WORLD CLASS SCHOOLS OF LEON COUNTY, INC. PRESENTS



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF
STUDENT SERVICE AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

2025

The community is invited to view the Best & Brightest Award Ceremony streaming on YouTube at YouTube.com/Talchamber

HISTORY OF BEST & BRIGHTEST

Twenty 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, 84 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.

To mark our 20th Anniversary, a total of more than 1 million dollars has been awarded to 2855 Seniors, 702 eighth graders and to our schools. 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

YOHAN HOPGOOD

Lincoln High School



An award-winning artist, AP Scholar with Honors, and varsity tennis player, Yohan embodies the spirit of an exceptional student. Highly dedicated to art, academics, and volunteering, he continuously challenged himself during his time at Lincoln.

Yohan's accolades include the 2024 Mahaska Whitely General Artists Award for his 3-D sculpture "Eczemice," displayed at the Tallahassee Capitol Complex during the Florida Winter Festival, and Lincoln's Fine Arts Award in both his freshman and sophomore years. He was also honored with the Senior Portfolio Artist scholarship for the art category at LeMoyne's Mahaska Whitley Student Exhibition Awards.

Yohan was actively involved in Lincoln's art department throughout high school. He served as Vice President of the National Art Honor Society during his junior year and as President during his senior year, dedicating hundreds of volunteer hours as an arts ambassador. As VP, he planned projects like "Backpacking for a Cause," where the club created bags of art supplies for those in need, and the annual "Giving Tree" fundraiser, where he crafted and sold ornaments to support a local family. As President, he led the "Pink Out" project, encouraging artistic support for Breast Cancer awareness. He also built extensive portfolios in both AP 3-D and 2-D Art & Design, showcasing his evolving talent.

Academically, Yohan excelled by taking the highest-level math courses offered, including AP Calculus AB & BC and AP Statistics, and by volunteering as a math tutor during lunch breaks. He competed with Lincoln's Mu Alpha Theta math club and found creative expression through his English classes.

Even while balancing rigorous coursework and active volunteering, Yohan played on Lincoln's varsity tennis team during his junior and senior years, earning multiple varsity jacket letters for his commitment and high GPA.

With such dedication, drive, and talent, Yohan is on his way to a very bright future.

RUNNER-UP

MARINA STOLLEY VILLANUEVA

SAIL High School



During high school, Marina combined her passion for art with a commitment to serving the Tallahassee community by volunteering at the Miccosukee Land Co-op Drama Camp. She began as a counselor the summer after her freshman year and took on additional responsibilities as a set designer the following two summers. She found it extremely rewarding to help kids build their artistic skills, especially as she plans to become an art teacher.

Marina channels her creativity into award-winning oil paintings, earning honors such as the General Artist Winner at the 2023 LeMoyne Mahaska Whitely Student Exhibition and runner-up title for the Senior Portfolio Artist scholarship in the art category. She also received Best in Show from the Turner Center for the Arts during her junior year.

She has excelled in a range of SAIL art classes, including AP Drawing and AP 2-D Art, continually refining her craft and exploring new techniques — earning the highest score on her AP Drawing portfolio from the College Board. Additionally, Marina served as President of her school's National Honor Society, where she planned and organized art activities and events.

A compassionate, self-motivated, and hard-working individual, Marina's dedication With a keen eye for detail and the ability to communicate powerful messages visually,

ART

BEST & BRIGHTEST

HONORABLE MENTION

ALEXAVIER HUNTER

Rickards High School



Alexavier has built an extensive art background while gravitating toward graphic design and animation. Proficient in the Adobe Creative Suite, he has honed his drawing and animation skills over the years.

Alexavier served as Vice President of Rickards' Film Club during his senior year, embracing projects beyond his comfort zone and demonstrating a commitment to continuous growth. In the Film Club, he and his peers produced a film for the Florida Radon Contest. During pre- production, Alexavier created storyboard thumbnails and an animatic to establish the vision and timing of the film. In post-production, he animated the final product. His dedication to his craft earned him the Most Creative award among the 2024 Tallahassee Future Leaders Academy cohort.

Alexavier also excelled in challenging IB courses at Rickards while pushing himself athletically, participating in Muay Thai and jiu-jitsu since his sophomore year.

Alexavier's intelligence, imagination, and constant pursuit of excellence inspire everyone who has had the pleasure of knowing him.

FINALISTS



Clare Andrew
Florida State University Schools

Awards and Honors: COCA Tallahassee Arts Annual Chalk Walk "Best in Show" 2023; National English Honors Society (2021-25); National Arts Honors Society—President; A/B Honor Roll; Natl. Society of High School Scholars

Activity Highlights: Dance Marathon; Tomahawk Talk (2022-24) – Editor; Senior Video Videography Team; Media & Morning Announcements member; FSUs muralist for ESE Building; Theater Dept. background and props; Middle School Art Club; PACE Center for Girls

My Legacy: *"Upon graduating I hope I hold a legacy of a supportive member of Florida High's school community. I hope that others recognize my efforts in creating a comfortable environment for our students and providing a voice for the students who could not speak up for themselves. I hope that my actions taken throughout high school leave a positive impact."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Clare is a student who sets high expectations for herself, works hard to achieve her goals, expresses herself through a creative lens, and commits herself to getting the job done." – Katharyn Jones, 2D Art Teacher, FSUS*



Kate Harlacher
Leon County Home School

Awards and Honors: 2nd Place Thomasville Road Academy of the Arts Show (2021); Lettered in Varsity Volleyball at Community Christian School

Activity Highlights: Julie Alley Art School volunteer; Urban Impact Ministries; Summer Camp leader for Four Oaks Church (2022-24); Mission Trip (2022-23)

My Legacy: *"I hope that I have helped inspire kids to get creative, have fun, and give back to others through art. I have helped to encourage young students to create projects that allowed them to learn more about what makes them special and also helped teach them to share art with others as a gift to their community."*

What Others Are Saying: *"The impressive thing about Kate is her ability to balance service, work, and school, doing all three with excellence and cheer."* – Betty Johnson, M.ED., Libertas Instructor

ART



Abigail "Abby" Hofmann
Godby High School

Awards and Honors: National Society of High School Scholars; Dual Enrolled at TSC; Districts and State Thespians Superior rating; International Thespian Convention attendee; Honor Roll; Godby Achievement Award Medallion; Agriculture Associate Certification

Activity Highlights: Yearbook photographer (2022-25); SFX make-up artist; Student Government Association; National Honor Society Historian; Godby Theatre backstage management, set design and costume designer (2021-25)

My Legacy: *"As I grow past this chapter in my life, I hope to encourage others to follow what they love, to let generations that follow me know to not let anyone stop you, to do what they love and that's what matters."*

What Others Are Saying: *"If I could describe Abigail in one word, it would be leader."* – Bryant Keel, Godby Agriculture Teacher



Zara Jaffe
Maclay School

Awards and Honors: National Honor Society; National Arts Honor Society (2021-24) – President; Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Scholarship 2022; Congres' de la Culture Francaise en Floride Mark of Excellence (2021-23); Maclay Swim Team Most Improved Player and Most Valuable Player; UF School of Architecture Cert. of Achievement

Activity Highlights: Tallahassee Collage Club Founder; United Swim Club volunteer; English and Math tutor in Quincy; Maclay Swim Team (2021-24) – Captain; Student Ambassador and Maclay School Summer Camp volunteer (2022-23)

My Legacy: *"My legacy will be two-folded – both should have a positive impact on people's lives. I plan on studying architecture where I design sustainable buildings that will reduce negative impact on the environment, especially facing drastic climate change. Secondarily, my high school had been known for 'giving back'. Alumni return to give talks or to present internships. I hope to reciprocate."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Her intellectual curiosity and genuine approach to learning, her steadfast maturity and resilience, will undoubtedly leave a mark on our world, and her commitment to sharing her love of art with the world."* – Lee Norment, Maclay English Dept. Chair



Ava Littlejohn
Community Christian School

Awards and Honors: CCS Traveling Arts Ensemble "Le Tour" Creative Arts Craftsman Award (2022-23); Outstanding Visual Arts Award 2024; High Honor Roll (2021-23); Senior Leadership Award 2023; William Wilburforce Marketplace Missionary Award

Activity Highlights: Praise Band at multiple churches; Mission Trip to Utah and Nicaragua; Sleep in Heavenly Peace volunteer; JV Basketball; JV Volleyball; CCS Theatre performer; Author and illustrator of "Dragonslayer" novel

My Legacy: *"I hope that the generation after me will remember me a someone who inspired them creatively and that they now feel more comfortable to create art and express themselves freely without judgement."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Seeing her grow into a helpful, talented and humble person has been a joy to witness." – Hillary Underwood, CCS Creative Arts Director*



A'Lyric Martin
FAMU Developmental Research School

Awards and Honors: National Honor Society (2022-24); National Society of High School Scholars; Dual enrolled at FAMU; Congress of Future Medical Leaders Award of Excellence; Young People's Division Award for Leadership and Participation

Activity Highlights: STEM class tutor; National BETA Club; Stream Robotics; Dippin' Pots LLC volunteer in Quincy; Sawdust Community Outreach Corporation volunteer; Teacher Assistant; Student Government Association Vice President

My Legacy: *"Upon graduating, I hope that my legacy will be inspirational to my community no matter where I go. I want members in my community to notice how I and other youth are committed to making it a better place. I want my time with local organizations to be recognized as making my community an even better place to live."*

What Others Are Saying: *"She is proactive in seeking opportunities for personal and academic growth, embodying the traits of a lifelong learner and leader." – Janell Massaline, Coordinator, FAMU DRS Future Center*

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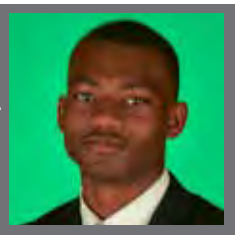
ATHLETICS

BEST & BRIGHTEST

WINNER

DARIUS JONES II

Rickards High School



Setting the pole vault school record at Rickards, Darius is truly reaching for the stars. A four-year member of Rickards' varsity track and field team, he set new records while excelling at both district and regional competitions. His Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) track and field career is equally impressive, earning All-American honors in the decathlon and securing second place at the AAU Nationals. His athletic excellence extends beyond track and field—during his senior year, Darius joined the varsity swimming team, became a two-time regional qualifier, and recorded the fastest 100-meter swim time on the team. He was also a four-year member of the varsity step team, played JV basketball during his sophomore year, and JV football as a freshman.

Darius has dedicated hundreds of volunteer hours to Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church, where he has been an active member since childhood. Inspired by his grandmother, he developed a deep passion for community service, contributing in various ways, including teaching Sunday school, tutoring in math and reading, assisting with Hallelujah Night, and caring for infants in the church nursery. He strongly believes in giving back to those who have supported him. Additionally, he has volunteered through the National Honor Society and Habitat for Humanity.

As President of Rickards' Omega Lamplighters—an organization that empowers young men through mentorship, leadership development, and academic support—Darius serves as a role model for underclassmen, demonstrating his dedication to service and leadership. He was selected for three top awards for the Beautillion for his community involvement and impact.

He has also participated in his church's oratorical competition since its inception 13 years ago. Through years of practice and commitment, he has developed into a strong public speaker, using his skills at various volunteer and city events.

Darius is deeply committed to both personal growth and community development, investing countless volunteer hours in the success of others. As both an esteemed athlete and a dedicated leader, his legacy at Rickards will leave a lasting impact.

RUNNER-UP

NATALIE NELSON

Lincoln High School



Natalie has been a force in Lincoln's athletic community, excelling in both varsity soccer and varsity flag football since her freshman year. Her unwavering dedication and leadership have made her an integral part of Lincoln's sports program, earning her multiple accolades across both sports.

On the soccer field, Nelson's talent was evident early on, securing All-Academic and All-Big Bend Honorable Mention honors as a freshman. She went on to earn All-State and All-Big Bend First Team recognition while helping lead her team to two state semifinal appearances. In flag football, she displayed the same level of excellence, receiving the Varsity Athletic Award and Coaches Award for her efforts.

Beyond competing, Nelson dedicated over 600 hours to community service, volunteering at free soccer clinics, city events, and as part of Lincoln's Athletic Training Program. From managing equipment to assisting with player care, she embraced the behind-the-scenes work that keeps teams running.

A motivated leader eager to perfect her craft, Nelson hopes her legacy will be one of professionalism, discipline, and dedication. "I hope I was able to show what it means to be professional, dedicated, disciplined, caring, and have a good work ethic," she says.

ATHLETICS

BEST & BRIGHTEST

HONORABLE MENTION

GABRIELLE SIMMONS

Leon High School



Gabrielle is a multi-talented athlete, scholar, and community leader whose high school career exemplifies resilience, leadership, and academic excellence. On the beach volleyball court, she has excelled since her freshman year, helping Leon's varsity team achieve a 13th-place finish in Florida that year, a 3rd-place regional ranking as a sophomore, and ultimately securing the top seed as a junior while earning academic awards each season. Her athletic abilities extend to soccer, where she transitioned from JV in her sophomore year to earning varsity letters during her junior and senior seasons.

Gabrielle excelled in club volleyball with Edge Performance Beach Volleyball, earning a bid to SSOVA Nationals and winning EPB. She also contributed to Leon's indoor volleyball success, earning the Lion's Heart and ACE Awards. In her free time, she coached at Red Hills Volleyball Club and Leon Volleyball Kids Camps for three summers.

FINALISTS



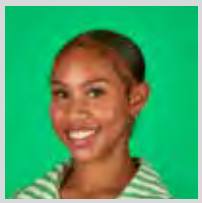
Madeline Forslund
Chiles High School

Awards and Honors: AP Scholar with Distinction; National Honor Society and the Math, Spanish and English National Honor Societies; Dreamers an Doers Award; Chiles Academic Bar Award (2021-24); 3rd place in Small Co-ed GameDay Routine-Cheerleading Nationals 2024

Activity Highlights: Cheerleading Team Captain; Varsity Tennis Team; Anchor Club President; Red Cross Club; Timberwolves United; Random Acts of Kindness Founder (2021-24); Dance Marathon; The Longest Table; Leon County Summer Youth Training Program; Messenger and Page for FL House of Representatives and Senate

My Legacy: *"I hope to inspire others to continue my chain reaction. Whether a freshman with three more years at Chiles, or a junior soon to be leaving. I want to be a role model for them through actions, words, and love. I want to leave a lasting impact on the Leon County area, flourishing the community I was born unto."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Her ability to balance the demands of schoolwork, athletics and extracurriculars is a testament to her time management and organizational skills." – Gayle Sanders, Chiles Cheer Sponsor*



Savanna Griffin
Tallahassee Collegiate Academy

Awards and Honors: National Achievers Program; Player of the Game in Sports; Flag Football District Team Champions twice; Dual Enrolled TSC

Activity Highlights: 2025 Debutante for Charmettes philanthropic program; Frenchtown Heritage Hub; Relay for Life Cancer Walk; Children's Christmas Workshop; Varsity Volleyball, Basketball and Flag Football-Captain

My Legacy: *"I hope to leave a positive and lasting impact on everyone I've met, spoken to, and helped along the way. I made it a priority to offer advice, listen to their stories, and most importantly, be a role model of what young women can achieve when they stay focused and true to ourselves in everything we do."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Beyond her personal achievements, she mentors younger athletes, embodying the values of dedication and integrity." – Meltonia Chandler, Exec. Director, Frenchtown Neighborhood Improvement Assoc.*

ATHLETICS

BEST & BRIGHTEST



Sydney Jackson
North Florida Christian School

Awards and Honors: Varsity Track Captain and State Competitor (2023-24); Volleyball District Champion (2023-24); Principal's List; National Honor Society; perfect attendance freshman and sophomore years; Sophomore Class Secretary

Activity Highlights: Youth Leadership Tallahassee Class 20; NFC Volleyball Camp (2022-24); SGA Family Fun Day volunteer; NFC Café volunteer; Chaplain of SGA

My Legacy: *"Upon graduating, I hope my legacy has a positive impact on others and gives them the courage to stand out from each other and embrace their challenges. I want to be remembered as uplifting, supportive, and a part of meaningful contributions. I would love to know I inspired someone to be involved in their school and community livelihood."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Sydney has proven to be a dependable and hard working student who demonstrates compassion and leadership." – Chris Hurt, NFC Dean of Students*



Andrew Lunt
Maclay School

Awards and Honors: Freshman Class Officer-Secretary; National Honor Society; National Spanish Honor Society (2022-24); Most Improved Player JV Basketball; FCA Leadership 2024

Activity Highlights: Key Club; JV (2023-24) and Varsity Basketball (2025); Varsity Football (2024); Sport Analytics Secretary; City Church Young Group; Community Service Club (2021-22); Camp Calvin Spencer Lake Christian Center; Miracle Sports with SportsAbility Alliance

My Legacy: *"There are many things that are important to me like my family, faith, friends, and sports. I hope that through my actions, being polite, hard-working, and kind towards others not only reflects my beliefs, but inspires others to be the best version of themselves while treating others how they would want to be treated in return."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Andrew is not only an A+ student but also a genuinely compassionate individual who is always willing to assist his classmates in their learning journey." – Jason Cauley, Maclay Head Football Coach and US History Teache*



Ryleigh "Klover" Maple
SAIL High School

Awards and Honors: SAIL Excellence in US History and Arts (2024); Yearbook cover contest winner 2023; Nominate for LCS Social Media Event; Most Popular Award Costume Contest; Honor Roll

Activity Highlights: Volleyball Team (2021-24)-Captain; Fat Cat Café art event; National Art Honors Society Public Relations Officer; Yoga class tutor

My Legacy: *"When I got to SAIL, I became the best version of myself. I tried new things, expressed my individuality, and dramatically transformed into a hard-working and determined student. I hope to have left an impactful and creative footprint. As captain of the volleyball team, I hope my peers continue to be supportive, passionate, and courageous leaders. Teamwork makes the dream work!"*

What Others Are Saying: *"Hard working, compassionate, humble, and funny, Klover truly understands how to work in a team situation and supports her fellow teammates in striving for success." – Susanna Denham, HOPE Health & Yoga Teacher, SAIL*

ATHLETICS



Emma McFarland
Community Christian School

Awards and Honors: Principal's List; Senior Leadership Award; National Honor Society; Numerous 1st Place in Gymnastics at State, Challenge Cups and All-Around Winner in GymForce Classic competitions; Abraham Lincoln Overcomer Award

Activity Highlights: Utah Mission Trip; CCS Immersion Week; Gymnastic Coach volunteer; Junior Research Exhibition

My Legacy: *"I hope that after graduating I will keep inspiring the next generation to do great things. My hope is for them to grow to be a better leader than I was and will continue teaching others to lead as well."*

What Others Are Saying: *"What sets Emma apart is not only her physical talent but also her work ethic, discipline, and sportsmanship."* – Nicole Wilder, Trousdell Gymnastics Center Coach



Ebony Petit-Bois
Godby High School

Awards and Honors: National Honor Society-President; Weightlifting State competitor; Shot Put Regionals 2023; MLK Dreamer and Doer; Superior and Excellent ratings in Thespians Competition; Cougarettes "Miss Congeniality" and "Best Dancing Section"

Activity Highlights: Griffin Middle School Camp helper and tutor; Reach One Sports Summer Camp counselor; Delta G.E.M.S. (2023-24); Cougarettes Dance Team; Thespian Club (2022-24) with lead roles

My Legacy: *"I hope my legacy will be one of leadership, resilience, and service, I want to be remembered as someone who uplifted others, whether through mentorship, school events, or community service, and inspired my peers to strive for excellence in all areas of life. My goal was to leave a positive impact that encourages others to dream big and give back."*

What Others Are Saying: *"I could draft a book on Ebony Petit-Bois and all the wonderful accomplishments she has done over the past four years. She is a standout through leadership, initiative, and dedication in multiple areas of her life."* – Tiffany Persall, Godby Executive Secretary



Avery Presnell
Florida State University Schools

Awards and Honors: A/B Honor Roll (2021-24); National Science Honors Society; Certified Nursing Assistant student; Rho Kappa Alpha Honor Society; Big Bend Preps Athlete of the Week nominee"

Activity Highlights: Varsity Softball (2021-24)-Captain; Dance Marathon Executive Board (2021-24); Health Occupants Students of America; Varsity Cheerleading; Renegades Leadership Team; Environmental Club

My Legacy: *"My hope is that my legacy will inspire others to embrace service, leadership, and involvement in personal growth. I want to be remembered as someone who stepped up through clubs, competing on the athletic field, and excelling in rigorous schoolwork. If my time here has inspired one person to take on a leadership role then my legacy will be complete."*

What Others Are Saying: *"She manages to balance a rigorous training schedule with her schoolwork, consistently achieving high grades and showing a genuine passion for learning."* – Emma Alley, FSUS Head Varsity Softball Coach

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BUSINESS

BEST & BRIGHTEST

WINNER

HADRIEL HAMID

Chiles High School



Hadriel is a driven innovator and community advocate who has transformed his personal experiences into a mission to bridge the gap in rural healthcare. Growing up in an underserved community, Hadriel witnessed firsthand the challenges of limited resources and underdeveloped infrastructure. These conditions often make it difficult for medical providers to deliver the necessary and appropriate care for patients requiring urgent attention. This intimate understanding of inequity ignited his passion to create change and led him to develop Rurban—a software platform designed to improve resource management and healthcare delivery for rural patients.

Rurban connects hospitals and patients by providing real-time updates on health facility status, optimizing resource allocation, and streamlining healthcare delivery through advanced scheduling and remote patient monitoring. In building this innovative solution, Hadriel collaborated with hospital management, families, doctors, and lawmakers to ensure the system was not solely reliant on technology but also on listening to the needs of the community. Managing a team of 12 employees, he has worked alongside prominent electronic health record systems and integrated cutting-edge blockchain technology with smart contracts to drive innovation in health tech.

Hadriel's commitment to service extends beyond his entrepreneurial ventures. A firm believer that service is defined not by grand gestures but by the quiet commitment to showing up and doing the work, he says, "I hope to carry that ethos forward by listening, collaborating, and reimagining what service can mean for communities that have been left behind."

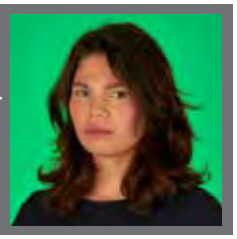
His academic accolades further underscore his dedication and intellect. A USA Physics Olympiad Qualifier and US National Chemistry Olympiad National Finalist, Hadriel earned top statewide honors in Mu Alpha Theta in 2022 and 2023 and was recognized among the top 15 nationally in 2022. Additionally, he secured first place at the Rickards Invitational tri-state math competition and has participated in the Rickards National Science Olympiad Competition. As a Boy Scouts Eagle Scout, he embodies leadership and resilience.

Complementing his academic and technological achievements, Hadriel has volunteered with Kashmiri Health Services, facilitating medical supplies for disaster relief to benefit nearly 500,000 people, and with Premier Medical Clinic, where he played a pivotal role in establishing chronic care management programs for over 400 patients. His ability to comfort and connect with patients speaks to his compassionate approach, making Hadriel a true changemaker in every sense.

RUNNER-UP

ISABEL DAVIS

Maclay School



A dynamic entrepreneur, Isabel's innovative spirit and leadership have propelled her to success in the business arena. In her junior year, Isabel won a pitch competition in her entrepreneurship class at Maclay by impressing experts with her creative business proposal and outstanding public speaking abilities. This victory earned her the opportunity to compete in the 2024 Big Bend Shark Bowl, where she further demonstrated her strategic thinking and determination. As a member of the winning team at the Jim Moran College of Entrepreneurship summer camp pitch competition, Isabel refined her skills and gained invaluable exposure to industry leaders.

In addition to her business accomplishments, Isabel excels in athletics as a dedicated track and field athlete and varsity weightlifter. Serving as team captain, she has earned multiple district and state honors, showcasing her discipline and drive. Her commitment to community service is evident through 250 volunteer hours with the Tallahassee Police Department Cadet Program, where she served as sergeant.

Isabel's diverse achievements highlight her passion for innovation, teamwork, and service. With aspirations for an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy, she is poised to make a lasting impact in both business and beyond.

BUSINESS

BEST & BRIGHTEST

HONORABLE MENTION



BHARGAVA TATINENI

Rickards High School

Catalytic. That's the word Bhargava uses to describe his high school journey—a dynamic period of transformation that has fueled his passion for storytelling, technology, and community engagement. Originally from India, he and his family embarked on a new chapter in America over a decade ago, inspiring him to start a YouTube channel that chronicles the immigrant experience. What began as fun vlogs has evolved into a valuable resource for future immigrants, discussing visa policies, travel insights, and Western etiquette. With over 100,000 subscribers and a YouTube Silver Play Button, his channel shares his personal journey and eases the acculturation process for countless aspiring immigrants. He gives back by donating a quarter of his channel's revenue to promote health and wellness in both his Telugu and Tallahassee communities.

Balancing his digital presence with academic rigor, he has earned various industry certifications in entrepreneurship, business technology, and JavaScript through intensive courses and exams. This past summer, he interned at Syntech Systems Inc., where he contributed to developing an AI-powered chatbot and revamped the company's LiveFM platform, making a national impact in reducing fleet fuel usage. As a dedicated leader, he has served as Finance Chair and now Co-Executive Director for Dance Marathon at Rickards, securing sponsorships and donations from local companies. Through his personal and academic achievements, Bhargava has demonstrated that his catalytic journey continues to spark positive change.

FINALISTS



Rosaisela "Rosie" Avalos
Godby High School

Awards and Honors: AWS Certified Welder; MLK Dreamer and Doer Award

Activity Highlights: Tallahassee School of Math & Science volunteer; Maclay School Art Camp volunteer; Omni Commercial Consulting; sending supplies to the underserved

My Legacy: *"After graduation I will attend college at Tallahassee State College and receive my Associates Degree in Real Estate then transfer to Florida State University where I will gain my Bachelors in Business Administration in Real Estate Specialization. I will begin my business for Real Estate as well as complete my welding program."*

What Others Are Saying: **"***Throughout our time together, Rosaisela proved to be the brightest, progressive, and motivated student. Her leadership and commitment skills were truly impressive, along with her skills she'd develop projects in order to help those around school."* – John Scott, Godby Instructor



Julian Chavez
Florida State University Schools

Awards and Honors: College Board National Hispanic Recognition and Rural & Small Town Recognition Programs; National Honor Society; AP Scholar; National STEM Honor Society. Rho Kappa; Senior Class President; Guitar Award; Microsoft Certification

Activity Highlights: Key Club; FL Senate Messenger and FL House Page; Youth Leadership Tallahassee Class 20; Student Astronaut Club; Mu Alpha Theta; MagLab volunteer; TMH Intern; FSUS Summer Camp counselor

My Legacy: *"I aspire for my legacy to embody the unwavering commitment to extending a helping hand within one's community and supporting the people around us. Embracing selflessness is an indispensable cornerstone for fostering meaningful change and inspiring others to do the same."*

What Others Are Saying: *"His ability to balance multiple tasks while maintaining high attention to detail was commendable and indicative of their maturity and professionalism."* – Domingo Tuckler, Senior Project Manager, TMH

BUSINESS



Anekae Donaldson
Tallahassee Collegiate Academy

Awards and Honors: Excellence in Research Award; Honor Roll; Dual Enrollment Achievement Award at TSC; Certificate of Participation-Student Government Cluby

Activity Highlights: TSC Early Childhood Program volunteer; North Florida Fair food truck assistant; Hurricane relief volunteer in Madison County, FL and Brooks County, GA.

My Legacy: *"As graduation approaches, I am determined to further my education by earning my A.A. and pursuing my dream of becoming an anesthesiologist. My dedication and passion for healthcare drive me to push forward, no matter the challenges. I want my legacy to inspire others to stay focused, work hard, and never give up on their goals."*

What Others Are Saying: *"She displays stellar work ethic and believes in volunteering in her community."* – Quashier Flood-Strouble, TCA School Counselor



Sadie Knowlton
Lincoln High School

Awards and Honors: Academic Excellence in Latin; created products on Etsy to support IBD patients; Black Belt status in Karate 2020

Activity Highlights: Key Club-Secretary and Treasurer; Latin Club Vice-President and President; Latin Club Bazaar booth; Miccosukee Co-op Camp Counselor (2021, 2023); Faith Presbyterian Church Stage crew

My Legacy: *"I hope to encourage others to work hard for the things that they want and to always strive to better themselves. I also hope to leave my mark in the Latin Club as continuing the line of female presidents, and hope to encourage those after me to continue the female empowerment of our club."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Sadie has been recognized not only by me, but also her peers, as an integral member of our community and a person who is dedicated, reliable, and passionate about our mission to student and promote the Classics."* – Alexandra Ramsey, Lincoln Latin Instructor



Ethan Manning
Community Christian School

Awards and Honors: High Honor Roll (2021-24); William Wilberforce Award; Lewis & Clark Exploration Award; John Wycliffe Award; Capital City Rowing Team Captain (2022-24); Multiple Regional and National Rowing Awards; Senior Leadership

Activity Highlights: Co-Founder and Owner of Christ First Apparel; National Honor Society-Vice-President; Utah Junior Mission Trip; Capital City Learn to Row Camp

My Legacy: *"I hope to leave a lasting impact through my example as a hard worker and a leader. To solidify a culture where students after me will continue to pursue serving the community and lifting up one another."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Ethan is well-loved and respected by his classmates, has a great sense of humor, and is respectful to all that he meets."* – Jeff Collier, CCS Chaplain and Leadership Program Director



William Proctor
Leon High School

Awards and Honors: Pierian Honor Society; Certified Lifeguard and CPR trained; Mu Alpha Theta; Rho Kappa; Senior Academic Awards (2021-23)

Activity Highlights: Lion's United; St. John's Episcopal Church Global Philanthropy Leaders; Boys State; Varsity Soccer and Lacrosse; The Grove Museum; Second Harvest Food Bank

My Legacy: *"I hope to be remembered as a student who was genuinely passionate to learn, taking an interest in a large variety of academic disciplines, someone who was easy to talk to and confide in, someone involved in his community, a role model to underclassmen, school-spirited, a leader, and most importantly, a good friend."*

What Others Are Saying: *"William's involvement in a variety of activities throughout his high school career demonstrates accomplishment, responsibility, commitment and self-direction."* – Kim Garcia, Leon Mathematics Teacher

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CAREER/TECHNICAL

BEST & BRIGHTEST

WINNER

AMAYA LAWRENCE

Leon High School



Amaya is a rising legal mind whose career accomplishments are as impressive as her dedication to service. Recently, she completed an externship with Cowhey + Ward, a prestigious law office in Tallahassee, where she immersed herself in the practical world of law. Tasked with reviewing case trial videos and engaging in real-world legal tasks, Amaya honed her skills and deepened her understanding of what it takes to be a lawyer. Complementing this hands-on experience, she also completed an introductory legal course at Tallahassee State College, which confirmed her passion for pursuing a career in either criminal or family law.

At Leon, Amaya leveraged her leadership to foster a vibrant and inclusive community. As student body president and SGA Co-Chair of the School Service Committee, she redefined school spirit and unity. Amaya's creative initiatives, including Variety Day—a monthly event designed to bridge social divides—and "Food Truck Friday," have transformed the school's culture, encouraging students from diverse backgrounds to come together, share experiences, and celebrate their differences.

Her influence extends well beyond the classroom. Recognized as one of the Leon County School Influencers, Amaya was selected to promote school safety and community values. She produced engaging promotional videos and participated in interviews that captured the spirit of her school, amplifying its message of unity and pride. In addition, her creative energy shines on her YouTube channel, where her lifestyle videos have garnered over 80,000 views.

Amaya's commitment to service is equally compelling. She has volunteered at food drives, nursing homes, and through Pearls of Perfection—a community service organization dedicated to inspiring young African American women. Furthermore, her work in the Leon High School Archive Room preserves the school's rich history by meticulously cataloging both new and old artifacts, ensuring that the legacy of Leon remains accessible and celebrated.

"Upon graduating, I hope to leave behind a culture of collaboration and support, encouraging future generations to strive for excellence and make a difference," Amaya states. With her forward-thinking vision and relentless drive, Amaya Lawrence is not only preparing for a promising legal career but also cultivating a community that values unity, innovation, and lasting impact.

RUNNER-UP

VISWAMBHAR "VISWA" JANAPATI

Rickards High School



From the lab to the classroom, Viswa's summer breakthrough in sustainable polymers positions him as a rising leader in scientific innovation. During an intensive internship at the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering, his technical expertise was evident as he conducted cutting-edge research on the synthesis and characterization of polystyrene vitrimers—materials designed for enhanced recyclability and sustainability. Viswa mastered complex techniques, from performing freeze-pump-thaw cycles to eliminate oxygen in polymerization solutions to utilizing Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy for polymer analysis. His initiative in learning MATLAB for data analysis and modeling further underscored his intellectual curiosity, with his research supervisor noting that he operated at the level of a second-year Ph.D. student.

Beyond the lab, Viswa expanded his perspective by shadowing a hospitalist at TMH, integrating clinical insight with his scientific expertise. His leadership extends into his extracurricular activities as well. As budgeting and outreach head of the Protea Teens Mental Health Advocacy Club at Rickards, he coordinated mental health conferences and raised funds to support the cause. Additionally, his roles as Treasurer and Vice President of the Science Olympiad team showcased his ability to secure sponsorships, organize events, and mentor over 120 members. Balancing rigorous AP and IB science courses with his leadership responsibilities, Viswa is poised to drive meaningful advancements in health and environmental policy.

CAREER/TECHNICAL

BEST & BRIGHTEST

HONORABLE MENTION

VICTORY KLUTSEY

SAIL High School



Lights, camera, action! Victory has spent countless hours behind the scenes at New Mount Zion AME Church, ensuring that every Sunday broadcast, livestream, and production runs seamlessly. He plays a vital role in the Media Ministry, mastering camera operation, audio management, and live production. His ability to blend technical expertise with creativity made him an integral part of the team, transforming services into engaging experiences for the congregation.

Eager to expand his skill set, Victory enrolled in the Commercial Art Technology class at SAIL during his senior year. The course provided a strong foundation in visual communication, digital production, and commercial design while also equipping him with problem-solving skills and the technical proficiency needed for a career in the Arts, A/V Technology, and Communication fields.

Victory's dedication to his craft extends beyond technical skill; he is recognized for his collaborative spirit and strong work ethic. Whether troubleshooting a livestream or creating a supportive atmosphere at SAIL's Morning Fitness Club, he approaches every task with enthusiasm and determination. His efforts have not gone unnoticed, earning him SAIL's Dreamer and Doer Award. As he continues to explore new avenues in media and technology, Victory is ready to take the next step in his career journey.

FINALISTS



Dehja Barrett
Godby High School

Awards and Honors: All "A" Honor Roll; Dual Enrolled at Tallassee State College; President's Education Awards "Outstanding Academic Excellence"; National Honor Society; Digital Design Certification; Agriculture/ Farming Certification

Activity Highlights: Delta G.E.M.S.; Varsity Softball; Astoria Park EDEP Summer Camp junior counselor; Walker Ford Community Center (2023-24); Leaders Igniting a Generation Healthy Teens Program (2021-24); Legislative Session Advocacy (2023-24)

My Legacy: *"Upon graduating, I hope my legacy will be that I am a dedicated student who actively contributed to her community, demonstrating a strong work ethic, always willing to help others succeed, leave a positive impact, and mostly someone who is not only exceeding academically but made a difference through my interaction with others."*

What Others Are Saying: *"She is a very mature young lady who is wise beyond her young years. She is very articulate, studious and fully invested in her future to include any and all educational opportunities."* – Lisa Johnson, AVID Site Coordinator, Godby



Ryan Linn
Lincoln High School

Awards and Honors: Biletnikoff Student Scholarship Award; AutoDesk Certified in Fusion 360, Adobe Visual Design; Werner Hyundai Scholar Athlete of Week-Football; AP Scholar; MaxPreps Team Player of the Game; Principal's Academic Award; National Honor Society (2021-24}

Activity Highlights: Ronald McDonald House donations; Christmas Connection; Night to Shine Prom; Football Summer Camp; Key Club; Young Life; Football and Weightlifting Team; Designed, purchased and built personal gaming computer

My Legacy: *"A legacy often takes time to establish as people need time to reflect on their high school experience. I hope people will look back and appreciate my honesty and integrity, and how the influence of my morals and work ethic pushed them to make better choices."*

What Others Are Saying: *"By taking a leadership role within the classroom and generously donating his time outside of it, Ryan has been able to make a lasting impact and greatly enrich both his school and the wider Lincoln community."* – Dr. Andrew Davis, Lincoln Social Studies Instructor

CAREER/TECHNICAL



William "Hayne" Miller
Maclay School

Awards and Honors: AP Scholar with Distinction; National Honor Society and National Art, Spanish and Rho Kappa Honor Societies; Scholar Athlete Award (2021-24)

Activity Highlights: Founder and CEO of Premier Pressure Washing; Varsity Golf (2022-24)-President; Sports Analytics Club Founder and Co-President; Key Club; St. John's Global Philanthropy Leaders and Head Acolyte and Crucifer; All-Sports Camp volunteer

My Legacy: *"Upon graduating, I hope to be remembered as a genuine friend and a hard worker, known for kindness and creating good in the community. Beyond academic achievements, I want my legacy to inspire others to be kind to everyone and strive to make a positive impact in their own communities."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Hayne has served as a lower school camp counselor. Through this role he's developed his skills in organization, communication, and working with a wide range of people."* – Stephanie Amidon, Maclay teacher



Daniella Preston
Chiles High School

Awards and Honors: Applied Technology Dept. Outstanding Sophomore; GPA Merit Awards (2021-23); Together Tallahassee Volunteer Spotlight and Ambassador (2022-24); ServSafe Certification and National Food Registry Certification

Activity Highlights: Culinary Club (2022-24)-Founder and President; The Prepared Table: Community Tables; Chiles Ambassador; Humane Society Kitty Care; Greek Orthodox Church; Varsity Swim Team and United Swim Club; Sonny's BBQ Competition-Orlando

My Legacy: *"I hope that my legacy inspires people to use their passions to do good in their communities and helps them understand that even small acts like cooking someone a meal can build bridges for life."*

What Others Are Saying: "*This initiative speaks to her exceptional ability to combine creativity, technical skill, and a deep understanding of the value of community."* – *Lisa Miller Donaldson, Chiles Teacher*



Amber Simons
Florida State University Schools

Awards and Honors: LeMoyne Art Exhibition; National Honor Society and Art, English, Science and Spanish Honor Societies; Photoshop and InDesign Certification; FAMU Health Careers Opportunity Program

Activity Highlights: FSUS Art Dept. Teacher Assistant; Hispanic Heritage Month; Literary Magazine officer; River Springs Middle School volunteer; Book Club; Hand & Hearts for Horses

My Legacy: *"After graduation, I aspire to have a legacy that exudes perseverance, kindness, diligence, and altruism. I hope that my teachers, peers, and future generations will remember my artistic and academic achievements, my drive to help others, and my commitment and support to my affiliations."*

What Others Are Saying*: "Amber is an outstanding individual whose academic achievements, technical expertise, and leadership qualities have established her as a standout student and an inspiring role model among her peers."* – Patricia Graham, HCOP Director, FAMU

DRAMA & PERFORMING ARTS

BEST & BRIGHTEST

WINNER

ANDRE WILLIAMS

Godby High School



"In a world full of black and white, be a technicolor sun ray upon the world." With these inspiring words, Andre embodies a passion for the performing arts that radiates far beyond the stage. He has made remarkable strides in theater, community service, and personal growth throughout his high school years.

A dedicated member of the Thespian Honor Society, Andre not only excelled in his craft but also helped raise an impressive $6,500 for Thespian Troupe 1679. His talent has been recognized with numerous accolades including District Rated Superior Actor, District Rated Excellent Playwright, State Rated Superior Actor, and District Rated Actor in a one-act show. His remarkable achievements highlight both his creative versatility and his commitment to excellence on stage.

Beyond the theater, Andre is a dual-enrolled student who has embraced opportunities in academic and vocational fields. Enrolled in Lively Technical School's Certified Nursing Program as a Nursing Assistant, he has applied his caring nature in a real-world setting by assisting with patient care at Pruitt Health Center. This balance between the arts and healthcare demonstrates his multifaceted character and his dedication to serving others.

Andre's passion for theater has also found a unique outlet in his work with Godby's kid shows. Over the past two years, he has assisted his theater director in preparing and performing in productions such as "Rumpelstiltskin" and "Sword in the Stone." By encouraging the revival of these shows, he not only nurtured his own love for theater but also introduced the magic of performance to young audiences. This experience taught him that inspiring young people to love the arts can create a lasting, positive impact on their future.

Last February, Andre captivated audiences at RAA Middle School during their Black History Program, showcasing the beauty of Black texts and African American history. His performance inspired students and motivated incoming freshmen to join the thespian community. Additionally, his participation in Godby's haunted house events further illustrates his enthusiasm for exploring diverse theatrical expressions.

Andre Williams' journey is a true testament to the power of the arts to transform lives. Through his creative achievements, leadership, and commitment to community service, he continues to illuminate the world as a ray of technicolor light.

RUNNER-UP

GABRIELLA RIEDER

Florida State University Schools



Voted "Most Likely to be on Broadway" in her senior yearbook, Gabriella has emerged as a name to watch in the performing arts. A dedicated performer at the Young Actors Theatre, she has spent years refining her craft through rigorous rehearsals and community shows. Last summer, she expanded her impact by serving as a teaching assistant at the theatre's summer camp, where she worked with both children and adults to teach essential theatre techniques, acting as both a mentor and role model.

Her leadership abilities were further demonstrated as she took on the role of student director for the Theatre's fall 2024 production of Beauty and the Beast. Her organizational skills and collaborative spirit ensured the production ran smoothly and enriched the experience of everyone involved. Over the course of high school, Gabriella has delivered memorable performances in productions such as Little Women, Employees Must Wash Hands... Before Murder, Sweeney Todd, Girls and Dolls, Romeo and Juliet, Carrie, and Mean Girls.

In addition to her stage work, she has volunteered over 900 hours at Good Shepherd Catholic Church's Vacation Bible School for the past three summers and even sang in the church choir during her freshman year. As President of the National Thespians Honor Society and a five-time student director, Gabriella has earned accolades like the Best Supporting Actress Zoli Award and the Betty A. Farkas Award for Excellence in Community Building.

DRAMA & PERFORMING ARTS

HONORABLE MENTION

AIDENN HAFEZ

Maclay School



Aidenn never does anything halfway. From a young age, he immersed himself in the vibrant world of the Young Actors Theatre, mastering musical numbers and dramatic scenes in productions like Mary Poppins, Pride and Prejudice, Mean Girls, Beauty and the Beast, and Sweeney Todd. Today, Aidenn channels his passion into giving back as an assistant teacher for kindergarten students, where for the past four years he has mentored young performers in acting, singing, and dancing.

Beyond the classroom, he has volunteered as a camp counselor at the Theatre, expertly managing classes and guiding children through rehearsals for various shows. His exceptional talent also earned him a spot in Studio Singers, an elite audition-only troupe that has brought him to stages at Walt Disney World, on a Royal Caribbean cruise, and at Arts for Autism at the Gershwin Theatre in NYC.

In addition to his theatrical prowess, Aidenn serves on the Maclay Student Ambassador Leadership Council, overseeing middle school ambassadors, orchestrating events, and supporting new students and families. Describing his high school experience as 'indomitable,' he defies stereotypes and inspires others to excel academically while pursuing their creative passions, cherishing the joy he brings to others through his performances.

DRAMA & PERFORMING ARTS

FINALISTS



Magrathea Burke
SAIL High School

Awards and Honors: SAIL Thespian Theatre Award (2021-24); Most Community Service Award; Red Cross Water Safety Instructor Certificate; Founding Thespians President Award; National Honor Society; Excellent rating Thespians District Festival and Superior at State

Activity Highlights: Southern Shakespeare Company in many roles; Miccosukee Land Co-op Drama Camp director; Thespians Club; Key Club-Vice President; Jefferson County Humane Society; SGA Senior Class President; Community Connections programe

My Legacy: *"When I leave SAIL, I want to be remembered as someone who was always up for a challenge and trying something new. I want to be someone that people feel they can go to in all different circumstances. I want to leave my school a better place than I found it."*

What Others Are Saying: *She has that combination of a positive attitude and the belief that she can always improve that's rare in a high school student, but so essential to the learning process."* – Caitlin Starkey, SAIL SGA Sponsor



Elizabeth "Camille" Ervin
Chiles High School

Awards and Honors: Chiles Drama Dept. Best Sophomore and Junior Awards; FL International Thespians Critics Choice and Best Stage Management (2023-24); AP Scholar Award; National Honor Society; Spanish National Honor Society

Activity Highlights: Chiles Tech needs; Theatre Tallahassee crew; Tallahassee Animal Shelter; Camp Crestridge for Girls 2024; Good Sheperd Catholic Church worship leader; Drama Club-President (2023-25); Key Club (2021-23); InterClub Council

My Legacy: *"I hope that my legacy upon graduating is that of someone who others can look up to: I believe I will be remembered as a role model who stays resilient in all that they do and who portrays determination through every situation but also shows patience and compassion to those around them."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Camille is an excellent writer, thinker, speaker, and scholar of theatre arts."* – Shannon O'Bryan, Director, Chiles Theatre Arts



Namitha Gopalachar
Lincoln High School

Awards and Honors: Multiple First Place Showstoppers National Soloist Dance awards; Overall Regional Group Dance winner; National Honor Society; Lincoln's lead violinist; Indo European Youth Orchestra-Hungary certificate; All-State High School Honor Orchestra; Principal's Award/A Honor Roll (2022-23)

Activity Highlights: Key Club; India Association of Tallahassee (2022-25); Green Club; Future Business Leaders of America; Lincoln Dance Team (2021-24)-Captain

My Legacy: *"I hope to have a legacy of creating a safe space for others, allowing for people to be who they are. A safe environment does wonders for the mind and body, and having contributed to this through a positive attitude and mindfulness during my time at Lincoln would make me hopeful for the future of our school and its students."*

What Others Are Saying*: "Her presence alone will light up a room and everyone is attracted to Namitha because of the kindness, compassion, wittiness, and genuine friendship that she shows to everyone."* – Dr. Clara Knotts-Gonzalez, Director of Rock Ensemble & Orchestra

DRAMA & PERFORMING ARTS



Mckenna Noel
Leon High School

Awards and Honors: AP Capstone and AP Scholar with Distinction; National Honor Society and Science, Music and Thespians Honor Societies, Young Actors Theatre Legacy Robe; Thespians District winner-Large Group Musical

Activity Highlights: Capital Singers (2021-24)-President; Citizenship Development Committee Head; Young Actors Theatre Company member and teaching assistant; Dance Marathon-morale member (2021-23); Studio Singers Travel Troupe; Melodears; SGA

My Legacy: *"I hope I am remembered as kind rather than powerful. I do believe most anyone can hold power but not all leaders have the bandwidth to be kind. Many times, we lose our patience trying to accomplish tasks without looking at how our anger affects others. Success should be measured in the people we help not in what we accomplish."*

What Others Are Saying: *"She is a natural at bringing out the best in those around her, and her presence has contributed greatly to the success of every production she has been a part of."* – Sarah Roy, CEO, Young Actors Theatre



Kayleigh Stuart
Community Christian School

Awards and Honors: American Ballet Training Level 5 Pointe; Senior Leadership Award; National Honor Society (2022-24)-President; CCS Soccer Award; Varsity Tennis Award; High Honor Roll; MLK Christian Statesmen Award 2023

Activity Highlights: Tallahassee Ballet class assistant and performances in The Nutcracker; Mission Trip Utah; Social Sciences and Speech Teacher assistant; Immersion Week (2022-24}

My Legacy: *"My wish is for those that I have served to feel and know that they were seen."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Kayleigh's most remarkable quality is her empathetic nature that allows her to create a supportive environment, making every student feel valued and heard."* – Caroline Ross, CCS Secondary Social Studies Teacher



Serenity Wiggins
Rickards High School

Awards and Honors: Superior ratings District and State Auxiliary Solo & Ensemble Music Performance; Miss RHS; National Honor Society; League of Women Voters video essay contest winner 2024; MLK and Claudia Campbell Oratorical Contest winner 2024; Raider IMAGE Award 2024

Activity Highlights: Golden Dolls Dance Tean and Rickards Marching Raider Band; Maddox Youth Dance Company; Delta G.E.M.S.; Senior Class President; Pearls of Perfection; Tabernacle Baptist Church volunteer and Praise Dance Team; Gadsden Summer Youth Program

My Legacy: *"I hope my legacy will enable me to turn my passions for leadership, dancing, and community service into meaningful actions that creates a positive impact within both the school and community."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Serenity is a senior whose confidence continues to skyrocket as she is able to see how her involvement on and off campus has helped to improve the overall morale amongst students."* – Genise Cooper, Rickards Golden Dolls Sance Coach

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ENGLISH & LANGUAGE ARTS

WINNER

BRADEN RICHARDSON

Lincoln High School



With a pen as his most powerful tool, Braden transforms the mock trial courtroom into a stage where every word is meticulously crafted. Since his sophomore year, he has led the Mock Trial team as captain and head writer, drafting compelling case arguments, opening statements, closing arguments, and lines of questioning that have propelled his team to the state championship for the first time in five years.

Braden's flair for storytelling extends beyond the courtroom. As the co-founder and secretary of the Culture Club at Lincoln, he has bridged global perspectives and local engagement. The club not only curates vibrant bulletin boards in the history building to educate students about diverse cultures but also leads service projects that enrich the community.

Academically, Braden stands among the elite, ranked 7th out of 450 in his class. His intellectual achievements are underscored by the AP English Language and Composition Award and the AP Research Award, both earned in his junior year. An AP Scholar with Distinction and a holder of the AP Capstone diploma, he has also generously shared his expertise with classmates. During his junior year, Braden volunteered to assist peers struggling with research design and college essays — a testament to his dedication to lifting others as he climbs.

Braden's leadership extends further into the community as co-chair of the Student District Advisory Council. Unanimously selected after a rigorous interview process, he has spearheaded district-wide initiatives such as the annual high school Longest Table event, the establishment of a middle school Advisory Council, and voter registration drives. In monthly meetings with representatives from every high school, he integrates diverse perspectives into unified, actionable solutions.

Balancing his academic, leadership, and artistic pursuits, Braden also shines as an athlete, competing on the varsity tennis and bowling teams. His combination of intellectual curiosity, creative problem-solving, and commitment to community improvement sets him apart as a well-rounded leader. With each well-crafted argument in the courtroom and thoughtful initiative in the community, Braden Richardson redefines what it means to be a communicator and a leader, leaving an indelible mark on his school and the broader community.

RUNNER-UP

GRACE XU

Chiles High School



Grace understands the power of storytelling, whether through the written word or in the courtroom. Every moment is a narrative waiting to unfold, and she has spent her high school years mastering the art of telling it.

As president of the Creative Writing Club, she didn't just share her love of writing — she built a platform for others to do the same. She launched "Timberwolf Review," a literary journal that published over 60 pages of student writing and artwork in its first year alone. Her passion for the craft led her to the University of Iowa's Young Writer's Studio, where she spent six weeks refining her voice among the nation's best young writers.

But Grace's ability to craft compelling arguments extends beyond the page. As a Teen Attorney for Leon County Teen Court, she has litigated over seventy cases, guiding young defendants toward a better future. By her second year, she was filing motions, delivering closing arguments, and making objections with ease and confidence. Her skill in advocacy earned her the Outstanding Litigator Award in 2024.

Grace Xu is a storyteller, an advocate, and a force to be reckoned with — on paper, in court, and beyond.

ENGLISH & LANGUAGE ARTS

HONORABLE MENTION

MEGAN VEGAS

Maclay School



Hoping to leave behind a legacy of love, Megan stands as a beacon of cultural expression and leadership. As Editor-in-Chief of Maclay's student-run literary magazine "Notes from the Underground," she has transformed the publication into a vibrant forum for creative expression. Her work, rich with intricate poetry and reflective essays, boldly explores her identity as a Hispanic woman in a predominantly white environment while also exploring her life experiences rooted in her Catholic faith.

Beyond her literary accomplishments, Megan is committed to giving back. Since the summer of 2021, she has served as a Youth Leader at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, where she leads group discussions, shares heartfelt testimonies, and participates in mission trips. Most notable of these trips was a transformative journey to Costa Rica, where she helped build essential infrastructure. As a native Spanish speaker, Megan forged lasting connections with the locals.

Her leadership extends to the athletic field as well, where she served as the Maclay varsity tennis captain during her senior year and has competed on the All-Big Bend doubles team. As a Maclay student ambassador and a captain in the Student Astronaut Challenge, Megan inspires others with her empathy, dedication, and drive.

FINALISTS



Molly Cohen
Leon High School

Awards and Honors: Pierian National Honor Society and English, Rho Kappa, Science, Math and French Honor Societies; Tennis District and City Champion 2022 and All-Big Bend Honorable Mention 2023; 3rd Place Statistics Team Math 2024; National Merit Commended Scholar

Activity Highlights: Dance Marathon (2021-24)-Morale Board; Anchor Club-President; Camp Thunderbird Counselor-in-training 2023; Students Demand Action; Pierian and Capstone tutoring; SGA (2021-24)-Senior Class VP; Varsity Tennis-Captain; Interact Club (2021-24)-Calendar Gri

My Legacy: *"I hope to be remembered as kind. A main goal of mine throughout high school has been to be someone that smiles at people in the hallways, makes conversations with those that don't speak up, and helps out anyone that needs a hand. I want my legacy to be that I strived to make other people's days brighter."*

What Others Are Saying: *"One of her strengths is all around kindness that is shown to everyone around her."* – Susan Holmes. Leon Anchor/Senior Sponsor



Malik Gambles
Rickards High School

Awards and Honors: National Honor Society; Raider IMAGE Award; College Board National African American Recognition; Junior Achievement Business competition finalist

Activity Highlights: Black Men in Tech (2021-22); Varsity Soccer; MagLab Student Advisory Board; Creative Writing Club-Founder; Alarm Church-Reach One program (2023-24); Teacher assistant AP Human Geography; iCamp; The Longest Table

My Legacy: *"I hope my legacy will remind people to keep trying, even when things seem hopeless. Humans, like writing, are a matter of editing. We think that everything goes into the first draft, chaining you to those concepts but in reality, there is so much we will change. I want my Creative Writing Club members to remember this most."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Malik's incredible intelligence and adaptability have been major assets to me in my classroom, but also to Malik's club members and campers beyond the typical academic setting."* – Jennifer Sullivan, Rickards AP Human Geography Teacher

ENGLISH & LANGUAGE ARTS



Katelyn Pye
Community Christian School

Awards and Honors: Principal's List (2021-23); Dual enrolled TSC; Florida Academic Scholars Award; National Junior Honor Society and National Honor Society (2021-25)-Secretary

Activity Highlights: Varsity Tennis (2021-25); Senior Leader (2022-25); Camp All American counselor; Panacea First Baptist Church counselor; Fourth grade teacher assistant 2024; Grace Church of Tallahassee mentor (2021-25); TMH volunteer; Mission Trip to Utah and Panama

My Legacy: *"I hope my legacy is that I am someone who always strives to put in the hard work, shows kindness to others, and tries to find joy in every circumstance. I hope I inspired others to be hard-working inside and outside the classroom while doing it with a joyful heart and a big smile no matter what."*

What Others Are Saying: *"She leads by example with her perseverance and diligence in her academic responsibilities."* – Lori Bouck, CCS STEM Lead Teacher



Srivani Sankuratri
Florida State University Schools

Awards and Honors: First place poetry contest winner; AP Scholar with Distinction; National Honor Society and English, Science, STEM, Art, Spanish and Mu Alpha Theta societies; 2024 Winter Festival Art Exhibit and State Fair; Director's Award Medallion

Activity Highlights: CNA program and TMH volunteer; FSUS Literary Magazine-Co-Officer; Art Department volunteer and teacher assistant; FSUS School Carnival (2021-24); Health Occupations Students of America-officer

My Legacy: *"I want to be remembered as someone who isn't afraid to lend a helping hand—who enjoys community service and helps others follow that path. I hope my legacy will regard not only my self-expression in writing and artwork, but my readiness in the healthcare filed—how I'm ready to jump into action when needed in the CNA program."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Beyond her personal accomplishments, Srivani's commitment to sharing her love of language with others is evident in her leadership and service."* – Haley Holt Mehta, PhD, FSUS Science Dept. Head



Katherine Zurko
SAIL High School

Awards and Honors: National Honor Society; SAIL Pirate Medallion Award-Chemistry 2022; English Dept. Award of Excellence (2022-23); Certified Schoolhouse tutor for Reading and Writing SAT sections

Activity Highlights: SAIL Ultimate Frisbee Club; Holy Comforter Church camp; SAIL orientation volunteer; Fall Festival volunteer

My Legacy: *"I hope that after I graduate, I will be remembered as someone full of kindness. I want to be a positive presence in someone's life, however big or small my impact on them was. I also want to be remembered as someone with an open mind who was always eager to learn about the world."*

What Others Are Saying: *"She has a positive attitude and works hard to achieve the task. She works and engages to perform at the highest level."* – Marcia Cone, SAIL NHS and Key Club Sponsor

Sponsored By Family of Aimee Nicole Sachs

JOURNALISM & MEDIA PRODUCTION

WINNER

HALEY GRANT

Lincoln High School



Producer, designer, and editor... Haley does it all. Resourceful and driven, Haley has transformed every challenge into an opportunity for creative growth throughout their high school career. As the first official member and sole video editor of Lincoln's Trojan Talk Show during their freshman year, Haley self-taught Adobe Premiere Pro and helped launch the brand-new weekly morning news program. By staying after school to create episodes, they set the foundation for what would become a beloved production at Lincoln.

Over the years, Haley's role evolved. They became the head video editor for every episode (over 150 in total), honing their skills in Adobe Illustrator, After Effects, and other industry-standard software. Their creative approach brought unique intro sequences and graphics to the show, elevating production quality and earning the title of executive producer during their junior and senior years. In this role, Haley oversaw all stages of production, from researching and scriptwriting to filming and final editing, ensuring segments were both informative and engaging.

Beyond Trojan Talk Show, Haley extended their influence to print media and school events. As co-editor-in-chief of the Yearbook during their senior year, they made critical decisions on content, designed the cover, and refined dozens of spreads, leaving a lasting mark on the publication. They also played a pivotal role in Lincoln's 50-year anniversary celebration by assisting the principal with logos, window wrapping, animations, motion graphics, and other advertisements.

Haley's talents did not stop there. As the Tech Coordinator for the Latin Club, they designed promotional fliers, social media posts, and a club crest while also revamping the club website's layout. Their technical skills are backed by certifications in Adobe Photoshop, Premiere Pro, Illustrator, and After Effects, earning them recognition as an Adobe Certified Professional in Video Design and Visual Design.

Awarded Academic Excellence in Digital Design 3 during junior year, Haley exemplifies a growth mindset, continuously seeking to innovate and improve. Their journey from a self-taught freshman to a multi-faceted media producer is proof of their unwavering passion, creativity, and dedication. Haley not only shapes stories but also inspires others to push the boundaries of digital design and media production.

RUNNER-UP

NISHITHASRI "NISHI" NANDINENI

Rickards High School



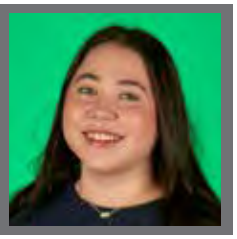
Just as the supercontinent Pangaea once united the world's land masses, Nishi has brought together diverse voices to create a mixture of inclusion and expression. From freshman year, Nishi made an immediate impact as the Student Producer of the 411 Teen Politics Podcast at WFSU Media, coordinating youth discussions on current events for over 40,000 listeners. As President of Rickards Model UN since junior year, she has led workshops to enhance debate skills and has earned numerous accolades, including the University of Florida Model UN Verbal Commendation Award and the Florida International Model UN Outstanding Delegation Award.

In the spirit of unity, Nishi directed the Pangaea Cultural Festival as a junior and senior, overseeing everything from backstage logistics to ticket sales and helping raise $15,000. She hopes the festival leaves a lasting legacy as a safe space that fosters inclusivity and self-expression.

Beyond these roles, Nishi has volunteered at TMH, served as the Publicity Chair for Dance Marathon at Rickards, co-chaired the Leon County Student District Advisory Council, and volunteered as a Senate Page at the Florida Capitol. Her experience as a marketing intern at Choose to Do, Inc, a mental health non-profit in Texas, further refined her communication skills, paving the way for a very promising future.

JOURNALISM & MEDIA PRODUCTION

HONORABLE MENTION



ELIZABETH "VINE" BUTLER

Maclay School

Vine hit the ground running at The Andalusian, serving as general editor of Maclay's student-led newspaper during her first year on staff as a sophomore. Since then, she has ascended through the ranks, becoming managing editor in her junior year and ultimately taking the helm as editor-in-chief her senior year. In this role, Vine oversees a dedicated print design team, writes and edits articles weekly, and releases five issues each year, ensuring that every piece reflects the diverse voices and achievements of the Maclay community.

Her commitment to journalism is evident in the countless hours she sacrifices to maintain a thriving, dynamic newspaper. Vine has written across every category, from opinion pieces and entertainment reviews to school news and global issues, demonstrating remarkable versatility and a passion for amplifying student voices on real-world matters. Her excellence has been recognized with multiple awards: three in the FSPA Spring Digital Contests during her sophomore year and five additional accolades in her junior year, including Review Writing All-Florida and Non-Student Profile Excellence.

A proud member of the Quill and Scroll Journalism National Honor Society, Vine also gives back to her roots by volunteering at the Maclay Kindergarten Camp, where she assists in creating engaging activities. Having attended Maclay since Pre-K, Vine is dedicated to uplifting her community through powerful storytelling and meaningful service.

FINALISTS



Alyssa Crouse

Florida State University Schools

Awards and Honors: All A and A/B Honor Roll (2021-24); Universal Cheerleaders Assoc. All-American Cheerleader; FSU Director's Medallion 2024; FL Scholastic Press Assoc. Excellence in Yearbook Design 2022; Rotary Youth Leadership Rep.; National Science, STEM, and Spanish Honor Societies; Tallahassee Quarterback Club Scholarship winner 2024

Activity Highlights: Yearbook Club (2021-25); Layout Editor; Cheerleading Sideline & Competition – Captain (2023-24); Mu Alpha Theta; Rho Kappa Social Media Chair; Dance Marathon; Little Noles Cheerleading Camp (2021-24)

My Legacy: *"I strive to be a better version of myself and to make a difference by encouraging others. Everyone has a story to tell and a cause or interest that is especially important to them. I hope my legacy inspires people to work tirelessly towards meeting their goals and to lift up others along the way".*

What Others Are Saying: *"She balances her academic responsibilities with her extracurricular activities, showcasing her strong work ethic and time management skills."* – Shannon Axtell, FSUS English Teacher



Sophia Gauding

SAIL High School

Awards and Honors: Student Government Association Secretary and Chief of Staff

Activity Highlights: Leon County Schools Student District Advisory Council (2021-25) Historian and Co-Chair; SAIL Volleyball Marketing Manager; Kiwanis Firecracker 5K Run volunteer; SAIL Prom and Fall Festivals; The Longest Table

My Legacy: *"The legacy I strive to leave is defined by the mistakes I've made and the valuable lessons I've gained from them, whether through my experiences in Student Government or other endeavors."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Sophia does not shy away from a leadership role in the classroom but rather thrives under pressure."* – Caitlin Starkey, SAIL SGA Sponsor

JOURNALISM & MEDIA PRODUCTION



Anthony Jimenez
Godby High School

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

Activity Highlights: Yearbook (2022-25); Berean Christian Fellowship videographer (2021-23); Godby Theater Audio volunteer; Photography and videography business owner of Jmzmedia; Leon County Medical Services EMS training

My Legacy: *"I hope my legacy inspires creativity and dedication, showcasing the power of storytelling through photography and media. From capturing unforgettable moments at Godby's yearbook to promoting school spirit through my lens, I aim to leave a lasting impact that highlights the importance of preserving memories and celebrating our community's unique stories."*

What Others Are Saying: *"His attention to detail and commitment to excellence make hid a standout in every project he undertakes."* – Nicolas Bolding, VP, NrbVisions



Addison Leach
Leon High School

Awards and Honors: Miss Leon contestant; Interact Service Club Secretary; "Leo the Lion" school mascot; Pierian Honor Society and Rho Kappa, Science, and English National Honor Societies; Leon Academic Letter

Activity Highlights: Special Olympics Cheer Coach; Lions United Club Social Chair (2021-23) and President (2024); Dance Marathon (2021-24); Beach Volleyball Team and Leon Indoor Volleyball Team; Miss Sweetheart 2024 Interact Club; Volleyball summer coach

My Legacy: *"Everyone wants to be remembered by something. However when I graduate I want to be remembered for always bringing inclusivity to the community and making everyone feel seen and heard."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Whether serving as a coach, mentor or volunteer, she brings a contagious enthusiasm and passion for creating opportunities for athletes to shine."* – Meredith Gavalas, Leon ESE Teacher



Nathaniel Rorison
Chiles High School

Awards and Honors: Dept. Award for Outstanding AP Sophomore in Science; Natl. Youth Leadership Forum for Academic Success – Engineering; National Honor Society; Natl. African American and the Natl. Rural & Small Town Recognition programs; Finalist MLK Dreamers and Doers Award

Activity Highlights: Track and Field Team (2021-25); violinist in Florida All-District Orchestra; Co-Founder and Team Captain Chiles Speech & Debate Team; Cross Country Team; Capital City Diamonds Softball volunteer; Yearbook

My Legacy: *"I want my legacy to inspire more and more people to grow and help others and the planet we live on, making life better for all people. To excel in education for the improvement of our world, volunteer locally to give back to those who taught us and help foster the next generation, all in hopes for a better tomorrow."*

What Others Are Saying: *"From the beginning, Nathaniel demonstrated a passion for storytelling, coupled with a strong commitment to accuracy, integrity, and investigative reporting."* – Courtney Penton, Chiles Yearbook Advisor

Sponsored By Leon County Government

LEADERSHIP

WINNER



JAZANAE "JAZ" ROLLE

Tallahassee Collegiate Academy

When Jaz transferred to Tallahassee Collegiate Academy (TCA) in her junior year, she saw an opportunity to shape the student experience at a brand-new school. Determined to give every voice a platform, she spearheaded the creation of TCA's SGA from the ground up. With vision and tenacity, Jaz built an SGA program that quickly became the heartbeat of the school, fostering inclusivity and school spirit. She went on to serve as the Vice President of her junior class and the President of her senior class.

However, Jaz's leadership journey began long before her arrival at TCA. At Deltona High School, she served as Freshman Vice President and later became an SGA Executive Board member, experiences that instilled in her a passion for community engagement. When she transferred to TCA halfway through high school, Jaz immediately set to work: she not only joined the student leadership team but also reinvented it by launching new initiatives that resonated with her peers.

Under her guidance, TCA's SGA introduced engaging events such as pep rallies and multicultural spirit weeks, designed to celebrate the diversity of the student body. Recognizing the need for enduring traditions in a brand-new school, she spearheaded the creation of events like the senior sunrise and senior Friendsgiving, ensuring that future classes would inherit a legacy of unity and school pride. In addition, Jaz initiated anti-bullying and anti-vaping campaigns, further demonstrating her commitment to a safe, positive environment for all students.

Jaz's relentless dedication extends beyond the walls of TCA. Despite juggling two part-time jobs and completing hundreds of volunteer hours through SGA, she is also dual enrolled at TSC and is slated to receive her Associate of Arts degree this spring. In 2022, she also volunteered as a junior coach for a cheerleading team, inspiring young athletes with her energy and commitment.

Jaz's leadership is defined by her altruism and her unwavering commitment to making a difference. Through her determined approach, she has built a thriving student government from scratch and created a culture where every student feels empowered and valued. One thing is clear: Jaz's vision and hard work have laid a strong foundation for TCA's future.

RUNNER-UP



CARSON CONWAY

Maclay School

With a desire to address hunger issues while fostering engagement among students at Maclay, Carson founded Better Together: a schoolwide initiative aimed at combating food insecurity. As Executive Director, he united all divisions of Maclay and organized food drives that distributed over 4,000 pounds of food across Northern Florida in 2024, forging lasting connections between the school and the broader community. This innovative program, born from Carson's commitment to serving his community and promoting collaboration, quickly became a shining example of student initiative and civic responsibility at Maclay.

Carson's leadership extends far beyond Better Together. Serving as class president for his sophomore, junior, and senior years, he planned and executed events, fundraisers, and trips that built class unity and a positive school atmosphere. As a Leadership Council Officer for Maclay Ambassadors, he led campus tours, trained new ambassadors, and organized events to ensure smooth transitions for incoming students. His role as a Youth Leadership Tallahassee Delegate further sharpened his skills in community impact and leadership development.

At Florida Boys State, Carson actively engaged in the legislative process by sponsoring and authoring bills. As Vice President of Model UN and a recipient of the National Leadership Award from the American Youth Foundation, his influence continues to grow. His impact on Maclay and the Tallahassee community will continue long after his graduation.

LEADERSHIP

BEST & BRIGHTEST

HONORABLE MENTION



TOLULOPE "TOLU" BINITIE

Godby High School

Tolu radiates kindness and humility, always with a smile on his face. A model of academic excellence and community leadership, he has achieved remarkable milestones during his time at Godby. Serving as Vice President of the National Honor Society and a FAMU TRIO Talent Search Ambassador from his sophomore through senior years, Tolu has demonstrated a dedication to both academics and service. This was further recognized with the National African American Recognition Program Award during his junior year and the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Dreamers and Doers Award in his senior year.

Breaking barriers, Tolul became the first African American male student from Godby to serve as a Student School Board Representative for Leon County Schools, ensuring that diverse voices are heard. His participation in FSU Summer iCamp and Black Men in Technology at FSU expanded his understanding of emerging technologies and leadership, while his volunteer work as a librarian at Lake Jackson Library showcased his commitment to community service.

A dual-enrolled student at Tallahassee State College and the Valedictorian of his class, Tolulope balances a rigorous academic schedule with his passion for helping others. His relentless pursuit of higher education and community betterment defines his journey, promising to inspire and drive positive change wherever his path may take him

FINALISTS



Kylie Alkire

Leon County Home School

Awards and Honors: Florida Junior Classical League Multi-Place Winner (2021-24); National Merit for National Latin Exam; Silver Medal for National Classical Etymology Exam; Dual Enrolled Tallahassee State College

Activity Highlights: Safe Families for Children; Capoeira Massape Summer Camp Program at Teacher Rank; Gretchen Everhart Athletics Program (2022-23); Capital City Latin Club President; Varsity Soccer Team; Debate Club; Bible Study Club

My Legacy: *"I hope my legacy will be one of mentorship; to the kids who stayed at my home, to the girls in the Bible Study Club, and to the students in my Capoeira class. I hope that because of me they are inspired to work hard with integrity, to be kind to people around them, and to never give up."*

What Others Are Saying: *"She is a well-rounded student who participates in numerous physical activities as well as volunteering in various capacities in the community at large."* – Alesha Waller, Latin Teacher, Raising Arrows Leadership Co-Op



Alyssa Bauer

Florida State University Schools

Awards and Honors: National English Honors Society-Vice President 2023; National Honors Society-President 2024; Senior Class President; Rho Kappa-Vice President; AP Scholar with Distinction; National Rural & Small Town Recognition Award

Activity Highlights: FSUS Summer Camp Counselor in Training (2021-23); Prom Committee (2023-24); FSUS Orchestra; High Performance Materials Institute research volunteer; Science Olympiad Team Chair with National STEM Honor Society; Student Astronaut Challenge; Model UN

My Legacy: *"My legacy reflects leadership, the importance of community service, and an urge to help others. Through initiatives I have founded like NHS's Sock Drive and Model UN's Mock Conference, I aim to inspire people to contribute to their community and support others meaningfully."*

What Others Are Saying: *"The three words that come to mind when I think of Alyssa Bauer are reliable, cooperative, and confident."* – Haley Holt Mehta, PhD., FSUS Science Dept. Head

LEADERSHIP



Sophia Clement
Lincoln High School

Awards and Honors: Lincoln Symphonic Band Superior Rankings at District and State levels (2021-25); National Honor Society; Drum Major (2023-25); Principal Chair in Wind Orchestra and Symphonic Band; Homecoming Queen 2024; USF Rising Knights Honor Band 2025t

Activity Highlights: LKey Club; Green Club; Big Bend All-District Band volunteer; Fairview Band-a-Thon; Varsity Flag Football; Dog foster; Marched in NYC State Playoffs and St. Patrick's Day Parade

My Legacy: *"After gradating from Lincoln, I intend to leave a legacy of well-roundedness. I want my peers to know that they don't have to settle for only being a 'band kid'; they can also be a Homecoming Queen, a scholar, and an athlete. I want to motivate others to do what they love without restriction and become leaders in their communities."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Her ability to work hard and perform at a high level is a test of her character and will help her be very successful in the future."* – Hannah Haugen, Lincoln Director of Bands



Addison Cowart
North Florida Christian School

Awards and Honors: National Honor Society (2021-25); Class President 2022; SGS Junior Vice President; West Point Leadership Award; SGA President 2024

Activity Highlights: Bradfordville First Baptist Church VBS; NFC Volleyball Camp; Volleyball Team Captain; NFC Family Fun Day volunteer

My Legacy: *"Upon graduation I desire a meaningful legacy defined by growth, kindness and meaningful connections. I wish for remembrance as someone who challenged others to think big, supported my peers and worked hard to make a positive impact. Through my actions I aim to leave a lasting influence that encourages others to be confident and relentlessly pursue what they believe in."*

What Others Are Saying: *"She exemplifies the qualities of a great leader; she is positive, hardworking, accountable, and has integrity."* – Chris Hurt, NFC Dean of Students



Luke Dietz
Community Christian School

Awards and Honors: Senior Leader (2022-24); Soccer Team Captain and Leadership Award; All-Big Bend First Team Soccer 2024; National Honor Society; Honor Roll (2021-24)

Activity Highlights: Thomasville Road Baptist Church VBS (2022-24); Mission Trip Utah 2024; Foxfire Museum volunteer; Fellowship of Christian Athletes Leadership Team; Varsity Soccer (2022-25); 2025 All-Big Bend Soccer Honorable Mention; Varsity Tennis

My Legacy: *"My hope upon graduating is that nobody will remember me for any of my achievements listed above, but by my character and actions. I hope that others will remember me as someone who they could approach and talk about life or eat lunch with, and in turn they will do the same thing for others."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Luke is becoming a more accomplished leader with each event that he leads."* – Jeff Collier, CCS Chaplain and Leadership Program Director

LEADERSHIP



Suhas Gaddam
Rickards High School

Awards and Honors: President's Volunteer Service Award-Gold 2022; Mu Alpha Theta; Key Club Governors Citation Award and 100% Pride Report Submission Award

Activity Highlights: Developed website for local start-ups; Key Club President; Rickards Invitational Math Competition test writer; Dance Marathon member and Executive Board (2021-24); Hindu Temple Tallahassee volunteer; Camp Invention volunteer; Asia Experience; Science Olympiad Head Captain

My Legacy: *"I want to leave a legacy that inspires other students to find their passion and use it to make a difference in the community. I hope my actions show the importance of helping others, especially those who can't help themselves, and encourage others to do the same."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Even while participating in these clubs, Suhas still finds time to give back to the community."* – Seth Reedy, Rickards IB Physics Teacher



Lenna Gayhart
Leon High School

Awards and Honors: President's Volunteer Service Award-Gold; Girls State Outstanding Citizen Award and Gavel Award; Girls Nation Florida Senator and Graduate Honor Cords; Class President-Sophomore and Junior years; Pierian National Honor Society and 5 other honor societies; 1st Place essay Tallahassee Bar Association

Activity Highlights: JV Tennis; FL Assoc. of Student Councils; Foundation for LCS Student Rep; Interact Club-Miss July; Junior Miss Poppy Veteran's Day Ambassador; Talquin-Florida Electric Cooperative Youth Tour; Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership; Dance Marathon; SGA Cabinet Member)

My Legacy: *"My goal and philosophy in life has always been to treat others with kindness and to promote inclusiveness. I find inspiration and hope for the future through my work hosting events that create spaces where we can understand, support and inspire one another. These are the values I hope to be remembered for."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Passion for community service is evident as Lenna serves as a role model to all, young and old, in how to give back to the community."* – Dr. Majorie McNeill, Florida Girls State Program Government Advisor



Liam Hundley
SAIL High School

Awards and Honors: Student Body President; Honor Roll (2021-24); National Honor Society Vice President

Activity Highlights: ATAC Swim Team; Thespians Club Vice President; SAIL Ultimate Frisbee Club-Captain; Youth Leadership Tallahassee Class 20; Mysterious Waters Neighborhood volunteer

My Legacy: *"SAIL is the perfect place for individuals to explore and become who they hope to be. I aspire for my legacy at SAIL to contribute to the already accepting and open-minded environment, My goal is for people to look back on my time at SAIL and recognize my efforts to value everyone's unique point of view and feel inspired to do the same."*

What Others Are Saying: *"He is an excellent communicator, and always willing to speak up with an idea or question."* – Benjamin Brustad, SAIL Math Teacher

LEADERSHIP



Raven Simmons
FAMU Developmental Research School

Awards and Honors: All Big Bend Second String 2023; MLK Dreamers and Doers Award 2024; Drum Major with Excellence rated MPA Band; SGA President; National Honor Society; Mathematics Schievement Certificate; Miss Senior for FAMU DRS Royal Court

Activity Highlights: Dual Enrolled at FAMU; National Youth Leadership Engineering Forum delegate; Cross Road Academy classroom volunteer; Soul of the Southside; Community Garden; SGA (2021-25); National Beta Club; Varsity Flag Football

My Legacy: *"Upon graduation, I plan to attend a four-year university to pursue a doctorate in Mechanical Engineering. With this advanced degree, I aim to focus on developing sustainable resources and designing environmentally friendly technologies. My goal is to make a positive impact on the world by addressing current environmental challenges through innovation and engineering."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Her ability to inspire and empower her peers while maintaining a rigorous academic schedule demonstrates unparalleled time management, discipline, and a genuine passion for positively impacting her community."* – John Harris, FAMU Coordinator Student Success and Analytics



Alexie "Lexi" Thomas
Chiles High School

Awards and Honors: All A Honor Roll (2021-25); Academic Achievement Bar (2021-24); West Point Leadership Award; SGA Sophomore and Junior Class President; SGA Student Body President 2024; National Honor Society

Activity Highlights: Chiles JV Soccer (2021-23); Youth Leadership Tallahassee Class 20; Good Samaritan Club VP; Cayer Behavioral Group volunteer; Tallahassee Dance Academy summer camp (2022-24); JB Gymnastic Center summer camp instructor; Timberwolves United; Dance Marathon

My Legacy: *"Upon graduation, I plan to attend a four-year university to pursue a doctorate in Mechanical Engineering. With this advanced degree, I aim to focus on developing sustainable resources and designing environmentally friendly technologies. My goal is to make a positive impact on the world by addressing current environmental challenges through innovation and engineering."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Lexi's leadership style is built on collaboration, empowerment, and personal accountability."* – Lisa Donaldson, Chiles Teacher and SGA Sponsor

Sponsored by Florida Association of District School Superintendents

MATHEMATICS

BEST & BRIGHTEST

WINNER

SUKEERTH GOLY

Rickards High School



Sukeerth's passion for mathematics goes beyond the numbers — it's about using math as a tool for transformation. His commitment to the subject is evident in his volunteer work as a virtual math tutor for middle school Rohingya refugees through Forging Opportunities for Refugees in America (FORA). This experience honed his teaching skills and ignited a drive to make math accessible to all.

Since his freshman year, Sukeerth has excelled in mathematics at Rickards High School, serving as the Lead Director of the Rickards Invitational, one of the largest student-run high school math competitions in the southern United States, attracting nearly 1,000 competitors nationwide. In this role, he organized tests, managed registration, and ensured the smooth execution of the competition. His meticulous planning and organizational skills have set a high standard for future events.

Sukeerth's leadership reaches national levels, going beyond just local impact. As the National Mu Alpha Theta Student President, he represents 120,000 students from 2,500 schools, spearheading math outreach projects that empower underserved chapters across the country. He also served as the student president of the Florida Association of Mu Alpha Theta, further underscoring his commitment to nurturing mathematical talent and enthusiasm.

In the summer of 2023, Sukeerth interned with the Florida Court of Clerks and Comptrollers, where he worked under the Director of Application Development. Tasked with coding a script to integrate help desk data, he faced challenges when his initial attempts failed. However, his persistence paid off as he refined his approach, ultimately developing a successful script that enhanced the agency's efficiency and demonstrated his technical expertise and problem-solving skills.

Furthermore, his accomplishments in competitive mathematics are impressive in their own right. Sukeerth is a USA Math Olympiad Qualifier and has ranked among the top 15 nationally in Mu Alpha Theta. He has served on the board of directors for the Foundation for Leon County Schools, reviewing $320,000 in grants and helping to allocate $150,000 in teacher resources.

Eager to learn new concepts and ideas, Sukeerth is a brilliant mathematician and leader who uses his skills to inspire others and drive positive change in education and the community.

RUNNER-UP

DIYA PATEL

Maclay School



"Through tutoring, I have learned that while perfection is impossible, growth is infinite." Diya embodies this belief through her transformative work at the Maclay Academic Resource Center (MARC), where she has served as a dedicated peer tutor since her sophomore year. At MARC, Diya not only offers support in math, English, and science, but also drives program growth by developing tutoring strategies and collaborating with peers to enhance academic success for all students. Her commitment to education led her to bring a new initiative to the Center during her senior year: free SAT tutoring for Big Bend students, ensuring that quality test preparation is accessible to everyone.

Diya's passion for mentoring extends beyond MARC. As a freshman, she participated in the Roseland Public Speaking and Debate Program, using her Gujarati and Hindi skills to mentor beginner English speakers in rural Indian villages. She also volunteered in the Quincy Tutoring Program, where she guided bilingual children in the Big Bend, and virtually tutored math and science through the Leroy Collins Main Library.

In addition to her tutoring efforts, Diya has assumed leadership roles, notably serving as President of Mu Alpha Theta at Maclay. Moreover, she spent last summer volunteering at TMH, further establishing herself as an all-around exceptional student.

MATHEMATICS

BEST & BRIGHTEST

HONORABLE MENTION



COLE ROBINSON

Leon High School

Cole is always on the lookout for ways that math permeates everyday life, like one of his favorite hobbies: baking. From carefully measuring ingredients to adjusting temperatures for the perfect rise, he understands that precision is key in both the kitchen and the lab.

That same attention to detail fuels his passion for scientific research. As an intern at the Miller Laboratory at FSU, Cole conducts biochemistry research on hexokinase 3, a key protein in metabolic pathways. Under the guidance of a PhD candidate, he cultures and analyzes proteins, applying advanced math to calculate experimental concentrations and determine pH values. His work has deepened his appreciation for the mathematical foundations of science.

Eager to explore new challenges, Cole attended the Boston University Summer Challenge, taking courses in the Chemistry of Medicine and Infectious Diseases. Through hands-on experiments, he synthesized compounds and saw firsthand how mathematical precision plays a vital role in medical research.

Beyond his academic achievements, Cole serves as the volunteer coordinator for the National Honor Society, organizing tutoring for over 100 students. Once a student who benefited from NHS tutoring, he now ensures others receive the same support. Diligent, compassionate, and driven, Cole is already making a lasting impact.

FINALISTS



Bruce "Jordan" Baumann
SAIL High School

Awards and Honors: AP Academic certificates in Computer Science and Precalculus; Python Certification; winner in multiple coding competitions; State Youth Ultimate Frisbee Team competition; Critic's Choice and Superior in Thespian Festival 2024

Activity Highlights: The Magnolia School volunteer (2021-22); Thespian Troupe; Co-Captain SAIL Ultimate Frisbee Club (2021-25); Klown Kapers performer; numerous Game Jam and Coing Competitions; SAIL Juggling Club

My Legacy: *"I hope that people will feel more open to trying new and difficult experiences and learn about more things they otherwise would not. I also hope to show now many people can do things like programming or juggling that would otherwise have believed themselves incapable of doing such."*

What Others Are Saying: **"***His eagerness to fill this role exemplifies many of his best traits: His strong sense of self-motivation, his leadership, his patience with others, his enthusiasm for juggling, and his dedication to his SAIL community."* – Danny Wood, SAIL Teacher



Kaitlyn Boulos
Lincoln High School

Awards and Honors: Gold Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish; Featured Emerging Artist at LeMoyne Student Exhibition 2022; Dual Enrolled TSC and President's List; AP Excellence Award (2022-23); Precalculus Student of the Year 2023; Sunshine State Scholar-Science and Math; Student Astronaut Apollo Division Qualifier

Activity Highlights: Spanish tutor; Empower Martial Arts Taekwondo Summer Camp and competition judge; National Honor Society President; Launch to Lincoln volunteer; Teacher Aid; Book Club Founder and President 2024; Student Astronaut Challenge President

My Legacy: *"I hope to be remembered as the one who cared too much. I hope they recollect my dedication to what and who I loved, that I loved too deeply everything I did. And I hope that I inspired someone else to cherish their efforts as much as I did. That joy would be enough."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Her ambition of intellectual curiosity, academic achievement, and desire to improve her community sets her apart as one of the most exceptional students I have encountered in my career."* – Cheryl Henley, Lincoln AP Capstone Research

MATHEMATICS



Braylee Dempsey
Chiles High School

Awards and Honors: AP Scholar; National Honor Society and Societies of Spanish and English; Natl. Rural and Small Town Recognition Award; Pride of the Pack Award 2023; Academic Scholar Awards for Track & Field; Academic Bar Recipient (2021-23)

Activity Highlights: Random Acts of Kindness Club Do-Founder (2021-24); Dance Marathon Executive Board; Anchor Club Vice-President (2023-25); Girls Varsity Track & Field Team; Tallahassee Dance Academy; Messenger and Page in FL House and Senate; Deerlake MS Math tutor; Mu Alpha Theta; The Longest Table

My Legacy: *"In all the clubs and organizations I have been a part of throughout high school, there's one legacy that I hope to leave behind and that is kindness. I hope kindness and acts of service will leave a lasting impact on the school, students and those we serve. I encourage everyone to involve themselves in clubs that enable them to give back."*

What Others Are Saying: *"She sees a job that needs to be done and simply does it, always with a smile on her face."* – Megan Abbott, Chiles English Teacher



Augustus "Gus" Ettore
Florida State University Schoolsl

Awards and Honors: National Rural & Small Town Recognition Award; AP Scholar with Distinction; Most Outstanding Musician Award-Guitar (2021-23); Mu Alpha Theta Regional and Statewide competition awards; National Merit Commended Award; 1st Place FSUS Science Fair 2023; National Honor Society

Activity Highlights: Suzuki Classical Guitarist; Key Club; Student Astronaut Challenge (2022-24); Co-Founder and Co-President of Investment Club; Natl. Science Technology Engineering President; Natl. Honor Societies in Math, Science, and Spanish; MagLab Science Nights

My Legacy: *I want my legacy to be one of passion, dedication, hard work, and responsibility. I hope that my actions inspire others to follow a path of dedication to something meaningful to them. I want to be remembered as a communicator in my community. I hope to inspire others to capture the power of collaboration to achieve their goals."*

What Others Are Saying: *"His enthusiasm for learning has been contagious, and it has inspired many students to dive deeper into STEM subjects."* – Caroline McNiel, Deputy Director, National MagLab



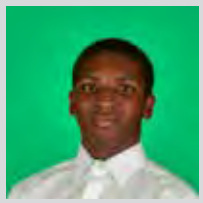
William Morton
North Florida Christian School

Awards and Honors: National Honor Society – Secretary and President (2024); Christian Chapter Award 2021; All A Honor Roll (2021-24); National Merit Scholar

Activity Highlights: Key Club President; WFSU regional spelling bee volunteer; Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church vacation bible school; Middle School math tutor

My Legacy: *"Once I graduate, I want to be remembered as someone who inspired my fellow students to better themselves in every way. I want to be thought of as a motivator, who did not leave anyone behind or fail to put forward my greatest effort. It would be a dream if my legacy was remembered as one of uplifting others."*

What Others Are Saying: *"He exemplifies a student who has respect for others and takes his responsibilities very seriously."* – Janell Penny, NFC Guidance Counselor



Steven Walker
Godby High School

Awards and Honors: Winner of FSU's Black Men in Technology Videography Competition; Engineering CAD Certification; Agriculture Certification; AP Scholar Certification

Activity Highlights:National Honor Society (2022-25); Godby's Driver's Ed Range Assistant; Math tutor; Robotics Club

My Legacy: *"After graduating, I want to be known as someone who left a lasting impact on my community. Probably not directly after leaving graduation, but sometime after I've established my career, I want to be known as someone who helped others; be it academically through teaching, occupationally by building machines to make life easier, or by being a good role model."*

What Others *"He is a protector; he is mindful and gracious. He has made it clear, through his interactions with others, that he was a standout."* – Carvetta Young, Godby English Teacher Department Head

MUSIC

WINNER

ERIN BRODER

Chiles High School



Like a butterfly emerging from a chrysalis, Erin transforms every space she enters, whether it's captivating audiences on stage with her thespian troupe or nurturing community growth through her long-standing commitment to Girl Scouts. As the current President and Troupe Captain of the International Thespian Society at Chiles, Erin's leadership resonates throughout every facet of the theatre program. After serving as Thespian Clerk during 2022–2023, she swiftly rose to helm the group, leading the district's Thespian Festival where she not only competes with her peers but consistently garners accolades, including Critic's Choice awards, in the duet musical category for "Take for What I Am" from Rent and in the one-act category for "The Whole Shebang." Her achievements in the competitive theatre arena are complemented by a collection of prestigious theatre production awards from Chiles, underscoring her talent and dedication.

Throughout her time at Chiles, Erin has immersed herself in every major production, taking on both lead and supporting roles that have challenged and refined her craft. From the role of Molly Aster in Peter and the Star Catcher to Miss Sandra in All Shook Up, she approaches each rehearsal with preparedness and a commitment to excellence.

To broaden her artistic repertoire, Erin has trained extensively at the Sharon Davis School of Dance and with Tallahassee Irish Step Dancers. These experiences have not only enhanced her performance skills but have also deepened her understanding of movement and expression, a vital asset in the world of theatre.

But Erin's impact isn't confined to the stage. A Girl Scout since the age of six, she was elected to the Youth Leadership Council for the Girl Scouts of Gateway Council in 2023. In a project that mirrors her spirit, Erin earned the prestigious Silver Award by refurbishing the butterfly garden at her former elementary school. Over 150 hours of tireless work went into the project, from securing donations to replanting and relabeling, resulting in a garden certified by the North American Butterfly Association. This endeavor not only built skills in time management, budgeting, and construction, but also symbolized her commitment to creating nurturing spaces where all can flourish.

Erin's multifaced talents, leadership, and service converge to inspire others, ensuring that her legacy is one of innovation, inclusion, and boundless creative expression.

RUNNER-UP

MATTHEW HARLEY

Florida State University Schools



Matthew consistently rises to the occasion, blending musical talent with genuine leadership. In his sophomore year at Jacksonville Sings, he earned the "Outstanding Bass Award," and has consistently achieved Excellent and Superior at Thespian districts, showcasing his commitment to excellence on stage.

Matthew has lent his talents to FSUS productions such as Legally Blonde and Guys and Dolls, captivating audiences with his performances. His passion for the arts extends beyond his own stage presence; for the past three summers, he has volunteered as a theatre camp counselor at FSUS, guiding children as they develop their theatrical skills and overcome stage fright.

Matthew takes his passion for theatre beyond performing. In his junior year, he took on the role of Student Director for his high school musical, Guys and Dolls, assisting in read-throughs and individually blocking three scenes. His leadership continued into his senior year as the Assistant Director for the middle school play, The Wizard of Oz. Here, Matthew introduced his unique approach to easing the nerves of budding actors, helping them shed their inhibitions and shine on stage. For three intensive months, he guided rehearsals and nurtured their growth, culminating in a performance that left audiences captivated.

With a blend of musical talent, directorial skill, and genuine care for his fellow artists, Matthew is not just a performer, but a true leader in the arts.

MUSIC

BEST & BRIGHTEST

HONORABLE MENTION

EMILY HAWKEN

Maclay School



Emily is a multi-talented musician and performer whose artistry resonates both on stage and in the community. As the lead vocalist and multi-instrumentalist for the five-member teen band All The Things, Emily expertly navigates various genres with her acoustic guitar, banjo, and ukulele. Their local performances have earned recognition from the Mayor and the City of Tallahassee, and in 2023, the band opened for The Brown Goose at Cascades Adderley Amphitheater.

Emily is dedicated to her craft, having honed her guitar skills since 2017 while pursuing comprehensive vocal and ukulele lessons at Seepersaud Studios over the past five years. There, she recorded four original songs, fueling plans for an upcoming EP to showcase her creative vision.

At Maclay, Emily has graced the stage in leading roles, most notably as Gabriella in Boeing Boeing and as Little Red Riding Hood in Into the Woods JR. Her performance excellence is reflected in her competitive accolades, earning five Superior Ratings and one Critics' Choice Award at District Competitions, along with multiple Excellent and Superior Ratings at State level. Memorable performances in pieces like Six from Six: the Musical, Learning to Be Silent from Footloose, and Ladies Who Lunch from Company only further highlight her impressive talent and commitment to the arts.

FINALISTS



Talia Duncan
Leon High School

Awards and Honors: Leon Chamber Orchestra (2021-24)-First Chair cellist; Superior rating in multiple competitions; Pierian Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta, Rho Lappa, English and Science Honor societies; AP Scholar with Distinction; New Orleans Chamber Festival-High School Quartet winner 2024

Activity Highlights: Dance Marathon; Powderpuff team; City Youth Council Youth Conference; SGA; Student Advisory Council Sophomore and Senior Rep; LAMP intern; Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Summer Camp counselor (2022-24)

My Legacy: *"I hope my legacy will be that you can and should delight in your differences. You should be an orchestra kid, but also an SGA kid. You should be friends with people who have opinions that you disagree with. Celebrate your differences, because they are what make us strong."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Her innate musicianship has shone through the entire time I have known her, from beginning middle school orchestra all the way through being accepted to Leon's top honors orchestra for all 4 years of high school."* – Dr. Megan Sahely, Leon Orchestra Director



Gabrielle "Gabby" Hudlow
Lincoln High School

Awards and Honors: Principal bassist for multiple Jazz Bands (2022-24); FMEA All-State Orchestra and Honors Orchestra (2022-24); National Honor Society (2023-25); AP Scholar; National African American Recognition Award

Activity Highlights: Tallahassee Youth Orchestra (2022-25); Swift Creek Middle School music volunteer; Bat Girl Club; FSU College of Music Summer Camp; Varsity Basketball (2021-22); Music tutor

My Legacy: *"I hope my legacy will be one that inspires people to do great things and to create works that not only speak for themselves but connects, unifies and inspired others."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Whether excelling academically, supporting her peers, or serving her community, Gabrielle consistently goes above and beyond."* – Heather Thompson, Lincon Dean of Discipline

MUSIC



Elizabeth Kim
SAIL High School

Awards and Honors: SAIL Medallion Award; National Honor Society (2021-24)-President; Dual enrolled Lively Technical College CNA program; SAIL Chorus Section Leader; Dept. Award of Excellence-Geometry, Algebra and World Languages

Activity Highlights: Woodville School summer teaching assistant; Pruitt Health-Southwood volunteer; Key Club; SAIL Ultimate Frisbee Club; SGA-Vice President; Music Ensemble-Co-President; Music Ensemble Modern Band

My Legacy: *"I hope my legacy will show that we have to learn to trust one another. That people should try to believe in the good of people rather than just the negative. Like in any band, you must trust the people around you to learn the song and put effort into the music. Overall, trust people to do the right thing."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Elizabeth's caring nature and personality allows her to work extremely well with others in a team setting, as she always respects others' opinions and perspectives even when they may differ from her own."* – Victoria Burton, Lively Technical College Nursing Instructor



Erick Martin-O'Kelley
Leon County Virtual Schools

Awards and Honors: First violinist in Milwaukee Youth, Florence and Tallahassee Symphony Orchestras; Wisconsin Freshman Basketball Region Champion; Winner 400m hurdler-Florence County 2022; AAU Junior Olympics 2024; National Honor Society; West Florence Shining Knight Award; National Society of High School Scholars

Activity Highlights: Varsity Track & Field; Varsity Football; Tallahassee American Legion volunteer; Marquette University High School's Brothers of Culture; Habitat for Humanity; Levy Park Little League volunteer coach; STEAM and Dream VC Academy Program

My Legacy: *"I hope that I leave a legacy of leadership and perseverance. Throughout high school, I learned what I meant to be a leader. I learned to reach for prominent achievements, to try new things, and to keep pushing forward. I wish to show others, that you can always overcome your obstacles."*

What Others Are Saying: *"He is one of the most ambitious students I have had the opportunity to work with. Erick's consistent work ethic has created many opportunities that have improved him personally and academically."* – Tiffany Martin, Licensed Educator



Azavaughn "Zay" Mosley
FAMU Developmental Research School

Awards and Honors: FAMU DRS TRIO Marching Band Section Leader (2021-23) and Woodwind Leader (2023-25); Jazz Band and Concert Band First Chair saxophone; Dual enrolled at FAMU and Embry Riddle Aeronautical; National Beta Club-Historian and Treasurer

Activity Highlights: TRIO Educational Talent Search; Photography & Videography Team (2021-23); VEX Robotics Team; FAMU Marching 100 Band Camp (2021-24); Orange & Green Marching Machine tutor; FAMU GORE Lab volunteer; Youth Leadership Tallahassee Class 20; SGA (2021-25)-Historian

My Legacy: *"I hope my legacy will be a remembered one. I want my under-classmen to pass on the teaching and material that I've left them. I want people to not recognize my face but my name. A quote from Coco, a movie I'm fond of read, 'You only die when you are forgotten' and that case I want to live forever."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Azavaughn is the epitome of work-social life balance and would be an excellent addition to an organization that is predicated on outreach, community service and networking."* – Micheal J. West, M.ED., FAMU

MUSIC



Fox Rutherford
Leon County Home School

Awards and Honors: Tallahassee Homeschool String Orchestra-Lead Percussionist; Florida Junior Classical League Latin Awards (2021-22); FSU College of Music Piano Institute

Activity Highlights: Canopy Roads Baptist Church Worship Band (2021-24); CCS Theatre performances; Mission Trips; Tally Robotics; Student Action Leadership Team-President

My Legacy: *"I hope for my legacy after graduation to be that I showed perseverance throughout high school and was a good example of leadership in the greater Tallahassee area homeschool community, as well as at my church."*

What Others Are Saying: *"His ability to connect with others, foster a spirit of teamwork, and take initiative has made him a positive role model for his peers and a cornerstone of our ministry."* – Justin Wester, Canopy Roads Baptist Church Associate Pastor



Jake Veleber
Community Christian School

Awards and Honors: National Honor Society (2022-24)-Treasurer; Johannes Guttenberg Innovation & Creativity Award 2023; CCS Senior Leader and Squad Leader 2024; CCS High School Emerging Leader Award 2022; Carson Scholar 2024; District winning Soccer Team 2024; 2025 All-Big Bend Soccer Second Team

Activity Highlights: Varsity Soccer-Captain; Church Youth Worship Team drummer, guitar and chorus (2021-24); CCS Praise Team Leader/ Director; Our Father's Storehouse; Mission Trips to Utah and Nicaragua; Church Kid's Camp; Youth intramural sports coach and referee

My Legacy: *"I want my legacy to be an example of what God can do through any student. I do not want my individual accomplishments and awards to be remembered. I want to represent an attempt at living to serve and love others. I want students to be themselves, use their abilities, and look out for the interests of others."*

What Others Are Saying: **"***Jake's natural leadership abilities and humble service set him apart from his peers and greatly contribute to the classroom, school, and larger community."* – Lori Bouck, PhD., CCS Secondary Math & Science Teacher



Tiffany Zheng
Rickards High School

Awards and Honors: "Salzburg" Grand Prize Virtuoso 1st Prize International Music Competition; Hyatt Piano Honorable Mention; Royal Conservatory Level 9 Piano 1st Class Honors and other multiple awards; Univ. of Fla. Model UN-Best Delegate; Diplomatic Commendation-FIU Model UN

Activity Highlights: Dance Marathon; Leon County Teen Court attorney (2021-24); Duke University Pediatrics Medical Center lab intern; MagLab intern; Inner Arts of Music and Piano Tutoring; Pangaea Cultural Festival (2021-24); Key Club-Committee Chair and District Communications Rep; Varsity Tennis and Cross Country; Asis Coalition of Tallahassee Student Rep.

My Legacy: **"***I hope to leave a legacy of empowerment through music and mentorship, inspiring others to embrace creativity, pursue their passions, and give back to their community. By fostering appreciation for the arts and promoting growth in others, I aim to be remembered as someone who made a lasting impact through compassion, dedication, and shared joy."*

What Others Are Saying: **"***As a student, Tiffany is curious, intelligent, eager, trusting, and diligent. She possesses a clear vision for her goals and demonstrates unwavering dedication to her musical journey."* – Dr. Hui Xu, MTNA Nationally Certified Teacher of Music

Sponsored by City of Tallahassee

PUBLIC SPEAKING

BEST & BRIGHTEST

WINNER

JOHN FLETCHER BUTLER

Maclay School



With his personal ethos being "How you do anything is how you do everything," John Fletcher holds himself to the highest standards. Whether he's behind a microphone, addressing a crowd, or leading his peers, his presence is unmistakable.

At Maclay, John Fletcher has long been the voice that energizes the crowd. As the varsity sports announcer, he is the primary commentator for virtually every sports game, infusing each game with his enthusiastic tone and thoughtful commentary. Crafting pre-written scripts that acknowledge sponsors, events, and department requirements, John Fletcher brings precision and flair to live arenas and stadiums. His impressive knowledge spans myriad sports, ensuring that every announcement is both informative and engaging. Such dedication earned him the prestigious 2023 Maclay School Athletic Service Award and the Chris Hixon Exemplary Sportsmanship Award, an accolade typically reserved for adult athletic directors.

John Fletcher also uses his public speaking talents to give back to his Maclay community. Since freshman year, he has served as a Maclay Student Ambassador, hosting welcome events, emceeing auctions, and guiding prospective families. His leadership is further evident in his role as an elected member of the Student Council, where he has organized events to enhance campus life, listened to student concerns, and worked toward policy improvements. Over the years, he has spoken at more than 40 conferences and delivered upwards of 33 speeches.

Recognized for his enthusiasm and high engagement on campus, earning him the affectionate title "Mayor of Maclay" among faculty, John Fletcher's voice resonates far beyond school grounds. His commentary skills drew the attention of Florida State University's athletic department, where he has been a sports announcer for collegiate events since 2022. Balancing his academic and leadership roles, he also competes as a member of the varsity tennis team, proving that his dedication spans both intellectual and athletic pursuits.

With every speech delivered and every game announced, John Fletcher exemplifies the idea that true excellence is a commitment to every detail.

RUNNER-UP

MACY COOMBS

Leon High School



Always authentically herself, Macy is a tenacious go-getter. From her first day at Leon, she dove into leadership, joining SGA as a freshman and quickly rising through the ranks, serving as Freshman Class Vice President and Junior Class Secretary. Through these roles, Macy has orchestrated memorable events like Prom and Senior Carnivale.

Her passion for public speaking only deepened through Dance Marathon, an experience that transformed her natural confidence into a powerful tool for raising awareness. Every performance and rally was more than just a speech — it was a call to action, inspiring others to be part of a mission that extends beyond the school walls.

Macy's professional growth blossomed during her work with Big Fish Real Estate Services. Collaborating with the marketing director and engaging in property showings, she honed her communication skills, blending creativity with professionalism. The Florida Association of Student Councils Convention became a highlight of her high school career, where she both represented Leon and led workshops, one of which she co-hosted on the transformative impact of Dance Marathon.

With every step, Macy's journey has been fueled by her genuine desire to connect, inspire, and empower.

HONORABLE MENTION

ISSA ALLISON

Rickards High School



Issa Allison embodies a rare blend of grit, intellect, and contagious positivity. Since his freshman year, he has been a driving force in Model UN at Rickards, evolving from an eager participant to a Specialized Committee Director who mentors delegates during winter break. In his senior year, he spearheaded RaiderMUN, directing committees and teaching essential public speaking and parliamentary procedures to fellow students. He also serves as President of the Speech and Debate Club, where he empowers his peers to refine their communication skills and engage in meaningful discourse.

Beyond formal debates, Issa shines as a leader in his other involvements at Rickards. As Student Director of the Black History Month Showcase, he orchestrated a podcast and managed volunteer teams to celebrate culture and history. His dedication to civic engagement led him to excel as both a delegate and Chief of Staff at the Florida American Legion Boys State 2024. Additionally, he has served as the backstage coordinator for Rickards' multicultural talent show, Pangaea, and continues to thrive as a dedicated IB program scholar.

Whether volunteering at TMH during the summer of 2024 or navigating a rigorous academic schedule, Issa goes through life with his head held high, uplifting others with empathy and unwavering determination.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

FINALISTS



Lauren Culp
Lincoln High School

Awards and Honors: AP Capstone Diploma; Gold Biliteracy Seal (Spanish); 1800+ Day Duolingo Learning Streak; Team Professionalism Award; Offensive Player of the Year-Softball 2022; Rookie of the Year-Bowling 2024; ATV Operator Certified; Babysitting Certification; National Honor Society (2023-25); Principal's Award

Activity Highlights: Florida Senate Page 2025; Tall Timbers Research Station; Lincoln Culture Club-Co-Founder and photographer; Green Club; Mock Trial; PetsMart cat adoption center; Softball Team; Recreational Softball team

My Legacy: *"I hope my legacy will be one of determination and a passion for the things I care about (environmentalism and politics). I want to be remembered for the positive impact I had on my community through volunteering, supporting classmates, and a solid academic record. My goal is to leave behind a culture of respect for both our environment and students."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Lauren contributes greatly to creating a classroom environment that is open, welcoming, and intellectually challenging."* – Dr. Andrew Davis, Lincoln Social Studies Instructor



Mia D'Aurio
Community Leadership Academy

Awards and Honors: National Honor Society-Secretary; CLA History Scholars Dept. Award 2024; Outstanding Achievement in Dual Enrollment Award; President's List TSC; "A" Honor Roll (2021-24); Citizenship Honor Roll (2021-24); Student Council President; Beta Club; Phi Theta Kappa

Activity Highlights: Varsity Golf; Varsity Cheerleading (2021-25); New Orleans Urban Impact; Whatever You Do Camp; Four Oaks Killearn Camp counselor (2022-24); Dr. Isaac Montilla's City Commission Campaign; Northeast Branch Library circulation volunteer; Homecoming and Pep Rallies; "Whenever Wherever Kids Podcast" Co-Founder and volunteer

My Legacy: *"I hope my legacy shows that challenges don't have to hold you back – that you can sill lead, make a difference, and support others along the way. I want to inspire future students to believe in themselves and know they can create change, no matter what they're up against."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Perhaps her greatest strength is her ability to communicate in a relational and proactive manner, a skill set few in her age group have developed as well as she has."* – Trisha McKenzie, CLA Guidance Counselor



Elijah Edwards
SAIL High School

Awards and Honors: National Honor Society; Two Time Tropicana Speech winner; National #1 Step Team-Mighty Light Team; Student of the Month and Excellence Award 2024; Spokesperson for Tallahassee Festival of the Creative Arts; featured on TheReid Out and panel of Tallahassee's Jubilee Festival of Music

Activity Highlights: Youth Leadership Tallahassee Class 20; Protest Against Gun Violence in Florida; Key Club; Tallahassee Robotics Club-Level 3; National Achievers Society; Beautillion Third place Outstanding Leadership Award; plaintiff against ban on African American history curriculum; TPD Youth Advisory Council; Omega Lamplighters; Black Student Union

My Legacy: *""I hope my legacy after graduation will be great. I want to make a positive impact on everyone I come in contact with and to be fondly cemented in the pages of the history books of the world."*

What Others Are Saying: *He was engaging in discussion and pulling his fellow students out of their shells to be equal participants in our countywide leadership program."* – Lili Childree, Youth Leadership Tallahassee Program Director



Michaela Hopkins
Tallahassee Collegiate Academy

Awards and Honors: National Honor Society-President; "A" Honor Roll (2021-24); President's Award (2021-24); Peer Specialist Award 2023; Softball Academic Achievement Award 2022; Most Valuable Player Volleyball 2022

Activity Highlights: Future Builders of America-President; Quincy Local Recreational Center volunteer; Sheriff Department youth peer mentor

My Legacy: *"I am determined to leave a legacy upon graduation as a figure lowerclassmen can look up to with admiration. I want to be known as someone is consistently available to lend a hand no matter how big or small the need is. I aspire to be remembered as a person who never backed down, always striving for excellence both academically and personally."*

What Others Are Saying: *"She is a rising star who will do great things in her future. This is due to how trustworthy she is. She is an advocate for her classmates."* – Quashier Flood-Strouble, TCA School Counselor

PUBLIC SPEAKING

FINALISTS



Parini Mehta
Florida State University Schools

Awards and Honors: "A" Honor Roll; Rho Kappa Honor Society-President; Lead Attorney winner in Standford Mock Trial 2024

Activity Highlights: New Mexico State Senator Linda Trujillo campaign; Model United Nations (2022-24); Prom Committee; School Carnival volunteer (2023-24); Yearbook volunteer

My Legacy: *"This year I have worked endlessly to promote FSUS' Model United Nations team. I have tripled the club's population, something I never could have imagined at my first MUN meeting 3 years ago. I truly hope to see the field prosper after I graduate and I feel I have begun this process."*

What Others Are Saying: **"***Ms. Mehta became detailed-oriented, intelligent, great at managing her time, and incredibly organized. She is respectful and eloquent when asking questions or expressing her opinion, whether with her fellow students here, teachers, or community members."* – Deborah Whetstone, Model UN Advisor, FSUS



Mia Stout
Chiles High School

Awards and Honors: National Honor Society (2022-24)- Vice President; National English Honor Society; Dual Enrolled TSC; District & Regional Swim Champion and State medalist (2022-24); Academic Scholar Athlete Award twice and three time Athlete of the Year

Activity Highlights: Strokes for Strokes (2023-24)-CEO; Artistic Swimming FL national rep 2021; SGA (2022-24)-Vice President; Ambassador Club; Dance Marathon; ATAC, Serinas Artistic and Chiles Swim Teams-Captain; Varsity Tennis; Maclay summer tennis camp volunteer

My Legacy: **"***My legacy should be that students, faculty, and staff feel empowered to take an active role in making LCHS a wonderful place to be. I try to approach everyone with a smiling face and a kind heart. I hope others see how important that is in building a caring community, which is so important for young people these days."*

What Others Are Saying: *"With all the achievements Mia has had in her academics and clubs, they do not begin to do justice in letting you know what makes Mia stand out from everyone else. Mia is compassionate, giving and selfless who actions reinforce these characteristics."* – Maggie Crutchfield, Chiles Swim Coach



Myia Tucker
Godby High School

Awards and Honors: Boys & Girls Club of the Big Bend 2023 and 2024 Youth of the Year/ 2023 Youth Public Speakers Award; Dual Enrolled TSC; National Society of Leadership & Success TSC; President and Dean's List (2023-24); Diamonds National Grand Champions twice in the Black Culture Cheer and Dance competition

Activity Highlights: Debate and Speech Club; Royalty Dance Company (2022-24)-Dance Captain; Key Club (2022-24)-President; FAMU Trio Leadership Conference; SGA; Sunshine Health Farm Share Pantry and Sickle Cell Awareness; Truth Gatherers Dream Center Church volunteer; Girls 2 Diva mentoring

My Legacy: *"I hope my legacy reflects the power of using one's voice to inspire, empower others, and serve the community. By leading with passion, fostering open dialogue, and dedicating myself to service, I aim to encourage future generations to confidently express themselves and make a positive, lasting impact in their communities."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Her ability to articulate complex ideas with clarity and confidence has made her an influential voice amongst her peers and in the larger community."* – Nadeje Pierre, Director of Development, Boys & Girls Club

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SCIENCE & HEALTH

WINNER

KEEGAN FLURY

Florida State University Schools



Keegan got off to a fast start when she began at FSUS, and she has no plans to slow down anytime soon. From the moment she stepped onto campus, Keegan immersed herself in both academic pursuits and community service. In her freshman year, she co-founded My Bookshelf 4 Kids, LLC, with her sister — a nonprofit inspired by Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Their mission is simple yet transformative: to bridge the literacy gap by collecting and distributing new and gently used books to children from low-income families. By conducting drives throughout Tallahassee, organizing donated books by age group, and replenishing local lending libraries, Keegan and her team have distributed over 2,500 books, sparking a love for reading that lays the foundation for lifelong learning.

In the realm of STEM, Keegan stands as an evident leader. As President of the Science National Honor Society and a dedicated member of the FSUS Science Olympiad team, she excelled in rigorous courses such as AP Physics C: Mechanics, AP Biology, and AP Chemistry. Her insatiable curiosity led her to participate in the University of Florida's Student Science Training Program during the summer before her senior year. There, working in the Musculoskeletal Biomechanics Lab, she utilized ImageJ software to analyze muscle ultrasounds, culminating in a symposium presentation and the creation of an academic paper — all while maintaining a 4.0 GPA in a six-credit hour course.

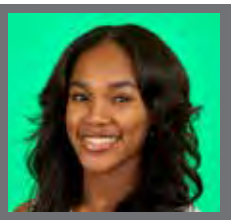
Keegan's innovative spirit shone brightly during NASA's International Student Astronaut Challenge, where she assumed multiple roles throughout the years, including VP, Communications Director, and Head of the Lab Challenge Team. She spearheaded an experiment using lunar regolith simulant to create bricks for lunar infrastructure, showcasing scientific rigor that rivaled graduate-level research. Her leadership also extended to civic engagement through her roles as a Messenger and Senate Page with the Florida House of Representatives and participation in a junior summit at the Surgical Institute at True North.

Honored with the 2025 Sunshine State Scholar's Scholarship as one of the state's top science students, Keegan Flury's achievements span far beyond the classroom. As she prepares to start college, she envisions expanding her nonprofit to distribute technology alongside books, ensuring every child has the tools to unlock their full potential. With each new challenge, Keegan continues to push boundaries — her spirit of relentless innovation on full display.

RUNNER-UP

MCCLAIN STROUD

FAMU Developmental Research School



Ever curious, McClain exemplifies the spirit of scientific inquiry at FAMU DRS. A Sunshine State Scholar and dual-enrolled student at FAMU, McClain has never shied away from challenging herself academically or in the lab. During her sophomore year, she presented research on breast cancer at the Department of Education MSEIP Student Research Conference, demonstrating her commitment to advancing medical knowledge.

Her pursuit of discovery continued with the FAMU Summer Research Program, where she immersed herself in a neurodegeneration laboratory. There, McClain conducted critical research on hypoxia-induced cell damage and NRF2 transcription factor activity. She mastered complex scientific concepts and applied precise laboratory techniques, significantly propelling the research process forward and validating her deep passion for science.

McClain is also a well-rounded leader, holding American Red Cross CPR/AED certifications for Professional Rescuers and Responding to Emergencies First Aid. As an accomplished competitive dancer, cheerleader, and co-captain of the varsity cheer team, she brings energy and balance to all her endeavors. "I hope my legacy will reflect a student who wasn't afraid to reach for more," she shared — a sentiment that resonates in every facet of her impressive journey in science and health.

HONORABLE MENTION

EVAN KILE

Leon High School



Similar to a seed growing into a strong tree, Evan has helped Leon's Eco-Club flourish into one of the school's most active organizations. Joining as a sophomore when the club had few members and limited service opportunities, his passion for environmental science fueled his commitment to expand the club. By his junior year, he transformed the club into a vibrant community of over 50 members, and as President in his senior year, he now leads 65+ dedicated students in promoting eco-friendly practices both at school and throughout Tallahassee.

Evan applies his enthusiasm for science in his extracurricular activities as well. During his externship with the Northwest Florida Water Management District, he collected water quality data and explored various water management sites, deepening his understanding of environmental science. His analytical skills are further showcased through his leadership roles in the Mu Alpha Theta and Science National Honor Societies, where he serves as secretary of both, and his membership in the French National Honor Society demonstrates his commitment to broadening his academic horizons.

In addition to his scientific pursuits, Evan has balanced a successful athletic career as a three-year varsity soccer player, serving as captain during his senior year and leading by example both on and off the field. His extensive community service with St. John's Episcopal Church reflects his genuine desire to help others.

Evan's impressive devotion to community engagement is a true inspiration to his peers.

SCIENCE & HEALTH

BEST & BRIGHTEST

FINALISTS



Nicole Beam
Lincoln High School

Awards and Honors: AP Capstone Diploma; Fusion Autodesk certified; Six-time winner medalist Student Astronaut Challenge (2023-24); Mu Alpha Theta winner in various team regionals and FAMAT competitions; Excellence and Superior ratings in French National Honors Society competitions; Principal's List

Activity Highlights: MOLAB counselor in training (2022-23); French Club-President; Co-President-Mu Alpha Theta; Student Astronaut Challenge-Flight Engineer; Theatre and Piano

My Legacy: "*I hope to be known as someone who always strived to learn more. I believe myself to be a 'jack of all trades' and I hope that this has been conveyed through my life so far. The academic and artistic should be closely linked, and I would like to be known for continuing to blend the two."*

What Others Are Saying: "*Beyond music, Nicole's accomplishments and leadership skills in academics and extracurricular activities further illustrate her well-roundedness and ambition."* – Caitlin Camile Primous, Piano Instructor



Ja'Mya Daniels
Godby High School

Awards and Honors: CNA License; Dual enrolled at Lively Technical College; Honor Roll; National Honor Society; Head and Charge Nurse; FAMU Trio Talent Search

Activity Highlights: SAspire Health Group and Pruitt Health Center volunteer; Football team training and rehab assistant; Fellowship of Christian Athletes volunteer; Varsity Basketball and Varsity Volleyball

My Legacy: *"Upon graduating, I hope to show students that you do not have to fit the narrative set upon you. It is okay to create your own story. Most of all, in all that you do, do it with a good motive."*

What Others Are Saying: *"She is a rarity in today's society; Possessing a spirit that is anchored with compassion for others, and an unwavering passion to reach out to those in need."* – Chelsea Johnson, Godby Science Teacher



Ireland Earlywine
Maclay School

Awards and Honors: Cum Laude Society 2023; National Honor Society and Science and Math Honor societies (2022-24); AP Scholar with Distinction; Most Improved Cross Country Award 2022; 6th place regional Mu Alpha Theta

Activity Highlights: Strides for Seizures; All Hands in Community Service Camp (2023-24); Co-Director of Ears for Elders; Alzheimer's Project; Independent study on aging in mice; Research summer programs at U of F; Wake Forest and LSU; Varsity Cross County and Lacrosse (2021-24); Key Club; Science Olympiad and Bio Olympiad Club-Treasurer

My Legacy: *"I hope my legacy will be of one who never gave up and is grateful for opportunities. I'm excited about future anti-aging and hope to contribute to it. I'm also grateful for lessons I've learned from the elderly, and from the leadership at the Villas and the Alzheimer's Project, my Co-Director, and my mice. I can't wait to learn more!"*

What Others Are Saying: "*Ms. Earlywine proved herself to be prompt, consistent, friendly and engaging with the Elder assigned to her and willing to step out of that role and assist with events and activities."* – Karne Inglett, Engagement Coordinator at The Villas-Killearn Lakes



Amaya Lockwood
Tallahassee Collegiate Academy

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

Activity Highlights: Pops Kountry Kitchen volunteer (2023-24); Rivers Enterprise Funeral Home volunteer; Gadsden County High School cheerleader (2021-22); Elementary school mentor

My Legacy: *"Upon graduating I will continue my studies at Tallahassee State College to complete my AA, then I will move to Gainesville FL to finish my 2 years in nursing at U of F, and upon completing my BSN, I will move*

SCIENCE & HEALTH

to College Station Texas to enroll at Texas A&M University to further my education."

What Others Are Saying: *"Amaya believes that volunteering in her community is a priority, and she thrives to always be of service to her community."* – Quashier Flood-Strouble, TCA School Counselor



Macey Mirowitz
SAIL High School

Awards and Honors: Dual enrolled at TSC and FAMU; Certification in May with Lively Technical Center CNA program with certification in CPR and BLS; Nurse Aid certification

Activity Highlights: Temple Israel (2021-24)-teacher helper; Panhandle Area Reformed Temple Youth program; creating a voice bank with Vocal ID; Young Actors Theatre; FSU Film School actor in thesis films (2023-24); Hebrew School's Gan Yeladim youth teacher assistant; Ivy Hill Academy volunteer; SAIL Rock Band

My Legacy: *"I hope that when people think of me, they remember my kindness. I want people to have good memories of me being happy and helpful and never have a bad thing to say!"*

What Others Are Saying: *"Macey consistently demonstrated professionalism, critical thinking abilities, and had a true dedication to patient well-being."* – Victoria Burton, Lively Technical College Nursing Instructor



Lydia Shaw
Community Leadership Academy

Awards and Honors: Dual enrolled TSC; Executive Intern of the Year (2023-24); FSU Young Scholars Program; National Honor Society-Secretary; numerous software certifications; Math Department Award 2024; "A" Honor Roll (2021-24)

Activity Highlights: Mission Trip Guatemala; FSU Coastal & Marine Lab intern; Flag Football-Defensive Player of the Year; Leon HS Key Club 2021; Sweat Therapy volunteer fitness assistant; Lifepoint Church babysitter; Varsity Golf 2024

My Legacy: *"I hope to pave the way for all girls, even those with learning disabilities, at my school to pursue STEM majors. When I first took the SAT I got a 940, but I persisted and ended up with an ACT equivalent score of 1430. I hope I can be an example that anything is possible with hard work."*

What Others Are Saying: *"There was never a job too big or too small for Lydia and she approached every day with tenacity that was fueled by her desire to serve anyone and everyone she could."* – Eric Rodriguez, CLA Middle School Administrator



Olivia Zeng
Rickards High School

Awards and Honors: FSU Young Scholars Program; Ten medals in Science Olympiad Regional, Invitational and State (2021-24); Eight Awards at Science Fair Regional, State and National Conferences; National Merit Semifinalist; National President's Volunteer Service Award-Gold and Bronze Level; numerous scientific publications and conference presentations

Activity Highlights: MoLab volunteer(2021-22); Co-President of Kindness Matters Inc.; Science Olympiad (2021-24)-Event Captain; Science Bowl Coach; Science Fair mentor; Science Olympiad Invitational Assistant Director and Executive Director (2023-24)

My Legacy: *"I hope to be remembered as someone who provided peers passionate in science nationwide, the opportunity to expand their curious minds, no matter their socioeconomic status. Through sharing knowledge and guiding their research experience in biomedical engineering, I want to inspire them to believe in their ability to create meaningful, positive change in the world."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Olivia worked effectively with graduate and undergraduate students, fostering collaboration both individually and within team settings. Her professionalism and enthusiasm were evident in every aspect of her involvement."* – Dr. Chenhui Liu, Senior Advisor, Kindness Matters Inc.



Lillian Zhang
Chiles High School

Awards and Honors: National AP Scholar (2022-24); AP Scholar with Distinction; Tennis three-time Team MVP; No.1 Singles City and District Champion (2022-24); FL 3A State Championship 2024; Tallahassee Democrat Big Bend Preps Athlete of the Week and Big Bend Doubles Team of the Year; Pride of the Pack Award 2022; American Inv. Math Exams qualifier (2021-24)

Activity Highlights: Varsity Tennis Team (2021-24)-webmaster and Captain; Mu Alpha Theta MathClub tutor; Varsity Flag Football and Weightlifting; Tallahassee Challenger volunteer; Origami Club (2022-24)-Founder; Peer tutor

My Legacy: *"I hope my legacy is one of leading with passion; integrity, and a spirit of service. Whether through mentorship, teamwork, or supporting my community, I want to leave behind a positive impact that encourages others to take initiative, stay committed, and always strive to make a difference in whatever they do."*

What Others Are Saying: **"***Lillian thrives as a leader among her peers in class; she is never afraid to contribute to discussions, share her ideas, or tackle difficult challenges and help lead her peers through those challenges as well."* – Cathryn Hierak, Chiles AP Physics Teacher

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SOCIAL SCIENCE

WINNER

HAASINI YELUGOTI

Rickards High School



During quarantine, when friends confided in her about their mental health struggles and the lack of support they faced, Haasini realized that change was essential. Today, Haasini is transforming vulnerability into a powerful force for advocacy and research.

In her sophomore year, Haasini co-founded Protea Teens, a mental health advocacy group established in partnership with NAMI Florida. As President, she led the charge in lobbying legislators at the Florida Capitol, advocating for increased funding for the youth-accessible mental health crisis line, 988. Through tireless advocacy, strategic partnerships, and persuasive pitches at the Capitol, her efforts contributed to the allocation of $1.5 million in state funding, a milestone that stands as a testament to her leadership. She was also awarded the DoSomething's E.M.B.E.R. Mental Health Initiative Grant, which allowed Protea Teens to host a statewide conference for 80+ teens.

Haasini's journey is defined by her commitment to mental health and open dialogue. As a high school research intern with Lady Gaga's Born This Way Foundation, she explored the psychology of kindness and the profound impact of music on the mind. Further expanding her horizons, Haasini took on a role as a High School Clinical and Research Intern at FSU's Children's Learning Clinic. There, she co-administered EEG protocols for children with ADHD and designed an independent research project on neurocognitive risk factors, poised to be presented at a national psychology conference.

In addition to her academic pursuits, Haasini launched the Each Voice Podcast to introduce youth to mental health and psychology, and she started the Mental Health Club at Rickards to foster open discussions among youth. Describing her high school experience as "vulnerable," she now champions that honest conversations are the key to progress. Haasini's tireless dedication and groundbreaking initiatives are reshaping the mental health landscape, ensuring that every voice, especially those of young people, is heard and valued.

RUNNER-UP

MARGARET "MAGGIE" MURRAY

Maclay School



Maggie has dedicated her high school career to making a tangible impact through service and creativity. As co-founder and co-president of the Maclay Women's Service Club since her junior year, Maggie has coordinated numerous transformative projects centered on women-centric issues. She has planned food deliveries and organized cleanup efforts at Brehon Family Services, initiated a canned food drive for the Oasis Center that gathered over 1,000 goods, and led a heartfelt campaign of writing cards and crafting bracelets for women and girls. Maggie also organized Maclay's first-ever school-wide pink out for Breast Cancer Awareness Month, featuring an inspiring visit from a breast cancer survivor.

Guided by the Greek word "meraki," which means to do something with soul, creativity, or love, Maggie infuses every project with genuine care and commitment. Beyond her impactful service work, she has also extended her talents to The Andalusian, Maclay's student-led newspaper, where she has excelled as head editor, staff writer, designer, and mentor. In addition, she gained invaluable insights into the legal world during her junior year internship with a Circuit Judge at the Leon County Courthouse, attending family law hearings and trials. She has also been a long-time competitive dancer with the Artistry Dance Alliance and served as Dance Marathon fundraising captain and Co-Moral Chair during her freshman and sophomore years.

Her versatile contributions demonstrate a deep desire to uplift her community and inspire others to embrace service.

SOCIAL SCIENCE

HONORABLE MENTION

ADITI MUKHIRALA

Leon High School



Aditi is redefining justice and social change in her community. As a dedicated defense attorney for the Leon County Teen Court since her junior year, she represents her peers in real-life juvenile cases with remarkable empathy and integrity. Aditi crafts opening and closing statements and skillfully cross-examines defendants, always striving for community-oriented rehabilitation over punitive measures. Her thoughtful approach has contributed to reducing repeat offenses and easing the strain on an under-resourced criminal system, proving that restorative justice can foster genuine growth.

Her passion for social sciences extends to every academic endeavor; she has excelled in every AP social science course available, deepening her understanding of legal and societal structures. In her senior year, Aditi secured an exclusive internship with the Public Defender's Office of the 2nd Judicial Court, where she witnessed firsthand the challenges of overwhelming caseloads. Complementing this experience, she also interned at Cowhey + Ward, a private law firm in Tallahassee, to explore the distinctions between public defense and privatized law.

On top of that, Aditi is a four-year varsity volleyball player, earning multiple medals and awards. With exceptional integrity and immense capability, Aditi is already making a significant impact on society through her dedication to the social sciences and her commitment to justice.

SOCIAL SCIENCE

FINALISTS



Olivia LeFils-Roberts
SAIL High School

Awards and Honors: Dual Enrolled TSC and FAMU; Excellence in Economics and US Government; National Art Honor Society-Vice President; National Honor Society (2023-24); Certified Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop; National African American Recognition Program

Activity Highlights: Schoolhouse world SAT online tutoring; SAIL Arts Festival volunteer; SAIL High School Foundation volunteer at Chain of Parks event

My Legacy: *"Upon graduation, I hope I have inspire my friends and peers to strive for kindness and academic success, and that I leave a positive impact on the clubs and organizations I was a part of."*

What Others Are Saying: "Olivia has consistently been at the top of her class throughout her high school career. She has blossomed into leadership roles and come a model for her peers." – Sheri Nilles, SAIL Art Foundation Instructor



Savannah Nortelus
Florida State University Schools

Awards and Honors: AP Scholar with Distinction; National Honor Society-VP of Events; National African American Recognition Program; National STEM Honor Society; Scholar Athlete Award (2021-24); All-Big Bend Honorable Mention Varsity Golf (2021-23); All-Big Bend Team Champion (2021-22); District and Regional qualifier (2021-24)

Activity Highlights: Varsity Golf team; Dance Fusion Studios-teacher assistant and Pink-out event; Yearbook-Index Editor and Senior Section Editor; FL House of Representatives Page program (2022-23); FSUS Golf team volunteer; Science Olympiad; Student Astronaut Challenge team

My Legacy: "*Having strong determination is what I hope my legacy will be when I graduate. I have been involved with different clubs, sports, and high-level classes throughout my time at FSUS. Even with all of this, I have still been able to accomplish multiple achievements in different areas of my life because I am determined.*"

What Others Are Saying: *"Savannah's positivity, infectious smile and laugh, and her resilience in the face of setbacks truly make her a joy to work with."* – Haley Holt Mehta, PhD., FSUS Science Department Head



Adrienne Slater
FAMU Developmental Research School

Awards and Honors: National Honor Society; Dual Enrolled at FAMU; 1st Place African American Brain Bowl; National Honor Society-President; Most Improved Softball player 2023; Engineering Technology summer program; TRIO Upward Beyond Math and Science Academic Excellence Award 2023; "A" Honor Roll

Activity Highlights: FAMU-Gates Foundation Maternal Health volunteer; Concession stand volunteer; Brehon Institute for Families volunteer; Harambee Festival; Hubert Brown campaign; SGA-Executive Treasurer; National Beta Club (2022-25); Flipper Chapel Young People's Division- Parliamentarian; Future Farmers of America

My Legacy: *"The legacy I plan to leave upon graduating is being a dedicated student who helped her community by serving others."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Passionate, professional, and energetic is how I'd describe Ms. Slater when it comes to her willingness to lead and serve others."***–** Tatyana Wilson, Student Program Coordinator, FSU

SOCIAL SCIENCE



Sujin van Hoeij
Lincoln High School

Awards and Honors: National Honor Society (2023-25)-Officer; Homecoming Court (2022-24); North FL String Festival Gold Certificate (2022-24); Leon County All-Districts Orchestra; Capstone Diploma; multiple School/District/State History Fair winner; TSC degree; Sophomore, Junior and Senior Class President

Activity Highlights: Cross Country Team (2022-24)-Captain; Rotary Club Leadership Assoc; Strides for Seizures TMH volunteer; SGA officer; Tallahassee Youth Orchestra; the DONNA Foundation; Key Club; The Longest Table

My Legacy: *"I hope to be remembered as someone who brought together athletics, music, and service, creating a space where every student felt prioritized no matter their interests. More than that, I want to be remembered for being a good person—someone who makes others feel heard and respected, creating a culture where kindness was just as important as achievement."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Whether advocating for student needs, organizing school-wide initiatives, or engaging her peers in meaningful dialogue, Sujin approaches every challenge with a sense of purpose and determination."* – Pat Jones, Lincoln Social Studies Dept. Head



Paola Verlage Ramirez
Godby High School

Awards and Honors: National Honor Society (2022-25); Dual Enrolled TSC; African American History Brain Bowl Caption (2023-24); Entrepreneurship & Small Business Certificate; Device Configuration and Management Certificate

Activity Highlights: Leon County Superintendent Candidate Forum Moderator; Oasis Center for Women & Girls-Youth Board Member; Youth Leadership Tallahassee Class 20; SGA (2022-24); Berean Christian Fellowship volunteer and Sunday School teacher

My Legacy: *"My legacy is to show that with ambition, passion, and hard work, there are no excuses. I will not only be graduating high school with an A.A. degree, but I will become the first in my family to go to college."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Paola is a rare student that contains vast academic capabilities and also has a magnificent community minded approach that undergirds her scholastic excellence with acts of service."* Josh Johnson, Godby Social Studies Teacher.



Alyssa Wu-Guttmann
Chiles High School

Awards and Honors: 1st Place Chiles History Fair 2022; Principal's Honor Roll (2021-24); English Department Award; Student of the Month Award; District History Fair

Activity Highlights: Team lead on Advanced Medical Neuroscience Internship; Volunteer with the Lushi community in Bauchi, Nigeria on education workshops; AP Language & Composition class celebration committee; Yarntrepreneurs Club-VP; Photography Club-VP; French Culture Club-President; Theatre set and props crew; Inter-Club Council

My Legacy: *"When I graduate, I hope to leave behind a legacy of community, cooperation, and a dedication to exploration. Throughout my high school career, I have made an effort to interact and work with peers that challenge my beliefs. These experiences have helped me learn the art of nuance and gain empathy for those around me."*

What Others Are Saying: *"She has joined clubs, participated in community organizations, and has traveled in enrich her cultural understanding of the world which demonstrates her enthusiasm and desire to both help others and become a more involved citizen."* – Kate Strickland, Chiles Social Studies/AP Teacher

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TECHNOLOGY

BEST & BRIGHTEST

WINNER

COURTNEY STOKES

Leon High School



Tech guru, student leader, and dedicated volunteer, Courtney redefines excellence with every line of code she writes and every project she leads. Even before her freshman year at Leon, she was already shaping the future of technology by teaching aspiring young engineers. As part of Young Engineers Tallahassee, Courtney led classes on Python programming, Lego robotics, and 3D design and printing, igniting a passion for tech in her peers and setting the stage for her future accomplishments.

Since her sophomore year, Courtney has been an integral part of the Leon Performing Arts Technical Theatre Program. Her role as a theatre technician allowed her to merge her technical skills with creative expression as she learned light rigging and sound engineering. Her dedication shone through early on, earning her the Rookie of the Year award in her first year, followed by recognition as Most Valuable Tech the subsequent year.

Courtney's expertise continued to evolve through high-profile internships. As an FSU IT Project Manager Intern during her senior year, she honed her professional skills and earned certifications in Foundations in Smartsheet and Google's Foundation in Project Management. Additionally, in 2023, she served as a Software Engineer Intern for Leon County's Management Information Systems, where she updated the county's website using JavaScript, HTML, and CSS, solidifying her reputation as a tech-savvy innovator.

Her leadership extends beyond the technical realm into the heart of the school community. Active in Student Government, Courtney has spearheaded fundraising efforts, hosted conferences for more than 400 students, and organized volunteer events. Elected as FSAC District 1 President and serving as Senior Class President, she leads by example. Her participation in elite programs like the South Florida Leadership Training Camp and Youth Leadership Tallahassee further established her leadership skills.

With over 1.6 million views on YouTube and TikTok, where she educates audiences on technology and productivity, her digital presence is equally impressive. Courtney is not just a tech expert; she's a trailblazer whose continual drive will leave a long-standing impact on her community.

RUNNER-UP

AUSTIN LANGSTON

Florida State University Schools



A creative experimenter, Austin has used his high school years as a space for innovation and artistic exploration. Through his involvement with Science Olympiad, he helped build an autonomous robot that could navigate a randomized maze, writing essential code and rigorously testing voltage outputs to fine-tune its performance. His inventive spirit extended to filmmaking, where he wrote, directed, and edited a six-minute original film for a physics project using Adobe Premiere Pro. Undeterred by new challenges, he later produced a more ambitious twenty-minute film, investing hundreds of hours into his creative vision.

Austin's passion for blending science and art led him to create AP Chemistry Pictures, a website and mock movie studio designed to promote his films. His talent in digital design is evident in the striking artwork he has produced; his creations have served as unique slideshow templates for school clubs, a large-scale poster for a solar eclipse watch party, and an interactive calendar for his school's Student Astronaut Challenge Club. Austin aspires to leave a legacy of unrelenting work ethic, passion, and a fearless commitment to exploring the unknown.

TECHNOLOGY

BEST & BRIGHTEST

HONORABLE MENTION



SAGAR BHAT

Rickards High School

Tenacity defines Sagar's legacy. Despite facing medical hardships during his junior year, he maintained unbroken positivity and courage. At Rickards, Sagar dedicated himself to transforming the world of technology through a blend of hands-on work and community service. With over 1,000 hours devoted to computer science, 700 hours of paid experience, and 1,500 hours of research, his journey is as impressive as it is inspiring.

Central to his journey were his internships at Intelligent Robotics, a nonprofit dedicated to spreading computer science and innovative technologies. Over three consecutive summers, Sagar immersed himself in projects that bridged theory with real-world application. He refined instructional materials and crafted challenging coding problems that tested and expanded students' technical skills. By designing step-by-step guides for setting up Linux servers and diagnosing security vulnerabilities, he empowered learners to navigate complex digital landscapes. His work assembling AI servers provided critical infrastructure for advanced research and educational initiatives, dramatically expanding opportunities for both students and local researchers.

Sagar's impressive resume also includes impactful internships at Image API LLC, where he developed cloud-based solutions and integrated AI/ML capabilities. Through every challenge, his tenacity and technical mastery propel him forward.

FINALISTS



Nyla Close
Lincoln High School

Awards and Honors: Principal's Award (2021-23); 3rd Place District History Fair 2023; Student Body President; Jack & Jill Southeast Region Teen Leadership Conference T-shirt design and Scrapbook winner

Activity Highlights: Jack & Jill of America (2021-23)-Teen President; Leon County Student District Advisory Council; Key Club-Editor; SGA Social Media manager (2021-24); The Longest Table; Dance Marathon; inaugural Leon County Schools Student Influencer; LCS District Social Media Campaign spokesperson; Lincoln's "50 for 50" campaign Student Rep

My Legacy: *"Ultimately, I am more than a GPS or a Student ID number. I hope that upon graduation, I hold a legacy of remarkability—inspired hope, instilling change, and uniting the community that nurtured me with a nature of excellence. I strive for both my presence and my absence to leave people in awe of the endless possibilities of my future."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Working until a resolution is found and never giving up are honest character traits and standards, she sets for herself in and out of the classroom."* – Cheryl Henley, Lincoln AP English Literature/ Composition Teacher



Yoonsoo "Leah" Song
Maclay School

Awards and Honors: 2024 Florida Mu Alpha Theta Chapter of the Year; FSPA awards for feature stories; Materials Research Society presenter 2024; Naval Science Award; FL State Science & Engineering Fair award; AP Scholar with Distinction; National Merit Commended Scholar

Activity Highlights: Maclay Junior Classical League (2021-24)-President; K-Friends Culture Exchange program Co-Founder/Co-President; Korean Global Methodist Church volunteer; Mu Alpha Theta Team Co-Founder (2021-24)-Vice President (2022-23); Founded IRIS global scientific youth journal; Andalusian Digital Editor-in-Chief; Pioneer Academics research studies; Maclay Academic Resources Center

My Legacy: *"I've gained confidence, fulfillment, and purpose while giving without expecting something in return, and it is my humble wish that others could witness this through my hard work and kindness. I hope that my legacy inspires future classes of Maclay to expand the school's vision for One School One Community by pursuing community service to its own sake."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Students at all levels looking for help have become so familiar with Ms. Song's kind and patient approach that they specifically come to see her for help."* – John Gussaroff, Maclay AP Calculus Instructor

TECHNOLOGY



Vyacheslav "Slava" Tsvetkov
Chiles High School

Awards and Honors: GMETRIX certification in 3 Adobe softwares; FL History Day-Senior Division 2023 winner; 2nd Place Leon County National History Day for documentary and research paper (2022-23); National Merit Semifinalist; AP Math Department Award 2023

Activity Highlights: Tally Robotics camp counselor; FIRST Lego League Regional Competition referee; FTC Competition volunteer; Chiles Wolfcenter News Center-Co-Senior Editor; YouTube channel creator

My Legacy: *"I hope my legacy will contribute to an ever-growing world of people who are comfortable and unafraid to interact with the technology that surrounds them. I want people to be able to look at some of my creative projects like my documentary or my YouTube channel and be inspired to create their own content rather than be mere consumers."*

What Others Are Saying: *"He is very intelligent, and it is evident that he values education. He also shows great focus when it comes to planning his future and actively making it happen."* – Cheryl Christie, Chiles Digital Design Department Head

WORLD LANGUAGES

WINNER

ALEX SRIVASTAVA

Chiles High School



From a young age, Alex immersed himself in French, taking French Honors I in seventh grade and later excelling in AP French and AP French Language and Culture during his freshmen year. His early passion for languages led him to win the AP Foreign Language Department Award from Chiles as a freshman — a clear sign of the potential that would continue to blossom.

Determined to share his love for languages, Alex founded the Foreign Language Club in his sophomore year. His vision was to break down cultural barriers and celebrate linguistic diversity by exposing students to different cultures, foods, music, and traditions. As president of the club, he created an inclusive space that nurtured curiosity and appreciation for global cultures.

Alex's commitment to language education extends beyond the classroom. At the Tallahassee Senior Center, he volunteered as a French instructor alongside his mother. There, he designed engaging lesson plans, complete with interactive exercises, to help seniors learn practical conversation skills.

Blending his linguistic talents with his technical prowess, Alex led the development of ALAIDE, an innovative online help desk for French-speaking students. Named after the French phrase for "help," ALAIDE offers one-on-one tutoring, homework assistance, and academic advice, connecting students with experts and ensuring that language barriers do not hinder academic progress.

His talent was further recognized on a national stage when he won the 2023 US Congressional App Challenge. His team developed RoutER, a website that provides the quickest routes to disaster relief shelters, hospitals, and other critical locations. This project not only showcased his skills in coding and public speaking but earned his team a spot at the National STEM Summit at the US Capitol, where they presented the project to congressmen and politicians.

Alex's leadership extends into civic engagement as well. As a delegate and City Councilman in Florida American Legion Boys State, he honed his skills in public debate and governance, earning awards like the Legislative Procedure Award and the Barrister Award. An Eagle Scout and a dedicated member of various extracurricular initiatives, Alex is industrious, driven, and an effective communicator. His work, bridging the worlds of language, technology, and civic leadership, continues to inspire peers to embrace diversity and innovation.

RUNNER-UP

AVA FILES

Florida State University Schools



Ava is a leader, a cultural bridge-builder, and an advocate for inclusivity. Her passion for world languages, particularly Spanish, is not just an academic pursuit but a tool she has used to foster community connections and empower those around her.

Last summer, Ava interned at Second Harvest of the Big Bend, where she helped implement a campus food pantry program to ensure students had equal access to nutritious food. Conversing in Spanish, she assisted hungry families in local Hispanic neighborhoods and created social media content to promote food distributions and volunteer efforts.

As President of Building Incredible Generations at FSUS, she organized the club's annual Black History Month Celebration, collaborating with influential organizations to showcase student performances and increase representation. She also led discussions on current events, inspiring service projects, and organized a career panel featuring diverse professionals to inspire younger students.

A dedicated member of the National Spanish Honor Society, Ava has held multiple leadership positions, including President, and co-founded an ESOL tutoring program for immigrant children. Additionally, she launched Florida High Global Cultural Celebrations, leading interactive events such as cultural dances and food demonstrations.

Her commitment to service and cultural awareness has earned her prestigious honors, including Distinguished Young Woman of East Leon County and the Big Bend Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy Award. Ava is a changemaker, using Spanish and leadership to uplift her community.

WORLD LANGUAGES

BEST & BRIGHTEST

HONORABLE MENTION



ASHER ROBERTSON

Lincoln High School

For Asher Robertson, American Sign Language (ASL) is more than just a language — it's a way to give back to the community that once helped him find his own voice.

Over the past three summers, he has dedicated his free time to Buck Lake Elementary School, tutoring deaf and hard-of-hearing students in ASL and various academic subjects. Understanding firsthand the challenges these students face, especially as about 95% of deaf children are born to hearing parents who may not be fluent in ASL, Asher has stepped in as both a teacher and role model, ensuring they have the guidance and practice needed to thrive.

His passion for this work is deeply personal. Adopted from China at age eight with no ASL exposure, he knows the struggle of language acquisition without a fluent model. Thanks to the support of his ASL teachers, he was able to catch up and embrace the language, and now, he is paying that kindness forward by helping others find their voice in a world that often overlooks them.

Outside of the classroom, Asher has worked to educate his broader community about Deaf culture and ASL, fostering awareness and inclusion. He excels academically, never letting his deafness define his limits. He has been on the Varsity Tennis Team since 2022, receiving the Coach's Award for his all-round camaraderie. With a bright smile and resolute determination, Asher Robertson is breaking down barriers and inspiring those around him.

FINALISTS



Caroline Cox
Leon County Home School

Awards and Honors: P Scholar; 4th Place National Art History exam; Numerous National Jr. Classical League top awards (2022-24); National Spelling Bee qualifier 3 times; State Champion FL Commissioner's Academic Challenge Team 2023; Gene Kranz Mission Control Award-Student Astronaut Challenge 2024; All-District Orchestra violinist (2022-24)

Activity Highlights: FL Quiz Bowl Assoc. State Champion Team-Captain; FL Girls State; Trousdell Gyn "Athlete of the Year"-2023 State gymnastics qualifier; FL Junior Classical League tutor; St. Paul's United Methodist Church volunteer; Youth Leadership Tallahassee Class 20

My Legacy: *"I hope to encourage students to never limit themselves to one box, but explore each interest—whether it be sports, academic clubs, outside organizations, or creative pursuits—and discover how they inevitably connect. And with those relations found, I hope that these bright students use those intertwined passions to make positive change in and beyond their communities."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Caroline has time management skills in abundance built out of determination and an exceptional work-ethic."*– Michael Body, former gymnastics coach



Rex Fuselier
SAIL High School

Awards and Honors: SAIL Medallion Award (2021-22); National Honor Society

Activity Highlights: Kearney Center volunteer; Christ Presbyterian Church volunteer; FIST Lego League volunteer; SAIL Art Festival and Fall Festival; Key Club

My Legacy: *"Over the past four years, I have changed and grown a lot as a person. I have made many new friends, learned new skills and discovered new interests. If my time at SAIL has taught me anything, it is the importance of hard work, and that learning can be fun. I hope that I inspire others to work hard to achieve their dreams and encourage them to embrace themselves and explore their passions."*

What Others Are Saying: *"He is quiet, has a great attitude, and works well with his peers. He strives and performs at an elevated level."*– Marcia Cone, SAIL National Honor Society Sponsor

WORLD LANGUAGES



Sabri Hanley
Rickards High School

Awards and Honors: Junior Classical State Forum 2nd Place-Vocabulary II; 5th Place-Reading Comprehension Advanced; qualified Varsity Swim-4 years District and 1 year Regionals; French Higher Level B proficient

Activity Highlights: Junior Classical League-President; Language and Linguistics-President; Varsity Soccer-Captain; Varsity Swim (2021-24)-Captain; Film and Drama Club-Co-Founder and Film President; STEMout-lead content creator; Pangaea Multicultural performance Board Member/Film Director; Bicycle House; Paré Foundation

My Legacy: *"Leadership has not come easy for me. When I picture the older players on the soccer team my ninth grade year, I see leaders. Over the years, I have learned to grow into a leader on and off the field. I hope that someone joining the team for the first time can remember me, in time, as a leader."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Thanks to his efforts, Pangaea's video aspect has not only flourished but has also helped raise thousands of dollars annually. His skill in guiding both the technical and creative aspects of filmmaking has left an indelible mark on our school tech clubs."* – Robert Amstutz, Rickards JCL Sponsor



Juliana Tripodi
Leon High School

AAwards and Honors: AP Capstone Diploma and Scholar with Distinction; Rho Kappa; Mu Alpha Theta, Science, and French National Honor societies; Pierian National Honor Society

Activity Highlights: National English Honor Society-President; Leon County Public Defender's Office extern; Students Demand Action-Co-Founder/President; Dance Marathon Morale Team (2021-24); JV and Varsity Tennis; Together Tallahassee Executive Board; Amitie French Club (2021-24); SGA Class Treasurer (2021-24); Interact Club

My Legacy: *"In 30 years, the late nights studying and hours of homework will be forgotten. What won't be are the indelible lessons I learn, unbreakable bonds I make, and momentous experiences I gain. But I don't just want to have these memories. I want to create them. I want to be the lesson, bond, or experience someone remembers in 30 years."*

What Others Are Saying: *"Her activities outside of the classroom reflect a passionate commitment to personal growth and community engagement."* – Jennifer Roady-Lawson, Leon AP English Language/Compostion Instructor



Sophia Wildrick
Maclay School

Awards and Honors: French Honor Society-Scholar; Congress French Culture in FL Competition (2021-23)-1st Place group scrapbook, group play-Four "Excellent", one "Superior" and one "Bon" ribbons; National Honor Society scholar; multiple Soccer and Lacross scholar-athlete awards

Activity Highlights: French Honor Society-Co-President (2023-24); Tallahassee Youth Orchestra; Multicultural Awareness Club; Key Club; K-Friends; Women's Service Club; Andalusian News staff writer; Varsity Soccer, Lacross and Volleyball Teams; Rowdy Rauder school mascot 2022; Maclay summer camp counselor 2023; Key Club

My Legacy: *"I hope my legacy in Maclay results in people knowing that I tried to plan fun events for French Week, dressed up as the Mascot to spread smiles among students, and even learn about different international cultures and exchanging our difference cultures and traditions."*

What Others Are Saying: *"All of her efforts have culminated in her guiding her fellow francophones (many underclassmen) to the realization of the importance of being able to communicate in another world language and to, above all, understand the many cultures around us that enrich our human experience."*– Cindy Stockstill, Maclay Upper School French Teacher

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.

2025 SPIRIT AWARD WINNER



Since 2015, **Darius Jones II** has dedicated hundreds of volunteer hours to Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church—a community that has shaped him since childhood. Inspired by his grandmother's example, he developed a passion for serving others early on. Over the years, he has served his church community in various ways: teaching Sunday school, tutoring in math and reading, assisting with Hallelujah Night, and caring for infants in the church nursery.

Beyond his church work, Darius serves as the President of Rickards' Omega Lamplighters, where he acts as a shining role model for his peers with his dedication to service and leadership. Their Mighty Light Team coordinates food and toy drives, fundraisers and internships. His winning attitude is also on the track and in the pool encouraging teammates to be their best.

Darius is a dual enrolled honor student, a dedicated Student Government Association member, an entrepreneur and recently named Beau of the Year by The Links Incorporated.

Darius's commitment to community service is driven by a strong belief in giving back to those who have supported him throughout his life. Every day, he puts this principle into action, serving his community with over 700 hours of enthusiasm and heartfelt dedication.

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 2025 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.

"We make a living by what we get,
but we make a life by what we give."
— Winston Churchill

WINNER

Olivia Lammers *Cornerstone Learning Community*

"It doesn't take a Thanksgiving dinner to understand I am incredibly fortunate. To make 'fortunate' be other's realities I give: time, money, work. In the act of giving bits of myself, I open up to new perspectives and experiences."

RUNNER-UP

Keerthana Manchikanti *Fairview Middle School*

"This reminds us that true happiness comes from giving back, not from material possessions. While it's easy to focus on personal achievements, a fulfilling life is built on helping others and making a positive impact."

HONORABLE MENTION

Analeigh Klein *Community Leadership Academy*

"You always hear about how helping others gives you a good feeling, but you do not quite understand until you actually experience it yourself. Volunteering gives you the opportunity to watch others grow and thrive with your help. You get to bring them joy, and in return, it brings you joy."

8TH GRADE ESSAY CONTEST

BEST & BRIGHTEST

FINALISTS

CHRIST CLASSICAL ACADEMY
Marion Bevis
Julianna Harter
Cole Landy

COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
Elise Buck
Naomi Petscher
Jacob Saquibal

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY
Ana Eva Fernandez Mota
Analeigh Klein
Emery Simon

CORNERSTONE LEARNING COMMUNITY
Ayah Davis-Craig
Brady Lynn Henderson
Olivia Lammers

DEERLAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL
Swati Bimeesh
Emily Chen
Chloe Hiver

ELIZABETH COBB MIDDLE SCHOOL
Aliyah Hawkins

FAIRVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL
Anvita Devulapalli
Sanya Loubriel
Keerthana Manchikanti

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOLS
Camden Hand
Meisa Hutt
Eliza Moody

GRIFFIN MIDDLE SCHOOL
Tancy Aurelus
Darryl'Asia Morrell
La'Daisha Pollock

MACLAY SCHOOL
Lila Bubriski
Medha Konda
Krish Patel

MONTFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL
Jude Carson
Channing Savoy
Bellamy Vass

NIMS MIDDLE SCHOOL
Da'Mari Broaders
Rhyan Glover
Caleb McMillian

NORTH FLORIDA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
Sophia Adams
McKenzie Kilcullen
Kinsley Locke

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Scout Glasgow

SWIFT CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL
Harper Belle Schulze
Katelyn Whipple
Alexandria Whitaker

TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL
Casey Aultman
Bella Barragan
Holly McCormick

WOODVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL
Mia Ferguson
Camila Perez
Drayton Somers

Past Winners

2011	**Muireall Brown**	*Winner*
	Danielle Federico	*Runner-Up*
	Shane Smiths	*H. Mention*
2012	**Colleen Newton**	*Winner*
	Simone Butler	*Runner-Up*
	Alexandria Rogers	*H. Mention*
2013	**Jadaicia Ervin**	*Winner*
	Imani Walker	*Runner-Up*
	Rebecca Morales	*H. Mention*
2014	**John McCann**	*Winner*
	Kassidy Stuart	*Runner-Up*
	Grant Womble	*H. Mention*
2015	**Meghan Gilmore**	*Winner*
	Kirsten Whaley	*Runner-Up*
	Sarah Schaper	*H. Mention*
2016	**Connor Yablonski**	*Winner*
	Julia Hernandez	*Runner-Up*
	M. Roberts	*H. Mention*
2017	**Aniketh Mukhirala**	*Winner*
	Natalie Johns	*Runner-Up*
	Presley Allen	*H. Mention*
2018	**Zoe Albrigo**	*Winner*
	Grace Dennig	*Runner-Up*
	Allie Boyd	*H. Mention*
2019	**Tallulah King,**	*Winner*
	Atticus Miller	*Runner-Up*
	Kimberly NeSmith	*H. Mention*
2020	**Eryn Files**	*Winner*
	Nathan Reed	*Runner-Up*
	Ani Hatfield	*H. Mention*
2021	**Angelina Veleta**	*Winner*
	Caroline Cox	*Runner-Up*
	Nishi Nandineni	*H. Mention*
2022	**Cecilie McGrew**	*Winner*
	Belén Rambana	*Runner-Up*
	Jonathan George	*H. Mention*
2023	**Ella Dorn**	*Winner*
	Kaidence Kimbrough	*Runner-Up*
	Ziad Seliem	*H. Mention*
2024	**Ainsley Cate**	*Winner*
	Genevieve Lemmon	*Runner-Up*
	Katelyn Irwin	*H. Mention*

PAST WINNERS

ART

2006	Courtney Asztalos	*Winner*
	Allison Jackson	*Runner-Up*
	Keon Hogan	*H. Mention*
2007	Shannon Groves	*Winner*
	Matthew Cowdery	*Runner-Up*
	Ishanna Ible	*H. Mention*
2008	Erin Harris-Parks	*Winner*
	Chelsea Hill	*Runner-Up*
	Hannah Leggoe	*H. Mention*
2009	Cosby Hayes	*Winner*
	Mary Dunkelberger	*Runner-Up*
	Allison Cottle	*H. Mention*
2010	Taylor Hardee	*Winner*
	Danielle Bishop	*Runner-Up*
	Julia Kunberger	*H. Mention*
2011	Thomas Cooper	*Winner*
	Diana Elsner	*Runner-Up*
	Todd Jones	*H. Mention*
2012	Sara Cox	*Winner*
	Benjamin Kay	*Runner-Up*
	Monica Frehn	*H. Mention*
2013	Kaitlin Duchene	*Winner*
	Caroline Manuel	*Runner-Up*
	Aarron Mosley	*H. Mention*
2014	Kenya Lloyd	*Winner*
	Kiara Palmer	*Runner-Up*
	Yuqing Wu	*H. Mention*
2015	Rhea-Donna Reyes	*Winner*
	Torrey Kiele	*Runner-Up*
	Carina Krehl	*H. Mention*
2016	Akshar Patel	*Winner*
	Clara Molina	*Runner-Up*
	Kari Essary	*H. Mention*
2017	Alexis Campbell	*Winner*
	Abigail Perkins	*Runner-Up*
	Jay Wenhold	*H. Mention*
2018	Karsyn Fletcher	*Winner*
	J, Martinez-Miller	*Runner-Up*
	Jasmine Blake	*H. Mention*
2019	Haileigh Walton	*Winner*
	Nicholas Williams	*Runner-Up*
	Kathryn Barnette	*H. Mention*
2020	Madison Wolfe	*Winner*
	E. Bonham-Reed	*Runner-Up*
	Manna Robertson	*H. Mention*
2021	Roman Le	*Winner*
	Emma Bryson	*Runner-Up*
	Mia Scott	*H. Mention*
2022	Sarah Caulley Soto	*Winner*
	Darell Williams	*Runner-Up*
	Ann Nguyen	*H. Mention*
2023	Jessie Powell	*Winner*
	Citlali Patino	*Runner-Up*
	Malcolm Gambles II	*H. Mention*
2024	Liana Rieger	*Winner*
	Onyinyechukwu Okoli	*Runner-Up*
	Mary Clayton Soto	*H. Mention*

ATHLETICS

2006	Kristen Ledlow	*Winner*
	Denise Frohlich	*Runner-Up*
	Daniel Morris, Jr.	*H. Mention*
2007	Seth Walker	*Winner*
	Rebecca Stott	*Runner-Up*
	Kacie McCloud	*H. Mention*
2008	Laura Hempel	*Winner*
	Maria Harper	*Runner-Up*
	Katrina Unglaub	*H. Mention*
2009	Whitney Strickland III	*Winner*
	Ryan Welke	*Runner-Up*
	Kelly Conroy	*H. Mention*
2010	Sarah Rudder	*Winner*
	Melanese Edwards	*Runner-Up*
	Catherine Whiddon	*H. Mention*
2011	Rosemary Klassen	*Winner*
	Macie Wilkins	*Runner-Up*
	Lindsey Duncan	*H. Mention*
2012	Sarah Harrington	*Winner*
	Johnny Blue Craig	*Runner-Up*
	Jennifer Griffith	*H. Mention*
2013	Stefanie Kurgatt	*Winner*
	JosephBriggs	*Runner-Up*
	Alyssa Yambor-Maul	*H. Mention*
2014	Darrielle McQueen	*Winner*
	Adrian Hendlin	*Runner-Up*
	Phalguna Rupanagudi	*H. Mention*
2015	Tyson Murray	*Winner*
	Kathryn Crotty	*Runner-Up*
	Julian Greene	*H. Mention*
2016	C. Kercheval-Roig	*Winner*
	Teresa Conroy	*Runner-Up*
	Tanner Adkison	*H. Mention*
2017	Kelley Breeden	*Winner*
	Morgan Ayers	*Runner-Up*
	Johnny Grace	*H. Mention*
2018	Alexander Sobeski	*Winner*
	Ana Wallace	*Runner-Up*
	Mary Waddell	*H. Mention*
2019	Emma McGibany	*Winner*
	Nataki Close	*Runner-Up*
	Braidan O'Connor	*H. Mention*
2020	Janae Scott	*Winner*
	Shania Cromartie	*Runner-Up*
	Saige Kemeny	*H. Mention*
2021	T. McPherson Jr.	*Winner*
	DJ Campbell	*Runner-Up*
	De'Shawn Rucker	*H. Mention*
2022	Lydia Hanlon	*Winner*
	Cailin Demps	*Runner-Up*
	Emma Brice	*H. Mention*
2023	Jaysoni Beachum	*Winner*
	Wyatt Townsend	*Runner-Up*
	Esrael Yant	*H. Mention*
2024	Patrick Koon	*Winner*
	Ashlyn Koerner	*Runner-Up*
	Cannon Ramsey	*H. Mention*

BUSINESS

2006	Ricquel Jackson	*Winner*
	Kolanda Lewis	*Runner-Up*
	Heidi Dhein	*H. Mention*
2007	Brittany Pace	*Winner*
	Ashley Carter	*Runner-Up*
	Romain Benjamin	*H. Mention*
2008	Lauren Rudd	*Winner*
	Brittany Folsom	*Runner-Up*
	Sheneka Faison	*H. Mention*
2009	Thierry Kayiranga	*Winner*
	A.J. Trautmann	*Runner-Up*
	Darius Hands	*H. Mention*
2010	Kevin Hill	*Winner*
	Kevy Moore	*Runner-Up*
	Charles Cox	*H. Mention*
2011	Samuel Cook	*Winner*
	Katie Pullen	*Runner-Up*
	William Baldock	*H. Mention*
2012	Zemoria Johnson	*Winner*
	William McQuade	*Runner-Up*
	Morrie Kim	*H. Mention*
2013	Parth Patel	*Winner*
	Jill Smith	*Runner-Up*
	Brooke Hunter	*H. Mention*
2014	Deanne Roberts	*Winner*
	Brian Leichus	*Runner-Up*
	Haley Ashlin	*H. Mention*
2015	Emily Schwartz	*Winner*
	Anna Rushin	*Runner-Up*
	Irj Tajdar	*H. Mention*
2016	Camille Okonkwo	*Winner*
	Taylor Bickett	*Runner-Up*
	Andrew Inman	*H. Mention*
2017	Craig Mitchell	*Winner*
	James Maguire, Jr.	*Runner-Up*
	Kathleen Kelly	*H. Mention*
2018	Estella Waczewski	*Winner*
	Elizabeth Zhang	*Runner-Up*
	Mallory Morgan	*H. Mention*
2019	Jordan Sutherland	*Winner*
	Malachi Jackson	*Runner-Up*
	K. Washington	*H. Mention*
2020	Conqualla Scott	*Winner*
	Rachael Stockel	*Runner-Up*
	Jake Moore	*H. Mention*
2021	Isaiah Griffith	*Winner*
	Johnny Liu	*Runner-Up*
	Sabrina Zheng	*H. Mention*
2022	Kiyle Gardner	*Winner*
	Kanene Nwokeji	*Runner-Up*
	Uzodinma Otuonye	*H. Mention*
2023	Kaylin Jean-Louis	*Winner*
	Lucille Whitehead	*Runner-Up*
	Julia Zhu	*H. Mention*
2024	Kevin Wang	*Winner*
	Lydia Zhao	*Runner-Up*
	Kaylee Sandell	*H. Mention*

PAST WINNERS

CAREER

2006	Ann Sheddan	*Winner*
	Princess Warren	*Runner-Up*
	Amanda Lorenz	*H. Mention*
2007	Jennifer Salib	*Winner*
	Vivek Pal	*Runner-Up*
	Charlotte Homme	*H. Mention*
2008	Candace Rosier	*Winner*
	Sapphire Hinson|	*Runner-Up*
	Michael Schwarz	*H. Mention*
2009	Jordan Rodriguez	*Winner*
	Luka Sharron	*Runner-Up*
	Justis Mills	*H. Mention*
2010	Michael Ethridge	*Winner*
	Bianca Medina	*Runner-Up*
	Michelle Hudson	*H. Mention*
2011	Jenna Perlman	*Winner*
	A. Schroepher	*Runner-Up*
	Joshua Kaplan	*H. Mention*
2012	Kelsey McWilliams	*Winner*
	Kaci Boylan	*Runner-Up*
	Chambre' Maclin	*H. Mention*
2013	Chassidy Ferrell	*Winner*
	Gabriela Brown	*Runner-Up*
	Michelle Kelley	*H. Mention*
2014	Sarah Gurley	*Winner*
	Kayla Parker	*Runner-Up*
	Alayna Sibille	*H. Mention*
2015	Porter Crapps, IV	*Winner*
	Jada Rose	*Runner-Up*
	Katherine Grubbs	*H. Mention*
2016	Anunoy Dussa	*Winner*
	Megan Hayes	*Runner-Up*
	Rebecca Prater	*H. Mention*
2017	Rachel Rumana	*Winner*
	Robert Skrob	*Runner-Up*
	Emily Fiorini	*H. Mention*
2018	Anvitha Mandapati	*Winner*
	Seth Kemeny	*Runner-Up*
	Martine Fredrickson	*H. Mention*
2019	Jack Ubben	*Winner*
	Jennifer Uriostegui	*Runner-Up*
	Shicliria Bryant	*H. Mention*
2020	Ariana White	*Winner*
	Dakota Davis-Jenkins	*Runner-Up*
	Kamiya Kendrick	*H. Mention*
2021	Sina Mollaei	*Winner*
	Nadia Collins	*Runner-Up*
	Jonathan Witmer	*H. Mention*
2022	Rohan Chadha	*Winner*
	George Nessim	*Runner-Up*
	Joshua Israel	*H. Mention*
2023	Heaven Ward	*Winner*
	Jullian Berrios	*Runner-Up*
	Tanmay Haldiya	*H. Mention*
2024	Nia Sampson	*Winner*
	Abhigna Konanur	*Runner-Up*
	Karen Liang	*H. Mention*

DRAMA

2006	Robin Jackson	*Winner*
	Chris Hand	*Runner-Up*
	Bethany Mihalik	*H. Mention*
2007	Waylen Roche	*Winner*
	Jennifer Skene	*Runner-Up*
	Jonathan Kubik	*H. Mention*
2008	Lauren Bacon	*Winner*
	William Simpson	*Runner-Up*
	Michael Dorsey	*H. Mention*
2009	Alexandria Collins	*Winner*
	Chris Frazier	*Runner-Up*
	Carly Langston	*H. Mention*
2010	Shonn McCloud	*Winner*
	Kayla Valentine	*Runner-Up*
	Erik Reed	*H. Mention*
2011	Julia Draper	*Winner*
	Ladarian Lilly	*Runner-Up*
	Katherine Skene	*H. Mention*
2012	Victoria Whitley	*Winner*
	Anna Bradshaw	*Runner-Up*
	Laura Johnson	*H. Mention*
2013	Lauren Jones	*Winner*
	Lee Moleski	*Runner-Up*
	Saint-Claire Mottley	*H. Mention*
2014	Roxanne Jester	*Winner*
	Anna Brooks	*Runner-Up*
	Mathieu Fredrickson	*H. Mention*
2015	Maxx Marshall	*Winner*
	Corrie Ostrander	*Runner-Up*
	Jamie Shuman	*H. Mention*
2016	Bethany O'Leary	*Winner*
	B. Sanchez-Thurber	*Runner-Up*
	Mia Pesta	*H. Mention*
2017	Jordyn Berrian	*Winner*
	Katherine Jones	*Runner-Up*
	Sarah Barton	*H. Mention*
2018	Camila Calderon	*Winner*
	Abigail Leaman	*Runner-Up*
	Mercy Bickell	*H. Mention*
2019	Ashley Campbell	*Winner*
	Jerilyn Fortier	*Runner-Up*
	Teresa Fondo	*H. Mention*
2020	John Malley	*Winner*
	Mary Casteel	*Runner-Up*
	Katie Mulrooney	*H. Mention*
2021	Sam Scriven	*Winner*
	Griffin Stanley	*Runner-Up*
	Joelie Campana	*H. Mention*
2022	Shelby Watson	*Winner*
	Nancy Shippen	*Runner-Up*
	Alani Beauchamp	*H. Mention*
2023	Jenna Jeon	*Winner*
	Merrell Webster	*Runner-Up*
	Elspeth Ann Abbott	*H. Mention*
2024	Oliver Jacobs	*Winner*
	Louis Dearman	*Runner-Up*
	Ella Leamon	*H. Mention*

ENGLISH & LANG. ARTS

2006	Catherine Chase	*Winner*
	Maria Diaz	*Runner-Up*
	Ariel Adams	*H. Mention*
2007	Rebecca Lu	*Winner*
	A. McNaughton	*Runner-Up*
	David Capelouto	*H. Mention*
2008	Anna Beck	*Winner*
	Erin Canter	*Runner-Up*
	Elizabeth Seery	*H. Mention*
2009	Mark Stern	*Winner*
	Julia Slayden	*Runner-Up*
	LendraCoker	*H. Mention*
2010	Taylor Conley	*Winner*
	Rebecca Markell	*Runner-Up*
	Aidan Hale	*H. Mention*
2011	C. Niamh Lepanto	*Winner*
	Jazmyn Reed	*Runner-Up*
	India Watkins	*H. Mention*
2012	C. Smith-Schoenwalder	*Winner*
	Mary Kathryn King	*Runner-Up*
	Christina Mbuya	*H. Mention*
2013	RachelCannella	*Winner*
	Taylor Harvey	*Runner-Up*
	Winston McGriff	*H. Mention*
2014	Yasemin Altun	*Winner*
	BrookeHarrison	*Runner-Up*
	Emily Ostreich	*H. Mention*
2015	Mary Dixon	*Winner*
	Mikayla Murray	*Runner-Up*
	Zoe Hume	*H. Mention*
2016	AmeliaBunnell	*Winner*
	KaitlynBludau	*Runner-Up*
	Marilyn Edmond	*H. Mention*
2017	Leteme Ashebo	*Winner*
	Quinlan Mewborne	*Runner-Up*
	RachelCorry	*H. Mention*
2018	Sarah Halbert	*Winner*
	Andrea Mendoza	*Runner-Up*
	Chloe Caylor	*H. Mention*
2019	AAnna Daunt	*Winner*
	Jordan Magnuson	*Runner-Up*
	Maya Levy	*H. Mention*
2020	Julia Hernandez	*Winner*
	Timothy O'Connor	*Runner-Up*
	Lilly Simons	*H. Mention*
2021	Leah Mazur	*Winner*
	Emily Butler	*Runner-Up*
	Kayla Jackson	*H. Mention*
2022	Katerina Krizner	*Winner*
	AmeliaKraemer	*Runner-Up*
	Arria Haigler	*H. Mention*
2023	Camille Resavage	*Winner*
	Emily Taylor	*Runner-Up*
	Leah Pagan	*H. Mention*
2024	Sophia Krizner	*Winner*
	Camille Friall	*Runner-Up*
	Dilahan Cavusoglu	*H. Mention*

PAST WINNERS

JOURNALISM

2006	Wendy Walters	*Winner*
	Elizabeth Copps	*Runner-Up*
	Camille Goethe	*H. Mention*
2007	Jessica Moody	*Winner*
	A. Frydrychowski	*Runner-Up*
	Clay Celander	*H. Mention*
2008	Eden Joyner	*Winner*
	Alexander Saunders	*Runner-Up*
	Sarah Taylor	*H. Mention*
2009	Elizabeth Landers	*Winner*
	Kate Schofield	*Runner-Up*
	Tara Gonzalez	*H. Mention*
2010	Dana Edwards	*Winner*
	Madeleine Loeb	*Runner-Up*
	Ashira Morris	*H. Mention*
2011	Katie Mullaly	*Winner*
	Lisa Gault	*Runner-Up*
	Chi-Valry Wu	*H. Mention*
2012	Taylor McMahon	*Winner*
	Nigel King	*Runner-Up*
	Kylie Parham	*H. Mention*
2013	Joni Lindsey	*Winner*
	Elizabeth Santoro	*Runner-Up*
	Patricia Moes	*H. Mention*
2014	Mina Kaji	*Winner*
	Madison Harris-Parks	*Runner-Up*
	Torri Hart	*H. Mention*
2015	Muireall Brown	*Winner*
	Rachel Rivers	*Runner-Up*
	Dakota Williams	*H. Mention*
2016	Celitan Summa	*Winner*
	JJ Smith-Schoenwalder	*Runner-Up*
	Reagan Anderson	*H. Mention*
2017	Caleb Riggins	*Winner*
	Julia Chodyla	*Runner-Up*
	Saniya Pradhan	*H. Mention*
2018	Lauren Shirley	*Winner*
	Hannah Wong	*Runner-Up*
	Cristin McKee	*H. Mention*
2019	Nadaley Jones	*Winner*
	John Folsom	*Runner-Up*
	Helen Bradshaw	*H. Mention*
2020	Jacqueline Cruz	*Winner*
	Madelyn Stout	*Runner-Up*
	Sarah Crandall	*H. Mention*
2021	Cooper Harrell	*Winner*
	Maddelena Kaji	*Runner-Up*
	Kacie Ross	*H. Mention*
2022	Ananda Chatterjee	*Winner*
	Peyton Gallant	*Runner-Up*
	Gabrielle Giles	*H. Mention*
2023	Krysten Hood	*Winner*
	Shania Brown	*Runner-Up*
	Robert Hosay	*H. Mention*
2024	Leah Kiros	*Winner*
	Dream Hogan	*Runner-Up*
	Amelia Haggins	*H. Mention*

LEADERSHIP

2006	Mike Jones	*Winner*
	Katherine Davis	*Runner-Up*
	Chris Emmanuel	*H. Mention*
2007	Jamel Langley	*Winner*
	Whitney Moore	*Runner-Up*
	Brittany Gredler	*H. Mention*
2008	N. Kofar-Naisa	*Winner*
	Netia McCray	*Runner-Up*
	Haylee Lamb	*H. Mention*
2009	Auriel Rolle-Polk	*Winner*
	Gregory Cummins	*Runner-Up*
	Stephanie Post	*H. Mention*
2010	Jasmine Holmes	*Winner*
	Kelly Jones	*Runner-Up*
	Caroline Maxwell	*H. Mention*
2011	Mary Lundberg	*Winner*
	LaCrai Mitchell	*Runner-Up*
	Haven Mills	*H. Mention*
2012	Jennifer Berrian	*Winner*
	Joi Edwards	*Runner-Up*
	Mary Grace Conroy	*H. Mention*
2013	Elizabeth Sell	*Winner*
	Kristin Sweeney	*Runner-Up*
	Cody Johansen	*H. Mention*
2014	Brooke Williams	*Winner*
	Joshua Gallaher	*Runner-Up*
	Amina Kamau	*H. Mention*
2015	Carolyn Shi	*Winner*
	Matthew Sweeney	*Runner-Up*
	Kenidee Webster	*H. Mention*
2016	Taylar Hall	*Winner*
	Carlton DiSalvo	*Runner-Up*
	Mariam Mckee	*H. Mention*
2017	Nia Close	*Winner*
	Rida Darji	*Runner-Up*
	Robyn Seniors	*H. Mention*
2018	Daniel Sweeney	*Winner*
	Slade Machado	*Runner-Up*
	Tareq Salley	*H. Mention*
2019	Nicolas Timmons	*Winner*
	Abigail Hansen	*Runner-Up*
	Madison Crews	*H. Mention*
2020	Jason Gao	*Winner*
	Michelena O'Rourke	*Runner-Up*
	Jude Countryman	*H. Mention*
2021	Asia Alexander	*Winner*
	Michael Sweeney	*Runner-Up*
	Genesis Yoshioka	*H. Mention*
2022	Evan Marty	*Winner*
	Prabhas Kurapati	*Runner-Up*
	Britton Miller	*H. Mention*
2023	Amaya Waymon	*Winner*
	Nia Terry	*Runner-Up*
	Katherine Roth	*H. Mention*
2024	Helen Conn	*Winner*
	Madeleine Byrd	*Runner-Up*
	Copeland Frazee	*H. Mention*

MATHEMATICS

2006	Amina Ellison	*Winner*
	Kirk Hansen	*Runner-Up*
	Erin Burnside	*H. Mention*
2007	Catherine Cottle	*Winner*
	Louis Reis	*Runner-Up*
	Weiping Zhang	*H. Mention*
2008	Chenyu Lin	*Winner*
	Kavita Chandra	*Runner-Up*
	Kyle Trainor	*H. Mention*
2009	Suvrat Jain	*Winner*
	William Tsai	*Runner-Up*
	Gina Shetty	*H. Mention*
2010	Aditi Hota	*Winner*
	Jitesh Kuntawala	*Runner-Up*
	Kathleen Park	*H. Mention*
2011	Pratik Sachdeva	*Winner*
	Shuai Jiang	*Runner-Up*
	Emily Stowers	*H. Mention*
2012	Dae Kang	*Winner*
	Breshawn Best	*Runner-Up*
	Bailey Ruark	*H. Mention*
2013	Grace Ying	*Winner*
	Ralph Wilhelm	*Runner-Up*
	Seungbyn Baek	*H. Mention*
2014	Jimmy Zhang	*Winner*
	Alexander Yu	*Runner-Up*
	Dionte Boddie	*H. Mention*
2015	Jessie Chi	*Winner*
	Siddarth Kethireddy	*Runner-Up*
	Justin Bartell	*H. Mention*
2016	Puneet Sachdeva	*Winner*
	Sadhana Ponnaluri	*Runner-Up*
	Amelia Maddox	*H. Mention*
2017	James Baggett	*Winner*
	Emily LeHeup	*Runner-Up*
	Kyle Chen	*H. Mention*
2018	Caroline Englert	*Winner*
	Joanna Wang	*Runner-Up*
	Luke McCarthy	*H. Mention*
2019	Venkat Kommu	*Winner*
	Yunus Kovankaya	*Runner-Up*
	Judith Wang	*H. Mention*
2020	Rayyan Darji	*Winner*
	Simon Corpuz	*Runner-Up*
	Antonio Nunez	*H. Mention*
2021	Rohan Davidi	*Winner*
	David Yang	*Runner-Up*
	Xuan "Andrew" Li	*H. Mention*
2022	Sandhya Kumar	*Winner*
	D. Epstein-Gross	*Runner-Up*
	Kristen Ross	*H. Mention*
2023	Karthik Vedula	*Winner*
	Wesley Chen	*Runner-Up*
	Rachel Bethke	*H. Mention*
2024	Navya Kommu	*Winner*
	Nima Mollaei	*Runner-Up*
	Samuel Plettl	*H. Mention*

PAST WINNERS

MUSIC

2006	Drew Pattison	*Winner*
	Joseph Sheets	*Runner-Up*
	Jake Armstrong	*H. Mention*
2007	Kerian Cox	*Winner*
	Matthew King	*Runner-Up*
	Raine Guthrie	*H. Mention*
2008	Victoria Warnet	*Winner*
	Amanda Mihalik	*Runner-Up*
	Jarrod Holland	*H. Mention*
2009	Benjamin Pattison	*Winner*
	Christine Hatcher	*Runner-Up*
	Erin Saha	*H. Mention*
2010	Greta Smidt	*Winner*
	Chase Banks	*Runner-Up*
	Hannah Haugen	*H. Mention*
2011	Devon Richardson	*Winner*
	Paul Miller	*Runner-Up*
	Richard Mattox	*H. Mention*
2012	Lindsey Langston	*Winner*
	Alexander Horton	*Runner-Up*
	Taylor Williams	*H. Mention*
2013	Phillip Mendez	*Winner*
	Diego Hernandez	*Runner-Up*
	Jessey Krehl	*H. Mention*
2014	S. Cherrier-Vickers	*Winner*
	Jatericka Connelly	*Runner-Up*
	Justin Fitzpatrick	*H. Mention*
2015	Kayla Williams	*Winner*
	Jacob Goldstein-Greenwood	*Runner-Up*
	Stephen Barton	*H. Mention*
2016	Christie Ger	*Winner*
	Tiffany Vaughn	*Runner-Up*
	Adam Rusmisell	*H. Mention*
2017	Samantha Crawford	*Winner*
	Roehl-Dean Reyes	*Runner-Up*
	Hannah Prasse	*H. Mention*
2018	Odessa Deng	*Winner*
	Daniel Spainhour	*Runner-Up*
	Claire Thaler	*H. Mention*
2019	Dane Seal	*Winner*
	Joshua Kim	*Runner-Up*
	Alexis O'Rourke	*H. Mention*
2020	Carter Nelson	*Winner*
	India McCary	*Runner-Up*
	Hali Alex	*H. Mention*
2021	Maxwell van Hoeij	*Winner*
	Cecilia Malley	*Runner-Up*
	Hannah Yang	*H. Mention*
2022	Taurique Clark	*Winner*
	Ishan Vepa	*Runner-Up*
	Chloe Caldwell	*H. Mention*
2023	Brandon Bourdeau	*Winner*
	Emma Rodgers	*Runner-Up*
	Ja'lona Edwards	*H. Mention*
2024	Alexandra Jones	*Winner*
	Mary Caitlin Boulo	*Runner-Up*
	Kyla Rogers	*H. Mention*

PUBLIC SPEAKING

2006	Ashley Williams	*Winner*
	Forrest Boone	*Runner-Up*
	Jessica Isabelle	*H. Mention*
2007	Nicola Menchetti	*Winner*
	Tatiana Galante	*Runner-Up*
	Thy Bui	*H. Mention*
2008	Madison Grant	*Winner*
	Kathleen Wade	*Runner-Up*
	Lauren Hendricks	*H. Mention*
2009	Stacia Dudley	*Winner*
	Will Liner	*Runner-Up*
	Chelsea Moore	*H. Mention*
2010	Callie Crumpler	*Winner*
	Samuel Stockstill	*Runner-Up*
	Ryan Sweeney	*H. Mention*
2011	Austin Mall	*Winner*
	Christopher Hill	*Runner-Up*
	Rachel Procaccini	*H. Mention*
2012	William Moor, III	*Winner*
	Jamie Holley	*Runner-Up*
	Dominique Moreno	*H. Mention*
2013	Kinsey Grant	*Winner*
	Samuel Kerce	*Runner-Up*
	Tryton Swigert-Johnsonl	*H. Mention*
2014	Amber Borgersen	*Winner*
	Yasmire Whigham	*Runner-Up*
	Stuart Garrity	*H. Mention*
2015	Maya King	*Winner*
	Nathan Morse	*Runner-Up*
	Julia Osagie	*H. Mention*
2016	Elyse Thompson	*Winner*
	Irfan Kovankaya	*Runner-Up*
	Zenani Johnson	*H. Mention*
2017	Jean-Paul Recht	*Winner*
	Micah Joyner	*Runner-Up*
	James Williams III	*H. Mention*
2018	Katherine Sorrell	*Winner*
	Landon Coles	*Runner-Up*
	Morgan Zettle	*H. Mention*
2019	Madison Coombs	*Winner*
	Mira Gaitanis	*Runner-Up*
	Mamie Odom	*H. Mention*
2020	Madeline Feiock	*Winner*
	I. V. Warren	*Runner-Up*
	Max Ngnepieba	*H. Mention*
2021	Kendall Williams	*Winner*
	Megan Peschl	*Runner-Up*
	Kolbie O'Neal	*H. Mention*
2022	Destiny Stewart	*Winner*
	Arianna Jones	*Runner-Up*
	Collin Roberts	*H. Mention*
2023	Shubham Dixit	*Winner*
	Lauren Price	*Runner-Up*
	Mary Grace Slemp	*H. Mention*
2024	Kinleigh Bass	*Winner*
	Victoria McQueen	*Runner-Up*
	Venkat Maddipoti	*H. Mention*

SCIENCE & HEALTH

2006	Ugwechi Amadi	*Winner*
	Irina Kotchach	*Runner-Up*
	Chase Pfeifer	*H. Mention*
2007	Brittany Garner	*Winner*
	John Turner	*Runner-Up*
	Tyler Rowland	*H. Mention*
2008	Min Jiang	*Winner*
	Xin Guan	*Runner-Up*
	Clara Vu	*H. Mention*
2009	R. Zakare-Fagbamila	*Winner*
	Andrew Wyatt	*Runner-Up*
	Derek Hettinger	*H. Mention*
2010	Philip Schlenoff	*Winner*
	Esha Atolia	*Runner-Up*
	Kejing Jiang	*H. Mention*
2011	Eta Atolia	*Winner*
	Stanley Stupski	*Runner-Up*
	Linda Wang	*H. Mention*
2012	Payal Patel	*Winner*
	Yushan Wang	*Runner-Up*
	Luxi Qiao	*H. Mention*
2013	Jeremy Jones	*Winner*
	Hunter Brown	*Runner-Up*
	Stanley Denny	*H. Mention*
2014	Samantha Skrob	*Winner*
	Alyssa Morrison	*Runner-Up*
	Stephen Crothers	*H. Mention*
2015	Rachel Joyner	*Winner*
	Shwetha Shetty	*Runner-Up*
	Jordyn Lee	*H. Mention*
2016	Amara Ahmed	*Winner*
	Aneesh Rahangdale	*Runner-Up*
	Alexander Alabugin	*H. Mention*
2017	Will Rogers	*Winner*
	Aditya Hota	*Runner-Up*
	Tiffany Lee	*H. Mention*
2018	Khadeja Ahmed	*Winner*
	Cynthia Wang	*Runner-Up*
	Charitha Moparthy	*H. Mention*
2019	Dhenu Patel	*Winner*
	Mallika Misra	*Runner-Up*
	Sripradyumna Donthineni	*H. Mention*
2020	Tanvi Haldiya	*Winner*
	Neha Iyer	*Runner-Up*
	Lily Rogers	*H. Mention*
2021	Spencer Gibbs	*Winner*
	Seth Johnson	*Runner-Up*
	Khari Davis	*H. Mention*
2022	Jeffrey George	*Winner*
	Surabhi Kumar	*Runner-Up*
	Aaliyah Davis	*H. Mention*
2023	Aribah Ahmed	*Winner*
	Cyrus Nadizadeh	*Runner-Up*
	Anne Osterhaus	*H. Mention*
2024	Shiv Patel	*Winner*
	Sarayu Vanga	*Runner-Up*
	Shaoyang Ma	*H. Mention*

PAST WINNERS

SOCIAL SCIENCE

2006	A. Van Landingham	*Winner*
	Joi Robinson	*Runner-Up*
	Nicole Trainor	*H. Mention*
2007	Michael McKibben	*Winner*
	Forat Lutfi	*Runner-Up*
	Sarah Martin	*H. Mention*
2008	Shayla Shane	*Winner*
	Sarah Haston	*Runner-Up*
	James Crowley	*H. Mention*
2009	Doug Chico	*Winner*
	A. Sorchych-Hoffman	*Runner-Up*
	Taylor Brown	*H. Mention*
2010	Christina Ciaravella	*Winner*
	Hunter King	*Runner-Up*
	Joshua Berrian	*H. Mention*
2011	Marta Perez	*Winner*
	Blanche Brown	*Runner-Up*
	Kendrick Smith	*H. Mention*
2012	Jasmine Lucas	*Winner*
	Sarah Busby	*Runner-Up*
	Kenneth Soyars	*H. Mention*
2013	Robert Celander	*Winner*
	Avery Smith	*Runner-Up*
	Kaytron Coker	*H. Mention*
2014	Kayley Erickson	*Winner*
	Matthew Kang	*Runner-Up*
	Cooper Perlman	*H. Mention*
2015	Adrian Schell	*Winner*
	Abhinav Harish	*Runner-Up*
	Hannah Williams	*H. Mention*
2016	Graham Boone	*Winner*
	Megan Choutupalli	*Runner-Up*
	Aditya Srivastava	*H. Mention*
2017	Cannon Haworth	*Winner*
	William Cannard	*Runner-Up*
	Emily Brockmeier	*H. Mention*
2018	Andrew Colvin	*Winner*
	John Menton	*Runner-Up*
	Doherty Guirand	*H. Mention*
2019	Iynkary Warren	*Winner*
	Shivani Kumar	*Runner-Up*
	Kaleb Daniels	*H. Mention*
2020	Apurva Srivastava	*Winner*
	Bryson Gonzalez	*Runner-Up*
	Connor Couch	*H. Mention*
2021	Sarah Toole	*Winner*
	Zakari Nelson	*Runner-Up*
	Daniela Paredes	*H. Mention*
2022	Christopher Salvador	*Winner*
	Desmond Nelson	*Runner-Up*
	Gracyn Wood	*H. Mention*
2023	Danny Alex	*Winner*
	Alyssa Maleszewski	*Runner-Up*
	Caliyah Pearson	*H. Mention*
2024	Velan Thanasekar	*Winner*
	Zoe Rubin	*Runner-Up*
	Gillian Tran	*H. Mention*

TECHNOLOGY

2006	Kevin Yon	*Winner*
	David Schubert	*Runner-Up*
	Adam Grayson	*H. Mention*
2007	James Fadool	*Winner*
	Rachel Luczynski	*Runner-Up*
	Ross Nichols	*H. Mention*
2008	Ian Elsner	*Winner*
	Nelson James	*Runner-Up*
	William Lindsey	*H. Mention*
2009	Michael DiTanna	*Winner*
	Jay Cardenas	*Runner-Up*
	Jared Young	*H. Mention*
2010	Scott Atherton	*Winner*
	Sung Woo Han	*Runner-Up*
	Katelyn Varn	*H. Mention*
2011	Ryan-David Reyes	*Winner*
	Jameson Tucker	*Runner-Up*
	Cameron Ridgewell	*H. Mention*
2012	Zachary Grayson	*Winner*
	James Pace	*Runner-Up*
	Jordan Dick	*H. Mention*
2013	Emily Gardner	*Winner*
	Justin Burt	*Runner-Up*
	Joey Cardenas	*H. Mention*
2014	Brenna Wonsey	*Winner*
	Brady Robshaw	*Runner-Up*
	S. Gunasegaran	*H. Mention*
2015	Babar Ahmed	*Winner*
	Brendan O'Healaigh	*Runner-Up*
	Rachael Steverson	*H. Mention*
2016	Daniel Becker	*Winner*
	Christopher Witmer	*Runner-Up*
	Jessica McNeil	*H. Mention*
2017	Sanwal Ahmed	*Winner*
	Sophie Nelsen	*Runner-Up*
	Elspeth Suber	*H. Mention*
2018	Hana Hollis	*Winner*
	Patrick Hollis	*Runner-Up*
	I. Fagbamila-Zakare	*H. Mention*
2019	Auryndette West	*Winner*
	QueAndre Ray	*Runner-Up*
	Jawad Khan	*H. Mention*
2020	Sanjita Choudhary	*Winner*
	Andy Jiang	*Runner-Up*
	Katherine Lyons	*H. Mention*
2021	Tanusri Mandapati	*Winner*
	Hannah Gendusa	*Runner-Up*
	Kathryn Merritt	*H. Mention*
2022	Shreyas Kodela	*Winner*
	Brian McNulty	*Runner-Up*
	Janiya Richardson	*H. Mention*
2023	Sruthi Sentil	*Winner*
	Grace Tran	*Runner-Up*
	Jackson Kottkamp	*H. Mention*
2024	James Zhang	*Winner*
	Anaia Larkins	*Runner-Up*
	Nevaeh Green	*H. Mention*

WORLD LANGUAGES

2006	Olivia Trowers	*Winner*
	Kelli Frazier	*Runner-Up*
	Jessica Mestre	*H. Mention*
2007	Marley Moynahan	*Winner*
	Sarah Stern	*Runner-Up*
	Morgan Hicks	*H. Mention*
2008	Genevieve Tuveson	*Winner*
	Kristen Ramsey	*Runner-Up*
	Diana Hernández	*H. Mention*
2009	Annika Silverman	*Winner*
	Ethan Rosenblum	*Runner-Up*
	Sophie Lang	*H. Mention*
2010	Erinma Kalu	*Winner*
	Emily Vogelgesang	*Runner-Up*
	Mark Schmertmann	*H. Mention*
2011	Jane Darby Menton	*Winner*
	Heather Claypoole	*Runner-Up*
	Kara Wilcox	*H. Mention*
2012	V. Dobrosavljevic	*Winner*
	Nida Mohyuddin	*Runner-Up*
	Nina Rodriguez	*H. Mention*
2013	Amberly Williams	*Winner*
	Sonia Koul	*Runner-Up*
	Robert King	*H. Mention*
2014	Mackenzie Teek	*Winner*
	Kevin Ramirez	*Runner-Up*
	William Courrèges-Clercq	*H. Mention*
2015	Nia Harmon	*Winner*
	Michelle Fonseca	*Runner-Up*
	Shannon Duncanson	*H. Mention*
2016	Catherine Wilhelm	*Winner*
	Nancy Engel	*Runner-Up*
	Blake Williams	*H. Mention*
2017	Delaney Kaklamanos	*Winner*
	Erin Mulrooney	*Runner-Up*
	Joseph McCann II	*H. Mention*
2018	Brenda Gikunda	*Winner*
	Aashari Willliams	*Runner-Up*
	Jordan Burney	*H. Mention*
2019	Dakyung Ham	*Winner*
	K. Resavage	*Runner-Up*
	Hailey Hobb	*H. Mention*
2020	M. Hardenburg	*Winner*
	Kathryn Mann	*Runner-Up*
	Ashley Sawyer	*H. Mention*
2021	Sonu Patel	*Winner*
	Isa St. Pierre-Charles	*Runner-Up*
	Emily Sargent	*H. Mention*
2022	Ishrit Gupta	*Winner*
	Eli Mears	*Runner-Up*
	Molly Novin	*H. Mention*
2023	Bryn Cintron	*Winner*
	Riane Williams	*Runner-Up*
	Teresa Morgado	*H. Mention*
2024	Eryn Files	*Winner*
	Heewon Seo	*Runner-Up*
	Geetika Kosuri	*H. Mention*

THANK YOU

David Barfield and Karl Sorne, Lonely Fox Photography; Cobb Middle School; Cobb Middle School's Beta Club; Leon County Schools; Leon County School Board; Tallahassee Nurseries; Volunteer Florida; Envision Credit Union's squad of volunteers; the Technical Team at Ruby Diamond Concert Hall; and ALL the teachers, school staff and administrators for inspiring these wonderful students.

AWARDS COMMITTEE

Jordan Antohi
Rudy Arceo
Sharon Berrian
Forrest Boone
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Emma Cyphers
Paula Deboles-Johnson
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Trenton Wallace
Harriet Williams
Darryl Worrell

THANK YOU TO OUR JUDGES

ART

Brinda Pamulapati, *Owner/Managing Director, Venvi Art Gallery*

Eluster Richardson, *Artist*

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Steve Evans, *IBM Vice President, Retired*

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

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Kara Palmer Smith, *Chief Operations Officer, Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend Region, Inc.*

Li Pon, *Senior Assistant Director, Experiential Learning, The FSU Career Center*

DRAMA & PERFORMING ARTS

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

Amanda Karioth Thompson, *Founder and CEO, AKT Artful*

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

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

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TECHNOLOGY

Blake Dowling, *CEO, Aegis Business Technologies*

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Lisa Strauss, *Lisa Strauss, Integrity Product & Strategy Manager, Ruvos*

WORLD LANGUAGES

Aimée Boutin, *Professor, FSU - Modern Languages & Linguistics*

Rhonda Cooper, *Vice President of Community Impact, United Way of the Big Bend*

Dr. Carol Garris, *Federal Programs Manager/FMPAC Director, Panhandle Area Educational Consortium*

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