



WORLD CLASS SCHOOLS OF LEON COUNTY, INC. PRESENTS



**The public is invited to view the Best & Brightest Award Ceremony streaming on YouTube at
[YouTube.com/Talchamber](https://www.youtube.com/Talchamber)**

HISTORY OF BEST & BRIGHTEST

Nineteen 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 \$986,000 has been awarded to 2713 Seniors, 655 eighth graders and to the schools during these 19 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



WINNER

LIANA RIEGER

Leon High School



Unwavering in the face of adversity, Leon High School senior Liana Rieger has harnessed her struggles to acclimate to changing environments as her parents have relocated across the United States and Europe to pursue their musical passions and used them to fuel her ever-growing passion for art. The intangible connections she has formed with people along the way have helped drive her artistic endeavors.

In addition to her art education at Leon through courses such as AP 2D Art and Design and AP Drawing, she continued to seek opportunities to broaden her artistic views in high-level institutions such as the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts' pre-college Summer Academy where she has taken several Art Education courses. It was during her time at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts that she discovered her love for illustration and concept art which greatly expanded the ideas inspiring her art. These inspirations laid the foundation for a collaborative fantasy-dystopian novel project titled *Islands of Crimson* she has written almost entirely in a virtual environment with one of her close friends. Liana's most recent art pieces were heavily inspired by themes such as hypocrisies within religious organizations present in her book. Her art simultaneously brings its viewers into Liana's own world as well as the world she has created in her literary work.

Liana's talent has been celebrated through exhibitions of her work in PAFA's Fisher Brooks Gallery, Lemoyne Arts' Mahaska Whitley Student Exhibition (2023), and two features in Leon High School's *Mosaic Magazine* (2023). She was also awarded the Thomas Eakins Emerging Artist

Scholarship for the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts' pre-college Summer Academy Program (2022).

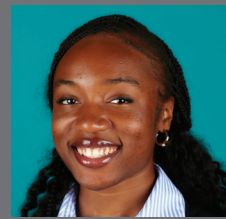
While recognized for her undeniable artistic excellence, Liana has made a notable impact on her community through her work at the Lafayette Arts & Crafts Center where she has volunteered 39 hours as a teacher's assistant for youth painting and drawing classes. Her most impactful work, however, was the 83 hours she spent painting sets, working as a spotlight operator, and a general technician for Leon High School's production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Through these roles, Liana was able to showcase and share her appreciation for the arts with her community.

Despite her extensive commitment to volunteer work and her relentless pursuit of her artistic passions, Liana still made time to excel in her academics, making the Honor Roll each year. "Liana is a gifted artist, an excellent student, and an amazing young person," remarks her art teacher. When asked what legacy she hopes to leave Liana shares "I sincerely believe that the stories I have told through my artwork will encourage both those who are artistically driven and those who are not to unashamedly pursue their individual interests with passion and joy." Liana's impact on the Tallahassee community will certainly be an enduring one.

RUNNER-UP

**ONYINYECHUKWU
"ONYINYE" OKOLI**

*Florida State University
Schools*



Arts, Athletics, Clubs, Academics, Volunteering. Florida State University Schools' (FSUS) Onyinye Okoli doesn't just do it all, she does it even as she maintains grades for the Honor Roll. Using her art as an outlet for expression, Onyinye taps

into her femininity and cultural background. Her work captures the beauty of being a woman. In her role as an ACEE High School Apprentice, she curated pieces for a Marvel Comics exhibition in a Virtual AI Art Museum at FAMU-FSU Engineering School. Her art accolades include the "Best in Show Award" for FSUS Chalk Walk and 1st Place in FSUS' Hispanic Heritage Month Art Contest.

Onyinye accomplishments outside of her artistic endeavors are equally as impressive. She is an awarded athlete on FSUS' JV Basketball and Varsity Track and Field where she went on to compete in the Junior Olympics. Over her four years at FSUS, she has amassed over 264 volunteer hours through her work cleaning up Tom Brown Park through FSUS' Environmental Club which she is a part of in addition to her volunteer work with eight other clubs she is a member of. Her passion for helping others stems from her most impactful community service working as a Counselor in Training for FSUS Summer Camp. "This involvement was not just a summer job; it became a part of my personal growth journey, teaching me the importance of slowing down and connecting with people," she says. The connections she has forged with the community through her service and her art will prove to have a lasting impact.



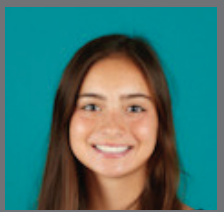
ART



HONORABLE MENTION

MARY CLAYTON SOTO

Maclay School



Multifaceted is the word best used to describe Maclay School's Mary Clayton Soto. Her creativity in her art is exemplary, she is a stand-out student, compassionate member of her community, and star athlete. Mary Clayton's art takes many forms as she dabbles in both 2D and 3D art through digital and traditional mediums. Her art has been entered into the North Florida Art Fair and featured in Maclay's "Notes from the Underground" publications each year she attended the school. Mary Clayton received The Elaine Cochran Memorial Award which recognizes artistic excellence and vision at Maclay's Come Together Art Show in 2024.

Another notable characteristic of Mary Clayton concerning her art is her entrepreneurial spirit. Her custom necklace and bracelet business Cheerful Chains produced \$1000 in revenue in its first month from sales generated via social media and sales to local boutiques. She has also worked with Radiant Headphone Yoga, a Tallahassee-based studio, creating graphics and logos. Mary Clayton's art, as a result of her hard work and dedication at Maclay and through her multiple businesses, is far-reaching across not only the community but across the country.

Despite her vast artistic pursuits, she has dedicated countless hours to the various organizations she is a part of and received accolades for her academic success such as being named a National Merit Semifinalist, National Honor Society, Girls on the Run, National Art Honor Society, Girls Varsity Soccer Captain, Dance Marathon, and Big Bend First Team Cross Country just to name a few. Most notably, her work as the Key Club president is inarguably where she has made her greatest impact. In her role, she "encouraged [her] peers to use their gifts to serve others, to recognize their opportunity to transform their community." Transform her community is exactly what she did.

FINALISTS



Jazlyn Howell
Chiles High School

Awards and Honors: Emerging Artist Award-Mahaska Whitley Student Exhibition 2023; Tallahassee Winter Festival Student Art Exhibit

Activity Highlights: Ochlocknee River Kennel Club; Meridian Woods Church of Christ; Chiles Garden Club-Vice President

My Legacy: "I want my legacy to be my dedication to the arts and the art I make. Creating art gives me life and inspiration. I also hope to be remembered for my leadership in the Chiles Garden Club. Being a part of reviving the school's garden club has been a challenge and I anticipate seeing what it will become after the other leaders and I graduate."

What Others Are Saying: "Jazlyn is an outstanding student who has consistently demonstrated a proactive 'Can do' attitude, a passion for creating, and a commitment to excellence." – Tonnar Estingoy, Chiles Art Teacher



Manjari Manoharan
Rickards High School

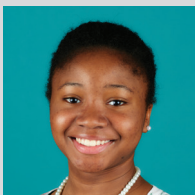
Awards and Honors: Florida Junior Classical League Regional and State Creatives Painting rankings - Captain

Activity Highlights: LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library-Outstanding Volunteer; Cultural Event "Eclipses"; Pangaea

My Legacy: "I aspire for viewers to be impacted by the messages in my creations, allowing them to perceive the world through my perspective, and vicariously experience the emotions I intend on conveying. I aim for these thought-provoking pieces to resonate deeply with individuals. As I share a piece of myself, I hope to harmonize through empathy with viewers over time."

What Others Are Saying: "She has shown exceptional growth and dedication in her artistic pursuits and personal development making her an invaluable asset to any environment she becomes a part of." – Robert Amstutz, Rickards Latin Teacher

ART



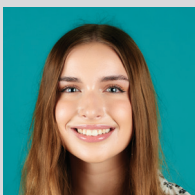
Saniah Maul
Godby High School

Awards and Honors: AP Scholar; Natl. Honor Society; Natl. Thespian Society; Agriculture Education Services & Technology Certified; Superior Group One Act in Theatre 2023; Natl. Assn. of Student Personnel Administrators Certified Peer Educator; TCC President's List

Activity Highlights: Godby Players Production Team; Southwood Haunted House; Godby Hall of Fame volunteer; A Full Summer; The Longest Table

My Legacy: *"I aim for a legacy defined by positivity and perseverance. Spreading kindness, taking bold steps, and embracing challenges, I hope to show that a simple smile holds power in a world driven by ambitious pursuits."*

What Others Are Saying: *"She is a driven young woman who will be successful in every endeavor she chooses to embark upon."* – Randi Lundgren, Godby Fine Arts Dept. Chair



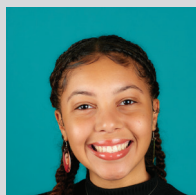
Isabella "Izzy" Pence
St. John Paul II Catholic School

Awards and Honors: Mahaska Whitley Student Exhibition 2021, 2023; 1st Place Mission Patch Design Student Astronaut Challenge; published in "Blue & Gold" Literary Arts Magazine; Natl. Honor Society; Natl. Rural & Small Town Award 2023

Activity Highlights: Youth Leadership Tallahassee Class 19; LeMoyne Arts; FL Senate Page Program 2022/2023; SGA Secretary; Brain Bowl Team A; Aerospace Engineering Club Leader

My Legacy: *"I hope those who share my interests will hear about me through my teachers and classmates as someone who was always ready to work hard to meet her goals and never settled for anything less than the best."*

What Others Are Saying: *"She was instantly distinguished by her can-do attitude, her attention to detail and eye for quality, her ability to work independently and complete tasks thoroughly."* – Arielle Raff, Ex. Director LeMoyne Arts



Desiree Scorsone
Lincoln High School

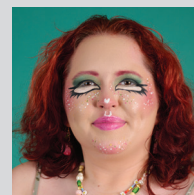
Awards and Honors: AP Capstone Diploma 2023; Natl. African American Recognition 2022; 24K Senior; City Winter Festival Honorable Mention; North Dade-Broward County Chapter Continental Societies Photography Competition

Activity Highlights: Natl. Arts Honor Society-President; Art Dept. Volunteer; Crochet Club; Future Business Leaders of America; LeMoyne Arts-Park Festival volunteer, Camp Asst. and Youth Art Instructor

My Legacy: *"I have become a part of a community of artistic black women and girls at Lincoln High School. These black women have been my support system, my wellness coaches, my accountability partners, and my inspiration. A space for black girls to learn from one another, explore their artistic uncton's,*

have a sisterhood and grow together. My legacy is a community dedicated to teaching, uplifting, and supporting people like me."

What Others Are Saying: *"Between her bright personality and willingness to take on what work needs to be done she is a great addition to whatever cause she devotes herself to."* – Kylie Nerney, Education Dir., LeMoyne Arts



Chloe "Serendipity" Thompson
SAIL High School

Awards and Honors: Natl. Honor Society; Adobe Certified; Art displayed at Gadsden Art Center and LeMoyne Art Gallery; Thespians Honor Society V.P. with Superior Ranking in Districts for Make Up Design

Activity Highlights: Drama Dept. Productions; FL School Boards Insurance Trust; Clio Institute; SGA President; Art Dept. Volunteer; Owner of Serin's Chaos Carnival; Youth Leadership Tallahassee Class 19; Chalk Walk; Natl. Leadership Youth Forum; Key Club; Creator of SAIL Art Festival

My Legacy: *"I want my legacy after graduation to have people encouraged to think outside the box, not be afraid to tackle the hardships head on, and always be yourself – no matter how many F's, tardies, and ridicule they get despite all their efforts. I want people to know that they are still great, despite their flaws."*

What Others Are Saying: *"She is a talented, intelligent student with the charisma, confidence, strong values, and respect for others to make a huge difference in the world around her."* – Caitlin Starkey, SAIL SGA Sponsor

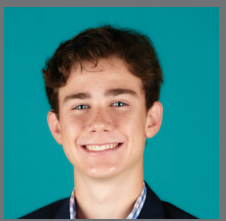
ATHLETICS



WINNER

PATRICK KOON

Leon High School



Leon High School's Patrick Koon is a jack of all trades, undefeated on the track and in the classroom. From his beginnings running alongside his dad in his hometown of Bentonville, Arkansas to being selected as a member of the Nike Elite Program his Senior year of high school, he hit the ground running and never stopped. After moving to Tallahassee for middle school, Patrick wasted no time getting involved in the local community of runners. He began competing in Gulf Winds Track Club races and by his 8th grade year he had won the Middle School State Championship in Cross Country. "My early years of running in Tallahassee surrounded by a community of runners eager to support have allowed me to flourish in my craft," he says, and flourish he has.

While the transition to High School level Cross Country and Track & Field was difficult, Patrick has proven time and time again that he thrives in the face of adversity. Setting a new Freshman State record was only the fuel to ignite his confidence in his performance that would carry him through the rest of high school. Patrick would go on to become a two-time Gatorade Florida Cross Country Runner of the Year, 3-time FHSAA 3A Cross Country Runner of the Year, 3 time Big Bend Cross Country Runner of the Year, 2-time New Balance Nationals All-American, Footlocker Nationals 2-time qualifier, set countless State records, and place 15th at the Footlocker Nationals snagging him the title of All-American despite being in recovery from a bout of Mono.

"His achievements, both on and off the field, exemplify the qualities this award seeks to honor," shares Leon's Head Track/Cross Country Coach, a testament to Patrick's exemplary character. Despite his extensive involvement in athletics, Patrick was named Valedictorian of his class and maintained the position of Student Body Vice President and School Service Committee Head his Senior Year after serving as the Class VP for his Sophomore and Junior years. Through this role and his involvement in several other clubs at Leon, Patrick has accrued 300 hours of community service. The most impactful of these hours was spent preserving the history of Leon High School through his work maintaining the archive room and honoring distinguished alumni of the school.

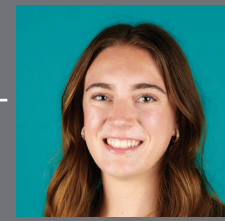
Patrick's outstanding accomplishments at Leon are only just the beginning of an incredibly bright future. "Accomplishments and records in the sphere of athletics are admirable, but the impact you imprint on others will survive the tests of time," he shares. His impact certainly will.



RUNNER-UP

ASHLYN KOERNER

Lincoln High School



"Playing volleyball presents you with many life lessons including determination, overcoming adversity, and a sense of selflessness," and Lincoln High School's Ashlyn Koerner most certainly embodies each of these characteristics. As a star four-year player and three-time captain of Lincoln's Varsity Women's Volleyball team, Ashlyn has certainly demonstrated her determination for success in pursuit of her passion. Receiving the Trojan Trailblazer award recognizing the school's "newcomer" of the year her Freshman year was only the start. During her time at Lincoln, Ashlyn became WCTV's Scholar Athlete of the Week, was a two-time Big Bend Athlete of the Week, two-time USAV Nationals qualifier, made the AVCA All-American watch list, received a Team Florida Invite, and was a Heisman High School Scholarship School Representative — all while proving to be equally successful in her academics. She was also recognized by the Biletnikoff Foundation Founding Trustees.

Since she was young, Ashlyn's passion for volleyball has only grown and she has been eager to share that passion with other young athletes. Outside her time with her own team, she spends countless volunteer hours coaching the next generation of star volleyball players who attend Lincoln's Volleyball camps and clinics. Through drills and games that help develop these athletes' skills, Ashlyn is also able to help them develop the same love that she has for the sport. She hopes to "show student-athletes that even though it is difficult, you can succeed in both athletics and academics," and she certainly leads by example.

ATHLETICS



HONORABLE MENTION

CANNON RAMSEY

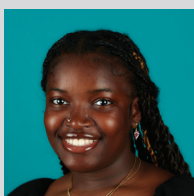
Florida State University
Schools



As a four-year player on two varsity teams, a member of multiple clubs, with multiple jobs, all while being a straight-A student, Florida State University School's Cannon Ramsey is proof you can do it all. During her time at FSUS, Cannon was a player all four years on FSUS' Varsity Softball Team and Girl's Golf Team. She secured the position of the Varsity Girl's Golf Team Captain in her Junior and Senior years. Cannon's athletic performance was recognized among her peers as she was named a member of the All-Big Bend Girl's Golf Second Team and received both the Softball Varsity Defensive Player of the Year Award and the Girl's Gold Best Driver Player Award from FSUS. As the recipient of both the Girl's Golf and Softball Scholar Athlete Awards multiple years in a row, Cannon has certainly proven herself not only an accomplished athlete but a stand-out student.

While her commitment to her sports teams' is unwavering, she has also managed to amass an impressive 263 hours of community service. In giving back to her community, the experience she feels had the most profound impact on both her school and her community was her work with FSUS Dance Marathon. Driven by compassion for her close friend who was directly impacted by the money raised by Dance Marathon, Cannon has held multiple positions as a Morale Chair and this year as the Events Chair. She believes that "no matter how small you think you are in the grand scheme of things, you can still make an impact," and Cannon has truly made an impact.

FINALISTS



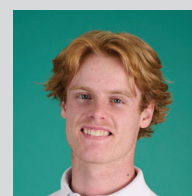
Shaniah Bennett
Rickards High School

Awards and Honors: AB Honor Roll (2020-23); Softball TSPSA Senior League Champions 2021; Natl. Honor Society; AVID Student

Activity Highlights: 2020 Volleyball JV starter-2021 Co-Captain; Varsity (2022-23); Varsity Softball starter (2021-24), Co-Captain 2024; Lady Raiders Basketball Concessions; Miracle in Me Academy Teacher Asst.; Track & Field Manager (2022-24); Sports Medicine Athletic Trainer; Farm Share; Girls Weightlifting Team

My Legacy: "I hope that the legacy I leave will be encouragement to others to be uplifting and energetic. To stay positive and always try to be the best version of yourself. For my teammates and peers, never get too comfortable and never give up. Don't ever understand anything and give whatever you choose to do 100%."

What Others Are Saying: "I know she will go far in her future career because of her strong-willed personality and her determination to succeed." – Kenyaamari Jones, Rickards Head Softball Coach



Carson Freeland
Community Christian School

Awards and Honors: Fit to Serve Challenge (2021-24); CCS Athlete of the Year 2022; competed in State for Track & Field 2023, Co-Captain and Cross Country 2022; Regional Swimming; 2nd team Big Bend Mid-Distance 2023; CPR/AED/First Aid certified; Natl. Honor Society; Jr. Research Exhibition (JREX)

Activity Highlights: CCS Senior Leader; WinterEx 2021 and 2023; Utah Mission trip; Redemptive Love Farms

My Legacy: "I want my legacy to be the really nice senior who was kind to everyone and the fastest kid in the school."

What Others Are Saying: "Carson is one of the first to ask if people need help. He is diligent to complete his tasks and find new ones with which he can assist." – Jeff Collier, CCS Chaplain & Leadership Program Director

ATHLETICS



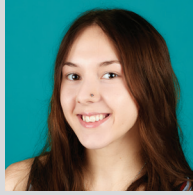
Kaitlyn Guyer
Maclay School

Awards and Honors: Varsity Swimming Team Scholar (2020-23) and District 1A ZOOM Ind. Medley winner 2020; Varsity Basketball 2020-2023 Athlete Awards & Captain; Varsity Weightlifting (2022-23); Captain Dist. 1A Traditional Lift State Qualifier 2022; USA Triathlon-2023 Tarpon Springs age group winner 2023; Spanish Honor Society; DAR Good Citizens Award

Activity Highlights: Varsity Basketball Camp Counselor; May Day Camp; Key Club; HOBY Leadership Events Counselor; Killlearn Methodist Church Bible School; Quincy Tutoring program

My Legacy: *"I hope to be an example to my peers of how hard work pays off in accomplishing your goals. No matter the task, putting one – hundred percent effort into your passion makes your aspirations attainable. Sometimes the journey is longer and includes more obstacles than expected but is worthwhile. Being diligent, resilient and confident are keys to success."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Faculty and students alike recognize her marked maturity, willingness to be present, and an impressive professionalism."* – Heather Bas, Maclay Dean of Student Affairs



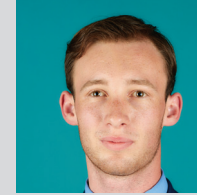
Mary Kerce
SAIL High School

Awards and Honors: MVP City Volleyball and 1st Place Medalist; Champions Medal (2020-23); MVP Sail Volleyball

Activity Highlights: SAIL Fiber Arts teacher volunteer; SAIL Volleyball Captain and Assistant Coach 2023

My Legacy: *"I hope to leave a role that people want to fill and are prepared to work hard to be a leader. I also hope they stay kind through the process."*

What Others Are Saying: *"When I think of Mary, resilience, tenacity, and leadership are the first words that come to mind. Watching her blossom into the young woman she is today is nothing short of amazing."* – Shamika Leland-Williams, City of Tallahassee Volleyball Coach



Camden Methvin
North Florida Christian School

Awards and Honors: Cross Country Top GPA Award 2021; Leadership Award (2021-22); Natl. Honor Society; Cross Country Team Captain

Activity Highlights: North Florida Baptist Youth Group Sound and Display team; NFC Cross Country Team; Rush Running Club

My Legacy: *"I'm hoping to have the Cross Country team stay relevant after I graduate. It has never really been that prevalent in the school and has been incredibly challenging to keep it alive, with no real support from the school. It would be good to have the Cross Country team remain as a legacy."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Camden is a trustworthy, reliable, good-natured student who is hard-working, in class and out, and has an indefatigable spirit."* – Andy Rush, Cross Country and Track Coach

ATHLETICS



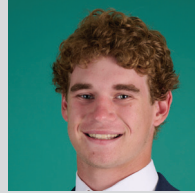
Aniyah Perry
Godby High School

Awards and Honors: Honor Roll; Ms. Amos P. Godby; LCS Safety School Board; Certified Nursing Assistant and Phlebotomy License; UCLA 4 All-Star Cheerleader; Track & Field winner

Activity Highlights: Tallahassee Future Leaders Academy; Key Club; SGA Senior Leader

My Legacy: *"I hope that after I graduate, I am able to leave behind an amazing personality that people will not forget about and how kind I am, and uplifting. And that being positive, kind, caring, uplifting, and so much more will get you far throughout your high school years and you receive so much good things in return."*

What Others Are Saying: *"She has keen observations skills combined with a great ability to articulate these observations."* – Joshua Meinert, Godby SGA Co-Sponsor



Ryan Sumner
Chiles High School

Awards and Honors: 2023 All Big-Bend Football Team Honorable Mention; Football Offensive MVP 2023; Tallahassee Quarterback Club-Offensive Player of the week 2023; FHSAA Scholar Award (2020-24); Homecoming Court; 2023 Special Olympics State Flag Football and Basketball Champions; Tallahassee Babe Ruth Baseball City Champs 2021

Activity Highlights: Chiles Touchdown Club; Chiles Timberwolves United/Special Olympics (2021-24); Peer-Partner Athlete

My Legacy: *"I hope upon leaving Chiles, students will remember me as someone who had a passion for helping others whether it be during Special Olympics or as a teammate on a sports team. I hope I leave behind a helping spirit in the students and that trait will live through those students and continue to grow and spread after I graduate."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Most importantly, Ryan shows integrity and respect for people with and without disabilities and serves as a positive role model in the school and community."* – Melba Jacobs, LCS Adapted PE Resource Specialist

BUSINESS



WINNER

KEVIN WANG

Rickards High School



Transformative is the word Rickards High School's Kevin Wang used to describe his high school experience. In following his academic passions with a business-minded finesse, Wang has transformed the once modest Rickards Science Olympiad Invitational and grown it to one operating on a national scale. He worked not only to code a website for the event from scratch but was able to garner over \$3500 in sponsorships to give away as awards to the top competitors. One director position, however, wasn't enough for Kevin. He also held the position of Co-Director of Rickards Mu Alpha Theta Invitational, a mathematics honors society for high school students, where he was responsible for coordinating the logistics of the in-person event, expanding out-of-state participation, and managing 10k in organizational finances. Outside school, Kevin continued to foster his evident entrepreneurial spirit by starting his own paddle business where he created and printed his model on a 3D printer and sold them to swimmers across the nation.

A natural-born leader, Kevin exemplifies his extraordinary talents in his leadership roles in not one but five different clubs at Rickards. As the President of Rickards Science Olympiad, he is responsible for the organization of six teams and over 70 members and has won a total of nine awards at the state and national level. He shares his wealth of knowledge with his peers in his roles as the President of Rickards Speech and Debate Club, Co-Founder of Rickards Future Business Leaders of America, and Statistics Captain. Mathlete

and athlete, Kevin is also the Captain of the Swim Team where he has been a FHSAA State Championship Finalist six times.

While Kevin's passion for STEM shines through in his leadership roles, it is through his volunteer work that he can share that passion with others. Having amassed over 1,000 volunteer hours, has demonstrated to his community just how exciting math and science can be. Through his roles as Director of the Science Olympiad Invitational and Co-Director of the Mu Alpha Theta Invitational, he brought STEM to the forefront of the Leon County community. Kevin has also used his education to educate others in his role at a non-profit makerspace called Making Awesome where he fixes 3D printers and teaches others how to use them. He has also worked with middle school students and high school students alike in accelerating their understanding of mathematics and computer science.

When asked about what legacy he hopes to leave Kevin shares that he hopes that he will "continue every year to inspire students nationwide to fall in love with STEM." Kevin has not only inspired students, but he has motivated them to succeed.



RUNNER-UP

LYDIA ZHAO

Lincoln High School



Growing up, many of us had overactive imaginations that never turned out to be a reality, but Lincoln High School's Lydia Zhao took her imaginative idea to start a clothing business in 2020 and made it a reality. Lydia's idea for her Instagram business *Lydiaas_closet* came after attending a sewing camp in 2017. Inspired by her passion for sustainability and a desire for new clothes without the hefty price tag, Lydia started altering her closet to match the style she liked. Once her friends started to take notice of her unique clothing, she began taking discarded or unused fabric such as old clothing or bed sheets and turning them into marketable styles that she sold on Instagram. While her business operates mostly online with a home base in Tallahassee, she has grown her business with the use of Instagram and TikTok which has allowed for the addition of two operating branches in Jacksonville and Gainesville. *Lydiaas_closet* has amassed around \$4,000 in profit and has allowed Lydia to live out her dream of providing sustainable and affordable fashion.

Lydia's success extends beyond the success of her business. She also excels academically, in leadership, and athletically. Lydia is a two-time AP Scholar with Distinction Award recipient and a three-time Principal's Award recipient. She was also selected as the National Bank of America Student Leader where she attended the Summit in Washington, D.C. Lydia maintained the role of President of multiple clubs at Lincoln including Mu Alpha Theta and National English Honors Society. She is also a two-time Girl's Varsity Tennis Top 5. Both well-rounded and business-minded, there is no doubt that Lydia Zhao will be one to watch.

BUSINESS



HONORABLE MENTION

KAYLEE SANDELL

Leon High School



Bravery, persistence, and compassion are all driving forces in Leon High School's Kaylee Sandell's commitment to civic engagement which has instilled a lasting impact on not only her community but the state of Florida as a whole. At the start of high school, Kaylee became a member of both the Marine Corps JROTC, a United States Naval Sea Cadet, and a member of Leon's Student Government. From being a Squad Leader to a Chief Petty Officer in the Naval Sea Cadet Corps and a Squad Leader to an Executive Officer in the Marine Corps JROTC, Kaylee's leadership skills prepared her for her important role as the voice of students who were otherwise being silenced.

In September of 2021, Kaylee was invited to City Hall to meet with the LGBTQ+ Advisory Council for the Mayor of Tallahassee. She spoke with them about her position as the president of the Gay-Straight-Alliance Club at Leon and her dedication to protecting and defending the LGBTQ+ community and their allies. Kaylee would soon be invited to sit as an ad-hoc on the council once a month to provide insight on controversial issues facing younger members of the community. She would go on to testify during several committees such as Education, Judiciary, Appropriations, Rules Pre K-12, Regulator Reform, and Fiscal Policy, and was featured in an interview with NBC. Her speech at the Equality Florida Press Conference won their Youth Voice for Equality Award. Kaylee's compassion and hard work aimed at leading and uniting a divided community have and will continue to shed light on important issues impacting the youth of Florida.

FINALISTS



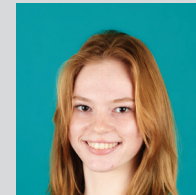
Evelyn Guerrero

Godby High School

Awards and Honors: Natl. Honor Society; Dual Enrollment TCC; Entrepreneurship & Small Business Certificate; Agriculture Education Services & Technology Certificate

Activity Highlights: Tomato Lady Produce
My Legacy: *"There have been several people who have inspired and encouraged me to strive towards my greatest potential. The legacy I wish to leave is to be remembered as someone who inspires and encourages others just as I was."*

What Others Are Saying: *"She has always demonstrated a solid work ethic that is indicative of a student who performs well academically."* – Kendrick Fearson, Godby College Algebra Teacher



Christina "Chrissy" Heil

SAIL High School

Awards and Honors: 1st Place in Class Junior Apprenticeship; Photoshop Certification; Honor Roll (2020-24); President's List; Dual Enrollment TCC; Congress of Future Medical Leaders Award of Excellence

Activity Highlights: Random Acts; Killlearn Lakes Elem. Volunteer; Red Hills Equestrian Farm; Theatre Tallahassee; Letters for Rose; Gentle Hands Tallahassee Playspace; Rotary Club; SAIL Kindness Intensive; Trousdell Gymnastic Coach; Jr. Achievement Entrepreneurial Program

My Legacy: *"As I leave high school, I hope I leave behind a little bit of the original SAIL spirit and keep the atmosphere of unity alive. I hope SAIL will continue to produce kind-hearted students for years to come."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Christina was a motivated, organized and an essential kindness warrior for our community. Her efforts and energy were exemplary and helped make Tallahassee a better place."* - Misty Cash, SAIL Student Groups Coordinator

BUSINESS



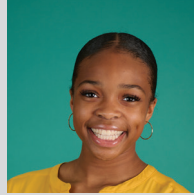
Rajan Jinadra
Maclay School

Awards and Honors: Maclay Honor Council; Lomax Teach Award for Outstanding Junior; Art 5th Place at North FL Fair; JV Baseball Scholar-Athlete Award 2022; Natl. Honor Society; Spanish Honor Society

Activity Highlights: Key Club In-Campus Chair & Senior Class Chair; Maclay Student Ambassador (2021-23); Gujarati Samaj Hall dance instructor; Store Manager at Maclay; Dance Marathon Morale Team; Brain Bowl; Model UN

My Legacy: *“Throughout my high school career, I have participated in various events to create a vibrant and interesting atmosphere in our school. Hopefully my efforts made high school a fun and memorable time for everyone. I hope my legacy inspires high schoolers to take part in events and continue to make high school a fun and exciting place to be.”*

What Others Are Saying: *“Rajan is truly respectful and courteous. He consistently displays this to his teachers and classmates, as well as all administrative staff he comes in contact with.”* – Nella Dickens, Maclay Admin. Asst. for the Upper School Principal



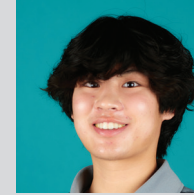
Kenedi Lowe
Florida State University
Schools

Awards and Honors: Natl. Honor Society; Future Business Leaders of America-President; Natl. Spanish Honor Society; FSUS Directors Award Medallion; MLK ‘Dreamers and Doers’ Award; Natl. English Honor Society; Charmettes Debutante 2024 Miss Personality

Activity Highlights: Key Club Treasurer; Varsity Cheerleader; Varsity Basketball Cheer Captain; SGA President; B.I.G. Treasurer; Dance Fusion Studios assistant; Showoff Allstars; Cheer Camp counselor; Renegade Spirit Club

My Legacy: *“I hope my legacy will be shown in what I have done. My goal as Student Body President has been to improve student life and make new traditions in FSUS. I have inspired growth in my groups, expressing new ideas and greater efforts being made to see them through. I hope my contributions have made students feel accepted and accommodated.”*

What Others Are Saying: *“She is not only a great communicator, but she is a proactive problem solver, always seeking innovative solutions to any challenge that arises.”* – April McGriff, FSUS Secondary Academic Dean



Nelson Zhao
Chiles High School

Awards and Honors: Natl. English Honor Society; National Merit Commended; Chess.com Top 1% Bullet Player; American Invitational Math Exam Qualifier with Distinction (2021, 2022); Regionals 1st Place Statistics Team; Global Program Business Case Competition 1st Place Team

Activity Highlights: Experience Asia; HeroesNotFound; Computers for Tallahassee; Mu Alpha Theta-President (2021-24); Chinese Assn. of Tallahassee Very Good GPA; Key Club; Timberwolves United program; JV Tennis; Varsity Swim

My Legacy: *“I hope my actions have sparked an interest in business at Chiles and have encouraged more students to pursue a career in business.”*

What Others Are Saying: *“What sets Nelson apart is his dedication to improving the lives of others and his broader community engagement.”* – Tim Yu, Founder & President, Computers for Tallahassee

CAREER/TECHNICAL

WINNER

NIA SAMPSON

Lincoln High School



A trailblazer in her own right, Lincoln High School's Nia Sampson is paving the way for students just like her to confidently pursue a career educating others in the field of life sciences. Her passion for environmental conservation piqued her interest in engaging with field trips to museums and guest speakers at her school who worked in the field. It was during these visits that Nia began to realize that there was a clear lack of diversity and representation among educators in public spaces such as museums and research centers. In her role as an intern at the North Florida Wildlife Center (NFWC) where she has amassed over 233 hours of service as a tour guide and caretaker for the animals, she has had the opportunity to "further the diversification of educational outreach in the life sciences, preventing others from facing [her] dilemma." Her work at NFWC catalyzed her initiative to forward socio-environmental practices as an Environmental Justice attorney in the future.

Nia's career goals are evidently not far out of reach as she was able to tie her work in educating others on environmental conservation into her work as a Florida Senate Page and a Florida House of Representatives Page and Messenger. Her role extended far beyond paging for Senator Thompson as she also drafted bills, conducted a mock Session, participated in Q&A sessions with Florida government leaders, and toured historic sites and nearby capitol complex.

While Nia's successes in pursuit of her career aspirations are miles ahead of many her age, she also dedicated close to 500 hours to community service, played Varsity Volleyball, held several leadership positions, and made time for her artistic pursuits, all while making the Honor Roll every year during her time at Lincoln. As a National Honor Society Officer, Nia helped coordinate weekly service projects and organize 5+ donation drives per semester. One of which collected 250 wish-list items for donation to the Tallahassee Animal Services. Nia was also one of two sophomores nominated to attend the North Florida Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Seminar where she participated in leadership workshops and community service projects. As a self-taught crocheter, she was able to combine her leadership skills with her passion for crocheting in her position as Crochet Club Officer where she plans meetings and organizes service projects. Her Pinterest account which features content of her crochet creations has garnered an impressive 400k monthly views.

Inspired by the Adidas quote "It's not how you start, it's how you finish," Nia has certainly had an impressive start and will undoubtedly have an equally impressive finish.

RUNNER-UP

ABHIGNA KONANUR

Rickards High School



Compassion and empathy are the driving forces in Rickards High School's Abhigna Konanur's unrelenting pursuit of an impactful career in the medical field. During her time conducting patient surveys at Bond Clinic, known for its commitment to providing

affordable healthcare to low-income families, Abhigna was introduced to the stories of people from less affluent backgrounds than herself. It was through these stories that her desire to serve all members of her community through her future role in the medical field intensified. With over 1,000 combined hours of medical training at FSU College of Medicine during their Summer Institute Program and volunteering at Bond Clinic, Tallahassee Gastro Health Center, and ESI Hospital in Mysore, India, Abhigna is well on her way to making her aspirations become a reality.

Despite her extensive commitments to preparation for entry into the medical field, Abhigna has maintained several leadership positions at Rickards, including President of the National Honors Society, Dancer Relations Chair for Dance Marathon, and President of the Red Cross. Within these positions, she maintains her commitment to community service through the planning and organization of volunteer service events. She also maintains an impeccable academic record as a three-time recipient of the AP Scholar award, 1st place winner at the Science Olympiad States, a future member of the Summa Cum Laude Society, and an International Baccalaureate Candidate.

"During my high school career, service was my compass, I would like to encourage future students to make a difference, even if it is through a small act of service," shares Abhigna. In following her compass, she has headed down a challenging but rewarding path that will inspire many to follow in her footsteps.

CAREER/TECHNICAL

HONORABLE MENTION

KAREN LIANG

Chiles High School

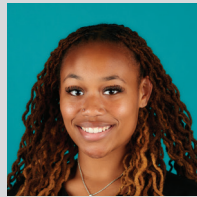


Bursting at the seams with opinions and ideas that needed to be voiced, Lawton Chiles High School's Karen Liang did not let her lack of self-confidence cause her to shy away from shaping the success of her future but rather rose to the challenge to build it up. To do so, Karen sought out involvement with a cause she was passionate about — spreading Asian cultural awareness to her community. Growing up she eagerly awaited the annual Experience Asia Festival, so imagine her delight when she was offered a position on the Asian Coalition of Tallahassee, the board responsible for planning and organizing the event. Working behind the scenes of an event that celebrated a diverse array of unique cultural heritage helped her not only develop her communication and collaboration skills but also made her an inspiration to the Asian community of Tallahassee.

Outside of her work with the Coalition, Karen has developed an impressive skillset in digital media and coding. Certified in Adobe Illustrator, Karen has made posters for Chiles, T-Shirt designs for TCCC Youth Group, and art for her own personal projects. Her other artistic pursuits include playing for the Tallahassee Youth Orchestra and a cake business she operates out of her home. Both artist and athlete, Karen was the team captain of the JV Tennis Team and a Level 5 Open Southeastern Junior Team Championships runner-up. As a National Merit Semifinalist and AP Scholar with Distinction, Karen also excels academically.

When asked what legacy she hopes to leave Karen shared that she hopes to be remembered as a “resilient individual who triumphed in the face of adversity” and triumph she did.

FINALISTS



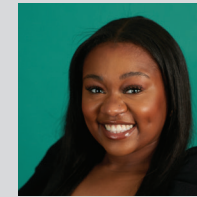
Nikolette Davis
Godby High School

Awards and Honors: Honor Roll; Certified Nursing Assistant License; CPR Certified; Natl. Honor Society; Most Outstanding Speaker nomination

Activity Highlights: Softball Team Captain; Tutor at Jake Gaither; A Full Summer; volunteer in EMS office

My Legacy: *“The legacy I want to leave behind, is my legacy of resilience and perseverance. I want to be remembered as the young lady who can achieve any goal despite facing any adversities. I want the students and faculty to remember the impact my hard work and dedication had throughout my high school career. Lastly, I want my generosity to be remembered.”*

What Others Are Saying: *“What I admire most about Nikolette is her ambition and poise. Regardless of what we are doing in class or the kind of day, she is always willing to try.”*
– Nikki Poey, Godby AP Literature Teacher



Aria Fisher
Leon High School

Awards and Honors: Natl. Honor Society (2021-24); Honors Program Intern Leon County Courthouse; Joffrey Ballet Summer Intensive and Debbie Allen Dance Academy Summer Intensive; Judges Choice and Star Team Award at Fusion Dance Competition; Entrepreneurship & Small Business Certification

Activity Highlights: SGA-Student Rep Junior Class/Senior Class President; Spirit Committee Co-Chair; Youth Leadership Tallahassee Class 19; Fellowship of Christian Athletes (2021-24)-Leon County Board Secretary; District School Advisory Council; Dance Fusion Studios Instructor

My Legacy: *“Upon graduating high school, I aspire to leave a legacy that positively impacts students at Leon High School and my peers across the district. Through my leadership and community service roles, internship, and interpersonal skills I strive to be remembered as a young lady who is a servant leader who contributed meaningfully to and was a voice for my community.”*

What Others Are Saying: *“Without a doubt, Aria is a voice for her peers, she is talented, detail oriented, and focused on her academic career.”* – Dr. Michelle Gayle, LCS Deputy Superintendent

CAREER/TECHNICAL



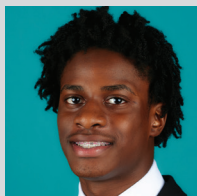
Alexander "Xander" Hawkes
Florida State University
Schools

Awards and Honors: ServeSafe Certification; FL House of Representatives Page & Messenger Program 2023; Capital City Classic Champion Cam Brown Outstanding Wrestling Awards and FSUS record holder for season wins; BSA Eagle Scout-created community dog park water fountain

Activity Highlights: Sunday River Group training; Boy Scout projects; Reading Buddies; 4 sport Varsity Letters: Swim Co-Captain and Special Award of Honor & Leadership, Track, Cheer, Wrestling (2023 State 5th Place)

My Legacy: "I want my legacy to be one of cooperation: between sports, classmates and neighbors. Bringing people together to achieve a common purpose."

What Others Are Saying: "He is determined to succeed, eager to improve, and quick to encourage those around him." – Kelly Parker, FSUS Head Varsity Cheerleading Coach



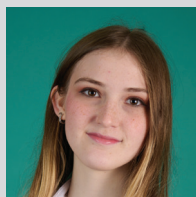
Korey Rosier
North Florida Christian
School

Awards and Honors: Dual Enrollment; Natl. Honor Society (2021-24)-President; Alpha Millennium Academy 3rd Place Winner

Activity Highlights: FSU College of Medicine Food & Toy Drive; Capital City Rockets Inc. Tutoring (2020-23); Audio Sound at NFC Chapel; Basketball Team (2020-24); AAU/Travel Basketball Team Captain; Computer Tutors; Alpha Educational & Leadership Foundation (2020-24); Brain Bowl Co-Captain

My Legacy: "Upon graduating, I aspire for my legacy to inspire authenticity and a spirit of adventure. I hope my journey encourages others to be themselves, have fun, and experience new things. I aspire to foster a community where individuality is admired, and people are motivated to step out of their comfort zones, finding joy in being true to who they are."

What Others Are Saying: "Korey is an outstanding young man. He exemplifies the qualities of a great leader; he is positive, hard-working, accountable, and has integrity." – NFC Coach Chris Hurt



Skylar "Sky" Van Whittle
SAIL High School

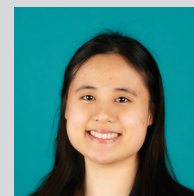
Awards and Honors: Adobe Certifications (Visual & Graphic Design, Illustrator); Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Honorable Mention 2023; Natl. Honor Society President; Mahaska Whitley Student Exhibition; TCC President's List

Activity Highlights: Tallahassee Irish Step Dancers (2021-24); Team Snow Queen Performer (2022-24); Natl. Student Leadership Conference Attendee; Student District Advisory Council-SAIL Rep; Leon County Humane Society; Smitten With Kittens

My Legacy: "I hope to leave behind the legacy of someone that cared for and wanted

the best for everyone. For everyone to be the best they could be, whether that be in academics, themselves, or in life. If nothing else, I want to be someone who others can turn to for advice or just a listening ear."

What Others Are Saying: "Skylar is clever, creative, tenacious, and possesses a career-minded mentality not often present among adolescents." – Jana Miller, SAIL CTE Instructor



Eva Yi
Maclay School

Awards and Honors: Cum Laude Society (2021-23); Rural & Small Town Recognition; Natl. College Match Scholarship by Questbridge; Natl. Honor Science, Spanish and Math Societies

Activity Highlights: Maclay Academic Club; Science Olympiad President; Lab Technician Asst; TMH Teen Volunteer; Key Club; FSU Kasha Laboratory Asst; Quincy Tutoring; Maclay Young Scholars Camp and Middle School Summer Bridge Camp

My Legacy: "I hope to encourage maintaining the idea of exchange: to uphold the values of rigorous motivation, having a desire to achieve and learn something new every day, and generosity, being willing to help out and teach others without expecting tangible gains in return since your long-term academic and personal growth already is the reward for your success."

What Others Are Saying: "She is bright, personable, and hard working – the type of person you want on your team." – Ariel Evans, Maclay Science Dept. Chair

DRAMA & PERFORMING ARTS

WINNER

OLIVER JACOBS

SAIL High School

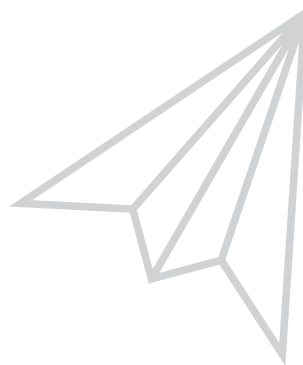


Writer, Director, Techie, Actor... SAIL High School's Oliver Jacobs is the name we are going to see up in lights on a marquee one day. His persistence and eagerness to be involved in any way he can has gotten him to where he is today. Faced with the isolation of remote schooling due to COVID-19, freshman Oliver Jacobs, determined to hone his craft, took the initiative to lead playwright activities in a small online drama club at SAIL he was a part of. Unable to take the stage, Oliver leaned into his creative side and wrote a play of his own titled "Mission Santa," one he would continue to put on as the play's director at SAIL the following year.

From here his involvement with the program only grew, taking on the role of Colonel Mustard in "Clue" his Junior year, while also creating 85% of the props and helping paint sets for the production. The revitalization of SAIL's Thespian troop this past year is due in no small part to Oliver's tireless efforts in revising Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," designing costumes, and crafting most of the set. His portrayal of Flute and Oberon in the troop's performance at the Thespian District Festival earned him the title of Most Valued Performer and "Superior" in all of his individual events. "In my experience, his dedication, creativity, kindness, and humility uniquely qualify him as an excellent student, actor, and leader," shares the director of the troop.

Both his acting and leadership skills worked in tandem to capture the hearts and minds of the students he teaches at The Magnolia School. With an avid passion for natural science and a master of improv, Oliver planned and implemented an eight-week reptiles and amphibians theme for the middle schoolers at Magnolia. Bringing in live species each week, which he became familiar with during his extensive volunteer hours collecting data through dip netting at local ponds, and feeding into the students' natural curiosity, Oliver created a safe space that sparked an interest in STEM within his students. His service to the school extended far beyond expectations offering additional opportunities for students to learn about natural science through an after-school club and spending countless hours utilizing his technical theater knowledge to create rooms for the school's annual Halloween Tunnel.

Oliver's passionate pursuit of knowledge and involvement extends to his own academic endeavors. As the elected Junior Class President and recipient of the Department Award of Excellence in Honors Geometry, Biology, H.O.P.E., and World History his plate is undoubtedly full. Regardless, as "service comes as naturally to Oliver as breathing" he makes time to breathe life into his community.



RUNNER-UP

LOUIS DEARMAN

Maclay School



Like "trying to learn how to control the force and power of a rocket, such is the incredible power of Louis Dearman's mind," shares Maclay School's English Department Chair. It is with that power that Louis played a pivotal role in the resurgence of Maclay's theater department. Only two years later, the troupe would more than double in size and successfully put on both a fall play and a spring musical that Louis would perform in. From a dying program to packed houses, Louis believed in the success of the program and stuck by to see it through.

Having discovered his passion for theater after attending The Magnolia School's summer theater camp, he hoped to inspire the next generation of actors upon his return as an alumni. Dedicating 80 hours to the program, Louis served as a camp counselor and assistant director, and created the show's program. In a continuous effort to give back to the school that played a role in shaping him, he also spent countless hours collecting live insects for display at the school.

While his talent and commitment to service were certainly recognized within his community, Louis also maintained an impressive academic record. He was named a National Merit Semifinalist, received the Thomas C. Lewis Award, and is a member of several National Honors Societies including National Honor Society and Science National Honor Society. Louis is certainly a force and it's safe to say we will all want to watch to see where he lands.

DRAMA & PERFORMING ARTS

HONORABLE MENTION

ELEANOR "ELLA" LEAMAN

Lincoln High School



Empathy as the driving force behind her musical and theatrical talents, Lincoln High School's Ella Leaman, provides her audience with an escape in every one of her performances. In her countless roles in musicals such as Anastasia, Beauty and the Beast, Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat, and School of Rock for venues such as Leon High School, Lincoln High School, Faith Presbyterian, and Monticello Opera House she proves she can understand and empathize with each of her characters. It was in her role as Katie in School of Rock that she learned to play bass and would later win first and second place in successive years at Lincoln's Battle of the Bands. Being naturally musically inclined, Ella also maintains the role of President and Event Coordinator for Lincoln Chorus. In this role, she received "Superior" for Solo and Ensemble at competition. She has also performed in Disney's Candlelight Choir and sung the National Anthem at an Orlando Magic game and an FSU basketball game.

Ella's empathy extends far beyond her art to her community. She has devoted over 500 hours to her work as a Social Media Director for Together Tallahassee, a non-profit aimed at reducing loneliness among nursing home residents, and her work at Roberts Elementary School's afterschool program entertaining them with her artistic talents. Equally as impressive as her performances on stage, is Ella's academic performance at Lincoln. She is a member of several clubs including; Key Club, Mu Alpha Theta, and French National Honor Society, and received Superiors at French State Competition. While many will empathize with the characters Ella embodies on stage, her empathy for her community is what she will be remembered for.

FINALISTS



Peyton Bradford

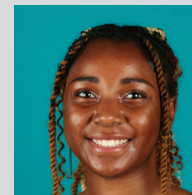
Community Christian School

Awards and Honors: Special Drama Award 2020; Principal's List (202-23); Natl. Honor Society; CPR/AED/First Aid Certified; MLK Christian Statesman Award; CCS Leadership Program

Activity Highlights: NRM Murder in Your Ear Podcast; Jr. Research Exhibition; Utah Mission Trip 2023; Quincy Theatre (202-21); Leon H.S. Summer Performances (2020-23); CCS Praise Team; CCS Theatre

My Legacy: "I want to be remembered as someone who always worked hard even when it felt impossible. I want to be remembered as someone who always tried their best. I want people to learn from me that just because you have anxiety doesn't mean you can't get up on stage and perform."

What Others Are Saying: "She is a steady, trustworthy presence, whether in the classroom or in rehearsals. And she leads by example through her unwavering commitment to excellence." – Mara Eller, CCS Guidance Counselor



Natalie Gordon

Godby High School

Awards and Honors: Superior in Solo Performance – Flute; Excellent Medals in District Thespians; Homecoming Princess

Activity Highlights: Thespians Troop 1679; FSU Upward Bound/Talent Search; SGA; FSU Film School productions; Lighthouse Louisiana; Godby Band; Tallahassee Community Theatre

My Legacy: "I hope my legacy is one of perseverance. Because I had many tough times throughout high school but no matter how challenging it was, I learned to take my failures as lessons. For the next time around, I vow to try harder. I want everyone to know that failure is inevitable, but misery and despair is a choice."

What Others Are Saying: "Throughout the past years, I have watched Natalie mature and grow into an all-around outstanding, young woman and a stellar talent." – Randi Lundgren, Godby Fine Arts Dept. Chair

DRAMA & PERFORMING ARTS



Mallory Greisl
Leon High School

Awards and Honors: Soprano Section Leader-Leon Capital Singers & Mane Event; Tri-M Music Honors Society-President; Rod Durham Drama Scholarship Award; Elizabeth Anderson Award for Performance Excellence 2023

Activity Highlights: Stage 11 Theatre Company; Leon Drama and Summer Performances; Quince Music Theatre; FSU Film productions; Young Actors Theatre; Intl. Thespian Troop 1329

My Legacy: *“Through my work both on and off stage I have worked tirelessly to not only improve my own skill, but to encourage those younger than me that contain the same spark for performing that I have been so fortunate to possess from a young age. With my legacy I hope to leave the next performers with nothing but inspiration.”*

What Others Are Saying: *“Her approach to art is characterized by a profound respect for the creative process, the community involved, and the ultimate outcome of her efforts.”* – Lea Marshall, Leon Theatre Teacher



Carter Nelson
Florida State University
Schools

Awards and Honors: AP Scholar with Honors; Thespian Superior ratings in District & State Festival with Excellent ratings 2023; Latin Regional 1st Place-Dramatic Interpretation & State in various sections (2020-23); Latin Natl. 6th Place 2024; Thespians-President; Jr. Classical League-President

Activity Highlights: Gadsden County Art Center; FSUS Middle School math tutor; Quincy Music Theatre; FSUS Theatre Camp; Stage 11 Theatre Company; Mu Alpha Theta-Treasurer

My Legacy: *“I would like my legacy to be my connection without everyone. Whether that is being remembered for inspiring someone to perform, helping a student through a tough bit of work, or just making a classmate laugh one time. I hope that I am remembered for the personal connections that I tried to make with people around me.”*

What Others Are Saying: *“Carter is dedicated to his craft, and an exemplary ambassador for the arts in Leon County.”* – Naomi Rose-Mock, NRM Performance Theatre Director



Duyen “Jenny” Nguyen
Rickards High School

Awards and Honors: Griffin Middle School’s 2022 Outstanding Mentor Award; Natl. Honor Society

Activity Highlights: Pangaea; Big Bend XC Meet; Experience Asia; Volunteer Leon Cosmic Con

My Legacy: *“Upon graduating, I aspire to leave a legacy defined by academic excellence, service, and community involvement. Through mentorship, active participation in community service, and personal growth, I aim to positively impact those around me. Encouraging inclusivity, resilience, and kindness, I hope to inspire others and contribute to a culture of service, compassion, and continuous learning experience.”*

What Others Are Saying: *“I have seen her help out at various opportunities throughout the community, often bringing her performance ability or cultural understanding to good use.”* – Robert Amstutz, Rickards Pangaea Coordinator

DRAMA & PERFORMING ARTS



Ivey Grace Ruff
Chiles High School

Awards and Honors: AP Scholar Award 2023; Chiles Theatre Senior Given Show Award (2021-23); Best Actress Award (2022-23); FL District One One Act Festival 1st Place; Drama Club Officer

Activity Highlights: Maclay School summer volunteer; Celebration Baptist Church summer helper; Petite Players summer camp teacher; Chiles Theatre-stage manager, soloist; FL Christian Athletes

My Legacy: *“When I graduate, I hope that my legacy inspires everyone to be kind to each other, because you never know what someone else is going through. I also hope that my legacy will inspire others to lend a helping hand whenever they can.”*

What Others Are Saying: *“She is a true performer showcasing an abundance of talent, but she is also a genuine person who is always ready to share the spotlight with her fellow cast members.”* – Ley Ann LaFace, Owner, Petite Players



Trevor Waller
Leon County Home Schools

Awards and Honors: Founding Member & President of TPUSA Tallahassee Homeschool Patriots Club (2022-24); 1st Place American Patriots Essay-Fleet Reserve Assn.; TCC Presidents List; Team Policy & Lincoln Douglas Debate winner with Classical Conversations

Activity Highlights: ATAC Swim Team (2020-22); Wakulla Christian Basketball Team; Young Actors Theatre (2020-24); Studio Singers (2021-23); City Church Kids Production Team

My Legacy: *“I pray that every person who has witnessed my joy, hope, and dedication is inspired to seek and discover who it comes from.”*

What Others Are Saying: *“Not only did Trevor capture the hearts of our audiences night after night but he was the prime example of hard work, kindness and teamwork that our youngest students needed.”* – Natalie Futrell, Young Actors Theatre Managing Director

ENGLISH & LANGUAGE ARTS

WINNER

SOPHIA KRIZNER

Maclay School



Knowledge and education are the keys to the door of opportunity and no one understands this better than Maclay School's Sophia Krizner. As a student with an obvious commitment to academic excellence, as made evident by her selection as a National Merit Semifinalist and AP Scholar with Honors she has put her gifts to good use.

However, Sophia's impressive academic record pales compared to her work as one of Maclay's most gifted writers. From a contributor to Editor-in-Chief for Maclay's literary magazine *Notes from the Underground* (NFTU), she has been able to share her passion for art and literature with her peers. As the manager of a team of 16 editors, she guides her team to create something that students can connect with prompting them to reflect on their own lives. The thoughtfulness of Sophia's literary work is not only recognized by her peers but also by her English teacher who praises her "thoughtful, detailed, and insightful approach". Her work has received many accolades including; 1st Place Fiction for her work published in NFTU and 1st Place in the Leon County Writing Competition for her short story *Wrinkled* which was published in BBALC Young Author's Anthology.

With ample knowledge and education, Sophia wields the keys and has used the opportunity they provided to help open that door for others. At 13 years old, she realized her passion for bridging inequalities in education after learning about the harassment and horrible violence young girls in Sub-

Saharan Africa were facing due to stigmas surrounding the female reproductive system. With a desire to help, Sophia founded *Sister2Sister*, an organization that created handbooks for teachers in Ugandan schools to share information on menstrual health/reproductive rights and hosted a WhatsApp call with girls from the US and Africa to foster global connections. Eager to bridge educational inequalities in her own community she founded *TheNEXTStep*. Through her partnership with a shelter that houses young mothers in Tallahassee and local Human Resource professionals, she has been able to boost self-confidence and financial security in these women through workshops guiding them through the employment journey. With over 500 hours of community service, these experiences are just a drop in the bucket of all she's done to serve her community.

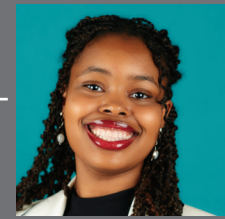
Her involvement exceeds her service endeavors including her role on the executive board of Key Club International, member of Maclay's Honor Council, Ambassador of Maclay's Student Advocacy Council, Mission Director of Maclay's Astronaut Challenge team, President of the Florida Junior Classical League, and player on two Varsity sports teams at Maclay.

"I was raised with certain core tenets that lie at the heart of who I am: use every gift I've been given, to the greatest extent of my abilities, to serve and uplift as many as possible," shares Sophia. There is no doubt she lives each of these core tenets each and every day.

RUNNER-UP

CAMILLE FRIALL

Leon High School



Committed to the betterment of herself and the people around her, Leon High School's Camille Friall has had a profound impact on her school and her community. A natural-born leader, she maintains leadership positions in several clubs at Leon. In her role as the President of Key Club and Committee Chair for the Student Government Association, she coordinates and oversees service projects throughout the year. She also serves as a delegate for Leon at DCON, a statewide Key Club Convention. Having participated in the Florida Senate Page and the House Messenger programs, Camille continued her interest in civic engagement in her role as the Florida Girls State Delegate.

Camille's passion for service stemmed from her early experience volunteering for the studio she grew up dancing at, the Ballet Arts Conservatory of Tallahassee (BACT). Working behind the scenes of the productions showed her the rewarding nature of bringing out not only the best in yourself but in others as well. She continued to bring out the best in others in her service work through Key Club and countless hours tutoring other students at her school.

Her peers' reliance on her for academic support was not unfounded. Camille is a recipient of the AP Capstone diploma, named an AP Scholar with Distinction, a member of both the National English Honors Society and National Honors Society, and a recipient of the MLK Dreamer and Doer Award. Achieving each of these while maintaining outstanding achievements in Piano and Ballet.

"If you are confident in the work you produce, others will be confident in you," shares Camille. It is safe to say that Camille has sufficiently won the community's confidence.

ENGLISH & LANGUAGE ARTS

HONORABLE
MENTION

DILAHAN
CAVUSOGLU

Florida State University
Schools

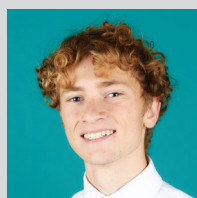


Florida State University School's Dilahan Cavusoglu is driven to carve the path to her future and provide a light to others along the way. Dilahan's pursuit of her passion for the arts has been nothing short of amazing. As a member of FSUS' National English Honor Society, she has facilitated the promotion of literacy around campus and helped in the creation of this year's issue of the club's Literary Magazine where two of her short stories will be published. In expanding her knowledge, Dilahan has studied at prestigious universities such as Columbia and Harvard where she completed courses on Humor Writing and Creative Writing. Her passion for the arts extends to 3D art where she has received Best in Show at Winter Fest and the First Place Mayor's Award at the Youth Fine Art Competition

While pursuing her passions, she has also taken the time to engage in service to her community. Through her roles tutoring elementary to middle-school-aged students, reading books to kindergarteners, and volunteering as a counselor-in-training during FSUS' summer programs she was able to create a lasting bond with the kids she served. Through her roles as President of Mu Alpha Theta and President of the National Honors Society, she continues her commitment to service and inspires that commitment in others. In addition to her personal passions and extracurricular involvement, Dilahan also maintains an impressive academic record

Dilahan shares that "I hope my legacy upon graduating is that I was able to put a smile on everyone's faces." Through her service and sharing of her artistic talent, she certainly has.

FINALISTS



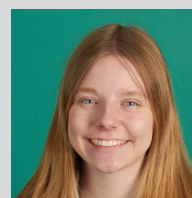
Jonah Blay
Chiles High School

Awards and Honors: 2022 AP English Dept. Student of the Year; Eagle Scout 2023; AP Scholar with Distinction (2021-22); 2023 Alpha Wolf Award Cross Country-Team Captain; 1st Team All-Big Bend Cross Country (2022-23)

Activity Highlights: Boy Scouts; Wildwood BSA Reservation summer staff member and Eagle Scout project (2020-22); UChicago Small Town & Rural Students Program; Good Shepard Catholic Church "Edge Core Team"

My Legacy: "I hope my legacy to be captured within the service I leave behind. Not that I'll be thought of every time the service comes up, but individuals' days will be made better by it. The middle-schooler more connected to their faith. The Scout who can tie a bowline, The trail-runner with better footing. All just a little bit happier."

What Others Are Saying: "Scouts like Jonah demonstrate that there are leaders, hard workers, and selfless givers in the next generation." – Christopher Price, BSA Troop 114 Eagle Scout Mentor



Karis Cliburn
Community Christian School

Awards and Honors: Authored the novel "SpaceX" 2021; Martyrs Cross Award 202; featured on WCTV 'Whenever Wherever Kids Podcast'; Natl. Honor Society-President; Outstanding Actress 2022

Activity Highlights: JV Tennis (2020-21); Utah Mission Team; LeTour Advance Multi-Arts Group; Youth Leadership Tallahassee Class 19; Squad Leader & Middle School Bible Study Leader (2020-22); CCS Theatre (2020-23); Heart Ministries

My Legacy: "I hope that after I graduate, I have a legacy of demonstrating inclusion and servant leadership to younger students. As a squad leader it is my goal that my squad sees me as the first to work and the last to stop, and that they always feel they can talk about any issue—big or small."

What Others Are Saying: "She stands head and shoulders above her peers in her unparalleled excellence in a huge array of activities, varied yet passionate interests, and personal resilience." – Mara Eller, CCS Guidance Counselor

ENGLISH & LANGUAGE ARTS



Madison Decker
Community Leadership
Academy

Awards and Honors: Student Council President; Bible Dept. Award 2021; Student of the Year 2021 & 2022; English Dept. Award 2021 & 2022; Published in 2022 Rising Stars Collection

Activity Highlights: Volleyball-Most Improved 2023; Children Evangelism Fellowship; Morningside Youth Camp; One More Child; Second Harvest Food Bank; CLA English Internship; After School Tutor program

My Legacy: *“Upon graduating, I aspire to leave a legacy of intentionality where students feel empowered and inspired to be catalysts of positive change. Through building relationships, I hope to instill a sense of capability in others and ensure they feel valued. Ultimately, I want to motivate individuals to become inspirations themselves, creating a ripple effect of students who live with purpose.”*

What Others Are Saying: *“Intelligent, well-read, kind, selfless, and extremely hardworking, Madison will succeed in anything she does, and she will certainly make an incredible teacher one day to any student who will be blessed by her instruction.”* – Nikolas Oliverio, CLA Teacher



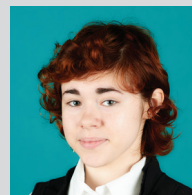
Sarah Duclos
Lincoln High School

Awards and Honors: Creative Writing 1 & 2 Award 2020; Midtown Reader HS Students’ Story Slam winner 2021 & Adult’s Story Slam winner Oct 2022 & Dec 2022; AP Scholar with Distinction; Authored a novel

Activity Highlights: Three time National Novel Writing Month with 50,000 words/month winner; Trinity Methodist Church NetKids volunteer & Technical Editor for Church newsletter; Mission trips

My Legacy: *“I hope that I act as a source of inspiration for young writers at Lincoln. I have always tried to support and encourage my peers as they grow in their writing journey, and I hope I have had an impact which will carry on for years to come as my peers grow.”*

What Others Are Saying: *“She embodies the qualities of a true young professional showcasing excellent written communication skills, strong interpersonal abilities, responsiveness, and a consistently positive attitude.”* – Melanie Gonzalez, TUMC Office Administrator



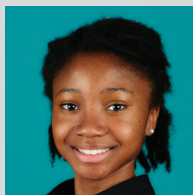
Amandine “Ajax” Jackson
Rickards High School

Awards and Honors: AB Honor Roll (2020-23); Black Belt 2020 in Silkisodan Karate; Purple Belt 2021 in Combat Hapkido

Activity Highlights: Rickards Gender Sexuality Alliance-Board Member; Burke’s Karate Academy guide; volunteer pet sitter; Kami-Con Hai presenter; Holiday Matsuri panelist; Pangaea; Science Olympiad

My Legacy: *“I hope that the safe spaces that Rickards flourish. I know that integrating and living in such a busy environment is very taxing on individuals, so having access to a safe space to where you can simply breathe was very important to me to foster. Future grads can improve the foundation I have left and maintain the spirit I radiated.”*

What Others Are Saying: *“They’ve clearly demonstrated their ability to handle multiple responsibilities with enthusiasm, attention to detail, and passion for their craft.”* – Jessica Barthle, Rickards IB Visual Arts Instructor



Llayna Maul
Godby High School

Awards and Honors: AP Scholar with Distinction (2021-22); Honor Society; Big Brothers Big Sisters' Annual Talent Show winner; Thespian District winner & State competition; TCC Creative Writing Club-President

Activity Highlights: Southwood theatrical technical crew; Godby backstage technical crew; A Full Summer; TCC Creative Writing Club and Eeyrie Literary Magazine

My Legacy: *"I hope my journey will stimulate the continuous embrace of learning that comes from growth and passion, motivating others to challenge themselves and constantly pursue what builds each of us regardless of fear. As life progresses, I want it to never reach a peak but to endlessly flourish and develop – myself in the process."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Club members turn to Ms. Maul with their ideas, their creative work, and their hopes, a clear demonstration of Ms. Maul's leadership and conflict/resolution skill."* – Dr. Alexa Doran, TCC Faculty



Layla Renfro
SAIL High School

Awards and Honors: Natl. Honor Society; National Society of High School Scholars (2022-24); Perfect Attendance 2023

Activity Highlights: SAIL Chorus; Drama Club (2022-24); clerk at the bookstore; SAIL Thespians 2024; Church daycare volunteer (2021-24); Earth Day at The Hole; Classroom volunteer

My Legacy: *"When I first started going to SAIL, I was a completely different person than I am now. Middle School was rough and it made me into someone I'm not proud of. Over the course of high school, I was able to grow and blossom. I am much more confident than I used to be. I am happier. I want people to know that middle school, or even who they are in high school, doesn't define them."*

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

JOURNALISM & MEDIA PRODUCTION

WINNER

LEAH KIROS

Maclay School



Combining her passion for STEM with an undeniable knack for finding the angle in every story she writes, Maclay School's Leah Kiros is the voice of her generation's citizen scientists. Her commitment to educating and giving voice to her peers through writing began with her interview for Maclay's student newspaper *The Andalusian*. The publication's advisor remarked that she was immediately struck by her passion for "the field of journalism and about engaging with the Maclay community." Despite scheduling conflicts barring Leah from participating in the Andalusian class, she dedicated countless hours outside of school to learning about different writing styles, signing up for unchosen article ideas, and seeking help from others at the publication.

From contributor to Editor-in-Chief, Leah impressed others at the publication with her diligence in crafting a compelling story and impressive ability to guide her staff. In her role as EIC, she manages article budgets, writes weekly articles, revises her staff's drafts, curates 5 themed print issues during the school year, and recently, brought back the traditional formatting of the newspaper. Her articles have received countless recognitions including multiple Honorable Mentions and an Excellent Award from the Florida Scholastic Press Association.

While much of her free time was spent in her role as EIC, she utilizes the skills developed in this role to share important scientific research with her community. As a researcher at Florida

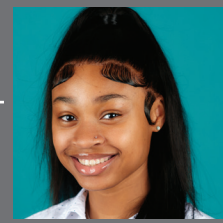
State University's Biomedical Research Lab, she has been able to present her findings at weekly lab group meetings and is in the process of publishing a research paper. She has also presented her research at several regional and international science fairs including the largest pre-college program the International Science and Engineering Fair where she was a Finalist. Her passion for STEM is also reflected in her academic pursuits as she is the Secretary of the Science National Honor Society and taking courses in the biomedical program at Maclay to prepare her for the Biotechnician Assistant Credentialing Exam at the University of Florida. With this certification, she will continue to share valuable scientific research by working in industry research labs.

Despite her extensive extracurricular commitments, Leah was a member of Maclay's Cross Country and Track & Field Teams where her team went on to be 1A Girls State Champions. She maintained an impressive commitment to her community with over 300 service hours and was a recipient of the Wellesley Book Award which honors young women who were both top scholars and top performers in extracurriculars. Already a voice at Maclay and in the greater Tallahassee community, the world still has so much more to learn from journalist and citizen scientist Leah Kiros.

RUNNER-UP

DREAM HOGAN

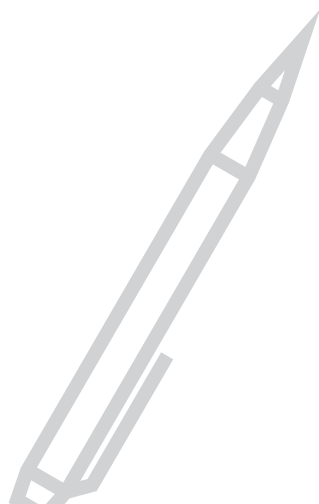
*FAMU Developmental
Research School*



Like a match sparks a flame, Florida A&M University Development Research School's Dream Hogan ignites energy and creativity in every project she is a part of. In her role with FAMU DRS' *Venom Yearbook*, she was a guide for both her peers and her new advisor. Taking on the bulk of the design work herself, Dream played a pivotal role in the creation of the final print. Her skills in design and photography undoubtedly shine through. Dream's creativity spread far beyond her role at *Venom Yearbook*. Through her role as the Sophomore Class Treasurer, she surpassed her role overseeing the finances and drafted a creative proposal for FAMU DRS' annual homecoming dance. Her efforts were a smashing success, and she would go on to help plan prom as Junior Class Vice President.

Outside of her contributions to media production, Dream continues to share her infectious energy with both her community and her student body through her roles as Queen of Orange and Green and Miss FAMU DRS. As a representative for her school, she attends FAMU events including convocations and the royal luncheon, speaks on youth panels, and hosts events such as pep rallies and the annual Mayday celebration.

Dream also excels in her roles as the captain of both the Varsity Flag Football Team and the Varsity Cheer Team. She is the Vice President of the BETA club and a member of the Youth Group Pearls of Perfection which demonstrates her commitment to community service as the Chaplain. She was also recognized by the Biletnikoff Foundation Founding Trustees. While her involvement at her school and in her community is extensive, it is the light that she brings that makes a lasting impact.



JOURNALISM & MEDIA PRODUCTION

HONORABLE MENTION

AMELIA HAGGINS

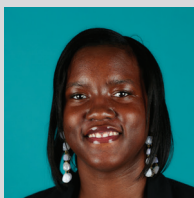
Leon High School



Leading with empathy and compassion, Leon High School's Amelia Haggins has been a voice and a mentor for her peers and her community. During her Sophomore year at Maclay, Amelia quickly moved up the ranks of the school's student newspaper, The Andalusian, from Staff Writer to Editor, her quick rise being attributed to her care and attention to every story she told. After transferring to Leon, where she is now the Editor-in-chief of the student newspaper Leon High Life, she continued to show that same dedication to sharing the stories of the underrepresented in the student body and doing so with precision. Her expertise in capturing the hearts and minds of her peers has been recognized by the Florida Scholastic Press Association as she is a 1st Round All-Florida Winner. Leading by example, she has also helped improve the skills of her staff of writers while constantly improving her own.

The impact of Amelia's compassion, however, is most notably seen in her role as a coach and mentor for young girls in her community at summer volleyball programs. As the Captain of the Leon Varsity Indoor Volleyball team and a player who competed at the Girls Junior National Qualifier with the Tallahassee Volleyball Academy, Amelia is a role model to these girls. Devoting time to every girl she coaches, she has undoubtedly sparked the same love she shares for volleyball in Tallahassee's younger generation of players. While Amelia's academic record is equally as impressive, a member of a multitude of honors societies, she shares that it is "the friendships, smile, and random acts of kindness demonstrated over the past four years that will forever be etched into the brains of people" she has encountered.

FINALISTS



Kayla Farlin

Florida State University
Schools

Awards and Honors: Excellence in Fla. Scholastic Press Association (FSPA) Yearbook Senior Ad 2023; FSPA All State Senior Ad 2022; CPR/AED Certification

Activity Highlights: FSUS 'Renegade' Yearbook; Tallahassee Future Leaders Academy Youth Leader; FSUS Healthcare Occupations Student Assn.-Historian; Varsity Basketball Team and Camp Counselor; FSUS Reading Buddies

My Legacy: "Upon graduating from FSUS, I hope my legacy is not just the senior section editor of the yearbook or a varsity athlete but for me as a person. I want to be remembered as the young woman who is kind, hardworking, loving and a person who has grit."

What Others Are Saying: "She has a pleasant, helpful personality that any job would want stakeholders to encounter, while proficiently using many applications to complete office and campus work." – Tara Huls, Ph.D., City of Tallahassee Youth Development Coordinator



Seth Pohler

Community Christian School

Awards and Honors: CPR/AED Certification; selected as CCS Senior Leader; Natl. Honor Society (2021-24)-Treasurer

Activity Highlights: Founder and Producer 'Whenever Wherever Kids Podcast'; Utah Mission Trip; CCS Summer Camp; Young Actors Theatre; Praise Team; LeTour Multi-Art Ensemble; 'Lawyer in the Kitchen' Video Editor

My Legacy: "Upon graduating I hope that I will have exposed some of the closed-minded people in my community to quality representation of LGBT individuals. I hope that my legacy will be less of a token of legend of some kind, but more of a gentle educator. I desire to leave behind a community more inclusive than I started in."

What Others Are Saying: "He is nothing if not passionate, and he loves to challenge himself to think deeply about topics that matter to him." – Mara Eller, CCS Guidance Counselor

JOURNALISM & MEDIA PRODUCTION



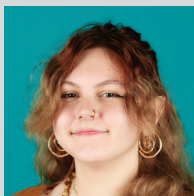
Cathryn Reed
Chiles High School

Awards and Honors: AP Scholar Award 2023; AB Honor Roll (2021-24); Lamp of Learning and Bars (2020-23)

Activity Highlights: Yearbook Editor (2021-24); Wolvettes Dance Team-Captain (2022-24); Cancer Society President; Dance Marathon Morale Board 2024; Sharon Davis School of Dance; volunteer at Desoto Trail & RAA; Animal Aid Spay & Neuter Clinic (2021-24); WFSU Externship

My Legacy: *“I hope that I will challenge younger classes. I want students to look at my work and think ‘I can do better’. If I can push someone to be creative and proud of what they have achieved, even if it is at my expense, then I will be especially proud of what I’ve left at Chiles.”*

What Others Are Saying: *“Cathryn is the perfect student to represent any organization she is involved in, ultimately bringing fresh ideas and an abundance of positive energy.”* – Paige Tekel, Chiles Senior Sponsor



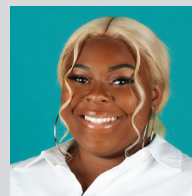
Alice Scholl
Lincoln High School

Awards and Honors: Academic Letter 2020; Academic Bar 2021; President’s Award 2022; Certified in Python

Activity Highlights: Lincoln ‘Trojan Talk’ News Program Anchor & Script Writer (2021-24); Buck Lake/Swift Creek/Deer Lake volunteer; Life Source Hospice; Ochlockonee River Kennel Club

My Legacy: *“I hope my legacy will be that I left Lincoln a better place than when I arrived. I believe I have led Trojan Talk in the right direction and that it will continue on long after I graduate.”*

What Others Are Saying: *“Her ability to keep a cool head and stay on target when the odds seem unbeatable has been a key part of what keeps Trojan Talk running.”* – Max Swan, Co-Editor of Trojan Talk



Aubrey Stevens
Rickards High School

Awards and Honors: EJI Essay Contest Finalist; Royal Jewels Triple Threat Award; SGA/Royal Court Junior Princess 2022; Miss Rickards High School 2023; Entrepreneurship & Small Business Certification; Master Certification in Entrepreneurship; Intuit Design Certified

Activity Highlights: ‘Ivy Elite’ Yearbook Editor in Chief (2022-23); Band Society (2022-24)-President; Rickards Band Royal Jewels Color Guard (2021-24)-Captain; Lady Raider Basketball volunteer; Senior Activity Advisor; SGA; Sabal Palm & Conley Schools student teaching asst.

My Legacy: *I am hoping my legacy after I graduate High School will be uplifting, meaning I want it to be positive and everlasting. I believe I have positively impacted this school by making sure students’ voices are heard when decisions are made and helping teachers. I choose to help others in my school by lifting them up whether they are at their lowest or their highest. The legacy I choose to leave is one where everyone is uplifted and congratulated.*

What Others Are Saying: *“Aubrey doesn’t mind doing what it takes to get the story or complete the assignment. She believes beginning with the end in mind, and she doesn’t stop until the task is done.”* – Kenya Proctor, Rickards Yearbook Teacher

LEADERSHIP



WINNER

HELEN CONN

Leon High School



Just as diamonds are made under pressure, Leon High School's Helen Conn who is resilient in the face of adversity, shines bright among her peers. Where she shines brightest is in her role as the Executive Director of Dance Marathon at Leon High School where she was the first Junior to hold this position and the first to hold it for two years. Helen's passion for this organization stems from the personal impact its fundraising efforts had on her family. At only four years old, Helen's sister McKenzie lost her battle with lymphoma at Shands Hospital in Gainesville. Dance Marathon helped fund the machines for her sister and covered expenses such as parking and entertainment. In witnessing firsthand the impact this organization has on the well-being of pediatric illness patients at Shands, Helen has been relentlessly motivated to provide that same help to others. During her first year as Executive Director the organization raised over \$175,000, making Leon the second-highest fundraising high school in the nation and set a new record at Leon.

While pediatric illness has impacted Helen's personal life, it has also impacted her school community. After hearing the story of Leon student Marshal Fisher who passed away from a rare form of bone cancer in 2018, Helen was moved to act. Putting her leadership skills to work in tandem with her role as the Varsity Tennis team captain, she founded the annual Marshal Fisher Tennis Tournament where she raises funds for pediatric illness at Shands

Hospital. "Helen's leadership will have the kind of impact any coach would feel blessed to enjoy," shares the Girls Head Tennis Coach.

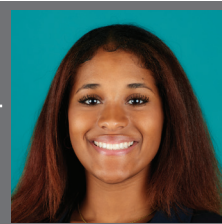
Helen also maintains leadership roles for service organizations within her school. As Interact Club President she organizes service events and runs meetings. Leading by example, as an active participant in Spirit Week she was an obvious choice for the Student Government's Spirit Committee. Helen served on the Homecoming Court her senior year and received the title of Miss Leon for her exemplary leadership and service endeavors. As Junior Class Treasurer, she expertly managed funds setting the record for lowest Senior Class dues in Leon's history.

Setting records not only in her service projects but also on the tennis court. Helen held the title of City Champion, District Champion, and Regional Champion ranking at #4 in her Junior Year. All while excelling academically receiving the award of AP Scholar with Distinction. They say diamonds are forever so it will be exciting to see how Helen continues to shine.

RUNNER-UP

MADELEINE BYRD

Florida State University Schools



Channeling her dissatisfaction with regulations placed upon minority students in Florida into active civic engagement, Florida State University Schools' Madeleine Byrd is a testament to the power of even one loud voice in enacting lasting change. As a student in one of five AP African American History classes in the state of Florida, Madeleine was eager to see an all-encompassing representation of American history at her school. After the class

was barred from public schools, she resolved to use her frustrations to catalyze change. She launched an online voter registration drive that helped to foster a culture of civic responsibility. She continued to lead by example through her involvement in the Florida Senate Page Program. Also as Class of 2024 Vice President, Project Manager of Teacher Appreciation and Homecoming, and Kindergarten Reading Buddies Mentor, there is no doubt that her leadership skills have had a profound positive impact on both her school and her community.

In addition to her role as a leader at her school, she also maintains membership in multiple clubs some of which include National Honors Society, Mu Alpha Theta, and Key Club. Both an athlete and an artist, Madeleine plays for three Varsity sports teams including Cheer, Cross Country, and Track, and is a member of the Florida High Chamber Orchestra. Despite her extensive extracurricular involvement, she exceeds expectations in academics having completed courses at Tallahassee Community College, participated in Florida State University Medical School's Strides Program, and was a recipient of the Achievement Medallion of Excellence Award. Madeleine hopes to be remembered for "fostering a sense of unity and positive change within the school community." Through her efforts as both a leader and an engaged citizen, she has achieved this and more.

LEADERSHIP



HONORABLE MENTION

COPELAND FRAZEE

Maclay School

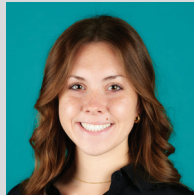


“A student can be an artist and an athlete, homecoming queen, and a scientist,” shares Maclay School’s Copeland Frazee. Copeland is a shining example that you really can do it all. As Captain of Maclay’s Varsity Cheerleading and one of the first leaders of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, she has masterfully guided her teams through uncharted territories. After bringing competitive cheerleading back to Maclay, she carried her team to a competition in the coed division for the first time in school history and took home the 4th place prize.

Both a student and a scientist, Copeland has excelled in her coursework to help prepare her for her BACE Exam which will allow her to start her career practicing medicine in rural communities. During her time in the SSTRUDE Summer Institute at Florida State University, she presented a solution to transportation issues that create food deserts that received first place. She was also awarded the Commander Award for her exemplary leadership capabilities.

As a member and leader in an array of clubs at Maclay, Copeland has been able to share her gifts in leadership with both her peers and her community. As the President, she played a pivotal role in the revitalization of Key Club, establishing leaders, weekly meetings, online communications, partnerships with local organizations, and the club’s charter under the National Key Club. Under Copeland’s leadership, the club has more active members than ever broadening its impact on the community. An athlete, student, scientist, philanthropist, and leader, Copeland is truly a testament that you can do anything you put your mind to.

FINALISTS



Katie Chapman

North Florida Christian School

Awards and Honors: Honor Roll; Werner Hyundai Scholar Athlete of the Week; West Point Society of Tallahassee Leadership Award; Natl. Honor Society; Big Bend 2nd Volleyball Team and NFC Offensive Player of the Year 2021/2022

Activity Highlights: SGA President; Captain Varsity Volleyball and MVP; Talquin Electric FL Youth Tour 2023; Morningstar Baptist Church Vacation Bible School; NFC Volleyball Camp; The Longest Table; NFC Baseball Diamond Girl

My Legacy: “I want my legacy to be one of kindness. I want a small act of encouragement I showed to a peer to be reciprocated long after I’m gone. If my kindness can influence just one person to show more kindness in this world to others, then my whole high school experience will have been worth the while.”

What Others Are Saying: “Katie has all the components that I look for in a leader and I am pleased to have had her by my side for the last 3 years.” – Lynn Burgess, NFC Dean of Students



Yasmine Delgado

Godby High School

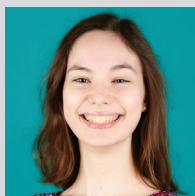
Awards and Honors: American Legion Scholastic Bronze Medal 2023; Natl. Honor Society; Natl. Society US Daughters of 1812; Natl. Defense Committee JROTC Medal; Air Force Sergeant Assn. Certificate of Recognition

Activity Highlights: Youth Leadership Tallahassee Class 19; SGA Secretary; ROTC Color Guard Commander and Group Commander; volunteer at many elementary schools

My Legacy: “I want my legacy to be for those around me to become greater leaders than I was. I want those who have followed me to do better and greater things than I have done.”

What Others Are Saying: “They are always willing to help others, and they are always looking for ways to make their community a better place.” – Shraddha Patel, Godby US History Honors Teacher

LEADERSHIP



Madelyn Ellis
Leon County Home School

Awards and Honors: Talquin Electric FL Youth Tour 2023; Natl. Electric Cooperative Youth Tour; TCC President's List

Activity Highlights: FL House of Representatives Messenger; Northside Interact Club for Homeschool Education Secretary; Elevate Music Camp Praise Team; CCS Theatre (2021-23); Fellowship Baptist Church Soloist and Lead Singer Youth Band (2020-24); Mission Trips and Camp Leader Asst. at Thomasville Road Academy of the Arts Music Camp

My Legacy: "I hope that my legacy is how often I eagerly served and ministered to those in my church and community and that my heart was truly in the work I did."

What Others Are Saying: "She has a unique way of breaking down complex concepts and making them accessible to others. Her patience and willingness to listen to others' perspectives create a positive and inclusive environment." – Rebecca Turner, Fellowship Baptist Children's Ministry Dir.



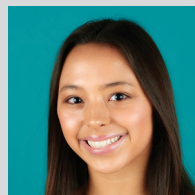
Erin Hinson
Lincoln High School

Awards and Honors: 2nd Place Lincoln History Fair; Natl. Honor Society; Natl. Certification Child Development Associate and State Early Childhood Professional Certificate; Charmettes Debutante 1st Runner Up Recipient Charles N. Stevens Award

Activity Highlights: Second Harvest of the Big Bend Farm Share; Varsity Track (2022-24); Natl. Society of Leadership & Success-TCC Chapter; Dance Marathon Morale Board; Pearls of Perfection Membership Chair; Youth Ambassador One Gadsden Foundation; Alpha Kappa Alpha Youth Volunteer

My Legacy: "I hope my legacy will be one, in which, people will see and know that I am passionate about serving others and that I believe in fairness, equity, and treating people with kindness. I have spent the majority of my life around women and men who are selfless and serve their communities. Serve to others is who I am."

What Others Are Saying: "At an early age she learned the importance of giving back to others and has vowed to be an active member of her community at all levels." – Jean Davis Marshall, TCC Adjunct Professor



Avery Miller
Chiles High School

Awards and Honors: FL Girls State; Natl. Honor Society-President; Math Dept. Award; Natl. Rural & Small Town Recognition Scholar (2021-23); Competitive Cheerleading State Runner Up (2020-21)

Activity Highlights: Chiles Ambassador Club-President; Founder/President Timberwolves Pack Pals (2021-24); Dance Marathon Ex. Board (2021-23); Varsity Sideline & Competitive Cheer Captain (2021-24); Founder Spreading Cheer Program at Astoria Park Elem.; Anchor Club; Engineering & Experimental Design Club

My Legacy: "A common theme in my high school and community involvement has been expanding opportunities for others to participate in activities that previously might not have seemed accessible."

I hope my legacy will result from establishing foundations for these initiatives to continue in the future, leading to increasingly inclusive and participatory experiences for all students in our local schools."

What Others Are Saying: "She is one that I will remember as making a difference in others' lives by selflessly giving her time to set good examples for a younger generation of students." – Dr. Cassandra Poole, Principal Astoria Park Elementary



Haylei Rackley
FAMU Developmental
Research School

Awards and Honors: Adobe Photoshop Certification; Queen of Orange and Green FAMU DRS Royal Court 2023; Natl. Honor Society

Activity Highlights: Soul of the South Side program; Cultivating Queens of Tallahassee; SGA -President; JROTC-Rank Sergeant of Band, Drill Team Commander & Executive Officer; Football Team Manager; Shoes4School Shoe Drive

My Legacy: "I hope that my reputation lives on after I graduate from my high school. I want them to remember me as the girl who comes to school every day with a smile on my face. I speak to everyone I see in the hallway. I hope that they will miss me but also wish me the best."

What Others Are Saying: "I have witnessed her amazing growth into a confident poised leader. She is a rising future leader with a committed work ethic to achieve excellence in her academic and career endeavors." – Reginald Howard LTC, retired, JROTC Senior Army Instructor

LEADERSHIP



Hansini Reddy
Rickards High School

Awards and Honors: President's Volunteer Service Award; Most Dedicated Music Award; 2nd Place FSU Summer Institute Program Research Competition; Natl. Honor Society; CPR/AED Certified

Activity Highlights: FSU College of Medicine-Westminster Oaks; LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library; Buddy Knit-Ex. Director; TMH Summer Teen Program; Science Olympiad; Stock Market Club; Dance Marathon; Tallahassee Youth Orchestra Celloist (2020-24)

My Legacy: *"I plan to pursue medicine in the future. My dream would be to work in neuroscience or psychiatry, or in a field that deals with the brain/mind. I believe the greatest way to make an impact in society is to prioritize the children, so hopefully I will get to work with children."*

What Others Are Saying: *"She has the intelligence, work ethic, kindness, and strength of character to succeed in even the most rigorous of academic environments."* – Dr. Joe Williams, Rickards IB Coordinator



Chanel "Citrus" Thomas
SAIL High School

Awards and Honors: LCS Dr. Kathleen Rodgers Dreamers & Doers Award 2024

Activity Highlights: Youth Leadership Tallahassee Class 19; Premier Townhomes Community Litter Removal; Founder of SAIL Student Mentor Program; SGA-Vice President

My Legacy: *"I have gone through many struggles in the four years of my high school career, and I wish for people to see my story as one of resilience. I want to feel a sense of fulfillment knowing that I have made each previous version of myself proud, despite the internal turmoils that threatened to stir me from my path of success."*

What Others Are Saying: *"She is a trustworthy, good-humored student and friend who supports others in and out of the classroom. She is a pleasure to have in class, and her positive attitude and belief in herself is an immensely admirable asset."* – Caitlin Starkey, SAIL SGA Sponsor

MATHEMATICS



WINNER

NAVYA KOMMU

Rickards High School



Having learned the knowledge that comes from learning from your mistakes at a young age, Rickards High School's Navya Kommu has plenty to go around. As early as elementary school, Navya developed a strong passion for mathematics and, giving in to her competitive spirit, decided to compete in a math competition. What could have been a one-off experience turned into an enduring commitment, leading her to become Captain of Rickards Mu Alpha Theta Team during her sophomore year. As Captain, Navya is a support system to her team, sharing her impressive knowledge through carefully curating lesson plans on Algebra 2, Precalculus, and Statistics. By creating an environment that cultivates a passion for mathematics and providing her team with the freedom to make mistakes, she helped to boost her teams' confidence to support their performance at competitions. "Captain Navya is a pillar of the club's success," shares her Mu Alpha Theta Team advisor. With the strong foundation provided to her through her extensive knowledge and passion for mathematics, Navya led her team to rank top five at both the regional and state levels.

Outside of her role as Team Captain, she continues to find ways to impart her knowledge and inspire her passion for math within her community. As assistant director of the annual James S Rickards Fall Invitational, Navya manages finances, writes and assembles tests, and oversees the scoring of all nine divisions of tests on the day of the competition. In her free time outside of school, she tutors middle

school and high school students in math at Mathnasium.

As an intellectual leader, Navya has had a profound impact on the successes of her peers in the field of mathematics while attaining a number of her own successes. She was first out of 105 students in the state of Florida to be recognized as a Sunshine State Scholar in Mathematics for her exceptional achievements in mathematics and contributions to her community. Navya received the first-place prize in Statistics at the Capital Regional Florida Association of Mu Alpha Theta competition. Her presentation on her mathematical research exploring the restoration of contaminated environments in South Carolina received first-place at the Capital Regional Science and Engineering Fair and ranked Top 5 at the state level. Navya was also selected to participate in the Girls Who Code Summer Program and the Young Scholars Program at Florida State University.

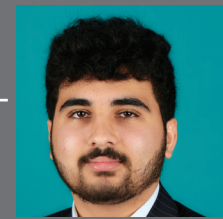
While Navya's unmatched knowledge is evident, it is her compassion and dedication to sharing that knowledge with others that really sets her apart.



RUNNER-UP

NIMA MOLLAEI

Chiles High School



A problem solver both on paper and in his day-to-day life, Chiles High School's Nima Mollaei meets adversity with collaboration to foster growth and unity within his school and his community. After Chiles' top mathematics teacher took a leave of absence for medical reasons, Nima's AP Statistics class was left with no instructor and an abundance of course material still left to cover. Rising to the challenge, leveraging his position as Webmaster of the Mu Alpha Theta math club, Nima and his teammates swiftly took over the creation and teaching of lessons to ensure they did not fall behind.

Not only a masterful mathematician but a prolific programmer, Nima has competed in coding competitions across the country, including the UPenn Philadelphia Classic Programming Contest, Carnegie Mellon University Mathematics International Competition, and USA Computing Olympiad Silver Division where he received the 3rd place prize. Nima also won the Congressional App Challenge for an app he created to help immigrants and students with learning disabilities learn English. In his continued dedication to sharing his wealth of knowledge, in his role as Coding Club Vice President he helped to create monthly lessons to educate club members on high-level coding concepts and debuted Chiles' first-ever programming competition in March of this year.

"I want to leave a legacy of collaboration" shares Nima. Through his relentless pursuit of knowledge and dedication to collaborative efforts, Nima has had a profound impact on his peers and his community alike.

MATHEMATICS



HONORABLE MENTION

SAMUEL "SAM" PLETTL

Community Leadership Academy

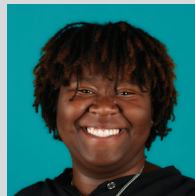


With an innate ability to make every individual he comes into contact with feel both seen and known, Community Leadership Academy's Sam Plett is a powerfully empathetic leader within his school and his community. Growing up with a non-verbal and intellectually disabled sister, Sam learned early on the value of forming relationships with those who are different from you. Volunteering at the Gretchen Everhart School, the school his sister attended, helping students learn vital daily living skills, deepened his compassion for people of all backgrounds and abilities in his community.

As a player on the JV Basketball and Track and Field teams, member of the Yearbook Committee, Editor of the School Newspaper, Fellowship of Christian Athletes Student Leader, National Honor Society member, and skilled mathematician, Sam evidently has a lot to offer his community. Through his internship at a local engineering firm, he learned about the roles of professionals in his field of interest. Sam also made valuable contributions to his school community tutoring students at Community Leadership Academy in Algebra, Geometry, and Pre-Calculus. He also volunteered at numerous sporting events performing roles spanning from assistant coaching to supervising concessions, simply going wherever he was needed.

With a quiet strength of leadership and a compassionate heart, Sam has set a precedent for his peers and fellow members of his community. "I want to be remembered, not for what I have done, but for who I am," he shares. Despite his astounding achievements, Sam leaves a legacy of kindness for people from all walks of life.

FINALISTS



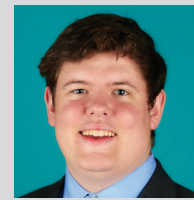
Kenyera Barrett
Godby High School

Awards and Honors: Winner Big Bend/ Leon County Assn. of Science Teaching; Certified Nursing Asst. Certification and anticipated Phlebotomist Certification; Natl. Honor Society; Natl. Society of High School Scholars

Activity Highlights: LCS Student District Advisory Council Chairperson; SGA; Future Educators Assn. Member; Varsity Softball (2022-24); Leaders Igniting Generation of Healthy Teens Program (2022-24); A Full Summer; Girls Basketball Team volunteer; Lake Jackson Branch Library

My Legacy: "Upon graduating, I aspire to encourage young black girls who have an interest in STEM to strive and achieve their goals. I want to be one that they look to for guidance."

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



Lucas Colson
North Florida Christian School

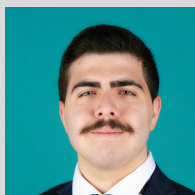
Awards and Honors: NFC Science Fair Runner Up 2020; Varsity Football Highest GPA (2020-22); National Merit Semi-Finalist; Math Grade Award (2020-24); Christian Character 9th Grade Award

Activity Highlights: NFC School Cafeteria Assistant; Varsity Football (2020-23); Tallahassee Gladiator Challenge; Westminster Presbyterian Church Summer Bible Ministry

My Legacy: "I want my legacy to show that determination can get you through almost anything, and no matter your schedule or experiences there is always a way through without just giving up."

What Others Are Saying: "Beyond his organizational and leadership skills, Lucas consistently exhibited a positive and cooperative demeanor. His willingness to collaborate with both fellow volunteers and participants creates a positive and inclusive atmosphere, enhancing the overall experience for everyone involved." – Marli Peacock Lockard, Tallahassee Gladiator Challenge Dir. Of Events

MATHEMATICS



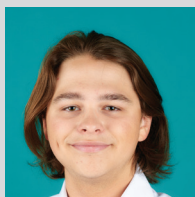
Fabian Delgado
Florida State
University Schools

Awards and Honors: STEM Honor Society-VP; Mu Alpha Theta Honor Society-Competition Coordinator 2021-24; English Honor Society; Natl. Honor Society; Director's Award Medallion 2022

Activity Highlights: Tutored Math Students (2020-22); FSUS Hispanic Festival-COordinator; Leon County Court House; Thespians (2021-23); Burke's Karate Academy-Black Belt

My Legacy: "I hope my legacy is one that inspires others to go beyond the darkness of uncertainty that lies ahead of them with excitement, curiosity, and bravery. I plan to carry that ideal further down the line in my own uncertainty."

What Others Are Saying: "He is a joy to teach because he genuinely cares about the topic and the historical development of the subject." – Amanda Dunkelberger; FSUS Secondary Math Instructor



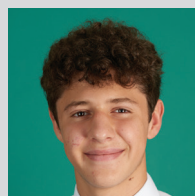
Harrison Mantzanas
Lincoln High School

Awards and Honors: Sunshine State Scholar in Math School Winner 2023; Lincoln History Fair Winner; Microsoft IT Specialist Certified; Calculus BC Student of the Year 2023; Principals Award Winner (2021-24); All Big Bend Lacrosse Goalie of the Year Honorable Mention

Activity Highlights: Peer Tutoring (2021-24); Buck Lake Elem. Summer STEAM Camp; Challenger Learning Center; FSU Professionale Closet; Honor Society; Robotics Team; Lacrosse Team; Key Club

My Legacy: "I hope that everyone I tutored will have confidence in themselves. Throughout my high school experience, I have learned that with enough grit, and by believing in yourself, anyone can succeed."

What Others Are Saying: "Harrison's calm demeanor, excellent work ethic and desire to help anyone who needs it allows him to stand out among his peers." – Katherine Boutin, Lincoln Physics Teacher



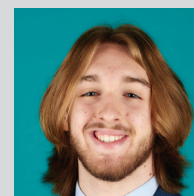
Clark Mitchell
Maclay School

Awards and Honors: National Merit Commended Scholar; Mu Alpha Theta Regional Competition Placements (2021-23); 1st Place Forensics Regional Science Olympiad 2021; Fermi Questions International Competition 3rd Place 2023; Eagle Scout

Activity Highlights: Varsity Tennis (2020-24); Urban Impact Ministries; Maclay Summer Camp Counselor; Boy Scouts Wallwood; Key Club; Maclay Community Service Club; Mu Alpha Theta President; Junior Classical League

My Legacy: "I hope my legacy will be one of truth and character and that my love for learning shines forth to others. I also wish that my time in high school inspires others to find the 'why' behind their actions and to pursue their true purpose, providing a solid foundation for everything they do."

What Others Are Saying: "Clark is also genuinely kind, hardworking, and supportive individual who never fails to consider the needs of the students (and teachers) around him." – Jeff Gussaroff, Maclay AP Calculus Instructor



Noah Summerlin
Leon High School

Awards and Honors: Life Scout 2023; National Merit Finalist; AP Scholar with Distinction; 3rd Place Districts Wrestling 2022; Natl. Honor Society; Tri-M Music Honor Society; Mu Alpha Theta Regional Awards; National Mathcounts State 2nd Place

Activity Highlights: Boy Scouts of America Troop 44; Concert Choir All-State 2021-23; Leon High School Summer Musicals 2021-23; Varsity Wrestling; Brazilian JiuJitsu

My Legacy: "I hope I leave behind a handful of people who were happy to have known me – who are maybe a little more confident in their math skills, or their voice, or their double-leg takedown, or even who were just able to laugh at one of my jokes sometime. I hope to leave the road behind me better than it was."

What Others Are Saying: "Noah stands out among his peers; his character, generosity, and drive will lead to many accomplishments in his future." – Danny O'Donnell, Owner, Math Genius

MUSIC



WINNER

ALEXANDRA "LEXI"
JONES

Leon High School



Just as a conductor leads their orchestra, Leon High School's Lexi Jones' quiet confidence in her musical talents has led her not only to her own success but to the success of others. During her role as an intern at LAMP Chamber Players, Lexi discovered her passion for inspiring and instilling confidence in young musicians. After being recruited by the program's director, her old quartet coach for the Tallahassee Youth Orchestra's Quartet, she was able to share her extensive knowledge of string ensembles with younger musicians by setting up and assisting with rehearsals for the local chamber music program. In continuing her dedication to building up the next generation of musicians, Lexi also acts as a Representative for the Tallahassee Youth Orchestra (TYO) at the annual TSO Halloween Symphony Spooktacular where she engages in tabling to foster a growing interest in string instruments among the young children in attendance. She also serves as a teaching assistant at Leon for the Beginning Orchestra class where she established good rapport with the underclassmen she teaches.

To instill confidence in musicality in other musicians, a similar confidence must be present within yourself and Lexi exudes this confidence in her unwavering pursuit of musical excellence. After deciding to pursue music vocationally in the 8th grade, Lexi poured herself into improving her performance through lessons, music camps, and supplemental musical experiences.

As the youngest member of her quartet with the Tallahassee Youth Orchestra, rather than succumb to intimidation she rose to the challenge winning second place at both the Spring Music Competition and the NOLA Chamber Fest Competition in 2022. In addition to her spot in the Leon High School Chamber Orchestra, Lexi has played in the Florida All-State Symphony Orchestra, the Big Bend Community Orchestra, and has been selected for Leon County's All-District five times. The latter two of which she was selected to be the Concertmaster. She has participated in countless music festivals and summer intensives, including the Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival, Chamber Music Festanza, and FSU Summer Music Camps, to name a few.

Lexi's dedication to her craft certainly shines. Awarded for her astonishing talents, the LAMP Trio she played in won first place in the NOLA Chamber Fest Competition, securing her the opportunity to play in New Orleans for the nationally recognized Aizuri Quartet in the Winners' Masterclass. She also won the TYO's Concerto Competition making her the featured soloist in their concert in May.

Lexi's passion for music emanates in every performance and service opportunity she is a part of. She hopes that that passion "will continue to motivate new musicians to pursue the arts and develop their talents." It undoubtedly already has.

RUNNER-UP

MARY CAITLIN
BOULO

Leon County Home School



Using her unique talent to brighten the lives of others, Mary Caitlin Boulo uses her musical talents to bring others joy. Mary Caitlin has immersed herself in the music community to help harness her skills for service to her community. She has played as Principal Viola for Chiles' Chamber Orchestra, Tallahassee Youth Orchestra (TYO), and Leon County All-District Orchestra. She has also played in the FMEA All-State Orchestra, the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra, and the LAMP Chamber Quartet. Mary Caitlin pursued musical education through her participation in summer music festivals such as the Chamber Music Festanza, Suwannee Summer Music Festival, and Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival.

Her passion for music stems from a fascination with how vastly different instruments "work together so perfectly to create an infinite number of melodies." She has been able to share this passion with others through her role as a children's camp counselor at Camp Crosspoint. Working over 250 hours in this role, she taught campers music theory, how to sing, play the keyboard and ukelele, and prepared them for a performance at the end of the week for the entire camp. She interns at LAMP, an after-school chamber music program, where she can provide support to less experienced musicians. Mary Caitlin also serves as a leader in a youth band at Four Oaks Community Church where she can share her love for music with the congregation. Mary Caitlin has an undeniable musical talent and uses it to serve her community in every way she can.

MUSIC



HONORABLE MENTION

KYLA ROGERS

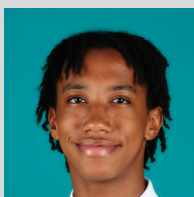
Florida State University
Schools



A quiet force, Florida State University Schools' (FSUS) Kyla Rogers, brings light to everything she touches. After winning Rookie of the Year during her first year as a member of the school's marching band the Marching Braves, Kyla's success as a musician was eminent. As a sophomore, she was named Percussion Captain, receiving The Outstanding Musician award for her outstanding leadership in this role. Through a collaboration with a fellow percussionist at FSUS on a level-five duet, Kyla's talents were once again recognized with the award of Superior with Distinction at State Solo & Ensemble. Multi-faceted in her musical talents, in addition to her skill in percussion she also plays bass guitar for the FSUS Jazz Band and piano at her church.

While her musical talents have certainly had a profound impact on her community, her service endeavors have had an even greater impact. Pursuing a career in veterinary science, Kyla has dedicated over 130 hours to Tallahassee Animal Services. Through their volunteer program, she has worked her way up from Shelter Support Volunteer to preparing patients and medical equipment for check-ups and surgeries as a Vet Team Volunteer. She also serves her school community through her role as Secretary of the Tri-M Music Honor Society and her membership in the National Honor Society. Despite her extensive commitments, she still maintains a commitment to academic excellence receiving the FSUS Director's Award Medallion and FSUS Star Student Recognition. Kyla is not just a musician or a student but a guiding light to others in her school and her community.

FINALISTS



Karl Akuoko

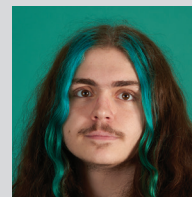
Rickards High School

Awards and Honors: National Merit Commendation; Natl. Honor Society-Historian; Natl. African American Recognition Scholar; 1st Place Natl. ATX Invitational in Bridges; Gold Medal Science Olympiads Nationals 2021; Superior ratings for Jazz and Concert Band (2020-22)

Activity Highlights: Buddy Knit Mentorship Program; Ind. Funeral Directors of FL; Jr. Classical League Historian; Experience Asia (2022-23); Mu Alpha Theta; Tallahassee Youth Orchestra-Principal Bassoonist; Pangaea Cultural Event; Dance Marathon; Rickards Band

My Legacy: "I want to be remembered more for how much I put in to reach my goals rather than what I accomplished."

What Others Are Saying: "With Karl's skills, talents and his impeccable academic background for someone so young, I believe that he will do well in whatever challenges lie ahead of him." – Dr. Paula Hall, Rickards AP/IB Biology Teacher



Christopher "David" Blair

SAIL High School

Awards and Honors: Student of the Month 2023; Proficient in guitar, vocals, drums, bass and saxophone; written and recorded music

Activity Highlights: Facilitated "Battle of the Bands" (2022-23); Music mentor at RAA and School for Arts & Science; Multiple SAIL performances; Organized, produced and equipped local music scenes; SAIL Ensemble (2021-24)

My Legacy: "I hope to lead a legacy of originality and keeping the spirit of the music alive at SAIL."

What Others Are Saying: "David's passion for music extends beyond personal enrichment; he actively engages with the musical community, collaborating with peers and contributing positively to the artistic environment." – Perry Osbourne M.M., Thomas University

MUSIC



Beverly "Lainey" Ford
Maclay School

Awards and Honors: Natl. Honor Society; "Smith Book Award" recipient; Jr. Classical League Magna Cum Laude and Latin Honor Society; Marauder Award JV Tennis 2022; Selection into UNC Greensboro Piano Camp and FSU Young Collaborative Pianist Workshop

Activity Highlights: Dance Marathon Fundraising Captain; Key Club Senior Chair; Camp Crestridge for Girls Service & Leadership Team; Maclay School Ambassador; Varsity Tennis; Tallahassee Juniors Volleyball Club; Quincy Tutoring program; Piano performances; Model UN

My Legacy: "I hope my legacy is an inspiration for other girls at Maclay to believe they can achieve anything. As I graduate being a varsity tennis player, a classical pianist, a graduate with a biomedical concentration, and also as someone who gave lots of time to my community, I will forever cherish all my different experiences and hopefully girls will be inspired by my legacy."

What Others Are Saying: "She is a team player who encourages those around her to be better and to try harder!" – Kristen Kennerly Youngblood, Maclay JCL Sponsor



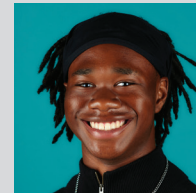
Sean Gonzalez
Lincoln High School

Awards and Honors: President's Award (2021-23); Special Recognition Music Award 2021; Classroom Leadership & Inspiration Award; All State's Popular Music Collective (2022-23); Natl. Honor Society; Selected for Natl. Level Drum Music Camp in Kansas; College Board Natl. Hispanic Recognition Award

Activity Highlights: Lacrosse Team-MVP and 1st Team All Big Bend 2023; 1st Degree lack Belt; Bradfordville First Baptist Church Bible School (2020-23), Worship Band and youth music mentor (2021-23); Electrify Your Strings Event

My Legacy: "Upon graduating, I hope my legacy will be that of compassion. As bland as it sounds, I would rather have not accomplished anything and be remembered for my compassion than accomplish everything at the expense of others. Or as Mother Teresa says, 'I would rather make mistakes in kindness and compassion than work miracles in unkindness and hardness.'"

What Others Are Saying: "His presence alone will light up a room and everyone is attracted to Sean because of his kindness, compassion, wittiness, and genuine friendship that he shows to everyone." - Dr. Clara Knotts, Lincoln Dir. Of Rock Ensemble



Timothy Hunter
Godby High School

Awards and Honors: 2023 NAACP MLK Dreamers & Doers Award; Academic Award for Track and Field Team 2023; Mr. Godby Award (2023-24)

Activity Highlights: Godby ESE Volunteer; LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library; Key Club (2022-23) Board of Directors

My Legacy: "After graduation, I aspire to be remembered as someone known for showing kindness toward peers and staff, while also achieving success in academics, sports, and music. When reflecting upon my high school journey I want to affirm that I genuinely seized every opportunity available and used them as tools to excel in various aspects of life."

What Others Are Saying: "He sets an outstanding example as a student leader and excellent student. His peers, both in and out of the club look to him as a positive role model and supportive friend." – Dr. Susan Shoemaker, Key Club-Zone B Administrator

MUSIC



Matthew Kahn
Chiles High School

Awards and Honors: All State TTBB Chorus-FL Vocal Association 2023; Multiple Best Actor/Singer Awards (2021-23); Int. Thespians Society State Superior Awards (2022-23); Outstanding Student in Fine Arts 2021, 2022; Multiple Lead Performance Roles

Activity Highlights: Wrote and Directed plays; Making Light Production Theatre Camp Counselor; Tallahassee Children's Theatre performances; Theatre Tallahassee; Chorus Club-President; Drama Club-President Troup Leader

My Legacy: *"I hope to inspire students to reach their full potential by exploring their interests and following the guidance of their teachers. I also hope that they will choose to carry on as empathic and inclusive leaders, advocating for and creating opportunities for all – not only in the performing arts, but wherever their passions lead them."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Matthew approaches each interaction with empathy, patience, and a genuine desire to make everyone feel valued and included."* – Mandi Broadfoot, Creative Director, Making Light Productions

PUBLIC SPEAKING



WINNER

KINLEIGH BASS

Chiles High School

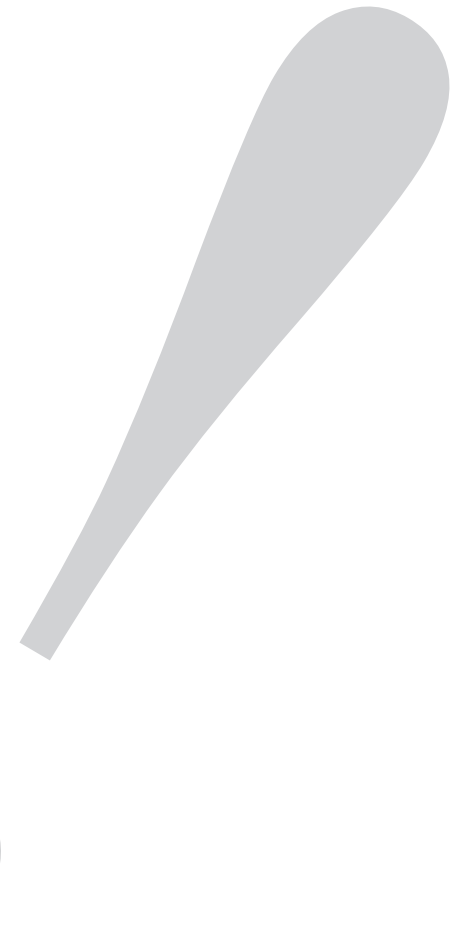


Using her voice to promote equity and fairness, Chiles High School's Kinleigh Bass is a unifying leader within her school community. An Honor Roll student with multiple Academic Excellence Awards only begins to scratch the surface when describing Kinleigh. As an involved member of both the Student Government Association (SGA) and Chiles Dance Marathon with over 300 hours of community service, she is also an exceptional leader with a mission to serve. From being elected Sophomore Class Representative, to Junior Class Secretary, to Senior Class Vice President, Kinleigh has always been able to command a room and use her voice to bring divergent voices together. Volunteering to speak at pep rallies in both her Junior and Senior years, bringing together not only the members of the SGA but the entire student body. "Kinleigh made it her mission to create an environment where every student feels they have a place they belong," shares her teacher and Student Government sponsor.

A diligent servant to her community, Kinleigh's most impactful contribution can be seen in her work with Dance Marathon at Chiles. Facing the grief of losing her cousin, a patient at Shand's Children's Hospital, to pediatric brain cancer, she created light in the darkness through her commitment to the organization that did so much for her cousin. Starting as a dancer her freshman year fundraising and attending the marathon, she was eager to do more. Driven by a selfless passion to serve, Kinleigh worked her way up the ranks, holding the position of External Events Chair

and eventually Co-Executive Director. Building on the foundation of the people who served before her, she created the Night of Miracles, a dinner and silent auction fundraiser for Dance Marathon. She spent countless hours leading her team through securing a location, finding food donations, connecting with Miracle families, and securing donations for silent auction items to ensure the event was successful. Undoubtedly encouraged by her affability as the facilitator of the event, Night of Miracles raised over \$10,000 in its second year. Through her work with Dance Marathon she not only uses her voice to continue on her cousin's legacy but the legacies of all the other children who have been impacted by this organization.

If we are to learn anything from Kinleigh she hopes it is this; "Do things out of the goodness of your heart, smile at those you don't know in the hallway, and do the right thing simply because it is the right thing to do."



PUBLIC SPEAKING



RUNNER-UP

VICTORIA MCQUEEN

Leon High School



An advocate for the people in her community whose voices go unheard, Leon High School's Victoria McQueen has a powerful voice and uses it loudly. Through her involvement with Leon's Student Government Association (SGA), she brings to life the stories of both the past and present student body at Leon. As Social Service Committee Head she spearheaded the reconstruction of Leon's Archive Room housing the rich history of Leon's alumni. Coordinating with alumni, FSU Archivists, and administration she gave new life to the people who had impacted the Leon community. She was in attendance at every Leon High School Foundation meeting speaking on behalf of the archive room and the student body as a whole. The connections she formed with students at Leon along the way led to her election as Student Body President her Senior year.

Victoria's advocacy extends far beyond her role in Leon's SGA. She has been extremely vocal in speaking out against the underrepresentation of African American history education in schools. After AP African American history was barred from public schools in the state of Florida, she spoke on behalf of Florida Constituents at the Florida Capitol, bringing light to the educational discrepancy. Continuing her pursuit of justice and equity she spoke at a Press Conference with TheReid Out, her speech being quoted in multiple publications. With a tireless commitment to learning with the intention of doing and speaking with the intention of being heard, Victoria has moved mountains within her school community and within the wider Tallahassee community.

HONORABLE MENTION

VENKAT "VEN" MADDIPOTI

Maclay School



Both commanding and compassionate, Maclay School's Ven Maddipoti has become a vital component of his community. Inspired by an innate desire to uncover the underlying motivations for ageism in the West, Ven began volunteering at a local assisted living facility. Feeling gratified by the symbiotic relationship he formed with residents, he was moved to found his own organization dedicated to fostering these relationships. Leveraging the relationships he had formed through his role in Maclay's Student Council, he paired high school students with elders based on shared interests. Ears for Elders has had a profound impact on the wellbeing of the elderly and students alike in the Tallahassee community.

In addition to the founding of his service organization, Ven has also put his talents in public speaking to use in his roles as Student Council Vice President and Student Council President. As Vice President, he was responsible for leading the school's Inter-Club Council, facilitating discussions between presidents and faculty sponsors of clubs at Maclay. As President, he is an influential leader among his peers, speaking at school assemblies and facilitating Student Council meetings.

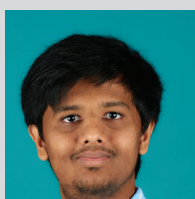
Both a leader and a helper, Ven has devoted countless hours outside of his leadership roles to service. He was selected to participate in the Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare Teen Volunteer Program where he amassed over 100 hours. All while maintaining an extensive commitment to his academics and several on-campus clubs. "I hope that my dedication to

collaboration and compassion inspires others, a ripple effect of progress that endures far beyond my academic journey," shares Ven. A ripple effect that has already begun.

PUBLIC SPEAKING



FINALISTS



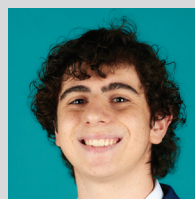
Sri ram "Shri" Marthi
Lincoln High School

Awards and Honors: Student Special Recognition Award twice – Anime Club; selected as Lincoln's Junior Student Representative to meet with Supt. Rocky Hanna on campus

Activity Highlights: Created and President of 5 Clubs of Entertainment – Photography, Comedy/Improv, Anime, Video Game and Rap/Karaoke; Teacher Asst. at Conley Elementary; volunteer for Basketball Teams and website creator; Hindu Temple

My Legacy: *"Through my established legacies – clubs, websites, and community initiatives – I aspire to empower individuals with disabilities, showcasing the indomitable spirit within. I champion the power of perseverance and determination, urging others to embrace their unique abilities. My goal is to foster invincible forces for positive change, not only in communication but also in every aspect of life. Together, let's create a future where everyone is unstoppable and resilient."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Public Speaking can be an intimidating endeavor for many students, but Shri has successfully cultivated an atmosphere where everyone feels encouraged to express themselves."* – Brent Monroe, Lincoln Asst. Principal



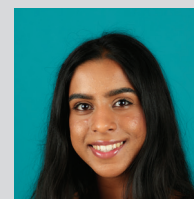
Ivan Rabbath
Florida State University
Schools

Awards and Honors: AP Scholar; Natl. Rural & Small Town Recognition Scholar; Stan Dietrich Junior Award 2023; Parish & District Level Advancement Awards (2020-23); Oratorical Metropolis Level Participation Award (2020-21); and 2nd Place 2022; Archangel Michael Award 2023; FSUS Biliteracy Seal

Activity Highlights: Holy Mother of God Greek Orthodox Church-Food Festival & Gyro Fest volunteer (2021-23); Mu Alpha Theta Leadership Board; FSUS Elementary Reading Buddy; Tallahassee Cancer Institute; Swim & Dive Team

My Legacy: *"I aspire for teachers to recall me as an individual who tackled tasks with unwavering effort. Among classmates, as the one who consistently completed assignments while absorbed in my own zone. For underclassmen, I want to be remembered as an amicable guy who warned them about the challenges of junior and senior year, and as a reliable friend."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Ivan is exceptionally mindful of the power of learning and community service to become a well-rounded individual."* – Maria Elena Villagrana, FSUS Spanish Teacher



Aditi Tula
Rickards High School

Awards and Honors: Best Delegate Tallahassee Model UN (2020-23); Outstanding Teen Attorney Awards; Director of Specialized Committee – Rickards; Honorable Mention Princeton Model UN; Verbal Commendation 2021 Gator Model UN

Activity Highlights: Rickards Model UN Co-Founder (2020-24); Director and Host Raider MUN Conference; Speech & Debate Co-President; Teen Court (2020-22); FSU College of Medicine Youth Health Leadership; Youth Leadership Tallahassee Class 19; TMH Summer Volunteer; Dance Marathon

My Legacy: *"Upon graduation, I aspire to leave a legacy of inspiration. I aim to be remembered as someone who serves a cause bigger than myself. As someone who serves with integrity and love for people, not for profit. I hope to motivate and encourage students to leave a lasting impact in our community. Go Big or Go Home."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Aditi is a cheerful, kind, thoughtful, hardworking, reliable, creative and trustworthy young woman who is respected and well-liked by her teachers and peers."* – Dr. Joe Williams, Rickards IB Coordinator

SCIENCE & HEALTH



WINNER

SHIV PATEL

Maclay School



Many say life is a marathon, not a sprint. Maclay School's Shiv Patel, however, is the exception running a marathon at a sprinter's pace in pursuit of his passions. With a keen interest in the field of Science and Health, Shiv was confident that the work he was capable of would impact the world one day. In the 6th grade, he began sharing his findings yearly at the Science Fair. During his first year of high school, he began a three-year research project on Lung Cancer Metastasis and CRISPRa/i that would make him a two-time finalist at the International Science and Engineering Fair Finalist and invited him to present at conferences across the country. Already a scientist in his own right, Shiv continued his scientific research at Florida State University's Department of Psychology Lab after his acceptance into their Young Scholar's Program. Here, he conducted research in a language production laboratory to study the effect of cadence and binary predictive factors on speech models for autism therapy which he presented at the FSU Research Exposition.

Using his scientific knowledge in service of his community, Shiv spent the summer after his sophomore year, working towards his Certified Clinical Medical Assistant Certification and completing relevant coursework and volunteer work through FSU's SSTRIDE Summer Medical Institute. Volunteering at a local primary care clinic and cancer center, Shiv has seen over 1000 patients completing tasks such as triaging patients, taking vitals, performing lab tests, administering injections, and performing

phlebotomies. Through these roles treating patients from medically underserved towns, Shiv has witnessed first-hand the impact rural healthcare disparities have had on his community. Guided by an empathetic heart he aims to be a leader within his community to help close this gap in healthcare access.

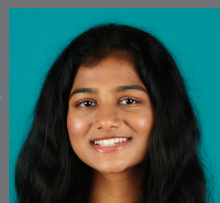
Serving on the board of directors of Big Bend Cares & CarePoint, Shiv workshops legislation policies to provide needed coverage to the marginalized HIV/AIDS Community in Tallahassee. As chair of Youth Health Leadership, he engages in outreach to minority youth in Leon County explaining the dangers of sedentary lifestyles. As a board member of WFSU's Healthcare Jobs Explained he inspires the next generation of healthcare professionals to dream big and do bigger the way he has.

When asked what legacy he hopes to leave Shiv shares "I wish to inspire through demonstration and service, showing the empathy and connection possible within health-science." Leading with an empathetic heart, Shiv has already made an impact on his community and there is no doubt his scientific research will change the world someday.

RUNNER-UP

SARAYU VANGA

Rickards High School



A scholar and a scientist, Rickards High School's Sarayu Vanga is doing what most college students have never even attempted. As a research assistant for the Wang Lab at Florida State University, Sarayu uncovered a mechanism that can advance future drug development and cancer therapy. Her findings

were published in a paper indexed in PubMed and presented at the International Conferences on Advances in Medical Engineering and Applications where she was awarded "Best Presentation Distinction." Sarayu has also conducted research at prestigious universities such as Carnegie Mellon, the University of Pennsylvania, and the Mag Lab.

Applying her knowledge to service, Sarayu was a member of Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare's Teen Volunteer Program. Through her volunteer work at TMH and the Tallahassee Gastro Clinic, she has spent over 200 hours shadowing and assisting healthcare professionals. With a desire to combine her passion for healthcare and service, she continues to give back to her community through her role as the Co-President of Rickards' Red Cross Youth Chapter. In this position, she has mapped areas of the world vulnerable to disaster and conflict and hosted service events such as Rickards' first blood drive.

While committed to expanding her knowledge of the medical sciences she continues to be a leader within her school community serving as the Executive Director of Rickards' Dance Marathon, Vice President of the National Honors Society, and Event Captain for Rickards Science Olympiad. Also, a Sunshine Scholar, Sarayu is the epitome of a stellar student. Sarayu hopes that her academic and service endeavors will serve as a guiding light for others to "discover their own unique path."

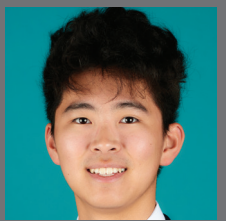
SCIENCE & HEALTH



HONORABLE MENTION

SHAORYANG MA

Chiles High School

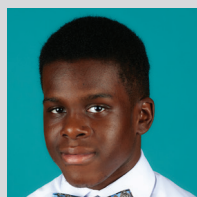


A thought leader within the local scientific community, Chiles High School's Shaoyang Ma has made impressive contributions to the field of biomedical science. Amassing over 800 hours of research at the Florida State University College of Engineering and College of Medicine, Shaoyang's findings have been published in four academic papers. His research has been presented at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and to the American Academy of Dermatology. Shaoyang has also spent close to 100 hours assisting clinical staff and the logistics and project management team at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital.

Shaoyang's extensive medical knowledge stems in part from his participation in the Youth Health Leadership program where he was able to develop a nuanced understanding of health. Through this program, he collaborated with Pineview Elementary School to launch public health initiatives in an economically underserved neighborhood. Shaoyang's participation in YHL also catalyzed the transformation of his personal research project into the founding of an art program for Alzheimer's patient enrichment.

With his career goals and service projects at the forefront, Shaoyang is still an active member of his school community and an impressive student. He fosters his passion for STEM through his roles as Team Captain of Mu Alpha Theta, President of the Neuroscience Club, and Vice-President of the Chiles Chemistry Club. He is also a US National Chemistry Olympiad National Finalist, a Qualifier with Distinction at the American Invitational Mathematics Exam, and a US Presidential Scholars Candidate. While his hard work is undeniable, Shaoyang hopes to be remembered for "being a moral leader and a genuine friend."

FINALISTS



Eric Brooks

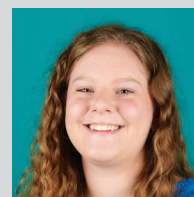
FAMU Developmental Research School

Awards and Honors: Adobe Certified Professional-Graphic Design & Illustrator; FL Sunshine State Scholar for Achievement in STEM; Black Men in Technology Certificate; Dual Enrollment at FAMU

Activity Highlights: FAMU DRS 3rd Grade Reading Buddy; Computer repair volunteer; JROTC Squad Leader; National Beta Club

My Legacy: "Upon graduating, I hope to be remembered by my teachers and to be used as an example for students. I want students who will be in my same position in the future to take the same footsteps I took. With my guide I leave behind, they will attend any institution they see fit and leave behind the same legacy for the students behind them."

What Others Are Saying: "With his natural leadership and genuine care for others, Eric always considers the pro's and con's of each event and voices his opinion on how to get the job up and running smoothly from the beginning to the end." – Nikie Lindsey, Senior National Beta Club Sponsor



Kaylah Feldman

Community Leadership Academy

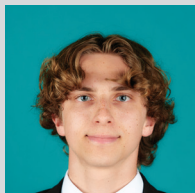
Awards and Honors: Excellence in Biology Award & Journalism Award 2020; Spanish Student of the Year 2021; Natl. Honor Society-VP; Social Studies Student of the Year 2023; Stewardship Award 2021; Excellence in Spanish Award 2022

Activity Highlights: Student Council VP 2022- Morningside Church Youth Worship Team Member (2021-24); Flag Football Team-Captain; Royal Oaks Pediatric Associates Intern (2022/2023); One More Child volunteer; Mission Trip Guatemala

My Legacy: "I hope that after I graduate, I will have inspired those who will come after me to be more like Jesus. It's important to be strong in your academics and service, but if you are not doing it with the right attitude, which can only come from a desire to glorify God and serve others, then there is really no point in doing it."

What Others Are Saying: "Ms. Feldman was a model student in the classroom with stellar conduct and an outstanding work ethic. She also has a tremendous heart for helping others around her." – Krysta Strange, CLA Upper School Science Teacher

SCIENCE & HEALTH



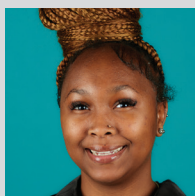
Donovan Graven
North Florida Christian
School

Awards and Honors: 1st Place Overall Winner-NFC School Science Fair (2020/2021); 1st Place Capital City Science & Engineering Fair 2021; National Junior Honor Society 2020-President; Natl. Honor Society (2022-23)-Treasurer 2023

Activity Highlights: Key Club-President; Class Officer Vice President 2020/2023; Warner ASG Soccer Club, D1 (2020-21); Varsity Tennis (2020-4); Varsity Football 2022; Winshape Day Camp for Communities volunteer; Talquin Electric Cooperative Youth Tour

My Legacy: "I always kept my mind on achieving my future goals, never letting myself get distracted from the end game. Thus, I hope my legacy at NFC illustrates the value of staying focused on your goals and working hard to achieve them."

What Others Are Saying: "He is an amazing young man. Anything he volunteers to do, he does very well and with all his heart." – Connie McLendon, First Baptist Church Quincy



Triniece "TT" Haynes
Godby High School

Awards and Honors: Certified Nursing Assistant Accreditation; Charge Nurse and Head Nurse CNA Program; CPR/AED Certification

Activity Highlights: Center Pointe Assisted

Living Assistant 2023; Ronald McDonald House

My Legacy: "I hope upon graduating the legacy I would like to leave behind me is giving the kids that are coming up now the advice of keep going and don't stop. I want to set the example of the kid that got into everything no matter how big or small it was. Also having kids push themselves past their limits."

What Others Are Saying: "During this school year, she has been one of the most hard-working student mentors that I have seen. She seems to have a passion about the success of the students that she works with." – Mrs. Mills, Godby Paraprofessional



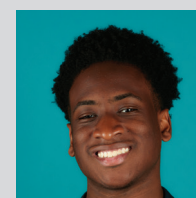
**Mariellen "Emmie"
Klekamp**
Leon High School

Awards and Honors: Natl. Honor Society; Social Studies Honor Society-President; Artistic Director's Award-Ballet Arts Conservancy; AP Schola with Distinction; Honor Roll (2020-23); National Honors Society of Dance Arts 2023-President

Activity Highlights: St. John's Episcopal Church Youth Commission (2021-23); Ballet Arts Conservancy of Tallahassee Senior Company Member; Key Club; Rock Steady Boxing; FL Environmental & Land Service Intern and Gannett Intern; SGA Environmental Concerns Committee Head

My Legacy: "Upon graduating, I want my legacy to be an example for others to follow. Being a good role model is important to me, and I would truly be lost without the people whose footsteps I followed. If I can be that example of responsibility, compassion, and optimism for others, I would consider my high school journey complete."

What Others Are Saying: "Emmie has served selflessly, gracefully, and efficiently in so many spaces while establishing and fostering everlasting relationships with patrons of her local community." – Martina Taylor, Leon Key Club Advisor



Marcus Lampkin Jr.
Lincoln High School

Awards and Honors: US Dept. of Education 2023 Competitive Capacity Enhancement Model Student Presenter; Natl. African American Recognition Scholar; Natl. Achiever's Society-Community Service Award (2020-23); Natl. Honor Society (2021-24); Jazz All-District 2022

Activity Highlights: Band Letter; Boys Town; Sickle Cell Foundation (2021-24)-Team MLJ Recruit Coordinator; Natl. Achievers Society Chaplain/VP; Leon County Schools Volunteer; Tallahassee Coalition Center for Excellence; Youth Leadership Tallahassee Class19

My Legacy: "To help others around me progress without comparison in a meaningful way. I wish to inspire those who may believe that they aren't good enough to achieve their goals and help those who struggle with self-confidence see that they do not have to sell themselves short because of challenges or of what other people accomplish."

What Others Are Saying: "His leadership, compassion and consistent service with a particular focus on engaging and supporting youth is uncontested." – Velma Pernermon Stevens, Ex. Dir., Sickle Cell Foundation

SCIENCE & HEALTH



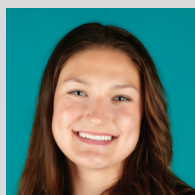
Haligh Smith
SAIL High School

Awards and Honors: CPR/AED Certification; Certified Nursing Assistance; Certified Phlebotomy Technician

Activity Highlights: Southern Shakespeare Company; Theatre Tallahassee; Center Pointe Health Center; Tallahassee Preliminary Care Associates

My Legacy: *“It’s surreal to think that I’m graduating this year, let alone to think that it would be memorable. If there’s anything people remember about me, I hope it’s that I was determined. I worked hard to get to where I am, and despite everything, made it. If nothing, I hope people remember that.”*

What Others Are Saying: *“In her time with me, she demonstrated a high level of organization, and can operate with clear thought while under pressure of time, in a fast paced environment.”* – Kathleen Fedore, R.N.



Amelia Wass de Czege
Florida State University
Schools

Awards and Honors: Natl. Honor Society; CPR/AED Certification; Varsity Volleyball Scholar Athlete; MVP and 1st Team All Big-Bend 2023; Latin State-3rd Place Scrapbook and 1st place Costumes 2021; National Qualifier Tallahassee Volleyball Academy; Sunshine State Scholar

Activity Highlights: Latin Club-Historian (2021-24); Mu Alpha Theta; Tri-M Music Honor Society; Renegade Spirit Club; FSUS Volleyball Camp (2021-23); Reading Buddies; FSUS Wrestling statistician; Fla. Christian Athletes

My Legacy: *“When I graduate Florida High I want to leave behind a legacy that inspired younger students to be involved in what they love. You don’t have to fit into one stereotype, instead you can be involved in different groups and organizations that interest you.”*

What Others Are Saying: *“She is a dedicated student who is committed to pursuing a long-term career in healthcare. She is a hard worker and does her best to deliver care with compassion.”* – Kristina Antonoplos, FSUS Clinical Instructor

SOCIAL SCIENCE



WINNER

**VELAN
THANASEKAR**

Rickards High School



Just like the scales of justice, Rickards High School's Velan Thanasekar is an ardent advocate of equity and understanding for all people. Immigrating from India at a young age, Velan never took his education for granted and understood the potential it provided him to address the needs of his community. Dedicating countless hours of his free time to research, Velan was able to harness that potential. After being retained for his exceptional performance as a participant in the Tallahassee Future Leaders Academy program, he began coauthoring a paper that utilizes Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services data to assess the impact of community mental health services on substance abuse. This is just one piece of a broader research project on how the pandemic-influenced service delivery and healthcare disparities. Velan has also spearheaded research in developing a tool to improve social living conditions through evaluation of environmental impact categorization in collaboration with professors at FSU and FAMU. A paper detailing his research findings will be published this spring with the impact of his findings extending across business, agriculture, and human health.

Empathy and equity are not only the driving forces behind Velan's research but also his leadership. While he maintains a multitude of leadership roles at Rickards, his role as the president and captain of Brain Bowl allows his character to shine through. An eager participant since the 6th grade, Velan

loved the opportunity to satisfy his hunger for knowledge. As president, he not only inspires that same passion in his peers but has proven himself a strong leader through his ability to find common ground among his team members. Velan continues to inspire a rigorous pursuit of academic success within his peers in his roles as Biology and Public Health Captain of Science Olympiad, Treasurer of the National Honor Society, and Vice President of French Club.

While his research will undoubtedly catalyze positive change within his community, he continues to serve the underserved through his volunteer work. Volunteering at a local HIV clinic through Big Bend Cares taught Velan to be a fearless advocate for necessary change. His engagement with unhoused individuals at the Kearney Center further opened his eyes to the adversity and resilience of people across various societal backgrounds in his community.

Velan aspires to "demonstrate that through our dedicated efforts today, we can pave the way for a better tomorrow". He has already started paving, all we have to do is follow.

RUNNER-UP

ZOE RUBIN

*Florida State University
Schools*

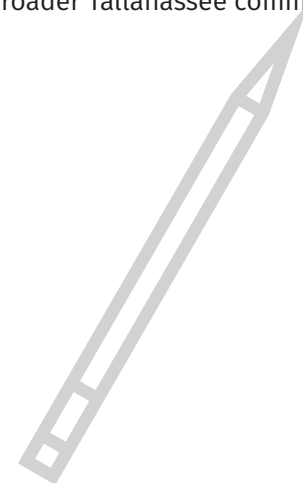


With only three years of high school under her belt, Florida State University Schools' Zoe Rubin will be graduating a powerful student leader and a model of positive community engagement. Recognized for her passion for government and politics, Zoe will be travelling to Washington, D.C. as a representative of the Big Bend area at the L'Taken Seminar. As a student delegate, Zoe will attend social

justice seminars and present on an issue she is passionate about to the Florida State Representatives in Congress. Practicing civic engagement inside and outside of school, Zoe has also been a member of student council all three years as Freshman Class President and Class Representative. As Historian/Public Relations Officer of Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society, she gets to inspire that same civic engagement in her peers through events such as a voter registration rally.

While she understands the importance of active citizenship in enacting change, she also implements positive change in her community through volunteer work. Through her role as Publicity Chair on the Executive Board of Dance Marathon and her involvement with the Dave Markell Teen Philanthropy Initiative that delegates \$10,000 annually to global non-profit organizations, she is able to help those that need it most.

In addition to her leadership in her community, she is also a leader within her school. As the President of multiple clubs, including National English Honor Society, Future Educators of America, and Vice President of the National Honor Society, she leverages every position she holds to encourage service and positivity within the community at FSUS and the broader Tallahassee community.



SOCIAL SCIENCE



HONORABLE MENTION

GILLIAN TRAN

Leon High School



Illuminating the path for others, Leon High School's Gillian Tran is a guiding light to those around her. An impassioned effort to learn more about key historical events impacting the past and present state of our social environment, Gillian was an active participant in the History Fair. Her project exploring how The Berlin Olympics fell short of establishing global discourse on the rise of Nazism placed first in the School and District Competition and made her a National History Day State Finalist. She has continued her interest in this discourse through her work creating a digital archive highlighting the American Response to the Holocaust.

Gillian is not only a passionate citizen of the world but an influential leader among her peers. As the Publicity Merchandise Chair for Dance Marathon she designs merchandise to help raise funds for pediatric cancer patients. Also a member of the Student Government Association she is able to continue her community outreach raising over \$40k for Tallahassee Memorial Hospital. As an active member at Good Shepard Catholic Church, she was eager to share her faith with others. As a Life Teen, she has used her leadership skills to help guide their 150+ youth member congregation through their own faith journeys. She has also helped guide Leon's Varsity Swim and Dive Team to a nearly undefeated season as their Team Captain. "I aim for my legacy to be evident in the achievements of those I've guided," shares Gillian. Leading with compassion, there is no doubt Gillian has inspired success in everyone she has encountered.

FINALISTS



Ahsen Beceriklier
Godby High School

Awards and Honors: A/B Honor Roll (2020-24); African American Brain Bowl; Dual Enrolled TCC

Activity Highlights: Student Housing Solutions volunteer; Godby Teacher volunteer; The Longest Table; Culture Club; Volleyball; Key Club; Chalk Walk 2024

My Legacy: "I wish to leave behind a trail of inspiration for those who come after me. I would like my experiences and my knowledge to be a guiding light for others. With this inspiration, those after me can go through their paths in life with more developed empathy, understanding, and communication skills."

What Others Are Saying: "One of Ahsen's most outstanding qualities is her unwavering commitment to service. Her character and values make her not only a standout student but also an exemplary role model for her peers." – Ashley Green, Godby Key Club Sponsor



Jada Bedford
Lincoln High School

Awards and Honors: Academic Honor Roll (2021-23); Rookie of the Year Swim & Dive; Natl. Honor Society; Sophomore and Junior Class President; AP Scholar; History Fair 2nd Place

Activity Highlights: SGA Student Body President 2023; Battle of the Bands; Homecoming (2021-23); Dance Marathon-Morale and Executive Boards; Teacher Aid

My Legacy: "I do not know that I am leaving much of a grand 'legacy'. I do hope when I do walk away from Lincoln High, people simply remember that I was kind. I hope people know I always had their best interest at heart, and I hope I encouraged people to be positive in every situation, because we often fight so many battles no one will ever know about."

What Others Are Saying: "What I like about Jada 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

SOCIAL SCIENCE



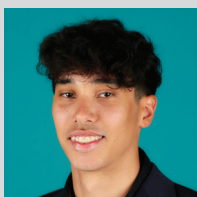
Kathleen "Katie" Bennett
Chiles High School

Awards and Honors: Cumming Scientific Endowment 2020; Natl. Student Leadership Conference Public Policy Representative; 1st Place Chiles History Fair 2022; President's Gold Volunteer Service Award 2023; Natl. Honor Society; HOBY Youth Leadership

Activity Highlights: Letters for Rose Chapter Head (2021-23); Black History Assembly Committee Co-Chair; Inter-Club Council Chair; Mental Health Matters Club-President; Varsity Flag Football, Soccer and Tennis; Big Dog Rescue; Together Tallahassee-Founder; Simply The B.E.S.T." Conference

My Legacy: "I spent my high school career participating in a wide range of activities with the intent to leave things better off for those who come next. I hope to have left behind opportunities for others to serve their community and learn from those experiences the importance of giving back."

What Others Are Saying: "Her proactive, empathetic approach and ability to inspire positive change make her an invaluable asset to any team or project." - Kyle Frost, Aide to Commissioner Brian Welch



John "JP" Daugherty
St. John Paul II Catholic High School

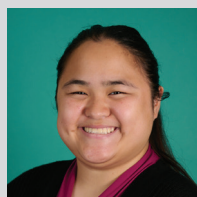
Awards and Honors: Natl. Honor Society; Natl. Spanish Honor Society; Jim Moran College

of Entrepreneurship Camp 1st Place Winner 2023

Activity Highlights: Second Harvest Food Bank; Miracle Sports volunteer SportsAbility Alliance; Kearney Center; Sound Manager for Outdoor Sunday Mass; Student Liaison for SJPII Athletic Director

My Legacy: "I aspire for my legacy to reflect an unwavering commitment to hard work, regardless of the challenges I faced. My aim is to set a compelling example for underclassmen, illustrating that, in the journey through high school, nothing worthwhile comes effortlessly."

What Others Are Saying: "John Paul has proven to be a dedicated volunteer with our Miracle Sports Program. He works closely with our athletes who have a variety of disabilities, ensuring that they have an enjoyable, safe and fun experience." - Frances Gilbert, SportsAbility Alliance Ex. Dir.



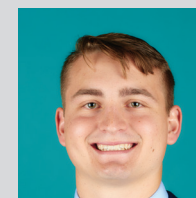
Addixian Gillespie
Community Christian School

Awards and Honors: Natl. Honor Society; Outstanding Crew Award; Honor Council-President; Unsung Hero Award (2021-22); Kanakuk Kamps Coach Award

Activity Highlights: CCS Leadership Program Team Leader; CCS Theatre Crew; TPD Cadet & Sargeant In Charge; Redemptive Love Farm; FCA Basketball Camp; Panacea Vacation Bible School; Camp Living Water volunteer; Heart Ministries

My Legacy: "I hope that I will leave a legacy of loving one another no matter the circumstance and to always make people feel welcome."

What Others Are Saying: "Addixian is a hardworking, efficient and kind leader. Her leadership skills can best be described as diligent, dependable and team centered." - Hillary Underwood, CCS Creative Arts Dir.



Brinkley Snow
Maclay School

Awards and Honors: US Military Academy's Summer Leadership; Homecoming King; Lacrosse Academic All-American 2023; Natl. Honor Society; Spanish Honor Society; IFAS Scuba Certification

Activity Highlights: Lacross Team-Captain and Camp Counselor (202-23); Student Ambassador; Backpack Buddies-President; Football Team-Captain; Maclay Student Council Co-President; Mu Alpha Theta; Boys State; Co-President Maclay Fellowship Christian Athletes; Key Club

My Legacy: "I hope to serve as a role model to other students in my school. I want them to see what I've done with the many resources available to us and use them in a better and more meaningful way than me. I hope that this can create a repeating cycle of excellence at Maclay."

What Others Are Saying: "Brinkley's academic excellence, combined with his hands-on approach to community service, sets a standard for what young leaders can achieve." - Jessica McAbee, Backpack Buddies TLH Sponsor

TECHNOLOGY



WINNER

JAMES ZHANG

Chiles High School



Chiles High School's James Zhang, a strong proponent of the principle that change begins from the ground up, is helping lay a solid foundation for the ongoing fight for responsible technological development. After witnessing the sheriff's flawed predictive policing algorithm mistakenly target his childhood best friend, James knew he had to speak out. Despite his efforts testifying at city council and school board meetings, the program continued to receive funding. Fueled by his pursuit of justice, he began educating his community about the danger of predictive policing and equipping them with the tools to speak out against it. James led a FOIA open records request campaign alongside a group of litigators and drafted a bill to regulate police surveillance technology that resulted in the program's discontinuance. His efforts in his own community connected him to Encode Justice, a global coalition of group activists fighting for human rights in the age of AI. In partnership with the organization, James founded the Florida Chapter.

James' profound knowledge of technology has been a powerful weapon of change within his community. He has continued to expand his knowledge through programs such as Yale's Young Global Scholar Program (Innovations in Science & Technology Cohort), MIT's Beaver Works Summer Institute, and his selection as 1 of 95 students to participate in NASA's SEES Internship Program. Through this program, James used machine learning to project the mass loss of polar ice sheets and global sea level change over the next 100 years

and presented and published his findings for the American Geophysical Union Conference. He has received countless recognitions for his technical skills including his selection as the US Congressional App Challenge winner for an app he created with his friends that helps non-English speakers and mentally challenged individuals to practice English vocabulary.

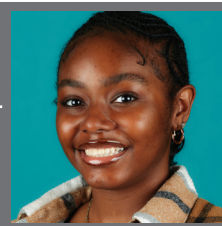
In addition to his pursuit of knowledge and advocacy in his community, James maintains several leadership roles within his school community. As the President of Key Club, he organized sandbag filling days before the impacts of Hurricanes Ian and Idalia. As Chess Club Tournament Director, James has directed official USCF-rated tournaments and founded his school's first chess team. Continuing his initiative to advocate for the underserved, he represents 33,000 students as a Leon County School Board Student Member. He has leveraged his position to help provide STEM resources to students in Title I schools.

When reflecting on his time at Chiles, James shares "I fought for what I believed in. I wasn't afraid to speak my mind, have a good laugh, and give from the heart." We could all learn a thing or two from James.

RUNNER-UP

ANAIA LARKINS

Leon High School



Combining her passion for computer science with her innate creative flair, Leon High School's Anaia Larkins has established herself as a skilled graphic designer among her peers. As an intern in the Leon County Community and Media Relations office for the Leon County Board of County Commissioners, Anaia became versed in applications such as

Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator, and Lightroom. Engaging in the practical application of her newly developed skills, she was responsible for the creation of social media graphics and fliers to aid in the promotion of Leon County services and events. In Anaia's role as the Black Student Union Club Historian at Leon, she continued to build on her skills in content creation managing the club's social media page. Guided by an entrepreneurial spirit she not only used graphic design in service to her community but in her own personal pursuits. Her graphic design business, @anaiascreations allows her followers to request custom content and enables her to continue fine-tuning her skills.

Outside of her work in graphic design, Anaia uses her expertise in the realm of technology to give back to her community. Through her involvement in the 4H Tech changemakers program, she shares her knowledge on programs such as Canva and ArcGIS with college students. Anaia's participation in other service organizations such as Delta Gemz and Junior Debutante helps her to cultivate a sisterhood among other like-minded individuals who maintain a commitment to bettering their community. Anaia's compassion for her community and ambitious pursuit of knowledge will undoubtedly leave a lasting legacy.

TECHNOLOGY



HONORABLE MENTION

NEVAEH GREEN

FAMU Developmental
Research School



With the ability to effortlessly light up any room she enters, Florida A&M University Developmental Research School's Nevaeh Green is a thought leader within her community. Since discovering her passion for technology and science, Nevaeh has been relentless in further developing her knowledge and skillset. As a participant in Florida State University's AEOP iCamp, Nevaeh spent five weeks learning advanced technological skills. She continued to broaden her horizons as a participant in Physics With Phones where she learned the principles of light, electromagnetics, and motion with the mobile app PhyPhox. Nevaeh has also received certifications in Photoshop, Premiere Pro, and InDesign. Her impressive knowledge has been recognized by the National Center for Women & Information Technology as the winner of the Aspirations in Computing 2023 Northern Florida and Southeast Affiliate Award.

Harnessing her leadership skills and technical knowledge, Nevaeh aims to empower other young women in STEM through her involvement in organizations such as the National Magnetic Laboratory's SciGirl's Summer Camp. She also empowers her own student body through her role as Student Body President. Implementing creative digital content and online surveys, she is able to foster school spirit and ensure every voice is heard. Nevaeh also maintains countless other leadership roles at FAMU DRS and within the community including; Treasurer of the National Honor Society, Co-Captain of the Varsity Cheerleading Team, and a selected participant of Youth Leadership Tallahassee

Class 19. Through her leadership, Nevaeh hopes to inspire the next generation of women in STEM to "never tell themselves no. Never be your own limiter."

FINALISTS



**Kavyashree "Kavya"
Kadhivelu**
Rickards High School

Awards and Honors: Natl. Merit Commended Scholar; Apple WWDC Swift Student Challenge Scholar; Uber Global Hackathon N.A. Finalist; Sunshine State Science & Engineering Fair Finalist & 1st Place winner; Natl. STEM Challenge State Finalist; GENIUS Olympiad Bronze Award 2023

Activity Highlights: Natl. High Field Magnetic Lab (2020-24)-Teen Advisory Council; Rickards Science Olympiad Captain; Red Cross Webmaster; M Alpha Theta; Leon County Public Library Teen Advisory Council; Varsity Tennis

My Legacy: *"Upon graduating I aspire to set an example to younger peers as someone that always sought empowerment through knowledge. I hope to inspire underclassmen to pursue creativity, service and knowledge in whatever fields interest them throughout the remainder of high school and well into the future and I hope my peers remember me as kind and hardworking."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Kayva is certainly a multit talented student who will use her skills and knowledge to help others."* – Dr. Joe Williams, Rickards IB Coordinator

TECHNOLOGY



Evan Nguyen
Maclay School

Awards and Honors: Natl. Social Studies Honor Society – Treasurer; Spanish Honor Society; Mu Alpha Theta Math Calculus Team Competitor

Activity Highlights: Asian Coalition of Tallahassee; Maclay Tennis and volunteer; Ears for Elders; “Better Together” Chair Captain; Founding member Computers for Tallahassee; Spectrum Club; Multicultural Awareness Club; Key Club

My Legacy: “I hope that my legacy is one that brings people together and contributes to my community. Aspiring to leave a legacy of inclusivity, empathy and a dedication to lifelong learning, creating a community that constantly grows.”

What Others Are Saying: “He is a remarkable individual with a rare combination of technical acumen, creativity and a genuine passion for serving others.” – Bing Xu, President, B&C Engineering & Services



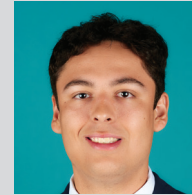
Mika Rauschenberg
Godby High School

Awards and Honors: Entrepreneurship & Small Business Certification; Agriscience Certification; A/B Honor Roll (2022-23)

Activity Highlights: Trousdale Gymnastics Coach; City of Tallahassee Camp Counselor 2022-23; Softball Team Captain; SGA Senior Class Board Member; Key Club; Future Educators of America President

My Legacy: “I strive to make an impact on others, as I am one to spread kindness and always ask others how they are doing. I hope this inspires others to do the same; I want my legacy to be that I have made a positive impact in the lives of others through kindness and compassion.”

What Others Are Saying: “Mika truly has a servant heart and constantly pours into the school as well as the local community.” – Eleasha Milicevic, Godby Social Studies Dept. Chair



Andrew Young
Lincoln High School

Awards and Honors: 2023 FSU Entrepreneurial Summer Camp Pitch Competition; Roblox Bricksmith Badge and Gold Crown for O’s; Certification in numerous web design and JavaScript applications; Natl. Honor Society; Academic Awards 2022-23

Activity Highlights: Green Club-President; First Baptist Church Youth Choir mission trip & Bible School; FSU College of Engineering externship; Buck Lake school volunteer; Robotics Club

My Legacy: “Post-graduation, my legacy aims for influence through compassionate leadership, actively engaging in volunteering, and community involvement.”

What Others Are Saying: “His commitment to academic excellence and service to the community is truly commendable. He has consistently demonstrated integrity, responsibility, and a strong work ethic in all his endeavors.” – Michael Ray, Lincoln AP Biology Teacher

WORLD LANGUAGES



WINNER

ERYN FILES

*Florida State University
Schools*



Driven by an insatiable curiosity about people, Florida State University Schools' Eryn Files has catalyzed a movement toward cultural awareness within her community. As early as elementary school, Eryn took her first Spanish class, a language which she is now proficient in. After Spanish, it was French, Hindi, Turkish, and now Arabic, each a stepping stone to her future as an attorney for underrepresented individuals from Africa and the Middle East. While Eryn's passion for language learning was practically bursting at the seams, she noticed that her peers did not share the same enthusiasm.

Hoping to inspire that passion in others, she got to work establishing the first Hispanic Heritage Cultural Celebration at FSUS. Bringing together arts performances and projects from FSUS' chorus, theater, history, and art departments she promoted campus-wide cultural appreciation. Eryn's continued effort to encourage diverse educational opportunities led her to establish a Hispanic Literacy Week, with the help of the organization Building Incredible Generations, the following year to inspire interest in books through increased representation. This year Eryn has spearheaded FSUS' first International Cultural Celebration. Through her partnership with Building Incredible Generations as their Secretary and International Cultures Chair, she also helped to organize FSUS' first Annual Black History Month Celebration. The program featured student performances in art, music, and theater that prompted the student body

to appreciate the historical contributions of minority populations.

With a strong belief that "language learning and cultural awareness allows disenfranchised groups to have more paths to access improvement," Eryn has dedicated her service endeavors to underserved community development. As President of the National Spanish Honor Society, she worked with Yuda International to sell Ayuda Bands on-campus to support two young women in Guatemala, raising over \$2,000. She received the opportunity to gain more formal education on the use of technology in community development and international diplomacy at Purdue University. Eryn was also selected as a Florida Washington Youth Tour Representative after her involvement with the Talquin Youth Tour where she progressed by leaps and bounds down her career path.

With an advanced understanding of the world, Eryn's leadership has impacted every organization she is a part of. As Vice President of Future Business Leaders of America, she has inspired the next generation of entrepreneurs and as FSUS' representative on the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Leon County Board, she can guide others with the strong morals that have gotten her this far. When asked what legacy she hopes to leave, instead Eryn imparts the wisdom that "recognizing diversity fosters a sense of humility about your place in this world."

RUNNER-UP

HEEWON SEO

Chiles High School



Chiles High School Senior, Heewon Seo is both an advocate and an avid learner of diverse cultures in the Tallahassee community.

Immigrating to the United States at three months old, Heewon began to develop the feeling of gaps in his cultural identity. To fill them, he became one of the youngest members of the Asian Coalition of Tallahassee, a non-profit association that serves the needs of Asians, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders in the Tallahassee community. Heewon's enthusiastic participation in recruiting and coordinating volunteers for their annual event, Experience Asia, saved ACT over \$18,000.

Continuing his promotion of Asian cultural awareness within his school community, Heewon founded Chiles' Asian Student Association. As Co-President, he guides lessons about Asian cultures and languages and coordinates volunteer opportunities. Proficient in Korean, English, and a recipient of the Silver Biliteracy Seal for Spanish, Heewon has an innate gift for language learning. Through his winning Congressional App Challenge Project "Vocab Master," a language vocabulary game for young children, immigrants, and mentally challenged individuals, he can share that gift with others.

Ranked 7th place in the World at solving Rubik's Cubes language learning is not his only gift. Eager to bring the inclusive environments he had experienced at competitions to Tallahassee, he organized his first official Rubik's Cube competition through the World Cube Association with competitors from 10 different countries. Heewon hopes that his efforts to promote inclusivity across diverse cultures will "inspire initiative and creativity and foster lasting friendships that individuals will carry throughout their lifetime."

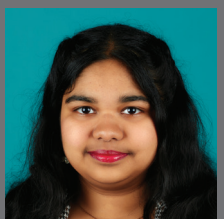
WORLD LANGUAGES



HONORABLE
MENTION

GEETIKA KOSURI

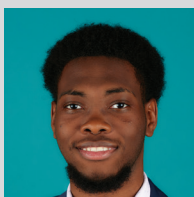
Rickards High School



The hallmark of mastery of a topic is the ability to teach it to others, and Rickards High School's Geetika Kosuri is a valuable asset to her peers' language learning experiences. Despite initially struggling with the French language, this was an obstacle Geetika soared above. Impassioned to share her love for the French language learning experience, Geetika, transformed Rickards' French Club, once just an alternative lunch spot for students. As the club's President, she instated a bi-weekly tutoring agenda that covered French culture, speaking, reading, writing, and listening. She also created 34 PowerPoints for the French 2 curriculum at Rickards that aided her peers in preparing for their upcoming exams. As a Guinness World Record holder for reciting the Hanuman Chalisa in a Sanskrit-dialect, her skills in language learning are profound. Bringing her skills into her professional life, as an intern at Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare, she assisted the telemedicine staff in advocating for their new application, the Language Line offering translators for patients in 30+ languages.

Geetika continues to share her love for learning through her leadership roles. As a Model UN Middle School Mentor and Ecology Captain of the Science Olympiad, she fosters knowledge development in students of all ages. On a grander scale, during her internship with Florida A&M Entomology, she conducted research on medically important mosquitoes and shared her findings at a college conference providing valuable insight into the new malaria cases in Florida. Geetika hopes through her academic pursuits to be living proof of "the beauty of academic resilience and the infinite possibilities that arise from genuine passion."

FINALISTS



Lutherford "Luther"
Auguste

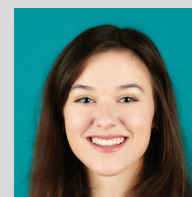
Godby High School

Awards and Honors: Natl. Honor Society; Senior Board Counsel; Community Service Award Eglise Bateau de L'Evangile

Activity Highlights: French 3 Honors tutor; Translator English to French for Church Preacher; Newcomer Translator for ESOL students; New Peniel Baptist Church audio team; Godby Teacher Asst.; Soccer Team; Theatre Dept. Technical Asst.; A Full Summer

My Legacy: *"I aspire to leave a legacy marked by intellectual curiosity, fostering a spirit of collaboration, and inspiring others to explore the vast realms of knowledge. Through meaningful interactions and a commitment to continuous learning, I aim to contribute to a community that values curiosity, critical thinking and a passion for making a positive impact on the world."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Luther is a remarkable individual whose dedication to excellence, service, and leadership has left an indelible mark on our academic and campus wide community."* – Ashley Green, Godby Teacher



Olivia Brangaccio

Lincoln High School

Awards and Honors: Maximum Cum Laude Natl. Latin Exam (2020-21); Multiple 1st-6th Places in Regional and State Latin Forums (2020-24); Early Literacy for Children Certification

Activity Highlights: Annsworth Academy Assistant; Firecracker 5K volunteer (2021-23); Key Club-President; Latin Club Treasurer and President; AP Bootcamp; Green Club; School of Rock volunteer

My Legacy: *"I hope to inspire all my friends and peers I am leaving as I graduate to become the best versions of themselves, without fearing judgement from others."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Olivia is an outstanding student. She is dedicated, hardworking, creative, kind, generous."* – Alexandra Ramsey, Lincoln Teacher

WORLD LANGUAGES



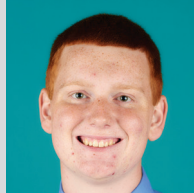
Mary Elizabeth Bussey
Leon High School

Awards and Honors: Honor Roll (2020-24); Eco-Club Member of the Month 2022; 6th Place District Weightlifting 2023; MVP Leon Throwing Team (2023-23)-Captain; Natl. English, Science and Social Studies Honor Societies

Activity Highlights: Lions United (2020-24); Univ. of St. Andrews Summer Abroad program; TMH Animal Therapy training; Hands & Hearts for Horses; FSU Marine Research Lab; The Grove Museum intern & volunteer; Tallahassee Zoom Track Club; Leon Track Club

My Legacy: *“After graduating, I hope I leave behind a strong group of independent young women. I have been belittled and have belittled myself and I never want a girl to feel that way. I have made it my goal to inspire the younger women in Leon High School to not be overpowered by men but to be strong and confident.”*

What Others Are Saying: *“In addition to working with historic collections she represented The Grove at special events. Her willingness to serve and learn from others spoke to her character and trustworthiness.”* – Brennan Jammer, Education Coordinator, The Grove Museum



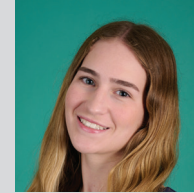
Miles Gillespie
Leon County Home School

Awards and Honors: President’s List; Deans List; Natl. Society of Leadership & Success; North Fla. Fair 4-H Wildlife Ecology Contest Champion; Jr. Classical League State Championship Captain; FJCL Advanced FSU Centamen Team 3rd Place 2023; Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

Activity Highlights: Good Shepard Backpack ministry – Chair (2020-24); Tallahassee Tennis Challenger; Blessed Sacrament vacation bible school; Junior Classical League Recording Secretary and Captain

My Legacy: *“Throughout my studies, I have approached my education with great curiosity. I love learning and enjoy discovering how things work and why human endeavors have developed the way they have. I greatly appreciate intellectual discussions with faculty and students, both to experience their divergent viewpoints and to be enriched by others who share an innate curiosity. Curiosity is my legacy.”*

What Others Are Saying: *“Miles has shown himself to be a studious, intelligent, and diligent young man who thinks deeply and cares about the world around him.”* – Becky Ream, Classical Conversations Director



Laura “Anne Mason” Roberts
Maclay School

Awards and Honors: Natl. Science Honor Society-President; Natl. Art and Natl. Honor Societies; Winner of over 40 Latin Awards State and Nationals; Natl. Latin Convention 2nd Place writing award; State Latin Convention 1st Place winner (2020-24); Maclay Scholarship for Excellence in Classics

Activity Highlights: Things That Matter Club-President; Capital City Rowing; Camp Director for Community Latin Camp; Nikki Haley Campaign in Iowa; Latin Counselor at Christ Classical Academy; Maclay School Day Camp Counselor; Natl. H.S. Case Competition Team Leader

My Legacy: *“Since freshman year, I have been concerned about the mental health of teenagers. I’ve found ongoing discussions with my peers to address these issues and have proposed written solutions of ways to address mental health with my principal. I will continue to encourage others to seek help and to boldly propose solutions for the improved mental health of my peers.”*

What Others Are Saying: *“Anne Mason – more than any other student I teach – is ready for life beyond high school, and whatever her journey takes her, she will inspire all who meet her.”* – Lee Norment, Maclay English Dept. Chair

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.



2024 SPIRIT AWARD WINNER **HELEN CONN — LEON HIGH SCHOOL**



Moved by a deep compassion for people in the world around her, Helen Conn dedicates her time and energy to making her community a brighter place. After hearing the story of a former Leon student, Marshal Fisher, who passed away from Osteosarcoma, despite never having had the privilege of meeting him, a passion was ignited to use her skills in commemoration of him. Founding the Marshal Fisher Tennis Tournament in his memory, Helen was able to raise over \$2,000 for an organization that funded Marshal’s treatment and care at Shands Hospital. Each year, Marshal’s mother, Betsey Fisher, was able to honor her son’s legacy. While Dance Marathon Executive Director, Varsity Tennis Team Captain, President of the National Junior Honor Society, and receiving the title of Miss Leon are all remarkable accomplishments, it is Helen Conn’s compassion for her community that will leave a lasting imprint on the hearts of its members.

8TH GRADE ESSAY CONTEST



The Best & Brightest Awards invited Leon County eighth grade students to recognize their potential and dream about their future by participating in the 2024 Best & Brightest Awards Essay Contest. This year, students analyzed the following quote and wrote an essay describing how involvement in volunteer service can make a difference in our community and how it relates to their service in school and community.

*“What you do makes a difference,
and you have to decide what kind of difference
you want to make.”*

— Jane Goodall

WINNER

Ainsley Cate

Florida State University Schools

“A teen can see that there is a bigger world beyond their own. They will learn that a community is like a giant team, working together to make things better...Helping our local community is an honor, and getting to do something you love while serving your community is a bonus.”

RUNNER-UP

Genevieve Lemmon

Leon County Home School

“Through directing Shakespeare plays, I have helped to create an interactive environment where students can grow in confidence and literary enthusiasm – qualities that will enable them to positively affect our broader community in the future.”

HONORABLE MENTION

Katelyn Irwin

Montford Middle School

“This is why I believe you should make the choice to help others if possible. So, if you see someone that needs help or you are given an opportunity to help someone, take it because you never know when or if it could be you.”

8TH GRADE ESSAY CONTEST



FINALISTS

CHRIST CLASSICAL ACADEMY

Elinor Douglas
Landon Huber
Evvy Wacksman

COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Hannah Allen
Anna Cate Cole
Jayden Larson

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Bella D'Aurio
Faith Simon
Ashlynn Yoshioka

CORNERSTONE LEARNING

COMMUNITY
Kalliope Flom
Kaia Holland
Kai Okui

DEERLAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mia Hemenway
Yash Jhala
Arcadia Wang

ELIZABETH COBB MIDDLE SCHOOL

Zaryah Combs
Astrid Vandermark

FAIRVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

Aleena Ahmed
Adeogo Betiku
Jessica Wang

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOLS

Dublin Black
Ainsley Cate
Bryce Stewart

FORT BRADEN SCHOOL

Addison Baxley
Addyson Rochester

GRIFFIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Marlon Marshall
Roana Pérez-García
Danica Robinson

HOLY COMFORTER EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

Charlie Conn
Leyton Gardner
Rebecca Gould

LEON COUNTY HOME SCHOOL

Julia Barbara Cox
Genevieve Lemmon

MACLAY SCHOOL

Holt Antohi
Tucker Couch
Autumn Daniels

MONTFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Stokes Bryan
Katelyn Irwin
Riley Montalbano

NIMS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Andrea Anaya-Rivas
Ava Burney
Kaliyah Jones

NORTH FLORIDA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Abbott Austin
Isaiah Bolton
Emma Scanlon

RAA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Jacob Dobbs

RENAISSANCE ACADEMY

Nassira Powell

SWIFT CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL

Sydney Roberts
Raine Toombs
Nola Wilson-Rolfe

TALLAHASSEE CLASSICAL SCHOOL

Gwenyth Gray
Avalée Griffin
Jordyn White

TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Genevieve Gillespie
Ashley Lugo Purata
Maggie Smith

WOODVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Calie Hutchison
Jayden Meacham
Ryan Serrano

Past Winners

2011

Muireall Brown
Danielle Federico
Shane Smiths
Winner
Runner-Up
H. Mention

2012

Colleen Newton
Simone Butler
Alexandria Rogers
Winner
Runner-Up
H. Mention

2013

Jadaicia Ervin
Imani Walker
Rebecca Morales
Winner
Runner-Up
H. Mention

2014

John McCann
Kassidy Stuart
Grant Womble
Winner
Runner-Up
H. Mention

2015

Meghan Gilmore
Kirsten Whaley
Sarah Schaper
Winner
Runner-Up
H. Mention

2016

Connor Yablonski
Julia Hernandez
M. Roberts
Winner
Runner-Up
H. Mention

2017

Aniketh Mukhirala
Natalie Johns
Presley Allen
Winner
Runner-Up
H. Mention

2018

Zoe Albrigo
Grace Dennig
Allie Boyd
Winner
Runner-Up
H. Mention

2019

Tallulah King,
Atticus Miller,
Kimberly NeSmith
Winner
Runner-Up
H. Mention

2020

Eryn Files
Nathan Reed
Ani Hatfield
Winner
Runner-Up
H. Mention

2021

Angelina Veleta
Caroline Cox
Nishi Nandineni
Winner
Runner-Up
H. Mention

2022

Cecilie McGrew
Belén Rambana
Jonathan George
Winner
Runner-Up
H. Mention

2023

Ella Dorn
Kaidence Kimbrough
Ziad Selie
Winner
Runner-Up
H. Mention

PAST WINNERS

ART		
2006	Courtney Asztalos Allison Jackson Keon Hogan	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2007	Shannon Groves Matthew Cowdery Ishanna Ible	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2008	Erin Harris-Parks Chelsea Hill Hannah Leggoe	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2009	Cosby Hayes Mary Dunkelberger Allison Cottle	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2010	Taylor Hardee Danielle Bishop Julia Kunberger	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2011	Thomas Cooper Diana Elsner Todd Jones	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2012	Sara Cox Benjamin Kay Monica Frehn	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2013	Kaitlin Duchene Caroline Manuel Aaron Mosley	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2014	Kenya Lloyd Kiara Palmer Yuqing Wu	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2015	Rhea-Donna Reyes Torrey Kiele Carina Krehl	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2016	Akshar Patel Clara Molina Kari Essary	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2017	Alexis Campbell Abigail Perkins Jay Wenhold	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2018	Karsyn Fletcher J. Martinez-Miller Jasmine Blake	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2019	Haileigh Walton Nicholas Williams Kathryn Barnette	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2020	Madison Wolfe E. Bonham-Reed Manna Robertson	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2021	Roman Le Emma Bryson Mia Scott	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2022	Sarah Caulley Soto Darell Williams Ann Nguyen	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2023	Jessie Powell Citlali Patino Malcolm Gambles II	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention

ATHLETICS		
2006	Kristen Ledlow Denise Frohlich Daniel Morris, Jr.	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2007	Seth Walker Rebecca Stott Kacie McCloud	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2008	Laura Hempel Maria Harper Katrina Unglaub	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2009	Whitney Strickland III Ryan Welke Kelly Conroy	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2010	Sarah Rudder Melanese Edwards Catherine Whiddon	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2011	Rosemary Klassen Macie Wilkins Lindsey Duncan	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2012	Sarah Harrington Johnny Blue Craig Jennifer Griffith	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2013	Stefanie Kurgatt Joseph Briggs Alyssa Yambor-Maul	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2014	Darrielle McQueen Adrian Hendlin Phalguna Rupanagudi	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2015	Tyson Murray Kathryn Crotty Julian Greene	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2016	C. Kercheval-Roig Teresa Conroy Tanner Adkison	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2017	Kelley Breeden Morgan Ayers Johnny Grace	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2018	Alexander Sobeski Ana Wallace Mary Waddell	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2019	Emma McGibany Nataki Close Braidan O'Connor	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2020	Janae Scott Shania Cromarty Saige Kemeny	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2021	T. McPherson Jr. DJ Campbell De'Shawn Rucker	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2022	Lydia Hanlon Cailin Demps Emma Brice	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2023	Jay Beachum Wyatt Townsend Esrael Yant	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention

BUSINESS		
2006	Ricquel Jackson Kolanda Lewis Heidi Dhein	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2007	Brittany Pace Ashley Carter Romain Benjamin	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2008	Lauren Rudd Brittany Folsom Sheneka Faison	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2009	Thierry Kayiranga A.J. Trautmann Darius Hands	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2010	Kevin Hill Kevy Moore Charles Cox	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2011	Samuel Cook Katie Pullen William Baldock	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2012	Zemoria Johnson William McQuade Morrie Kim	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2013	Parth Patel Jill Smith Brooke Hunter	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2014	Deanne Roberts Brian Leichus Haley Ashlin	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2015	Emily Schwartz Anna Rushin Irj Tajdar	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2016	Camille Okonkwo Taylor Bickett Andrew Inman	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2017	Craig Mitchell James Maguire, Jr. Kathleen Kelly	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2018	Estella Waczewski Elizabeth Zhang Mallory Morgan	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2019	Jordan Sutherland Malachi Jackson K. Washington	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2020	Conquilla Scott Rachael Stockel Jake Moore	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2021	Isaiah Griffith Johnny Liu Sabrina Zheng	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2022	Kiyle Gardner Kanene Nwokeji Uzodinma Otuonye	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2023	Kaylin Jean-Louis Lucy Whitehead Julia Zhu	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention

PAST WINNERS

CAREER		
2006	Ann Sheddan Princess Warren Amanda Lorenz	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2007	Jennifer Salib Vivek Pal Charlotte Homme	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2008	Candace Rosier Sapphire Hinson Michael Schwarz	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2009	Jordan Rodriguez Luka Sharron Justis Mills	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2010	Michael Ethridge Bianca Medina Michelle Hudson	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2011	Jenna Perlman A. Schroepfer Joshua Kaplan	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2012	Kelsey McWilliams Kaci Boylan Chambre' Maclin	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2013	Chassidy Ferrell Gabriela Brown Michelle Kelley	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2014	Sarah Gurley Kayla Parker Alayna Sibille	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2015	Porter Crapps, IV Jada Rose Katherine Grubbs	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2016	Anunoy Dussa Megan Hayes Rebecca Prater	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2017	Rachel Rumana Robert Skrob Emily Fiorini	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2018	Anvitha Mandapati Seth Kemeny Martine Fredrickson	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2019	Jack Ubben Jennifer Uriostegui Shicliria Bryant	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2020	Ariana White Dakota Davis-Jenkins Kamiya Kendrick	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2021	Sina Mollaei Nadia Collins Jonathan Witmer	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2022	Rohan Chadha George Nessim Joshua Israel	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2023	Heaven Ward Julian Berrios Tanmay Haldiya	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention

DRAMA		
2006	Robin Jackson Chris Hand Bethany Mihalik	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2007	Waylen Roche Jennifer Skene Jonathan Kubik	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2008	Lauren Bacon William Simpson Michael Dorsey	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2009	Alexandria Collins Chris Frazier Carly Langston	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2010	Shonn McCloud Kayla Valentine Erik Reed	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2011	Julia Draper Ladarian Lilly Katherine Skene	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2012	Victoria Whitley Anna Bradshaw Laura Johnson	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2013	Lauren Jones Lee Moleski Saint-Claire Mottley	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2014	Roxanne Jester Anna Brooks Mathieu Fredrickson	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2015	Maxx Marshall Corrie Ostrander Jamie Shuman	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2016	Bethany O'Leary B. Sanchez-Thurber Mia Pesta	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2017	Jordyn Berrian Katherine Jones Sarah Barton	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2018	Camila Calderon Abigail Leaman Mercy Bickell	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2019	Ashley Campbell Jerilyn Fortier Teresa Fondo	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2020	John Malley Mary Casteel Katie Mulrooney	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2021	Sam Scriven Griffin Stanley Joelie Campana	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2022	Shelby Watson Nancy Shippen Alani Beauchamp	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2023	Jenna Jeon Merrell Webster Elspeth Ann Abbott	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention

ENGLISH & LANG. ARTS		
2006	Catherine Chase Maria Diaz Ariel Adams	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2007	Rebecca Lu A. McNaughton David Capelouto	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2008	Anna Beck Erin Canter Elizabeth Seery	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2009	Mark Stern Julia Slayden LendraCoker	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2010	Taylor Conley Rebecca Markell Aidan Hale	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2011	C. Niamh Lepanto Jazmyn Reed India Watkins	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2012	C. Smith-Schoenwelder Mary Kathryn King Christina Mbuya	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2013	Rachel Cannella Taylor Harvey Winston McGriff	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2014	Yasemin Altun Brooke Harrison Emily Ostreich	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2015	Mary Dixon Mikayla Murray Zoe Hume	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2016	Amelia Bunnell Kaitlyn Bludau Marilyn Edmond	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2017	Leteme Ashebo Quinlan Mewborne RachelCorry	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2018	Sarah Halbert Andrea Mendoza Chloe Caylor	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2019	Anna Daunt Jordan Magnuson Maya Levy	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2020	Julia Hernandez Timothy O'Connor Lilly Simons	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2021	Leah Mazur Emily Butler Kayla Jackson	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2022	Katerina Krizner Amelia Kraemer Arria Haigler	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2023	Camille Resavage Emily Taylor Leah Pagan	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention

PAST WINNERS

JOURNALISM		
2006	Wendy Walters Elizabeth Coppes Camille Goethe	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2007	Jessica Moody A. Frydrychowski Clay Celander	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2008	Eden Joyner Alexander Saunders Sarah Taylor	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2009	Elizabeth Landers Kate Schofield Tara Gonzalez	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2010	Dana Edwards Madeleine Loeb Ashira Morris	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2011	Katie Mullaly Lisa Gault Chi-Valry Wu	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2012	Taylor McMahon Nigel King Kylie Parham	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2013	Joni Lindsey Elizabeth Santoro Patricia Moes	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2014	Mina Kaji Madison Harris-Parks Torri Hart	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2015	Muireall Brown Rachel Rivers Dakota Williams	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2016	Celitan Summa J.I. Smith-Schoenwalder Reagan Anderson	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2017	Caleb Riggins Julia Chodyla Saniya Pradhan	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2018	Lauren Shirley Hannah Wong Cristin McKee	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2019	Nadaley Jones John Folsom Helen Bradshaw	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2020	Jacqueline Cruz Madelyn Stout Sarah Crandall	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2021	Cooper Harrell Maddelena Kaji Kacie Ross	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2022	Ananda Chatterjee Peyton Gallant Gabrielle Giles	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2023	Krysten Hood Shania Brown Robert Hosay	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention

LEADERSHIP		
2006	Mike Jones Katherine Davis Chris Emmanuel	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2007	Jamel Langley Whitney Moore Brittany Gredler	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2008	N. Kofar-Naisa Netia McCray Haylee Lamb	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2009	Auriel Rolle-Polk Gregory Cummins Stephanie Post	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2010	Jasmine Holmes Kelly Jones Caroline Maxwell	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2011	Mary Lundberg LaCrai Mitchell Haven Mills	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2012	Jennifer Berrian Joi Edwards Mary Grace Conroy	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2013	Elizabeth Sell Kristin Sweeney Cody Johansen	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2014	Brooke Williams Joshua Gallaher Amina Kamau	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2015	Carolyn Shi Matthew Rivers Kenidee Webster	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2016	Taylor Hall Carlton DiSalvo Mariam Mckee	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2017	Nia Close Rida Darji Robyn Seniors	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2018	Daniel Sweeney Slade Machado Tareq Salley	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2019	Nicolas Timmons Abigail Hansen Madison Crews	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2020	Jason Gao Michelena O'Rourke Jude Countryman	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2021	Asia Alexander Michael Sweeney Genesis Yoshioka	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2022	Evan Marty Prabhas Kurapati Britton Miller	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2023	Amaya Waymon Nia Terry Katherine Roth	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention

MATHEMATICS		
2006	Amina Ellison Kirk Hansen Erin Burnside	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2007	Catherine Cottle Louis Reis Weiping Zhang	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2008	Chenyu Lin Kavita Chandra Kyle Trainor	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2009	Suvrat Jain William Tsai Gina Shetty	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2010	Aditi Hota Jitesh Kuntawala Kathleen Park	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2011	Pratik Sachdeva Shuai Jiang Emily Stowers	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2012	Dae Kang Breshawn Best Bailey Ruark	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2013	Grace Ying Ralph Wilhelm Seungbyn Baek	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2014	Jimmy Zhang Alexander Yu Dionte Boddie	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2015	Jessie Chi Siddarth Kethireddy Justin Bartell	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2016	Puneet Sachdeva Sadhana Ponnaluri Amelia Maddox	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2017	James Baggett Emily LeHeup Kyle Chen	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2018	Caroline Englert Joanna Wang Luke McCarthy	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2019	Venkat Kommu Yunus Kovankaya Judith Wang	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2020	Rayyan Darji Simon Corpuz Antonio Nunez	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2021	Rohan Davidi David Yang Andrew Li	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2022	Sandhya Kumar D. Epstein-Gross Kristen Ross	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2023	Karthik Vedula Wesley Chen Rachel Bethke	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention

PAST WINNERS

MUSIC		
2006	Drew Pattison Joseph Sheets Jake Armstrong	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2007	Kerian Cox Matthew King Raine Guthrie	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2008	Victoria Warnet Amanda Mihalik Jarrod Holland	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2009	Benjamin Pattison Christine Hatcher Erin Saha	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2010	Greta Smidt Chase Banks Hannah Haugen	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2011	Devon Richardson Paul Miller Richard Mattox	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2012	Lindsey Langston Alexander Horton Taylor Williams	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2013	Phillip Mendez Diego Hernandez Jessey Krehl	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2014	S. Cherrier-Vickers Jatericka Connelly Justin Fitzpatrick	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2015	Kayla Williams Jacob Goldstein-Greenwood Stephen Barton	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2016	Christie Ger Tiffany Vaughn Adam Rusmisell	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2017	Samantha Crawford Roehl-Dean Reyes Hannah Prasse	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2018	Odessa Deng Daniel Spainhour Claire Thaler	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2019	Dane Seal Joshua Kim Alexis O'Rourke	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2020	Carter Nelson India McCary Hali Alex	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2021	Max van Hoeij Cecilia Malley Hannah Yang	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2022	Taurique Clark Ishan Vepa Chloe Caldwell	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2023	Brandon Bourdeau Emma Rodgers Ja'lonna Edwards	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention

PUBLIC SPEAKING		
2006	Ashley Williams Forrest Boone Jessica Isabelle	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2007	Nicola Menchetti Tatiana Galante Thy Bui	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2008	Madison Grant Kathleen Wade Lauren Hendricks	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2009	Stacia Dudley Will Liner Chelsea Moore	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2010	Callie Crumpler Samuel Stockstill Ryan Sweeney	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2011	Austin Mall Christopher Hill Rachel Procaccini	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2012	William Moor, III Jamie Holley Dominique Moreno	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2013	Kinsey Grant Samuel Kerce Tryton Swigert- Johnson	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2014	Amber Borgersen Yasmire Whigham Stuart Garrity	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2015	Maya King Nathan Morse Julia Osagie	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2016	Elyse Thompson Irfan Kovankaya Zenani Johnson	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2017	Jean-Paul Recht Micah Joyner James Williams III	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2018	Katherine Sorrell Landon Coles Morgan Zettle	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2019	Madison Coombs Mira Gaitanis Mamie Odom	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2020	Madeline Feiock I. V. Warren Max Ngnepieba	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2021	Kendall Williams Megan Peschl Kolbie O'Neal	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2022	Destiny Stewart Arianna Jones Collin Roberts	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2023	Shubham Dixit Lauren Price Mary Grace Slemp	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention

SCIENCE & HEALTH		
2006	Ugwechi Amadi Irina Kotchach Chase Pfeifer	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2007	Brittany Garner John Turner Tyler Rowland	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2008	Min Jiang Xin Guan Clara Vu	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2009	R. Zakare-Fagbamila Andrew Wyatt Derek Hettinger	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2010	Philip Schlenoff Esha Atolia Kejing Jiang	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2011	Eta Atolia Stanley Stupski Linda Wang	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2012	Payal Patel Yushan Wang Luxi Qiao	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2013	Jeremy Jones Hunter Brown Stanley Denny	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2014	Samantha Skrob Alyssa Morrison Stephen Crothers	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2015	Rachel Joyner Shwetha Shetty Jordyn Lee	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2016	Amara Ahmed Aneesh Rahangdale Alexander Alabugin	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2017	Will Rogers Aditya Hota Tiffany Lee	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2018	Khadeja Ahmed Cynthia Wang Charitha Moparthy	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2019	Dhenu Patel Mallika Misra Sripradyumna Donthineni	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2020	Tanvi Haldiya Neha Iyer Lily Rogers	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2021	Spencer Gibbs Seth Johnson Khari Davis	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2022	Jeffrey George Surabhi Kumar Aaliyah Davis	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2023	Aribah Ahmed Cyrus Nadizadeh Anne Osterhaus	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention

PAST WINNERS



SOCIAL SCIENCE		
2006	A. Van Landingham Joi Robinson Nicole Trainor	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2007	Michael McKibben Forat Lutfi Sarah Martin	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2008	Shayla Shane Sarah Haston James Crowley	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2009	Doug Chico A. Sorchych-Hoffman Taylor Brown	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2010	Christina Ciaravella Hunter King Joshua Berrian	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2011	Marta Perez Blanche Brown Kendrick Smith	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2012	Jasmine Lucas Sarah Busby Kenneth Soyars	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2013	Robert Celander Avery Smith Kaytron Coker	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2014	Kayley Erickson Matthew Kang Cooper Perlman	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2015	Adrian Schell Abhinav Harish Hannah Williams	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2016	Graham Boone Megan Choutupalli Aditya Srivastava	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2017	Cannon Haworth William Cannard Emily Brockmeier	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2018	Andrew Colvin John Menton Doherty Guirand	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2019	Iynkary Warren Shivani Kumar Kaleb Daniels	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2020	Apurva Srivastava Bryson Gonzalez Connor Couch	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2021	Sarah Toole Zakari Nelson Dani Paredes	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2022	Christopher Salvador Desmond Nelson Gracyn Wood	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2023	Danny Alex Alyssa Maleszewski Caliyah Pearson	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention

TECHNOLOGY		
2006	Kevin Yon David Schubert Adam Grayson	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2007	James Fadool Rachel Luczynski Ross Nichols	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2008	Ian Elsner Nelson James William Lindsey	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2009	Michael DiTanna Jay Cardenas Jared Young	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2010	Scott Atherton Sung Woo Han Katelyn Varn	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2011	Ryan-David Reyes Jameson Tucker Cameron Ridgewell	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2012	Zachary Grayson James Pace Jordan Dick	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2013	Emily Gardner Justin Burt Joey Cardenas	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2014	Brenna Wonsey Brady Robshaw S. Gunasegaran	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2015	Babar Ahmed Brendan O'Healaigh Rachael Steverson	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2016	Daniel Becker Christopher Witmer Jessica McNeil	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2017	Sanwal Ahmed Sophie Nelsen Elspeth Suber	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2018	Hana Kiros Patrick Hollis I. Fagbamila-Zakare	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2019	Auryndette West QueAndre Ray Jawad Khan	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2020	Sanjita Choudhary Andy Jiang Katherine Lyons	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2021	Tanusri Mandapati Hannah Gendusa Katy Merritt	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2022	Shreyas Kodela Brian McNulty Janiya Richardson	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2023	Sruthi Sentil Grace Tran Jackson Kottkamp	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention

WORLD LANGUAGES		
2006	Olivia Trowers Kelli Frazier Jessica Mestre	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2007	Marley Moynahan Sarah Stern Morgan Hicks	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2008	Genevieve Tuveson Kristen Ramsey Diana Hernandez	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2009	Annika Silverman Ethan Rosenblum Sophie Lang	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2010	Erinma Kalu Emily Vogelgesang Mark Schmertmann	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2011	Jane Darby Menton Heather Claypoole Kara Wilcox	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2012	V. Dobrosavljevic Nida Mohyuddin Nina Rodriguez	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2013	Amberly Williams Sonia Koul Robert King	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2014	Mackenzie Teek Kevin Ramirez William Courreges-Clercq	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2015	Nia Harmon Michelle Fonseca Shannon Duncanson	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2016	Catherine Wilhelm Nancy Engel Blake Williams	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2017	Delaney Kakkamanos Erin Mulrooney Joseph McCann II	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2018	Brenda Gikunda Aashari Williams Jordan Burney	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2019	Dakyung Ham K. Resavage Hailey Hobb	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2020	M. Hardenburg Kathryn Mann Ashley Sawyer	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2021	Sonu Patel I. St. Pierre-Charles Emily Sargent	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2022	Ishrit Gupta Eli Mears Molly Novin	Winner Runner-Up H. Mention
2023	Bryn Cintron Riane Williams Teresa Morgado	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; Caroline Brooks; Nyle Anosh; Leon County Schools; Leon County School Board; Tallahassee Nurseries; Volunteer Florida; Envision Credit Union's squad of volunteers; the Technical Team at Ruby Diamond Concert Hall; and ALL the teachers, school staff and administrators for inspiring these wonderful students.

AWARDS COMMITTEE



Jordan Antohi
Rudy Arceo
Sharon Berrian
Forrest Boone
Stefanie Bowden
Caroline Brooks
Emma Cyphers
Paula Deboles-Johnson

BillieAnne Gay
Anosh Gill
Jan Graham
Julie Hatfield
Zemoria Johnson
Heidi King
Hollie Maddox
Dan McGrew

Merry Ortega
Laura Rogers
Sam Rogers, Jr.
Ron Sachs
Kelli Walter
Gay Webster-Sachs
Harriet Williams
Darryl Worrell

THANK YOU TO OUR JUDGES



ART

Eluster Richardson, Artist

Daniel Taylor, President, Daniel Taylor Consulting, Inc.

Mahaska Whitley, Art Teacher, retired

ATHLETICS

Maicel Green, Olympic Gold medalist, Capital City Consulting

Jacob Messing, CHP Champions Director, Titus Human Performance

Tonja Ward, Strategic Marketing, Planning & Outreach Consultant, The Charlie and Tonja Ward Family Foundation

BUSINESS

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

Steve Evans, IBM Vice President, Retired

Kathy Maiorana, SVP, Strategy and Business Development, Sachs Media

CAREER/TECHNICAL

Tracey Dowling, Director, The FSU Career Center

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

Lizbeth Murphy, CEO, Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend Region, Inc.

DRAMA & PERFORMING ARTS

Ben Gunter, Artistic Director, Theater with a Mission

Amanda Karioth Thompson, Founder and CEO, AKT Artful

Calla MacNamara, Education & Engagement Manager, Opening Nights

ENGLISH & LANGUAGE ARTS

Kim Kelling, Director of Content & Community Partnerships, WFSU

Terry Lewis, Author and Judge, retired

Sara Marchessault, Professor of Education, Tallahassee Community College

JOURNALISM

Rachel Fackender Boone, Senior Director, Moore, Inc.

William Hatfield, Editor, Tallahassee Democrat

Shamarria Morrison, Senior Reporter - Neighborhood Focus, WTXL-TV ABC 27

LEADERSHIP

Jennifer Gunter, Contracts and Grants Funds Manager, Florida Department of Transportation

Julie Lovelace, Director, Code Team, CivicPlus

Dan McGrew, Senior Advisor, TSG Advisors, Inc.

MATHEMATICS

Byron Greene, Director, HBCU Transformation Project-FAMU

Kalynda Holton, Dean, Tallahassee Community College

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

MUSIC

Deloise Lima, Collaborative Pianist, Florida State University, College of Music

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

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

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Forrest Boone, Director of Regulatory Affairs, Florida Electric Cooperatives Association

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

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

SCIENCE & HEALTH

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

Alan Hanstein, Executive Director, Challenger Learning Center of Tallahassee

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

SOCIAL SCIENCE

Lisa Barton, Director, Museum of Florida History

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

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

TECHNOLOGY

Blake Dowling, CEO, Aegis Business Technologies

Ed Mansouri, CEO, WeatherSTEM

Scott Stroud, Director of Information Technology, Capital Health Plan

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