



# CLASS of 2020



Division of Diversity, Equity  
& Educational Achievement  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



# DIGITAL GRADUATION RECOGNITION PROGRAM

5.8.20

DIVERSITY.WISC.EDU

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### ***Letter to the Graduates***

Patrick J. Sims, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Diversity & Inclusion

### ***DDEEA Programs***

Center for Educational Opportunity (CeO)

Chancellor's Scholarship (CS)

DDEEA Internship Program

Office of Multicultural Art Initiatives/First Wave

PEOPLE

Posse

Powers-Knapp Scholarship (PKS)

Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program

### ***Staff Messages***



# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2020 GRADUATES!

For the past six years, we've celebrated graduation with a special event to personalize and salute the amazing work, triumphs and growth that have brought YOU – our DDEEA scholars to this day.

Obviously, these are unprecedented times and I have no doubt that we will get through the global challenges we're facing as a result of COVID-19. So, we've produced this virtual celebration to ensure that you all still get a chance to share this tremendous accomplishment with your classmates, your families and anyone else who has supported you on this journey.

Realistically, nothing can replace being able to hug loved ones and dear friends or hearing that extra hype shout-out from excited family members or the joy of being physically in community - celebrating one another. You all have grown close over these last four years and nothing can break the bonds that were forged in struggle and immense joy you felt when you overcame those struggles.

Between your advisors and program directors I hope that the Division has been that village that takes care of its own within the larger campus community. You've literally changed this campus for the better, redefined what it means to have Badger pride and reversed the narrative on marginalization by excelling in every way - in academic achievement, personal persistence and civic engagement. You all did ya' thang and we will miss you.

Commencement literally means to go forth, and I know that will be a little scary for some of you right now. But know that I, your family and friends have faith that you will go on to change the world, because you've already done it here...well not here but you know what I mean. I want you to know that although we can't recognize you in person, we recognize each and every one of you in our hearts.

So, on behalf of all of the staff in the Division of Diversity, Equity and Educational Achievement I want you to know that we love you and we wish you nothing but the best.

Now will the Class of 2020, grab your virtual tassels on the right and move them to the left - On, Wisconsin!

Patrick J. Sims  
Deputy Vice Chancellor for Diversity & Inclusion  
Elzie Higginbottom Vice Provost & Chief Diversity Officer  
Division of Diversity, Equity and Educational Achievement  
University of Wisconsin-Madison



**Center for  
Educational Opportunity**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

*Center For Educational  
Opportunity (CeO)*

CeO offers an inclusive and holistic student-centered approach by providing comprehensive services to support academic success and empower students to navigate their campus experience. While developing intercultural communities and relationships, students are encouraged to explore and discover themselves and the world. Aligned with the university vision, CeO promotes academic rigor and prepares graduates to succeed as influential leaders and global citizens.

CeO exists to transform the lives of first-generation college students, students with disabilities, and/or those whose families meet Federal income guidelines by providing academic assistance and overall support aimed at increasing retention and graduation rates, while cultivating future global leaders in a welcoming community that values equal opportunity for access and success in higher education.

**CONNECT WITH CeO**

Web: [ceo.wisc.edu](http://ceo.wisc.edu)  
Facebook: @uwmadisonceo  
Instagram: @uwceo  
Twitter: @uwmadisonceo

 **CONGRATS 2020 CeO GRADS**  
Spring 2020 Graduating CeO Scholars

- Catherine Abel – Psychology, BS
- Ryan Acuna – Computer Sciences, BS; Certificate in International Studies Global Security
- Adejumoke Aderole – Communication Sciences & Disorders, BA; Psychology, BA; Certificate in Studio Art
- Andrea Alvarado – Rehabilitation Psychology, BS
- Cody Anderson – Athletic Training, BS
- Oscar Andrade – Accounting, BBA; Finance, Investment & Banking, BBA
- Isabella Annan – Psychology, BA
- Joana Arengo – Human Development & Family Studies, BS; Certificate in Health & Humanities
- Sandra Arteaga – Nursing, BSN; Certificates in Chicanx & Latinx Studies and Global Health
- Besa Asani – Social Work, BSW
- Rose Atkinson – Nursing, BSN
- Kalina Bathke – International Studies, BA; Community & Nonprofit Leadership, BA
- Kailyn Brown – Rehabilitation Psychology, BS; Certificate in Gender & Women’s Studies
- Yeritza Carreno – Biology, BS; Certificates in Chicanx & Latinx Studies and Global Health
- Kalle Chan – Biology, BS
- Erin Chen – Chemistry, BA; History, BA
- Kesang Chomor – Legal Studies, BA; Political Science, BA; Certificate in Criminal Justice
- Vivian Dang – Marketing, BBA
- Samantha De Santiago – Human Development & Family Studies, BS, Sociology, BA; Certificate in Chicanx & Latinx Studies
- Ana Demendoza-Thomas – Journalism, BA; Certificate in European Studies
- Lorena Diaz – Genetics & Genomics, BS; Certificate in Chicanx & Latinx Studies
- Sonam Dolma – Biochemistry, BS; Certificate in South Asian Studies
- Stephanie Dyer – Legal Studies, BA; Political Science, BA; Certificate in Criminal Justice
- Osato Eke – Psychology, BS
- Abdifatah Elmi – Biology, BS
- Roberto Godinez – Social Work, BSW
- Anesha Gordon – Retail & Consumer Behavior, BS; Certificates in Entrepreneurship, Gender & Women’s Studies
- Orlando Guzman-Santiago – Latin American, Caribbean, & Iberian Studies, BA; Spanish, BA
- Jacqueline Hammond – Chemistry, BS
- Kabao Hang – Biology, BS; Certificate in Health & Humanities
- Alexis Hardy – Communication Arts, BA; Certificate in Classical Studies
- Abigail Harrison – Education Studies, BS
- Cindy Her – Nursing, BSN; Certificate in Global Health
- Kristy Her – Community & Environmental Sociology, BS
- Deandre Hill-Stanton – Nursing, BSN
- Joseph Hobbs – Real Estate & Urban Land Economics, BBA
- Abigail Horner – Community & Nonprofit Leadership, BS; Certificate in Education & Educational Services
- Alyssa Hui – Journalism, BA; Certificates in Asian American Studies and Gender & Women’s Studies
- Jacqueline Hui – Textiles & Fashion Design, BS
- Cody Hurtado – Psychology, BS
- Elisha Ikhumhen – Kinesiology, BS; Certificate in Global Health
- Rosy Jimenez – Communication Sciences & Disorders, BSE; Certificate in Studio Art
- Parish Johnson – Human Development & Family Studies, BS
- Devin Jones – Pharmacy, DPH
- Noah Jones – Journalism, BA; Certificate in Afro-American Studies
- Carianna Juliano – Personal Finance, BS
- Paige Kassner – Community & Nonprofit Leadership, BS; Certificate in Digital Studies
- Uriel Lee – Retail & Consumer Behavior, BS; Certificates in Digital Studies and Entrepreneurship
- Haley Liptow – English, BA; Certificate in Gender & Women’s Studies
- Kuehoua Lo – Rehabilitation Psychology, BS; Certificate in Education & Educational Services
- Carolina Lobo De Castro – Special Education, BSE
- Mercedes Lopez – Management & Human Resources; Marketing, BBA
- John Ly – Economics, BS



---

Josiah Marsh – Psychology, BA  
Fred Martinez – Legal Studies, BA; Political Science, BA  
Marisol Martinez – Psychology, BA; Certificate in Criminal Justice  
Zhikang Meng – Computer Sciences, BS; Mathematics, BS  
Victoria Millet – Human Development & Family Studies, BS; Certificate in Afro-American Studies  
Joseph Mobley – Finance, Investment & Banking, BBA  
Mustafa Mohammed Saed – Human Development & Family Studies, BS  
Cesar Mojica – Retail & Consumer Behavior, BS; Certificate in Entrepreneurship  
Kathleen Monmany – Psychology, BA; Certificate in Criminal Justice  
Malery Navarro – Biology, BS  
Lauren Ngo – Economics, BA  
Anna Nguyen – Human Development & Family Studies, BS  
Robert Nwadinobi – Art, BFA  
Carlos Ortega – Psychology, BA  
Samantha Pernsteiner – Nursing, BSN; Certificate in Global Health  
Hope Peterson – Environmental Studies, BA; Geography, BA  
Holly Pickart – Textiles & Fashion Design, BS  
Yadely Quinones Villalpando – Genetics & Genomics, BS  
Ana Ramos Contreras – French, BA; Psychology, BA  
Marissa Ripp – Rehabilitation Psychology, BS; Certificate in Education & Educational Services  
Bianca Rodriguez – Education Studies, BS; Communication Arts, BA; Certificate in Chicanx & Latinx Studies  
Tony Ruiz – Philosophy, BS; Political Science, BA  
Nicholas Salerno – Kinesiology, BS  
Chad Sekuris – Civil Engineering, BS  
Priya Shah – Psychology, BA; Nursing Accelerated, BS  
Monica Starck – Nutritional Sciences, BSDN; Life Sciences Communication, BS; Certificate in Pilates  
Alice Svetic – Dance, BFA  
Alexis Terry – Life Sciences Communication, BS; Certificate in Digital Studies  
Ninah Thao – Human Development & Family Studies, BS; Certificate in Asian American Studies  
Jada Thompson – French, BA  
Rashad Lavigae Tiam Watt – Landscape Architecture, BLA; Certificate in Environmental Studies  
Esmeralda Tovar – Mathematics, BS; Certificate in Environmental Studies  
Cathy Tran – Human Development & Family Studies, BS; Certificate in Gender & Women’s Studies  
Michael Tran – Retail & Consumer Behavior, BS; Certificate in Game Design  
Cynthia Ubah – International Studies, BA; Certificates in Politics & Policy Global Economics, East Asian Studies  
Michelle Ubah – Human Development & Family Studies; Psychology, BS; Certificate in Entrepreneurship  
Sasha Van Allen – Journalism; Communication Arts, BA  
Griffin Vande Zande – Economics, BS  
Chatay Vang – Nursing, BSN; Certificate in Global Health  
Mai Nhia Vang – Nursing, BSN  
Nhia Vang – Personal Finance, BS; Certificate in Computer Sciences  
Theresa Vang – Human Development & Family Studies, BS; Certificates in Education & Educational Services and Global Health  
Alondra Vazquez Rodriguez – Management & Human Resources, BBA; Certificate in Chicanx & Latinx Studies  
Kendra Wagner – Retail & Consumer Behavior, BS  
Sakirra Weaver – Human Development & Family Studies, BS  
Geordon Wollner – Retail & Consumer Behavior, BS; Certificates in Entrepreneurship, Studio Art  
Happy Xiong – Biology, BS; Certificate in Global Health  
Mimsee Xiong – Rehabilitation Psychology, BS; Certificate in Global Health  
Pashoua Yang – Retail & Consumer Behavior, BS; Certificate in Entrepreneurship  
ZouaPang Yang – Human Development & Family Studies, BS; Certificate in Asian American Studies  
Sisley Yun – Communication Arts, BA; Certificate in East Asian Studies  
Jazmin Zamorano – Education Studies, BS; Certificate in Chicanx & Latinx Studies



**Chancellor's and Powers-Knapp  
Scholarship Programs**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

## Chancellor's Scholarship (CS)

The mission of the Chancellor's Scholarship is to attract academically talented and outstanding students from underrepresented groups and socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds to the university, and to further develop their abilities, skills and potential.

The Chancellor's Scholarship was established to create a community of scholars who would strive for excellence in scholarship, leadership, as well as civic and service engagements.



**Mercile J. Lee Scholars Program**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

The Mercile J. Lee Scholars Program administers two of the university's longest-running and most highly regarded scholarship programs: The Chancellor's Scholarship (est. 1984) and the Powers-Knapp Scholarship (est. 1989). The program is a four-year merit-based undergraduate scholarship program that was established to attract and develop the potential of academically talented and outstanding individuals from historically underrepresented groups.

**CONNECT WITH MERCILE  
J. LEE SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

Web: [cspks.wisc.edu](http://cspks.wisc.edu)  
Facebook: @mjlscholars  
Instagram: @mjlscholarsprogram  
Twitter: @mjlscholars



## CONGRATS 2020 CS GRADS

### Spring 2020 Graduating Chancellor's Scholars

Marie Aguirre – Mathematics Applications, BS; Certificate in Business  
Daniel Bolivar – Civil Engineering, BS  
Christian Bonner – Music Education, BM  
Mikayla Buford – Computer Sciences, BS  
Carter Calderon – Business Accounting, BBA  
Erica Calvache – Industrial Engineering, BS; Certificate in Technical Communication  
Cecilia Cardenas – Neurobiology, BS; Certificate in Chicano and Latino Studies  
Malik Cohen – Psychology BS  
Marian Coughlin – Nutrition & Dietetics, BS  
Cristina Diaz – Biology, BS  
Dali Durazo – Marketing, BBA  
Mae Edwards – History, BA; Political Science, BA; Certificate in African Studies  
Kenneth Fiala – Biochemistry, BS  
Mario Fregoso – Liberal Arts, BA; Legal Studies, BA; Certificates in Art History and Criminal Justice  
Aaron Gholston – Biochemistry, BS; Certificate in Entrepreneurship  
Joshua Hang – Neurobiology, BS; Certificate in Asian American Studies  
Annika Hendrickson – Honors in the Liberal Arts, BA; Psychology, BA  
Isabella Her – Psychology, BS  
Rachel Adalia Hernandez Abrego – Music Performance, BM  
Maria Hill – Biology, BS  
Sydney Hillert – Nutritional Sciences, BSDN; Certificate in American Indian Studies  
Johnson Hoang – Biochemistry, BS  
Linda Huynh – Psychology, BA  
Nathan Law – Chemical Engineering, BS; Spanish, BMAJ; Certificate in International Engineering  
TJ Lee – Sociology, BA  
Majestica Lor – Music Performance, BM; Certificates in Asian American Studies and Southeast Asian Studies  
Katherine Ly – Human Development & Family, BS  
Alyssa Mackinnon – International Business, BBA; Finance, Investment & Banking, BBA; Management & Human Resources, BBA  
Elijah Mapes – Accounting, MAC  
Maura McDonagh – Biomedical Engineering, BS; Communication Arts, BA  
Hailee Milton – Textiles & Fashion Design, BS  
Henry Mirsberger – Accounting, BBA  
Amanda Mix – Nursing, BSN; Neurobiology, BMAJ; Certificate in Global Health  
Cody Montez – Electrical Engineering, BS  
Isabel Monti – Art, BFA; Biochemistry, BMAJ  
Betty Nen – Southeast Asian Studies, BA; Political Science, BA  
Anthony Nguyen – International Studies, BA; Political Science, BA; Certificate in Southeast Asian Studies  
Jenna Novak – Chemical Engineering, BS  
Alyssa Patti – Biology, BS; Psychology, BS; Spanish, BS  
Susana Perez – Legal Studies, BA; Sociology, BA; Certificate in Criminal Justice  
Shawn Peters – Computer Sciences, BA; Certificate in French  
Alec Pham – Finance, Investment & Banking, BBA; Risk Management & Insurance, BBA  
Gabriella Pincon – Communication Arts, BS; Neurobiology, BS  
Collin Rhoten – Retail & Consumer Behavior, BS  
Jonathan Rickert – Real Estate & Urban Land Economics, BBA  
Camille Robert – Community & Nonprofit Leadership, BS; Certificate in Educational Policy  
Madeline Rodriguez – Nursing, BSN  
Rita Roloff – Computer Sciences, BS; Certificate in Entrepreneurship  
Joie Ross – Economics, BA  
Rebecca Scheiber – Economics, BS  
Xavier Schultze – Biology BS; Philosophy, BS  
Zachary Servais – Dairy Science, BS  
Ashley Stuckwisch – Economics, BS; Molecular Biology, BS  
Ariana Thao – Political Science, BA; Sociology, BA; Certificate in Asian American Studies  
Francesca Van – Biology, BS; Spanish, BS  
Benita Vang – Communication Arts, BA; Certificate in Entrepreneurship  
Sam Wheeler – Computer Sciences, BS  
Yenchen Xiong – Textiles & Fashion Design, BS  
Chue Yang – Sociology, BA; Certificate in Asian American Studies  
Pachia Yang – International Studies, BA; Political Science, BA; Certificates in East Asian Studies & Public Policy  
Vanessa Zepeda – Communication Sciences & Disorders, BA; Certificate in Global Health





## Internship Program

The Division of Diversity, Equity & Educational Achievement (DDEEA) Internship Program provides high-impact employment opportunities for students to develop marketable work experience.

Interns grow personally and professionally as leaders in diversity and inclusion in a workplace that empowers students to realize their potential and express their identities.

Using a cohort model, interns commit to a year-long paid internship, working throughout the division in areas such as: research, communications, data management, external relations, finance, administration, event coordination, the PEOPLE program, and the Mercile J. Lee Scholarship Program.

### **CONGRATS 2020 GRADS** Spring 2020 Graduating Interns

Cindy Abrajan – Sociology, BA; Certificate in Chicana & Latinx Studies

Nathaniel Haack – Master of Public Affairs

Rachel Vang – Human Development & Family Studies, BS; Psychology, BS; Certificate in Global Health

Payton Wade – Journalism & Mass Communications, BA

Pachia Yang – Political Science, BA; International Studies, BA; Certificates in East Asian Studies and Public Policy

Allysa Loo Zainai – Economics, BA; Certificate in Business







## First Wave Hip Hop and Urban Arts Learning Community

First Wave is a highly selective full-tuition, four-year scholarship program for talented incoming UW-Madison students who earn a college degree while developing their performance and arts skills. Using their craft as part of a high-level artistic community alongside faculty, staff, and nationally renowned spoken word and hip-hop and urban arts experts, First Wave scholars pursue their academic and career goals by studying fields that merge their artistic interests with professional development.

The first program of its kind in the nation when it launched in 2007, First Wave operates under the Office of Multicultural Arts Initiatives (OMA), which provides culturally relevant and transformative arts programming and professional development to promote positive social dialogue and to give cultural art forms a legitimate academic forum.

### CONNECT WITH FIRST WAVE

Web: [oma.wisc.edu](http://oma.wisc.edu)  
Facebook: @omaifirstwave  
Instagram: @omaifirstwave  
Twitter: @omaifirstwave

## CONGRATS 2020 FIRST WAVE GRADS Spring 2020 Graduating First Wave Scholars

- Hajjar Baban – English Creative Writing, BA; Certificate in African Studies
- McKinley Clemons – Retail & Consumer Behavior, BS
- Selin Gök – Psychology, BA; Honors in the Major; Certificates in Global Health
- Ivy Ip – Retail & Consumer Behavior, BS; Certificate in Entrepreneurship
- Alberto Kanost – Life Sciences Communication, BS; Certificate in Environmental Studies
- Jasmine Kiah – Theatre & Drama, BS
- Synovia Knox – Art, BS; Certificate in Afro-American Studies
- Shasparay Lightteard – Theatre & Drama, BS
- Devin McDonald – History, BA
- Kynala Phillips – Journalism, JBA; Certificate in Afro-American Studies
- Eneale Pickett – Elementary Education, BSE
- Solomon Roller – English Creative Writing, BA; Certificate in Afro-American Studies
- Nesha Ruther – English Creative Writing, BA; Jewish Studies, BA; Certificate in Gender & Women's Studies
- Penda Smith – Neurobiology, BS
- Gabriel Stacey – Business Marketing, BBA
- Francisco Velazquez-Turcios – Anthropology, BMAJ; Journalism, JBA; Certificate in Chicanx & Latinx Studies
- Mariya Vodyanyk – Neurobiology, BS; Art Studio Certificate
- Dequadray White – Art, BS; Certificate in Afro-American Studies





PEOPLE

Precollege Enrichment Opportunity  
Program for Learning Excellence  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

## PEOPLE Program

The Precollege Enrichment Opportunity Program for Learning Excellence (PEOPLE) provides academic enrichment support services to students beginning in high school to help them prepare for, be admitted to and succeed in college. The program has two separate units: a college-prep program for high school students in Madison and Milwaukee, known as the Precollege Scholars program; and a scholarship and support program for precollege scholars who go on to attend UW-Madison as undergraduate students, known as the College Scholars program. PEOPLE began with 66 high schoolers in Milwaukee in 1999. Today, PEOPLE has more than 1,000 students and is one of UW-Madison's most successful ventures for creating opportunity for Wisconsin youth who come from underrepresented groups, are socioeconomically disadvantaged or will be the first in their family to graduate from college.

The PEOPLE college program offers continuing support through a university-based community of scholars who share core values and goals. The program helps students to achieve academic success by supporting them in navigating college, through advising and tutoring, to ensuring scholars have college experiences that enrich their lives intellectually, socially, personally and professionally. PEOPLE college scholars also are empowered to become part of the larger campus and community, pursuing global leadership skills.

## CONGRATS 2020 PEOPLE GRADS Spring 2020 Graduating PEOPLE Scholars

Cindy Abraján – Sociology, BA; Certificate in Chicana & Latinx Studies  
 Fuad Ahmed – Electrical Engineering, BS  
 Bevan Alomepe – Art, BS  
 Brandon Alvarez-Carrera – Nuclear Engineering, BS, Certificate in Mathematics  
 Clarissa Aranda – Legal Studies, BA; Certificate in Criminal Justice  
 Daniela Camille Arevalo – Social Work, BSW; Certificate in Chicana & Latinx Studies  
 Jacob Bender – Nursing, BSN  
 Knisha M. Boswell – Zoology, BA; Certification in Afro-American Studies  
 Patricia Castillo Venegas – Biology, BS  
 Deja Cooper – Athletic Training, BS  
 Jacquelyn De Guire – Biology, BS  
 Alonso Rafael Del Rio – Computer Sciences, BS; Certificates in Digital Studies and Game Design  
 Ashley Marie Doebereiner – History, BA; Legal Studies, BA; Certificate in Criminal Justice and Environmental Studies  
 Esther Eruchalu – Biology, BS; Certificate in African Studies  
 Sirena Alicia Flores – Political Science, BA; Sociology, BA; Certificate in African Studies  
 Aaliyah Lynn Ford – Legal Studies, BA; Social Work, BA; Certificate in Criminal Justice  
 Skyler Andrew Franke – English, BA; Creative Writing, BA; Certificate in Creative Writing  
 Kenedy Freeman – Communication Arts, BA; Communication Science & Rhetorical Studies, BA  
 Kanasha Freiberg – Special Education, BS; Mid Child-Early Adolescence/Elementary Education, BS  
 Joseph Shun Gardner, Jr. – Communication Arts, BA; Radio-Television-Film, BA; Certificate in Entrepreneurship  
 Selin Gök – Psychology, BA; Honors in the Major, BA; Certificate in Global Health  
 Sofia Alexandra Gonzalez – Social Welfare, BA  
 Joshua Luke Graham – Geography, BA; Certificate in Environmental Studies  
 Karen Huerta – Biochemistry, BS; Certificate in Chicana & Latinx Studies  
 Isaac Johnson Izard – Communication Arts, BA; Radio-Television-Film, BA; Certificate in Digital Cinema Production  
 Rubiarbriana Enjoli Jamison – Psychology, BA  
 Sebastian Eduardo Kelnhofer-Maldonado – Political Science, BA  
 Illissa Jasmine Lancaster – Biochemistry, BS  
 Lena Lee – Psychology, BA; Certificate in Asian American Studies  
 Tammy Lee – Human Development & Family, BS; Certificate in Global Health  
 Franco Llamas – Chemistry, BS; Japanese, BS  
 Marissa Aviance Long – Legal Studies, BA; Psychology, BA; Certificate in Criminal Justice  
 Cierra Janae McCoy – Nursing, BS  
 Mariah Sue Mell – Political Studies, BA; Certificates in Afro-American Studies & Business  
 Maritza Mendoza Ramirez – Social Welfare, BA  
 Katelyn Damer Metcalfe – Communication Arts, BA; Radio-Television-Film, BA; Certificate in Jewish Studies  
 Hailee Alea Milton – Textiles & Fashion Design, BS  
 Mkedemkokwe Autumn Montgomery-Elm – Legal Studies, BA; Certificate in Criminal Justice  
 Robin Waithira Mwai – Rehabilitation Psychology, BS; Certificate in Global Health  
 Chloe Isis Nickel – International Studies, BA; Psychology, BA; Certificate in French  
 Erica Oberlander – Life Sciences Communication, BS  
 Reeken Raj Patel – Biochemistry, BS  
 Raul Emanuel Pelayo, Jr. – Japanese, BS  
 Hannah Marie Pendergast – Communication Arts, BA; Radio-Television-Film, BA; Certificate in Digital Cinema Production  
 Samad Fahim Qawi – Kinesiology, BS  
 Morgan Elizabeth Reardon – English, BA; Certificate in American Indian Studies  
 Pallav Regmi – Computer Sciences, BA  
 Antoria Robbins – Social Work, BA  
 Mario Rocha – Life Sciences Communication, BS  
 James Macario Ryan – Kinesiology, BS  
 Jacquari Marquis Scott-Donson – Mathematics, BA; Philosophy, BA  
 Syed Shah – Rehabilitation Psychology, BS; Certificate in Criminal Justice  
 Teresa Shaw – Neurobiology, BS  
 Mahad Abirahman Siad – Zoology, BA  
 Roodabeh Soltani – Psychology, BS

## CONNECT WITH PEOPLE

Web: [peopleprogram.wisc.edu](http://peopleprogram.wisc.edu)  
 Facebook: @uwpeople  
 Instagram: @uwpeople  
 Twitter: @uwpeople



- Desiray Stehofsky – Psychology, BS; Human Development & Family Studies, BS; Certificate in Chicana & Latinx Studies
- Patrice Bumah Tandifor – Mathematics, BS
- Damon Terrell – Community & Nonprofit Leadership, BS
- Kelly Thao – Economics, BS; Certificate in Entrepreneurship
- Pa Nou Chi Thao – Nursing, BS; Certificates in Global Health and Southeast Asian Studies
- Davonte Thomas – Life Sciences Communication, BS
- Trea Vance – Legal Studies, BA; Political Science, BA; Certificate in Afro-American Studies
- Houa Vang – Human Development & Family, BS; Certificate in Southeast Asian Studies
- Jany Vang – Textiles and Fashion Design, BS
- Nalee Sayaovong Vang – Social Welfare, BA; Certificate in Asian American Studies
- Rachel Vang – Psychology, BS; Human Development & Family Studies, BS; Certificate in Global Health
- Alexander Williams – Horticulture, BS
- Kongmeng Xiong – Agronomy, BS
- Maichoua Wendy Xiong – Health Promotion & Health Equity, BS
- Pachia Xiong – Neurobiology, BS; Certificate in Asian American Studies
- Patong Xiong – Community & Nonprofit Leadership, BS
- Pheechai Xiong – Communication Arts, BA; Certificate in Digital Studies
- Sai Xiong – Psychology, BA
- Elizabeth N Yang – Communication Science & Disorders, BA
- Ka Yang – Social Work, BS; Certificate in Global Health
- Sodie Yang – Social Work, BSW



## Posse Program

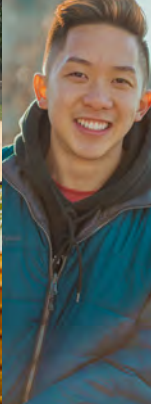
The UW-Madison Posse program - part of the national nonprofit Posse Foundation - identifies public high school students with extraordinary academic and leadership potential who may be overlooked by traditional college selection processes. Posse extends to these students the opportunity to pursue personal and academic excellence by placing them in supportive, diverse teams - posses - of 10 students. The program awards scholars four-year, full-tuition leadership scholarships. UW-Madison was the first public institution to join the Posse Foundation in 2002, and UW's Posse Program is now the largest multicity Posse partner program in the United States.

## **CONGRATS 2020 POSSE GRADS** Spring 2020 Graduating Posse Scholars

Cesar Aguilar – Civil Engineering, BS  
 Henry Benchimol – Animal Sciences, BS  
 Rishard Bournes – Personal Finance, BS  
 Jasmine Brandon – Education Studies, BS; Certificates Chicana & Latina Studies  
 Andrew Briceno – Political Science, Sociology and Gender & Women's Studies, BA; Certificates in Chicana, Latina, African, Afro-American & LGBTQ+ Studies  
 Taylor Bye – Psychology, BS; Certificates in Criminal Justice  
 Natalia Caldas – Political Science, BA; Certificates Gender & Women's Studies  
 Martin Calderon – Environmental Sciences, BS; Certificate in Environmental Studies  
 Zawadi Carroll – Art History, BA; Certificates in Afro-American Studies and Gender & Women's Studies  
 Juan Catano – Economics, BS; Certificate in Entrepreneurship  
 Nia Cayenne – Biochemistry, BS; Certificates in Afro-American Studies & Global Health  
 Aduago Chukwu – Agricultural Business Management, BS; Certificates in Digital Studies and Entrepreneurship  
 Shiloah Coley – Journalism & Mass Communications, BA; Certificates in Afro-American Studies and Studio Art  
 Kevin Crosby – Nutritional Sciences, BS; Certificate in Environmental Studies  
 Karina Culqui – Civil Engineering, BS  
 Yeline Del Carmen – Environmental Sciences BS; Certificates in Environmental Studies and International Studies  
 Devonte Foley – Biological Systems Engineering, BS  
 Darrell Foster – Biology, BS  
 Austin Gladden – Education Studies, BS; Certificate in Environmental Studies  
 Manuel Gomez – Computer Sciences BS  
 Gammon Gresham – Communication Sciences & Disorders BA  
 Enrique Guzman – Electrical Engineering, BS; Certificate in Biology in Engineering  
 Kenneth Jackson – Biology, BS  
 Tiffany Lam – Biology, BS  
 Debbie Machuca – Dairy Science, BS  
 Morgan Moore – Rehabilitation Psychology, BS; Certificate in Afro-American Studies  
 Michelle Navarro – Journalism & Mass Communications, BA; Certificates in Chicana & Latina Studies & Digital Studies  
 Sarah Neufcourt – Biological Systems Engineering, BS  
 Mitchell Nguyen – Kinesiology, BS  
 Hong Nhan – Nursing, BSN  
 Grace Padgett – Biology, BS; Certificate in Global Health  
 Cole Randolph – Music BS; Economics, BS; Certificate in Mathematics  
 Roberto Romero – Biomedical Engineering, BS  
 Maya Smithson – Marketing, BBA; Certificate in LGBTQ+ Studies  
 Mfonobong Ufot – Agricultural & Applied Economics, BS; International Studies, BA; Certificate Gender & Women's Studies

### CONNECT WITH POSSE

Web: [posseprogram.wisc.edu](http://posseprogram.wisc.edu)  
 Facebook: @uwposse  
 Instagram: @uwposse  
 Twitter: @uwposse





**Chancellor's and Powers-Knapp  
Scholarship Programs**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

***Powers-Knapp  
Scholarship (PKS)***


The PKS is to attract academically talented and outstanding students from underrepresented groups and socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds to the university, and to further develop their abilities, skills and potential.

The vision of PKS is to increase the number of academically outstanding under-represented minority and socio-economically disadvantaged students who would thrive on campus as scholars and become some of the key leaders and stewards of the University.



**Mercile J. Lee Scholars Program**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

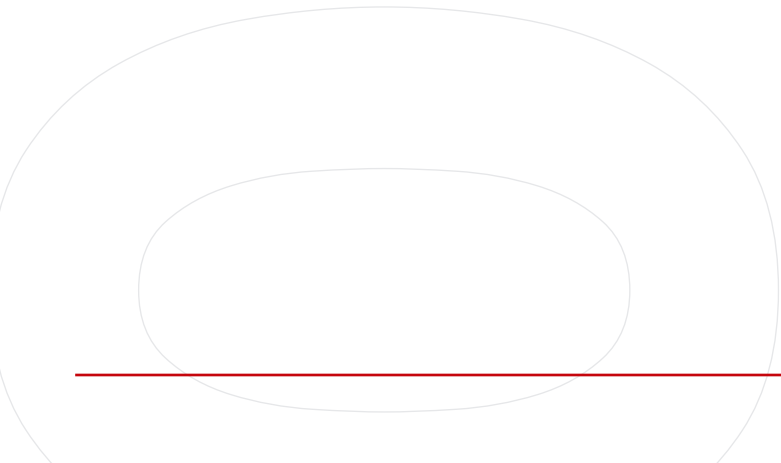
The Mercile J. Lee Scholars Program administers two of the university's longest-running and most highly regarded scholarship programs: The Chancellor's Scholarship (est. 1984) and the Powers-Knapp Scholarship (est. 1989). The program is a four-year merit-based undergraduate scholarship program that was established to attract and develop the potential of academically talented and outstanding individuals from historically underrepresented groups.

 **CONGRATS 2020 PKS GRADS**  
Spring 2020 Graduating PK Scholars

- Daniel Alborta – Mechanical Engineering, BS
- Olivia Aviles – Zoology, BS; Conservation Biology, BS; Certificates in Environmental Studies, Biocore Curriculum Honors, & Leadership
- Jaylin Carlson – Retailing & Consumer Behavior, BS
- Natasha Cheroni – Afro American Studies, BS; Certificate in Gender & Women's Studies
- Marina Coughlin – Nutrition and Dietetics, BS
- Isaiah De Los Santos – Journalism, BA
- Christian Tchokouaga Eken – Biology, BS; Agriculture & Applied Economics, BS
- Vanessa Fletes-Fregoso – Biology, BS; Certificate in Chicanx & Latinx Studies
- David Garcia – Japanese BA; Jazz Trumpet Performance, BA; Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language
- Gabriella Geiger – Genetics & Genomics, BS; Certificate in Global Health
- Olivia Gonzalez – Nursing, BS; Certificates in Gerontology and Global health
- Samantha Groh – Food Science, BS
- Carmyn Hayes – Psychology, BS; Certificate in African American Studies
- Annika Hendrickson – Psychology, BA; Certificate in Art History
- Melissa Her – Nursing, BSN; Certificate in Global Health
- Alyson Hernandez – Neurobiology, BS; Certificate in Health & Humanities
- Emma Hicks – Social Work, BA; Certificates in African American Studies and Gender & Women Studies
- Ashley Higgins – Political Science, BA
- Arielle Mora Hurtado – Neurobiology, BS; Certificates in Chicanx, Latinx, Gender & Women Studies
- Ahmed Ibrahim – Neurobiology, BS; Psychology, BS; Certificates in African American Studies
- Kimberly Inthavong – Computer Science, BA; Certificate in Game Design
- Gavin Keogh – Rehabilitation Psychology, BS
- Mari Nicole Kielczewski – Pharmacology & Toxicology, BS; Certificates in Global Health and Environmental Studies
- Visith Kour – Biology, BS; Certificate in Asian American Studies
- Haley Kragness – Animal Science, BS; Certificate in Agricultural Business Management
- Jacob Larson – Engineering Mechanics, BS; Certificate in Engineering Thermal Energy Systems
- Kyle Le – Community & Environmental Sociology, BS
- Alondra Lechuga – Political Science, BA; International Studies, BA; Latin American, Caribbean & Iberian Studies, BA; Certificate in European Studies
- Ryan Martinez – Computer Engineering, BS
- Vanessa Meneses – Psychology, BS; Neurobiology, BS; Certificate in Leadership
- Eloisa Negrete Garcia – Psychology, BA; Certificate in Chicanx & Latinx Studies
- Benjamin Nguyen – Psychology, BS; Asian Languages and Cultures, BS
- Justyn Nguyen – Biochemistry, BS; Certificate in Asian American Studies
- Sacha Nunn – Real Estate & Urban Economics, BBA; Finance, Investment & Banking BBA
- Kaitlynn Roling – Gender & Women's Studies, BA; Political Science, BA; Certificates in African-American Studies & African Studies
- Adriana Salse – Biology, BS; Certificate in Environmental Studies
- Antonio Sanchez – Economics, BS; Certificate in Entrepreneurship
- Jeremy Sanford – Environmental Studies, BA; Conservation Biology, BA
- Quinn Solis – Industrial Engineering, BS
- Jaden Storbeck – Psychology, BS; Social Welfare, BS; German, BS
- Sierrena Taylor-Seals – English, BA; Certificate in Educational Policy Studies
- Sakina Toure – Finance, Investments & Banking, BBA
- Scout Umnus – Elementary Education, BSE
- Benita Vang – Communication Arts, BA
- Diego Vega Rivera – Life Sciences Communication, BS; Certificate in Digital Studies
- Cindy Xiong – Personal Finance, BS
- Alexander Zarate – Spanish, BA

**CONNECT WITH MERCILE J. LEE  
SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

Web: [cspks.wisc.edu](http://cspks.wisc.edu)  
Facebook: @mjlscholars  
Instagram: @mjlscholarsprogram  
Twitter: @mjlscholars





## *Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program*

The Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program creates a bridge to graduate education for undergraduate students. Funded by the federal TRIO program, the McNair Scholars Program helps prepare eligible undergraduate students acquire the knowledge, skills and capacities necessary to successfully navigate the rigors of doctoral studies through immersion in research and other scholarly activities.

The program serves students from disadvantaged backgrounds who have demonstrated strong academic potential, placing them in a community of peers and then tracking their progress through to the successful completion of advanced degrees. The federal program is named in honor of one of NASA's first African American astronauts, laser physics expert Ronald McNair, who was killed in the Challenger explosion in 1986. UW-Madison joined the national program in 1995. Administration of the McNair Scholars Program moved to the DDEEA in 2018-19 following years of successful operation as part of the Graduate School. The project will serve 28 high-achieving eligible undergraduate students each year.

### **CONGRATS 2020 MCNAIR GRADS** Spring 2020 Graduating McNair Scholars

Brandon Alvarez-Carrera – Nuclear Engineering, BS

Mikayla Buford – Computer Sciences, BS

Nia Cayenne – Biochemistry BS; Certificates in Afro-American Studies & Global Health

Shiloah Coley – Journalism, BA; Honors in the Liberal Arts, JBA

Morgan Moore – Rehabilitation Psychology, BS

Michelle Navarro – Journalism, BA; Certificates in Chicana & Latinx Studies & Digital Studies

Carlos Ortega – Psychology, BA; Certificate in Chicana & Latinx Studies

Penda Smith – Neurobiology BS; Certificate in Afro-American Studies

Michelle Ubah – Human Development & Family, BS; Psychology, BMAJ; Certificates in Entrepreneurship & Global Health

Rocio Velasquez – Communication Sciences & Disorders, BS; Certificate in Education & Educational Services

Megan Xiong – Psychology, BS; Neurobiology BS

### **CONNECT WITH MCNAIR**

Web: [mcnair.wisc.edu](http://mcnair.wisc.edu)  
Facebook: @uwmadisonmcnair  
Instagram: @uwmadisonmcnair  
Twitter: @uwmadisonmcnair





# Best Wishes

Congratulations 2020 Graduates! In 1895, when W.E.B. Dubois became the first African-American to earn a doctorate at Harvard, he reportedly said, "The honor, I assure you, was Harvard's." In that same vein I say to you, the Honor, I assure you has been ours at UW-Madison, to have you here as students and now to count you amongst our alumni. May your dreams be limitless and may you always pursue your passions. Explore (new possibilities), Pursue (new endeavors), Believe (always, in yourself). On Wisconsin!

*Sherri Ann Charleston, J.D., Ph.D.*

**Assistant Vice Provost & Chief Affirmative Action Office, DDEEA**

Congratulations to the Class of 2020! You are a talented, intelligent, and resilient group of individuals destined to make a positive impact in the world. Go boldly and confidently into your future, knowing that you met and often exceeded your goals at UW-Madison. I hope to see you at the graduation and future Badger Alumni events.

\*Special shout out to my PEOPLE, McNair, CeO, and ACTS Scholars! On Wisconsin!

*Cheryl B. Gittens, Ed.D.*

**Assistant Vice Provost, DDEEA**

I have had the pleasure to work with Rachel Vang as the Bascom Administrative Support. I have enjoyed her optimistic/charismatic attitude. I absolutely loved working with Rachel and while I am tremendously sad to see her leave, I am also so incredibly happy to see her achieve all her dreams! Congratulations Rachel!!!!

*Erica Neal*

**Office Manager, DDEEA**

Payton, I want your autograph before you go! As I've share before, I envision you making a major impact in our world as an alumna. I admire your demonstrated leadership through servitude, fortitude, and perseverance. Congratulations, I am so proud of you!

*Tracy Williams-Maclin*

**Sr. Director External Relations, Partnerships, and Development**

It has been a privilege to work with such talented and bright Scholars! I have nothing but admiration as you take on the next chapter of your life journey. You have shown me your: Willpower to succeed, hunger to learn, willingness to serve others, and lead others with authenticity and compassion. You embody these characteristics and you are ready to take on that next challenge whether it's off to start your first career, graduate school, or volunteer service project. You will excel in whatever you decide to take on. I wish you all the very best. Congratulations to Class of 2020! The future is YOURS!

*Samantha Samreth, Ph.D.*

**Assistant Director, Mercile J. Lee Scholars Program**

Dear Graduating Interns,  
Congratulations on your graduation! I am proud of you for all the hard work you put into reaching this point.  
Congratulations again and best wishes for your next adventure!  
Best regards,

*Timothy Yip*

**Internship Program Mgr.**

Congratulations Graduates! Everyone wants success but it only follows those who take the opportunity. You know your hard work and dedication has a destination, success. Best of luck to your future endeavors. Don't stop.

*Goodson Vue*

**Assistant Director, PEOPLE College**

Dear Graduating Class of First Wave,  
There is so much to say about each of your individual voices, creativity, perseverance, and brilliance that cannot be captured on the page. We are incredibly proud of what you have already accomplished during your time here at UW-Madison, and we cannot wait to witness all of what you are about to do next. Congratulations!

*Sofia Snow*

**Director, Office of Multicultural Arts Initiatives / First Wave Hip Hop & Urban Arts Learning Community**

Congratulations to all DDEEA graduates! The Physics Learning Center staff is grateful to the DDEEA students who have been part of our community as participants and Peer Mentor Tutors. We appreciate your contributions to creating a supportive learning environment and are inspired by your efforts, accomplishments and aspirations. It has been a pleasure and privilege to work with each of you. We thank our graduating Physics Peer Mentor Tutors who include DDEEA students Kevin Crosby, Kayla Hang, and Cecilia Cardenas. We will miss you and look forward to keeping in touch with you. Congrats again!

*Susan Nossal*

**on behalf of the Physics Learning Center staff**

Dear Graduates,

Oh how I wish we could be in Shannon Hall for our recognition ceremony. All of you are tremendous scholars and your futures are bright. Please make sure you celebrate this milestone with those you love and know how very proud of you we are!

My best to you and yours,

*Mary Carr Lee, MPA*

**Communications Director, DDEEA**

Thank you all for your amazing impact on the UW campus these past four years. In just a year, I have been so impressed with your leadership, your character, and your passion to move this crazy world of ours forward. Congratulations on your graduation! Do great things, and remember, when in doubt on what to choose, always choose kindness. Once a Scholar, always a Scholar!

*Ryan Bouchard, Ed.D.*

**Student Services Coordinator, Mercile J. Lee Scholars**

Congratulations to the 2020 Graduates! Like Elsa (Frozen) you may feel like you're going into the Unknown with the current events in our world. Follow that soft still voice inside you and just do The Next Right Thing. Much love to all the grads and extra sauce to the PEOPLE Scholars.

*Gail Ford*

**Director, PEOPLE Program**

Congratulations Class of 2020! I am so proud of you for accomplishing this huge milestone. You are remarkable leaders, scholars, and brilliant humans. Please take time for yourself to reflect and celebrate your time at UW and all that you have accomplished! Best of luck in the future with all of your amazing endeavors. Posse Love and On Wisconsin!

*Emilie A. Hofacker*

**Director, Posse Program**

Center for Educational Opportunity (CeO) Class of 2020, you are magnificent! You have rolled with the COVID-19 restrictions and completed your requirements. This is what you do! You are resilient and you persist toward your goals even in the face of challenges. You will forever be part of the historic class of 2020 that survived the COVID-19 pandemic. I am so excited about your future. You can and will accomplish anything! Congratulations on all that you have accomplished and will accomplish in the years to come!

*Claudia Mosley*

**Director, Center for Educational Opportunity**

To the graduating class of the Mercile J. Lee Scholars program, as your advisor, it has been my distinct privilege to serve each one of you. Congratulations on this very important milestone. I couldn't be prouder of this class. May peace, love, mercy, and joy, along with the tenants of the Mercile J Lee Scholarship program, follow you all the days of your life.

*Catrina Sparkman, MA*

**Student Services Coordinator/Outreach Specialist, Mercile J. Lee Scholars Program**

It's your big day, Scholars. Congratulations! We want to thank each of you for the profound impact you've made on both the Mercile J. Lee Scholars program and the greater UW campus community. We wish you the best of luck on the next part of your journey!

*Maxwell T. Artis, M.Ed.*

**Student Services Coordinator, Mercile J. Lee Scholars Program**

Congratulations, Scholars, on achieving this milestone! We are so proud of each and every one of you and look forward to seeing your continued success in the future!

*Kao Yong/Nkauj Zoo Thao, M.A.*

**Student Services Coordinator, Mercile J. Lee Scholars Program**

*Staff*

DEEPA  
Congratulations  
Grad

Fb.me/uwdiversity  
Twitter: @uw\_diversity  
Instagram @uw\_diversity  
Email: events@cdo.wisc.edu

