



WORCESTER
STATE
UNIVERSITY

WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY

Academic Achievement Awards 2024





WORCESTER STATE FOUNDATION

INSPIRE GENEROSITY. TRANSFORM LIVES.

It is with sincere gratitude that we acknowledge the support of the Worcester State Foundation, Inc. and the generous supporters, including many of the **42,000 Worcester State alumni**, who have given more than **\$56 million** to the Foundation since its inception in 2001. Wise stewardship of those gifts has allowed the Foundation to directly support student needs and transfer more than **\$40.9 million** to Worcester State University over those **22 years** to assist our hard-working and high-achieving students, while at the same time allowing the endowment to continue to grow, reaching **\$50.7 million** on June 30, 2023.

The Worcester State Foundation is pleased and proud to honor and reward the highest-ranking students in each of the academic disciplines. We join with the families and friends of today's honorees in the celebration of their achievements.

Academic Achievement Awards



GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT MALONEY

Each year, faculty, staff, and donors come together to honor Worcester State's most accomplished students in what is known as the Academic Achievement Awards. Those who have been selected to receive awards, this year and every year, can be described as hard-working, motivated, and intelligent. To that list, I would add: rock star!

Students often tell us a faculty member – or several – was the most important factor in their success. Faculty at Worcester State are skilled at tapping into talents that students themselves do not necessarily see, bringing out their very best. Every one of our faculty members recognized by an academic achievement awardee represents many more who have done the same thing for other students. A special thanks to our outstanding and dedicated faculty.

Many awards carry a donor's name. We know that just one scholarship can make the difference between a student persisting toward graduation in four years or not. I deeply appreciate our alumni and friends who commit financial resources to our students.

To the students, faculty, and donors we celebrate today: you are the ones who make Worcester State great. And to our honorees: congratulations!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry M. Maloney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barry M. Maloney
President



The George I. Alden Excellence in Teaching Award

This award publicly acknowledges Worcester State University professors who have made a difference in students' lives through their teaching excellence.

Each year, Worcester State University asks students, alumni, and faculty to nominate full-time faculty members who have demonstrated excellence in teaching.

From those nominations, a committee composed of students, alumni, and faculty chooses one tenured faculty member and one pre-tenure faculty member to be honored with this award.



Dr. Anthony Dell'Aera
History and Political Science
Tenured



Dr. Laura Reynolds
Earth, Environment, and Physics
Pre-tenure

University Award Recipients

Negrón Cruz-Audet LGBTQ+ Academic Excellence Award..... Lily Morgan

This award, established by Dr. Sarah Strout, assistant vice president for Assessment and Planning, is named for Leopoldo Negrón Cruz, M.Ed. '16 and Gloria Audet. Leopoldo Negrón Cruz, a Worcester State University alumnus, has been an activist and educator for more than 30 years and served as a board member of various community groups including the Worcester Gay and Lesbian Latino Organization and the LGBTQ History Project Community Advisory Committee. Gloria Audet, a former Worcester State evening student, has been a pivotal member of the Worcester LGBTQ+ community for more than five decades, joining the Worcester Gay Union in the 1970s and marching in the city's first Pride parade in 1975. This award is given to a student who identifies as LGBTQ+ who has an excellent academic record.

Ella M. Whitney Award..... Aspen Zheng

This award, named for Ella M. Whitney, an 1891 graduate of Worcester State University (then known as the Worcester Normal School), recognizes the qualities Ms. Whitney exemplified as a student and alumna, including scholarship, social aptitude, personality, leadership, executive ability, growth, loyalty, integrity, and, above all else, participation in school activities.

Ellen J. Meyers, M.Ed. '88 Memorial Academic Merit Award.....Brooke Dion

This award, established in memory of beloved Worcester State University alumna Ellen J. Meyers, M.Ed. '88, by her husband, David Meyers '76, is given to an undergraduate student achiever with disabilities who has also been actively engaged on campus or in their community.

John F. Eager Continuing Education Excellence Award..... Ryan Newfell

This award, in memory of John F. Eager, the late Worcester State University biology professor and former director of the Division of Graduate and Continuing Education, is given to the undergraduate evening program senior who has the highest overall GPA.

Worcester State Foundation Awards Criteria

These awards are given by Worcester State University with financial support from the Worcester State Foundation to the senior with the top academic performance in each area.

Academic Achievement Award Recipients



SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Business Administration and Economics

Bollus Lynch Accounting Award..... *Jason Nguyen*

This award, sponsored by Bollus Lynch as a way to continue its commitment to community-based support in the Worcester area, is given to the highest-ranking senior majoring in business administration with a concentration in accounting.

Dr. William F. O'Brien Jr. '84 Economics Award..... *Jillian Fredricksen*

This award, named in honor of Dr. William F. O'Brien Jr. '84, a devoted Worcester State University alumnus and retired faculty member who received the Distinguished Alumni Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Education in 2016, is given to a senior majoring in economics who has achieved high academic standing and/or demonstrated a strong interest in applying economic theory internationally through academic coursework and/or study abroad experiences.

F. Stephen Trimby Economics Award..... *Anthony Paolucci*

This award, named in honor of Professor Stephen Trimby, a retired Worcester State University faculty member whose dedication to Worcester State and to the success of every student who crossed his path spanned decades, is given to a senior majoring in economics who has demonstrated exemplary work in economics, has shown outstanding potential for graduate studies and/or career success, and/or has demonstrated a commitment to use their economics education to advance the betterment of the community at large.

George and Sheila Tetler Award in Business Administration.....Anabelle Santiago

This award, named in honor of George and Sheila Tetler, is given to the senior with the top academic performance in business administration.

Raj-Mahendra Jain Business Administration Award.....Marie Costa

This award, established in 2016 by Dr. Renuka Jain, former Worcester State University chair of the Department of Business Administration and Economics, in honor of her parents, Raj and Mahendra Jain, is given to a female senior majoring in business administration, with at least 15 credits through the Division of Graduate and Continuing Education, and a GPA of at least 3.5.

Worcester State Foundation Award in Economics.....Siyi Zhang

Communication

Godfrin Family Communication AwardRyan Newfell

This award, established in 2021 by Lisa Godfrin '16, '21 and her family, is given to a senior majoring in communication who has shown exemplary leadership and dedication to the department while at Worcester State University.

Matthew Wright '10 Journalism AwardArmando Estevez

This award, established in 2021 by Worcester State University alumnus and photographer Matthew Wright '10, is given to the highest-ranking communication senior with first preference for a student concentrating in digital media.

Tarmey Family Endowed Communication AwardRiley Patenaude

This award, established in 2019 by Worcester State University alumna Marjorie Tarmey '63 and her family, is given to the highest-ranking senior majoring in communication.

Criminal Justice

Central Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association

Spirit of Service Award..... Imani Githae

This award recognizes a student of a diverse background who has good academic achievement, professionalism, and a record of community service, and exhibits superior potential and commitment to the field of criminal justice.

Kurt Correia '16 Criminal Justice Award..... Maximillian Cleveland

This award, established by Kurt Correia '16, an alumnus of the Criminal Justice program, is given to a senior majoring in criminal justice who plans on attending the police academy.

Vanessa Dunn Memorial Criminal Justice Award..... *Lily Morgan*
This award, in memory of Vanessa Anne Dunn, a Worcester State University student in the Criminal Justice program who lost her life in 2010, just months before she was scheduled to graduate, is given to the senior majoring in criminal justice with the highest overall GPA.

English

Worcester State Foundation Award in English*Brooke Young*

History and Political Science

Professor Cheng and Christina Yuan History Award*Micah Haynes*
This award, established in memory of former Worcester State University Professor of History Cheng Yuan and his wife, Christina, is given to the highest-ranking junior majoring in history.

Ronald R. Valerio '75 Award in History*Logan Morales*
This award, named in memory of the late Ron Valerio '75, a devoted alumnus, past member of the Board of Trustees, Alumni Association's Advisory Board, and Foundation Board, is given to the senior with the top academic performance in history.

Worcester State Foundation Award in Political Science*Joseph Gullekson*

Psychology

Beth Axelson '70 Psychology Award*Alix Barry*
This award, endowed by former Worcester State University Admissions Director Beth Axelson '70, who graduated from Worcester State University with a bachelor's degree in psychology, is given to the highest-ranking senior majoring in psychology.

Sociology

Faith T. Zeadey Memorial Sociology Award.....*Abigail Holden*
This award, in memory of the late Faith T. Zeadey, Worcester State University professor of sociology, social activist, and humanitarian, is given to the highest-ranking senior majoring in sociology.

Urban Studies

Dr. Vincent E. “Jake” Powers Urban Studies Award..... *Skylar Adcock*

This award, in memory of Dr. Vincent “Jake” Powers, a highly respected urban historian and founder of the Worcester State University Urban Studies Department, is given to an undergraduate urban studies student who is an innovative, original thinker, whose time in the department has emboldened him or her to pursue personal and professional opportunities not previously considered and to achieve them with determination, grit, and courage.

Maureen Power Service Award *Lamar Brown-Noguera*

This award, established by Worcester State University Professor Emerita Maureen Power, helps make it possible for urban studies students to participate in service-related projects, including practica, internships, or volunteer opportunities. To be considered for the award, students present to an urban studies review committee a one-page proposal outlining their service plan and explaining why the service is significant to them and their academic/professional careers and how it advances the mission of the department.

Schwartz Charitable Foundation Urban Studies Award *Elizabeth Stone*

This award, in honor of Nathan Schwartz, founding donor of the Schwartz Charitable Foundation, who was a business visionary committed to supporting small businesses and community endeavors in Worcester County, is given to the highest-ranking undergraduate senior majoring in urban studies who best represents the mission of the Foundation.

Visual and Performing Arts

George and Sheila Tetler Award in Art *Libia Quintero-Goncalves*

This award, named in honor of George and Sheila Tetler, is given to the senior with the top academic performance in art.

Malcolm Gordon Memorial Visual and

Performing Arts Award..... *Thomas Delaporta*

This award, established by Worcester State University alumnus Alan Gordon '80 in memory of his father, Malcolm Gordon, former Worcester resident and nationally renowned magazine gag cartoonist, is given to the highest-ranking senior in visual and performing arts.



Mary Cosgrove Dolphin Art Award..... *Fiona Wilson*

This award, established to honor the late Worcester State University Professor Mary Cosgrove Dolphin, a dedicated art educator and artist who touched many Worcester State students during her service, is given to a studio art student who has demonstrated exceptional creative accomplishment in the visual arts.

Worcester State Foundation Award in Theater..... *Victoria Torres*

World Languages

Dr. Dorothy A. Escibano Spanish Award..... *Ashley Harvey*

This award, established by former Worcester State University Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Dorothy A. Escibano, is given to a full-time, non-traditional sophomore or junior majoring/minoring in Spanish with a minimum GPA of 2.7. The recipient must have demonstrated financial need and have participated in community and/or extracurricular activities and demonstrated outstanding academic improvement.

Worcester State Foundation Award in Spanish *Timothy Brackett*

Worcester State Foundation Award in Spanish Translation *José Hernández Jr.*

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND HEALTH

Biology

Dr. Anthony Thurston Biology Award *Sarah Doyle*

This award, established in 2017 by a generous gift from the George F. and Sybil H. Fuller Foundation in memory of former Worcester State University Biology Professor Dr. Anthony Thurston, is given to the highest-ranking senior majoring in biology.

Dr. Marlin B. Kreider Biology Award *Aspen Zheng*

This award, in memory of Dr. Marlin B. Kreider, a former Worcester State University Biology Professor, is given to a senior biology student who has shown a commitment to a career in biological research.

Dr. Maureen '80 and Edward Shamgochian Biology Award..... *Adam McCluskey*

This award, made possible by a gift from former Worcester State University Biology Professor Dr. Maureen Shamgochian '80 and her late husband, Edward, is given to a junior or senior biology or biotechnology major with a GPA of 3.5 or higher who is engaged in undergraduate research with plans to attend graduate or professional school upon completion of his or her Worcester State degree.

Biotechnology

Lincoln Donohue '98 Memorial Biotechnology Award..... *Anna Kate Kinnear*

This award, established by Kevin and Susan Donohue, the parents of Worcester State University alumnus Lincoln C. Donohue '98, who graduated with the highest honors in biotechnology and went on to work at Genzyme Corp. before his sudden passing at the age of 24 in 1999, is given to an outstanding student in the biotechnology program who shows promise, dedication, and academic success.

Worcester State Foundation Award in Biotechnology *Adam Helfenbein*

Chemistry

Dr. Maureen '80 and Edward Shamgochian Chemistry Award *Ynhi Nguyen*

This award, made possible by a gift from former Worcester State University Biology Professor Dr. Maureen Shamgochian '80 and her late husband, Edward, is given to a current sophomore, junior, or senior majoring in chemistry with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. The student must have engaged in scientific research and plan to continue his or her education in the sciences in professional or graduate school.

Worcester State Foundation Award in Chemistry *Hong Huynh*

Communication Sciences and Disorders

Honorable John J. Binienda Sr. Communication Sciences and Disorders Award.....*Jenna Winiker*

This award, honoring the late Massachusetts State Representative John J. Binienda Sr., a Worcester State University alumnus and educator who served in the Massachusetts State House for 28 years, is given to an undergraduate student who will be entering the Worcester State University graduate program in speech-language pathology and will focus on challenges facing children with hearing loss.

Worcester State Foundation Award in Communication Sciences and Disorders*Jordan Staples*

Worcester State University Chapter of the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association Award.....*Samantha Kelleher*

This award is given to an outstanding student majoring in communication sciences and disorders in recognition of the student's demonstrated record of leadership, ability, scholastic achievement, and service to the Worcester State University-NSSLHA Chapter.

Computer Science

Worcester State Foundation Award in Computer Science*Shamarah Ramirez*

Earth, Environment, and Physics

Worcester State Foundation Award in Environmental Science*Elizabeth Stone*

Worcester State Foundation Award in Geography.....*Timothy O'Leary*

Health Sciences

Worcester State Foundation Award in Health Education.....*Melanie Crepeau*

Worcester State Foundation Award in Public Health.....*Ellen Cook*

Mathematics

Dr. Richard Bisk Teaching Mathematics Award*Jack Houlihan*

This award, honoring Dr. Richard Bisk, former Worcester State University faculty member and chair of the Mathematics Department, is given to a junior or senior with at least a 3.6 GPA, who demonstrates outstanding achievement in mathematics, along with a commitment to teaching for understanding.

Worcester State Foundation Award in

Mathematics for Elementary Education *Jessica Smith*

Worcester State Foundation Award in Mathematics*Jimelca Suarez Florentino*

Nursing

Anne “Annie” Dolan ’13 Nursing Award for Compassion *Abigaile Pontzer*

This award, in memory of Anne “Annie” Dolan, M.S.N. ’13, who was a labor and delivery nurse who returned to Worcester State University to earn her master’s degree in nursing education shortly before her death in 2014, is given to a nursing student who has demonstrated an enthusiastic and compassionate bedside manner, and a passion to advance the art and science of nursing.

Dr. Jean and Michael Campaniello Nursing Award*Crystal Garcia*

This award, established in 2015 by Jean A. Campaniello, Worcester State University professor emerita and former chair of the Dr. Lillian R. Goodman Department of Nursing, is given to a graduate student in community health nursing with a minimum GPA of 3.25, who has completed at least two courses in the community/public health specialty track, and has demonstrated a leadership role in the community through community service activities that improve the quality of life for residents and achieve a greater understanding and appreciation for diversity through community activism.

Dr. Lillian R. Goodman Nursing Award.....*Brittany Gale*

This award, in honor of the late Dr. Lillian R. Goodman, founder of the Dr. Lillian R. Goodman Department of Nursing at Worcester State University and pioneer in the field of nursing education, is given to a registered nursing student who exemplifies leadership, caring, a strong commitment to professional nursing, and a vision for the future.

Dr. Paula L. Dufresne-Sullivan ’86 Humanitarian Nursing Award.....*Michael Dinh*

This award, established in 2019 by Worcester State University alumna Dr. Paula L. Dufresne-Sullivan ’86, is given to a senior in Nursing Track 1, 2, or 3 who has demonstrated special qualities of compassion, leadership, and a commitment to humanitarian service to all patients, especially those in disenfranchised populations.



Eileen Bolesky Award in Nursing..... *Katelyn Ferrante*

This award was established by Edward '67 and his late wife Eileen Bolesky. Now retired, Ed was a successful senior business executive, and Eileen was one of the first nurse practitioners in Worcester, later serving as a school nurse. This award is given to the highest-ranking senior majoring in nursing.

Fairlawn Rehabilitation Hospital Award for Nursing Clinical Excellence..... *Sommerlyn Jones*

This award is given to a senior who has demonstrated excellence in a nursing clinical setting and has an interest in orthopedics or rehabilitation medicine.

Robyn Leo Memorial Nursing Award..... *Leah Veloz*

This award, established in memory of Dr. Robyn C. Leo '82, former associate professor of nursing, is given to a senior nursing student who embodies leadership, collaboration, and empathic principles with a focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion. This student has successfully overcome barriers in pursuit of their career, adapts to challenges creatively, and strives for growth opportunities. The student chosen for this award has demonstrated a passion for nursing and a strong commitment to work with women and/or children as part of their future practice.

Occupational Therapy

I. Robert and Aviva Frelander Occupational Therapy Award..... *Alexis Stalford*

This award was established by the late I. Robert Frelander, charter member of the Worcester State Foundation Board and a 2002 recipient of an honorary degree from Worcester State University, and his wife, Aviva, a Worcester-area philanthropist. It is given to the highest-ranking senior majoring in occupational therapy.

EDUCATION, LIBERAL, AND INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Education

Class of 1952 Endowed Elementary Education Award *Juliana Kallio*

This award, in honor of the Worcester State University Class of 1952 and its many esteemed educators and devoted alumni, is given each year to the highest-ranking senior majoring in elementary education.

Donald Cousineau '57, M.Ed. '60 and Elaine (Curran) Cousineau '57, M.Ed. '60 Elementary Education Award *Kathryn Buckley*

This award, given in honor of Donald Cousineau '57, M.Ed. '60, and Elaine (Curran) Cousineau '57, M.Ed. '60, established with love by Miss Curran's first-grade student, dear friend, and fellow alumna Diane M. Aramony, to honor their dedication to the innumerable young students whose lives they have enriched, is granted to a senior majoring in elementary education with a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Dorothy J. Hargrove '63 Early Childhood Education Award *Rachel Echaniz*

This award, provided by dedicated alumna Dorothy Hargrove '63 to support students who are seeking careers teaching young children, is given to the highest-ranking senior majoring in early childhood education.

Douglas R. "Duke" Dawson Science Education Award *Jessica Smith*

This award is named in memory of Worcester State University Professor Douglas "Duke" Dawson, who was known for his use of everyday materials to teach science in ways that pre-service teachers could relate to and understand. This award is given to an early childhood or elementary pre-service major who demonstrates excellence in science teaching during student teaching and maintains a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Helen Shaughnessy Elementary Education Award *Sofia Clark*

This award, in memory of Professor Helen Shaughnessy, a highly esteemed teacher, faculty member, chair, and administrator at Worcester State University and the surrounding school district, is given to recognize a junior or senior elementary education student who demonstrates good academic achievement, professionalism, and outstanding potential in the field of elementary education.

Lillian C. and George H. Albro '65 Education Award *Christin Walcek*

This award, established by George '65 and Lillian (Brooks) '65 Albro, lifelong educators and benefactors of Worcester State University, is given to a junior or senior majoring in elementary education or minoring in middle or secondary education, with preference for students who graduated from Leicester High School, or are from Leicester, Mass.

Madelin A. Wilmarth Early Childhood Education Award..... *Riley Clark*

This award, in memory of Worcester State University Professor Madelin A. Wilmarth, a pioneer in the field of early childhood education, is given to the junior majoring in early childhood education with the highest GPA.

Ruth Cohen Blumsack Early Childhood Education Award..... *Sanaa Alsagban*

This award is given to a student majoring in early childhood education with a minimum GPA of 3.5. The recipient must show exceptional abilities in working with and teaching young children.

Worcester State Foundation Award in Education Studies *Elizabeth D'Acci*

Interdisciplinary Studies

**Helen Hirshberg Barron Award in Women’s, Gender,
and Sexuality Studies**.....

Christina Howland

This award, established by Andrea Barron to honor her mother Helen Hirshberg Barron, is given to a full-time first-generation student with a minor in women’s, gender, and sexuality studies with a minimum GPA of 3.0.

Robert H. Kyle Award for Excellence in Liberal Studies..... *Laura Orozco Segura*

This award, established by Worcester State University Associate Vice President and Dean of Graduate and Continuing Education Dr. Bobbi Kyle and her family, in memory of Robert H. Kyle, who embraced lifelong learning and interdisciplinary education, is given to the highest-ranking senior majoring in liberal studies.

*The Lt. Col. James F. Sheehan '55, USMC Ret.,
Academic Excellence Award Recipients*

First-Year Achievement Awards *Remy Mabboux
Nathaniel Sarette*

Sophomore Achievement Award..... *Cailey Ryan*

Junior Achievement Awards..... *Delaney DeNorscia
Andja Kola*

Senior Achievement Awards *Juliana Kallio
Alexander Lucier*



“One of the best ways to show appreciation for what we have received is to give other students the same opportunities we had.”

—Lt. Col. James F. Sheehan '55,
USMC Ret.

The Lt. Col. James F. Sheehan '55, USMC Ret., Academic Excellence Awards

In 2013, the late Lt. Col. James F. Sheehan, USMC Ret., gave \$500,000 to his alma mater, Worcester State Teachers College (as it was known in 1955). It was the largest cash gift in the history of Worcester State University. In announcing this gift, Lt. Col. Sheehan humbly and simply shared, “It’s about time I gave something back.”

Lt. Col. Sheehan, who passed away in 2016, was the most generous benefactor in Worcester State’s history, sharing an overwhelming \$4.5 million to benefit students and faculty.

After an incredibly successful and varied career in the United States Marine Corps, Lt. Col. Sheehan used his math and business skills to embark on a second successful career as a venture capitalist. He and his wife settled in Florida, where they established 14 scholarships through a number of charitable organizations.

The Lt. Col. James F. Sheehan '55, USMC Ret., Academic Excellence Awards are given annually to full-time Worcester State students with the best GPA in the first-year, sophomore, junior, and senior classes. Lt. Col. Sheehan’s gifts also created an endowment for the Sheehan Honors Program, now named in his honor, which provides \$50,000 per year to support scholarship and research.

Rewarding and encouraging academic excellence became Lt. Col. Sheehan’s legacy. He had hoped his success and support would be emulated by those students to whom his awards and scholarships have provided, and will continue to provide, assistance.



Remy Mabboux, *Arlington, Mass.*

Major in political science

Vice president of the Political Science Club,
Model UN internship with the Political
Science Department

The Lt. Col. James F. Sheehan '55, USMC Ret., Award *First-Year Academic Achievement Award*

What's been the best part of your Worcester State experience? My favorite part of being at Worcester State has been working on myself at the gym. I had never gone to the gym before Worcester State, but I decided that it was high time to get myself into shape at the gym. I have made many new friendships at the gym, and going always makes me feel accomplished and motivated.

What motivates you to excel academically? I am motivated to be academically successful due to two reasons. Firstly, I enjoy my major and the teachers who teach the subject. I have developed good relations with all of them and am excited to go to classes and complete my work. Secondly, I wish to be successful in my career, so I try and push myself to complete all work on time and be fully completed.

What are your career aspirations? I hope to pursue a career in government, especially in the fields of legislation, policy, or international events. However, I am still unsure of where exactly I wish to go, but I am working on that alongside my teachers.



Nathaniel Sarette, *Woodstock, Conn.*

Major in political science

The Lt. Col. James F. Sheehan '55, USMC Ret., Award *First-Year Academic Achievement Award*

What's been the best part of your Worcester State experience? The best part of my Worcester State experience has been the classes and the professors. Even on the tiring days, I find myself excited to wake up and see what today's classes have in store. That is in large part thanks to the professors themselves, as their knowledge, passion, and enthusiasm is contagious in the best way. In my experience, so many professors go above and beyond for their students, which I, for one, am grateful for.

What motivates you to excel academically? I am intrinsically motivated by my future education goals, career aspirations, and my love of learning. I've always been one to say if I could spend my life in school I would. My academic performance is driven by my dream of getting into law school and becoming a lawyer. I've had this aspiration since I was a young teen, and I have put and continue to put so much effort into making that dream come true.

What are your career aspirations? After graduating with my undergraduate degree, I plan to go on to receive my juris doctorate. As a practicing attorney, I intend to focus on human rights, leaving a positive impact in my wake before eventually returning to academia as a law professor.



Cailey Ryan, Acton, Mass.

Major in environmental science,
minor in chemistry

Team member of the women's ice hockey
team and lacrosse teams

The Lt. Col. James F. Sheehan '55, USMC Ret., Award *Sophomore Academic Achievement Award*

What's been the best part of your Worcester State experience? I really enjoy the smaller class sizes. I get to know my classmates and professors better, which allows me to make good relationships. I can also continue my education with my classmates, for we take similar classes.

What motivates you to excel academically? I get a lot of motivation from my mom, teammates, and friends to continue to try my best. Their support has been a great help when I could not find it in myself to do my best. I also have goals for myself, and trying my best in school will help me reach them.

What are your career aspirations? I have many ideas as to where I want my career to go. My current favorite is to join an environmental consulting firm. On the other hand, I can see myself coming back to school to further my education in geology or hydrology.



Delaney DeNorscia, *Holden, Mass.*

Major in theatre, minors in English and communication

Vice president of Almost Off Book, writing consultant at Writing Center, Worcester State Commonwealth Honors Program, Sigma Tau Delta (English honors society), Theatre Department's spring production of *Eurydice* as Nasty Interesting Man

The Lt. Col. James F. Sheehan '55, USMC Ret., Award *Junior Academic Achievement Award*

What's been the best part of your Worcester State experience? Being able to find myself as a person. I've gained a lot of confidence during my time here, and it's all thanks to the many experiences I've been lucky enough to have while at Worcester State. Being a student here has really provided me with the perfect environment to get out of my comfort zone and aspire to become the best version of myself.

What motivates you to excel academically? Being able to make myself proud. Knowing that what I achieve doesn't have to be for the sake of anyone but myself is incredibly validating. Not having to deal with the burden of other's expectations has truly allowed me to flourish and focus my energy on what's really important to me.

What are your career aspirations? There are a lot of things I could see myself doing as a career. Writing and directing for film comes to mind, continuing to act, maybe owning a café someday, or even just becoming a hermit author who lives in the woods. Whatever I end up doing, my goal is just to be happy.



Andja Kola, Albania

Double major in psychology and liberal studies (pre-med track), minor in Spanish

Secretary of Active Minds Club, president of National Society of Collegiate Scholars, research assistant for two Psychology Department labs, work-study in the University Advancement Office

The Lt. Col. James F. Sheehan '55, USMC Ret., Award *Junior Academic Achievement Award*

What's been the best part of your Worcester State experience? I absolutely appreciate the people I meet and work with every day. Worcester State is giving me the chance to meet amazing and inspiring people: peers in my classes, adept and excellent professors, and amazing coworkers. Not only did they make my adaptation to American culture easier and more fun, but also they inspired me every day to strive for the best and to offer my all in every task. Furthermore, the campus climate is very student-oriented and offers a sense of support and collaboration that assists students in their journey to achieve their dreams.

What motivates you to excel academically? There are several things. One is certainly the eagerness to be able to provide a bright future for myself. Coming from a small country that gives few opportunities but fosters big dreams, I get surprised every day to see how much one can achieve here by putting in the effort and the work. I consider myself lucky to have a supportive family and friends; excelling academically is a way to make them proud. Moreover, I am lucky to have worked with exceptional professors who are very passionate about their fields—it would be impossible to not do well when they provide inspiration and all the useful tools to excel in a discipline/course. All this support has changed my viewpoint as a student and a person, as it has developed my interest in many spheres of life and science.

What are your career aspirations? I aspire to become a psychiatrist. I am considering going through medical school or a graduate program in psychology, focusing on mental health counseling.



Juliana Kallio, *Grafton, Mass.*

Major in elementary education, minor in mathematics for K-8 education

Student Events Committee (vice president for two years, trip coordinator for one year), math tutor in Math Center, peer mentor for first-year students, work-study in Admissions Office

The Lt. Col. James F. Sheehan '55, USMC Ret., Award *Senior Academic Achievement Award*

What's been the best part of your Worcester State experience? The connections I have made both personally and professionally have been my favorite part of attending Worcester State. I have built a strong support system of faculty, staff, and peers that I know I can rely on and have made my Worcester State experience special. I am so grateful to have met them through my involvement on campus.

What motivates you to excel academically? My future career motivates me to excel academically—I want to be the best teacher I can be, which means learning as much as I can. I focus on learning the material rather than the grade I get, and the good grades follow. In order to teach content, you need to know it in and out and be prepared to answer any question (or at least know how to find the answer), so every class expands my knowledge in a way that may come in handy later on.

What are your career aspirations? After I student teach in the fall and graduate with my teaching license, I hope to teach upper elementary school while pursuing a master's degree in moderate disabilities. I am planning on spending the majority of my teaching career as a special education teacher for students with moderate disabilities, hopefully in an inclusive setting.



Alexander Lucier, *Gardner, Mass.*

Major in communication

Student Senate, vice president of WooServe,
Photography Club

The Lt. Col. James F. Sheehan '55, USMC Ret., Award *Senior Academic Achievement Award*

What's been the best part of your Worcester State experience? Working with our incredible faculty. I've enjoyed every class I've taken so far, and it's been clear every time how much each professor truly cares about the subjects they teach. That passion is contagious to the students, making the classes much more interesting. I'm also deeply grateful for the academic and career advice I've received from my professors.

What motivates you to excel academically? At this point, I'm motivated by my interests in the subject. I truly love my major and my classes, so it's easy to do well when I'm enjoying what I'm doing. Exploring new topics in higher level classes has been fun, and challenging myself in my assignments keeps it interesting and worth working hard at.

What are your career aspirations? Right now, I work as a freelance creative, shooting photos and videos or doing design work for my clothing brand. In the future, I plan to continue working in the creative field, whether it's sports, fashion, or somewhere new!



Academic Chairs

Biology	<i>Dr. Jennifer Hood-DeGrenier</i>
Business Administration and Economics	<i>Professor Mark Love</i>
Chemistry	<i>Dr. Meghna Dilip</i>
Communication	<i>Dr. Daniel Hunt</i>
Communication Sciences and Disorders	<i>Dr. Kristina Curro</i>
Computer Science	<i>Dr. Elena Braynova</i>
Criminal Justice.....	<i>Dr. Hyesun Kim</i>
Earth, Environment, and Physics.....	<i>Dr. Allison Dunn</i>
Education.....	<i>Dr. Pamela Hollander</i>
English	<i>Dr. Matthew Ortoleva</i>
Health Sciences	<i>Dr. Andrew Piazza</i>
History and Political Science	<i>Dr. Charlotte Haller</i>
Interdisciplinary Studies.....	<i>Dr. Aldo Garcia-Guevera</i>
Mathematics.....	<i>Dr. Michael Winders</i>
Nursing.....	<i>Dr. William Chadbourne</i>
Occupational Therapy.....	<i>Dr. Tanya Trudell</i>
Philosophy	<i>Dr. Frank Boardman</i>
Psychology	<i>Dr. Brandi Silver</i>
Sociology.....	<i>Dr. Francisco Vivoni</i>
Urban Studies.....	<i>Dr. Timothy Murphy</i>
Visual and Performing Arts.....	<i>Dr. Samuel O’Connell</i>
World Languages.....	<i>Dr. Antonio Guijarro-Donadiós</i>



Paul Tsongas Scholarship Criteria and Recipients

These scholarships are given each year to Massachusetts residents for full in-state day school tuition and fees. Recipients must have a GPA of 3.75 and a combined SAT of 1200. The scholarship is renewable for a maximum of four years to recipients who maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.3.....

- Elias Berthel*
- Eva Fabian*
- Madison Grignon*
- Derek Johnson*
- Juliana Kallio*
- Mary Lambert*
- Jacob Leite*
- Alexander Lucier*
- Chase McClintock*
- Timothy O’Leary*
- Mairead Ouellette*
- Adyn Pierce*
- Anna Riley*
- Elizabeth Strack*
- Jimelca Suarez Florentino*
- Claudia Symonick*
- Alaina Walder*
- Alan Zavalunov*

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Thank You

The Provost's Office thanks the many employees, as well as all Academic Ceremonies Committee members, who help make this program and the event special and meaningful for our students.

Art for student awards and program cover by Mark Waitkus.
waitkusstudios.myshopify.com



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