage Night

**My Legacy:** *"I want to be remembered as someone others can rely on. To make it safely through high school, you need to do two things: have confidence in yourself and be comfortable in your own skin. Finding the balance is difficult. I've managed to find it for myself, but the biggest hope is that I've helped others find theirs."*

**What Others Are Saying:** *"Shruthi's dedication to community extends beyond the walls of FSUS as well. In my own experience, she does all these things with a warm and cheerful attitude." – Joanna Piris, World Language Department Chair, FSUS*

# 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.



## 2023 SPIRIT AWARD WINNER

Amaya Waymon from Rickards High School recognized a need and created The Girl Flo, a service initiative that provides feminine products to female students who lack access or have an unexpected menstrual emergency. Through her organization, all Leon County Schools have menstrual dispensers and she continues to fight against period poverty. Her organization has raised over \$20,000 in just two years. Her mission has led her all the way up to the state level to bring awareness to learn with dignity. In addition to the dedicated work Waymon does for her school, she also ventures past those walls as a Youth Ambassador for Southern Black Girls & Women Consortium, Junior League of Tallahassee Teen Board, Ladies Learning to Lead and as Chapter Leader of 100+ Teens Who Care Tallahassee. She lives up to the word that she says describes her best – Changemaker.



# 8TH GRADE ESSAY CONTEST



Leon County 8th grade students are invited to participate in the 8th Grade Essay Contest as a positive addition to the Best & Brightest Awards.

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 heart of a volunteer is not measured by size,  
but by the depth of the commitment  
to make a difference in the lives of others.”*

*-- DeAnn Hollis*

## **WINNER**

**Ella Dorn** North Florida Christian

*“When you give back to the community you live in, you gain a better understanding of your passions, meet new friends, learn more about issues that matter to our society, and receive joy and satisfaction from contributing to others.”*

## **RUNNER-UP**

**Kaidence Kimbrough** Fairview Middle School

*“Bringing joy to others and helping in my community is very important to me. Whether it’s smaller tasks, dedicating my free time to help members of my community or raising money for charity, volunteering it incredibly special to me.”*

## **HONORABLE MENTION**

**Ziad Seliem** Deerlake Middle School

*“What I admire about volunteering is that in many cases people think they are going to help others and magically they become the beneficiary....Volunteering can turn into a passion that turns into a profession.”*

# 8TH GRADE ESSAY CONTEST

## FINALISTS

### CHRIST CLASSICAL ACADEMY

Miriam Hall  
Timothy Hughes  
Owen Mitchell

### COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Jackson Geitz  
Sydney Inman  
Micha Nerland

### DEERLAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Shayan Khan  
Shaoxuan Ma  
Ziad Seliem

### ELIZABETH COBB MIDDLE SCHOOL

Aria Falconer  
Jerusalem Temuari

### FAIRVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

Saanvi Akula  
Kaidence Kimbrough  
Saisha Vangadar

### FAMU DEVELOPMENTAL RESEARCH SCHOOL

Ashara Martin

### FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOLS

Genesis Cruzado  
Alaina Shalley  
Garyn Washington

### FORT BRADEN SCHOOL

Avery Byrd  
Abigail Miller  
Alexia Torres Sierra

### GRIFFIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Auburn Groves  
Luis Perez  
Malaya Williams

### HOLY COMFORTER EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

Ellis Howard  
Jackson O'Steen  
Sarah Samaan

### MONTFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Christopher Bates  
Avery Campbell  
Gavin Poucher

### NORTH FLORIDA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Ella Dorn  
Addison Lord  
Josiah Vazquez

### SWIFT CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL

Emory Buning  
Lexi Newton  
Medha Shanbhag

### TALLAHASSEE SCHOOL OF MATH AND SCIENCE

Shelby Fogler  
Malik Rollins  
Cameron Tucker

### TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Leah Enfinger  
Elizabeth Roeder  
Riley Young

### WOODVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Brayden Simmons  
Ja'Nae Washington  
Charlie Zimmer

## Past Winners

<b>2011</b>	<b>Muireall Brown Danielle Federico Shane Smiths</b>	<i>Winner Runner-Up H. Mention</i>
<b>2012</b>	<b>Colleen Newton Simone Butler Alexandria Rogers</b>	<i>Winner Runner-Up H. Mention</i>
<b>2013</b>	<b>Jadaicia Ervin Imani Walker Rebecca Morales</b>	<i>Winner Runner-Up H. Mention</i>
<b>2014</b>	<b>John McCann Kassidy Stuart Grant Womble</b>	<i>Winner Runner-Up H. Mention</i>
<b>2015</b>	<b>Meghan Gilmore Kirsten Whaley Sarah Schaper</b>	<i>Winner Runner-Up H. Mention</i>
<b>2016</b>	<b>Connor Yablonski Julia Hernandez M. Roberts</b>	<i>Winner Runner-Up H. Mention</i>
<b>2017</b>	<b>Aniketh Mukhirala Natalie Johns Presley Allen</b>	<i>Winner Runner-Up H. Mention</i>
<b>2018</b>	<b>Zoe Albrigo Grace Dennig Allie Boyd</b>	<i>Winner Runner-Up H. Mention</i>
<b>2019</b>	<b>Tallulah King, Atticus Miller Kimberly NeSmith</b>	<i>Winner Runner-Up H. Mention</i>
<b>2020</b>	<b>Eryn Files Nathan Reed Ani Hatfield</b>	<i>Winner Runner-Up H. Mention</i>
<b>2021</b>	<b>Angelina Veleta Caroline Cox Nishi Nandineni</b>	<i>Winner Runner-Up H. Mention</i>
<b>2022</b>	<b>Cecilie McGrew Belèn Rambana Jonathan George</b>	<i>Winner Runner-Up H. Mention</i>



# PAST WINNERS

<b>ART</b>		
<b>2006</b>	Courtney Asztalos Allison Jackson Keon Hogan	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2007</b>	Shannon Groves Matthew Cowdery Ishanna Ible	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2008</b>	Erin Harris-Parks Chelsea Hill Hannah Leggoe	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2009</b>	Cosby Hayes Mary Dunkelberger Allison Cottle	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2010</b>	Taylor Hardee Danielle Bishop Julia Kunberger	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2011</b>	Thomas Cooper Diana Elsner Todd Jones	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2012</b>	Sara Cox Benjamin Kay Monica Frehn	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2013</b>	Kaitlin Duchene Caroline Manuel Aarron Mosley	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2014</b>	Kenya Lloyd Kiara Palmer Yuqing Wu	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2015</b>	Rhea-Donna Reyes Torrey Kiele Carina Krehl	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2016</b>	Akshar Patel Clara Molina Kari Essary	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2017</b>	Alexis Campbell Abigail Perkins Jay Wenhold	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2018</b>	Karsyn Fletcher J, Martinez-Miller Jasmine Blake	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2019</b>	Haileigh Walton Nicholas Williams Kathryn Barnette	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2020</b>	Madison Wolfe E. Bonham-Reed Manna Robertson	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2021</b>	Roman Le Emma Bryson Mia Scott	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2022</b>	Sarah Caulley Soto Darell Williams Ann Nguyen	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention

<b>ATHLETICS</b>		
<b>2006</b>	Kristen Ledlow Denise Frohlich Daniel Morris, Jr.	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2007</b>	Seth Walker Rebecca Stott Kacie McCloud	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2008</b>	Laura Hempel Maria Harper Katrina Unglaub	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2009</b>	Whitney Strickland III Ryan Welke Kelly Conroy	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2010</b>	Sarah Rudder Melanese Edwards Catherine Whiddon	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2011</b>	Rosemary Klassen Macie Wilkins Lindsey Duncan	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2012</b>	Sarah Harrington Johnny Blue Craig Jennifer Griffith	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2013</b>	Stefanie Kurgatt Joseph Briggs Alyssa Yambor-Maul	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2014</b>	Darrielle McQueen Adrian Hendlin Phalguna Rupanagudi	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2015</b>	Tyson Murray Kathryn Crotty Julian Greene	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2016</b>	C. Kercheval-Roig Teresa Conroy Tanner Adkison	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2017</b>	Kelley Breeden Morgan Ayers Johnny Grace	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2018</b>	Alexander Sobeski Ana Wallace Mary Waddell	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2019</b>	Emma McGibany Nataki Close Braidan O'Connor	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2020</b>	Janae Scott Shania Cromartie Saige Kemeny	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2021</b>	T. McPherson Jr. DJ Campbell De'Shawn Rucker	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2022</b>	Lydia Hanlon Cailin Demps Emma Brice	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention

<b>BUSINESS</b>		
<b>2006</b>	Ricquel Jackson Kolanda Lewis Heidi Dhein	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2007</b>	Brittany Pace Ashley Carter Romain Benjamin	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2008</b>	Lauren Rudd Brittany Folsom Sheneka Faison	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2009</b>	Thierry Kayiranga A.J. Trautmann Darius Hands	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2010</b>	Kevin Hill Kevy Moore Charles Cox	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2011</b>	Samuel Cook Katie Pullen William Baldock	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2012</b>	Zemoria Johnson William McQuade Morrie Kim	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2013</b>	Parth Patel Jill Smith Brooke Hunter	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2014</b>	Deanne Roberts Brian Leichus Haley Ashlin	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2015</b>	Emily Schwartz Anna Rushin Irj Tajdar	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2016</b>	Camille Okonkwo Taylor Bickett Andrew Inman	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2017</b>	Craig Mitchell James Maguire, Jr. Kathleen Kelly	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2018</b>	Estella Waczewski Elizabeth Zhang Mallory Morgan	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2019</b>	Jordan Sutherland Malachi Jackson K. Washington	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2020</b>	Conqualla Scott Rachael Stockel Jake Moore	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2021</b>	Isaiah Griffith Johnny Liu Sabrina Zheng	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2022</b>	Kiyle Gardner Kanene Nwokeji Uzodinma Otuonye	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention

# PAST WINNERS

CAREER		
<b>2006</b>	Ann Sheddan Princess Warren Amanda Lorenz	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2007</b>	Jennifer Salib Vivek Pal Charlotte Homme	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2008</b>	Candace Rosier Sapphire Hinson Michael Schwarz	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2009</b>	Jordan Rodriguez Luka Sharron Justis Mills	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2010</b>	Michael Ethridge Bianca Medina Michelle Hudson	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2011</b>	Jenna Perlman A. Schroepfer Joshua Kaplan	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2012</b>	Kelsey McWilliams Kaci Boylan Chambre' Maclin	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2013</b>	Chassidy Ferrell Gabriela Brown Michelle Kelley	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2014</b>	Sarah Gurley Kayla Parker Alayna Sibille	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2015</b>	Porter Crapps, IV Jada Rose Katherine Grubbs	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2016</b>	Anunoy Dussa Megan Hayes Rebecca Prater	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2017</b>	Rachel Rumana Robert Skrob Emily Fiorini	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2018</b>	Anvitha Mandapati Seth Kemeny Martine Fredrickson	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2019</b>	Jack Ubben Jennifer Uriostegui Shicliria Bryant	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2020</b>	Ariana White Dakota Davis-Jenkins Kamiya Kendrick	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2021</b>	Sina Mollaei Nadia Collins Jonathan Witmer	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2022</b>	Rohan Chadha George Nessim Joshua Israel	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention

DRAMA		
<b>2006</b>	Robin Jackson Chris Hand Bethany Mihalik	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2007</b>	Waylen Roche Jennifer Skene Jonathan Kubik	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2008</b>	Lauren Bacon William Simpson Michael Dorsey	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2009</b>	Alexandria Collins Chris Frazier Carly Langston	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2010</b>	Shonn McCloud Kayla Valentine Erik Reed	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2011</b>	Julia Draper Ladarian Lilly Katherine Skene	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2012</b>	Victoria Whitley Anna Bradshaw Laura Johnson	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2013</b>	Lauren Jones Lee Moleski Saint-Claire Mottley	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2014</b>	Roxanne Jester Anna Brooks Mathieu Fredrickson	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2015</b>	Maxx Marshall Corrie Ostrander Jamie Shuman	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2016</b>	Bethany O'Leary B. Sanchez-Thurber Mia Pesta	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2017</b>	Jordyn Berrian Katherine Jones Sarah Barton	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2018</b>	Camila Calderon Abigail Leaman Mercy Bickell	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2019</b>	Ashley Campbell Jerilyn Fortier Teresa Fondo	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2020</b>	John Malley Mary Casteel Katie Mulrooney	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2021</b>	Sam Scriven Griffin Stanley Joelie Campana	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2022</b>	Shelby Watson Nancy Shippen Alani Beauchamp	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention

ENGLISH & LANG. ARTS		
<b>2006</b>	Catherine Chase Maria Diaz Ariel Adams	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2007</b>	Rebecca Lu A. McNaughton David Capelouto	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2008</b>	Anna Beck Erin Canter Elizabeth Seery	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2009</b>	Mark Stern Julia Slayden LendraCoker	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2010</b>	Taylor Conley Rebecca Markell Aidan Hale	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2011</b>	C. Niamh Lepanto Jazmyn Reed India Watkins	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2012</b>	C. Smith-Schoenwalder Mary Kathryn King Christina Mbuya	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2013</b>	Rachel Cannella Taylor Harvey Winston McGriff	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2014</b>	Yasemin Altun Brooke Harrison Emily Ostreich	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2015</b>	Mary Dixon Mikayla Murray Zoe Hume	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2016</b>	Amelia Bunnell Kaitlyn Bludau Marilyn Edmond	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2017</b>	Leteme Ashebo Quinlan Mewborne Rachel Corry	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2018</b>	Sarah Halbert Andrea Mendoza Chloe Caylor	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2019</b>	AAnna Daunt Jordan Magnuson Maya Levy	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2020</b>	Julia Hernandez Timothy O'Connor Lilly Simons	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2021</b>	Leah Mazur Emily Butler Kayla Jackson	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2022</b>	Katerina Krizner Amelia Kraemer Arria Haigler	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention

# PAST WINNERS

## JOURNALISM

<b>2006</b>	Wendy Walters Elizabeth Coppes Camille Goethe	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2007</b>	Jessica Moody A. Frydrychowski Clay Celander	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2008</b>	Eden Joyner Alexander Saunders Sarah Taylor	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2009</b>	Elizabeth Landers Kate Schofield Tara Gonzalez	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2010</b>	Dana Edwards Madeleine Loeb Ashira Morris	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2011</b>	Katie Mullaly Lisa Gault Chi-Valry Wu	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2012</b>	Taylor McMahon Nigel King Kylie Parham	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2013</b>	Joni Lindsey Elizabeth Santoro Patricia Moes	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2014</b>	Mina Kaji Madison Harris- Parks Torri Hart	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2015</b>	Muireall Brown Rachel Rivers Dakota Williams	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2016</b>	Celitan Summa Jl. Smith-Schoenwelder Reagan Anderson	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2017</b>	Caleb Riggins Julia Chodyla Saniya Pradhan	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2018</b>	Lauren Shirley Hannah Wong Cristin McKee	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2019</b>	Nadaley Jones John Folsom Helen Bradshaw	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2020</b>	Jacqueline Cruz Madelyn Stout Sarah Crandall	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2021</b>	Asia Alexander Michael Sweeney Genesis Yoshioka	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2022</b>	Ananda Chatterjee Peyton Gallant Gabrielle Giles	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention

## LEADERSHIP

<b>2006</b>	Mike Jones Katherine Davis Chris Emmanuel	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2007</b>	Jamel Langley Whitney Moore Brittany Gredler	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2008</b>	N. Kofar-Naisa Netia McCray Haylee Lamb	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2009</b>	Auriel Rolle-Polk Gregory Cummins Stephanie Post	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2010</b>	Jasmine Holmes Kelly Jones Caroline Maxwell	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2011</b>	Mary Lundberg LaCrai Mitchell Haven Mills	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2012</b>	Jennifer Berrian Joi Edwards Mary Grace Conroy	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2013</b>	Elizabeth Sell Kristin Sweeney Cody Johansen	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2014</b>	Brooke Williams Joshua Gallaher Amina Kamau	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2015</b>	Carolyn Shi Matthew Sweeney Kenidee Webster	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2016</b>	Taylor Hall Carlton DiSalvo Mariam Mckee	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2017</b>	Nia Close Rida Darji Robyn Seniors	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2018</b>	Daniel Sweeney Slade Machado Tareq Salley	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2019</b>	Nicolas Timmons Abigail Hansen Madison Crews	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2020</b>	Jason Gao Michelena O'Rourke Jude Countryman	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2021</b>	Rohan Davidi David Yang Andrew Li	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2022</b>	Evan Marty Prabhās Kurapati Britton Miller	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention

## MATHEMATICS

<b>2006</b>	Amina Ellison Kirk Hansen Erin Burnside	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2007</b>	Catherine Cottle Louis Reis Weiping Zhang	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2008</b>	Chenyu Lin Kavita Chandra Kyle Trainor	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2009</b>	Suvrat Jain William Tsai Gina Shetty	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2010</b>	Aditi Hota Jitesh Kuntawala Kathleen Park	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2011</b>	Pratik Sachdeva Shuai Jiang Emily Stowers	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2012</b>	Dae Kang Breshawn Best Bailey Ruark	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2013</b>	Grace Ying Ralph Wilhelm Seungbyn Baek	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2014</b>	Jimmy Zhang Alexander Yu Dionte Boddie	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2015</b>	Jessie Chi Siddarth Kethireddy Justin Bartell	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2016</b>	Puneet Sachdeva Sadhana Ponnaluri Amelia Maddox	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2017</b>	James Baggett Emily LeHeup Kyle Chen	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2018</b>	Caroline Englert Joanna Wang Luke McCarthy	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2019</b>	Venkat Kommu Yunus Kovankaya Judith Wang	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2020</b>	Rayyan Darji Simon Corpuz Antonio Nunez	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2021</b>	Max van Hoeij Cecilia Malley Hannah Yang	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2022</b>	Sandhya Kumar D. Epstein-Gross Kristen Ross	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention

# PAST WINNERS

<b>MUSIC</b>		
<b>2006</b>	Drew Pattison Joseph Sheets Jake Armstrong	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2007</b>	Kerian Cox Matthew King Raine Guthrie	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2008</b>	Victoria Warnet Amanda Mihalik Jarrod Holland	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2009</b>	Benjamin Pattison Christine Hatcher Erin Saha	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2010</b>	Greta Smidt Chase Banks Hannah Haugen	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2011</b>	Devon Richardson Paul Miller Richard Mattox	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2012</b>	Lindsey Langston Alexander Hörton Taylor Williams	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2013</b>	Phillip Mendez Diego Hernandez Jessey Krehl	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2014</b>	S. Cherrier-Vickers Jatericka Connelly Justin Fitzpatrick	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2015</b>	Kayla Williams Jacob Goldstein Greenwood Stephen Barton	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2016</b>	Christie Ger Tiffany Vaughn Adam Rusmisell	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2017</b>	Samantha Crawford Roehl-Dean Reyes Hannah Prasse	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2018</b>	Odessa Deng Daniel Spainhour Claire Thaler	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2019</b>	Dane Seal Joshua Kim Alexis O'Rourke	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2020</b>	Carter Nelson India McCary Hali Alex	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2021</b>	Kendall Williams Megan Peschl Kolbie O'Neal	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2022</b>	Taurique Clark Ishan Vepa Chloe Caldwell	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention

<b>PUBLIC SPEAKING</b>		
<b>2006</b>	Ashley Williams Forrest Boone Jessica Isabelle	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2007</b>	Nicola Menchetti Tatiana Galante Thy Bui	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2008</b>	Madison Grant Kathleen Wade Lauren Hendricks	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2009</b>	Stacia Dudley Will Liner Chelsea Moore	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2010</b>	Callie Crumpler Samuel Stockstill Ryan Sweeney	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2011</b>	Austin Mall Christopher Hill Rachel Procaccini	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2012</b>	William Moor, III Jamie Holley Dominique Moreno	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2013</b>	Kinsey Grant Samuel Kerce Tryton Swigert- Johnson	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2014</b>	Amber Borgersen Yasmire Whigham Stuart Garrity	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2015</b>	Maya King Nathan Morse Julia Osagie	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2016</b>	Elyse Thompson Irfan Kovankaya Zenani Johnson	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2017</b>	Jean-Paul Recht Micah Joyner James Williams III	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2018</b>	Katherine Sorrell Landon Coles Morgan Zettle	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2019</b>	Madison Coombs Mira Gaitanis Mamie Odom	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2020</b>	Madeline Feiock I. V. Warren Max Ngnepieba	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2021</b>	Spencer Gibbs Seth Johnson Khari Davis	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2022</b>	Destiny Stewart Arianna Jones Collin Roberts	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention

<b>SCIENCE &amp; HEALTH</b>		
<b>2006</b>	Ugwechi Amadi Irina Kotchach Chase Pfeifer	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2007</b>	Brittany Garner John Turner Tyler Rowland	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2008</b>	Min Jiang Xin Guan Clara Vu	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2009</b>	R. Zakare-Fagbamila Andrew Wyatt Derek Hettinger	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2010</b>	Philip Schlenoff Esha Atolia Kejing Jiang	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2011</b>	Eta Atolia Stanley Stupski Linda Wang	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2012</b>	Payal Patel Yushan Wang Luxi Qiao	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2013</b>	Jeremy Jones Hunter Brown Stanley Denny	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2014</b>	Samantha Skrob Alyssa Morrison Stephen Crothers	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2015</b>	Rachel Joyner Shwetha Shetty Jordyn Lee	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2016</b>	Amara Ahmed Aneesh Rahangdale Alexander Alabugin	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2017</b>	Will Rogers Aditya Hota Tiffany Lee	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2018</b>	Khadeja Ahmed Cynthia Wang Charitha Moparthy	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2019</b>	Dhenu Patel Mallika Misra Sripradyumna Donthineni	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2020</b>	Tanvi Haldiya Neha Iyer Lily Rogers	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2021</b>	Sarah Toole Zakari Nelson Dani Paredes	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2022</b>	Jeffrey George Surabhi Kumar Aaliyah Davis	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention

# PAST WINNERS

## SOCIAL SCIENCE

<b>2006</b>	A. Van Landingham Joi Robinson Nicole Trainor	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2007</b>	Michael McKibben Forat Lutfi Sarah Martin	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2008</b>	Shayla Shane Sarah Haston James Crowley	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2009</b>	Doug Chico A. Sorchych-Hoffman Taylor Brown	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2010</b>	Christina Ciaravella Hunter King Joshua Berrian	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2011</b>	Marta Perez Blanche Brown Kendrick Smith	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2012</b>	Jasmine Lucas Sarah Busby Kenneth Soyars	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2013</b>	Robert Celander Avery Smith Kaytron Coker	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2014</b>	Kayley Erickson Matthew Kang Cooper Perlman	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2015</b>	Adrian Schell Abhinav Harish Hannah Williams	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2016</b>	Graham Boone Megan Choutupalli Aditya Srivastava	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2017</b>	Cannon Haworth William Cannard Emily Brockmeier	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2018</b>	Andrew Colvin John Menton Doherty Guirand	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2019</b>	Iynkary Warren Shivani Kumar Kaleb Daniels	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2020</b>	Apurva Srivastava Bryson Gonzalez Connor Couch	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2021</b>	Tanusri Mandapati Hannah Gendusa Katy Merritt	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2022</b>	Christopher Salvador Desmond Nelson Gracyn Wood	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention

## TECHNOLOGY

<b>2006</b>	Kevin Yon David Schubert Adam Grayson	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2007</b>	James Fadool Rachel Luczynski Ross Nichols	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2008</b>	Ian Elsner Nelson James William Lindsey	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2009</b>	Michael DiTanna Jay Cardenas Jared Young	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2010</b>	Scott Atherton Sung Woo Han Katelyn Varn	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2011</b>	Ryan-David Reyes Jameson Tucker Cameron Ridgewell	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2012</b>	Zachary Grayson James Pace Jordan Dick	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2013</b>	Emily Gardner Justin Burt Joey Cardenas	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2014</b>	Brenna Wonsey Brady Robshaw S. Gunasegaran	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2015</b>	Babar Ahmed Brendan O'Healaigh Rachael Steverson	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2016</b>	Daniel Becker Christopher Witmer Jessica McNeil	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2017</b>	Sanwal Ahmed Sophie Nelsen Elspeth Suber	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2018</b>	Hana Hollis Patrick Hollis I. Fagbamila-Zakare	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2019</b>	Auryndette West QueAndre Ray Jawad Khan	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2020</b>	Sanjita Choudhary Andy Jiang Katherine Lyons	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2021</b>	Sonu Patel I. St. Pierre-Charles Emily Sargent	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2022</b>	Shreyas Kodela Brian McNulty Janiya Richardson	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention

## WORLD LANGUAGES

<b>2006</b>	Olivia Trowers Kelli Frazier Jessica Mestre	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2007</b>	Marley Moynahan Sarah Stern Morgan Hicks	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2008</b>	Genevieve Tuveson Kristen Ramsey Diana Hernandez	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2009</b>	Annika Silverman Ethan Rosenblum Sophie Lang	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2010</b>	Erinma Kalu Emily Vogelgesang Mark Schmertmann	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2011</b>	Jane Darby Menton Heather Claypoole Kara Wilcox	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2012</b>	V. Dobrosavljevic Nida Mohyuddin Nina Rodriguez	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2013</b>	Amberly Williams Sonia Koul Robert King	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2014</b>	Mackenzie Teek Kevin Ramirez William Courrèges-Clercq	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2015</b>	Nia Harmon Michelle Fonseca Shannon Duncanson	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2016</b>	Catherine Wilhelm Nancy Engel Blake Williams	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2017</b>	Delaney Kaklamanos Erin Mulrooney Joseph McCann II	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2018</b>	Brenda Gikunda Aashari Williams Jordan Burney	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2019</b>	Dakyung Ham K. Resavage Hailey Hobb	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2020</b>	M. Hardenburg Kathryn Mani Ashley Sawyer	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2021</b>	Cooper Harrell Maddelena Kaji Kacie Ross	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
<b>2022</b>	Ishrit Gupta Eli Mears Molly Novin	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention



## THANK YOU



Dave Barfield, Graphic Design; David Barfield and Karl Sorne, Lonely Fox Photography; Cobb Middle School; Cobb Middle School's Beta Club; Charlie Barfield; Leon County Schools; Leon County School Board; Jon Peck, Sachs Media; Tallahassee Nurseries; Shipley Do-Nuts; Volunteer Florida; WFSU TV Production Team; Young Actors Theatre; 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.

## AWARDS COMMITTEE



Rudy Arceo  
Forrest Boone  
Stefanie Bowden  
Emma Cyphers  
Paula Deboles-Johnson  
BillieAnne Gay  
Jan Graham  
Julie Hatfield

Zemoria Johnson  
Hollie Maddox  
Dan McGrew  
Brooke Murray  
Merry Ortega  
Laura Rogers  
Sam Rogers, Jr.  
Ron Sachs

Alex Schaffer  
Kelli Walter  
Gay Webster-Sachs  
Harriet Williams  
Darryl Worrell

# THANK YOU TO OUR JUDGES

## ART

---

**Eluster Richardson**  
Professional Artist

**Daniel Taylor**, President  
Daniel Taylor Consulting, Inc.

**Mahaska Whitley**, Art Teacher, retired

## ATHLETICS

---

**Jacob Messing**, CHP Champions Director,  
Titus Sports Academy

**Maicel Green**, Olympic Gold medalist,  
Capital City Consulting

**Owen Long**, FSU Tennis Class of 2011,  
Director of Sales & Marketing  
Stahl-Meyer Foods

## BUSINESS

---

**Keith Bowers**, Executive Director,  
Tallahassee-Leon County Office of  
Economic Vitality

**Steve Evans**, IBM Vice President, Retired

**Kathy Maiorana**, Senior VP, Business &  
Workforce Strategies, Sachs Media

## CAREER

---

**Tracey Dowling**, Director  
The FSU Career Center

**Priya Hiraga**  
Director of Human Resources,  
James Moore & Co.

**Dan McGrew**  
General Manager,  
CareerSource Florida, Inc.

## DRAMA & PERFORMING ARTS

---

**Dr. Kathryn Cashin**  
Resident Choreographer retired,  
Tallahassee Ballet and Associate  
Professor, FSU retired

**Lori Elliott**, Director of Development,  
FSU Opening Nights

**Ben Gunter**, Artistic Director  
Theater with a Mission

## ENGLISH & LANGUAGE ARTS

---

**Kim Kelling**, Director of Content &  
Community Partnerships, WFSU

**Terry Lewis**, Author and Judge, retired

**Sara Marchessault**, Assistant Professor  
of Education, Tallahassee Community  
College

## JOURNALISM

---

**Byron Dobson**, Community Editor,  
Tallahassee Democrat

**Ben Kaplan**, Anchor, WCTV

**Dennis Schnittker**, Assistant Vice  
President,  
FSU University Communications

## LEADERSHIP

---

**Landus Anderson**, Attorney  
Stearns Weaver Miller

**Judge J. Lee Marsh**, Leon County Circuit  
Court

**Sam Rogers**, Area Executive Vice President,  
HUB International

## MATHEMATICS

---

**Byron Greene**, Project Director,  
National Science Foundation

**Kalynda Holton**  
Dean, Tallahassee Community College

**Dr. Sonya Stephens**  
Assistant Vice President, FAMU Division  
of Strategic Planning, Analysis, and  
Institutional Effectiveness

## MUSIC

---

**Marcus Nicolas**, Director of Operations &  
Administration, FSU Alumni Association

**Dr. Amanda Stringer**, Chief Executive  
Officer, Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra

**Del Suggs**, M.S.Ed., Musician and  
Songwriter

## PUBLIC SPEAKING

---

**Forrest Boone**, Commission Advisor,  
Florida Public Service Commission

**Rick Grant**, Rear Admiral, JAGC, USN (RET.)

**Jarrett Terry**, Assistant VP/Assistant  
Provost,  
FSU Academic Affairs

## SCIENCE & HEALTH

---

**Trevor Hylton**, Extension Agent,  
Leon County Northwest Extension District

**Lisa Spainhour**, Professor and Chair-Dept.  
of Civil & Environmental Engineering,  
FAMU-FSU College of Engineering

**Katie Britt Williams**, Marine Scientist/  
Project Manager, Cummins Cederberg,  
Coastal & Marine Engineering

## SOCIAL SCIENCE

---

**Lisa Barton**, Director, Museum of Florida  
History

**Carol Bryant-Martin**, Development  
Director, Division of Historical Resources,  
Florida Department of State

**Larry Rivers**, Distinguished Service  
Professor of History, Florida A&M  
University

## TECHNOLOGY

---

**Dr. Larry Dennis**, Professor, FSU College of  
Communication & Information

**Blake Dowling**, CEO, Aegis Business  
Technologies

**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

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