

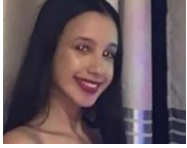













Spring '21 Isaacs Scholarship Recipient Updates

Scholar Name	School	Major	Scholarship Award(s) and Year(s) Won	Update
<p><u>Arisleida Herrera*</u></p> 	Bard College, '24	Started as a political science/environment major and is switching to foreign language	<i>2020 Henry & Lucy Moses Fund Award</i>	Aris is thriving during her second semester at Bard! She was really focused on academics during her fall semester and her social life took a small hit, so she allowed herself some leniency for spring. Now, Aris co-leads the Latin American Student Association (LASO) where students celebrate Latinx Heritage through social events on campus. She's recently applied for a Summer Bridge program at her school where she'd be one of eight students offering support to incoming freshmen.
<p><u>Afiwa Afandalo</u></p> 	Leigh University '24	Undecided but interested in political science and women studies and few other things	<i>2020 Amy Timmins Memorial Scholarship Award</i>	Afiwa has been working really hard this semester, both on and off campus! In addition to work-study, she's also working part-time off campus - all while taking 5 classes this semester! She is hoping to spend her summer at the interning at the Sadie Nash International Leadership Project. She is really grateful for her SPEAK mentor, Sam, who has helped her apply to internships and prepare for interviews. She hopes to get another 4.0 for her spring semester.
<p><u>Niselys Rodriguez</u></p> 	BCC '22	Business Admin.	<i>2020 Isaacs Center Award</i>	Niselys' admits that virtual learning his spring is still stressful. As an accounting major, she's relied heavily on initiating group chats with her classmates for support. Despite these challenges, she was able to earn a 3.790 GPA last semester and feels confident she can maintain it. Additionally, she recently secured a job at TD Bank as a customer service rep, where she helps customers with loan applications, referrals, and opening accounts. She is also currently working on getting her notary certification!

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<p><u>Elise Slaughter</u></p> 	SUNY Albany '24	Business Administration	<i>2020 Jacqueline I. Schneider Award</i>	<p>Elise has been keeping herself busy, driven by her future goals! She is currently pledging for Delta Sigma Pi, a coeducational professional business fraternity - one of the largest in the United States. Out of 100 applicants, she was one of EIGHT who made the cut! The fraternity offers 100% job placement at big firms, such as PwC and Goldman Sachs. She also made the Dean's List and the Presidential Honor Society for high achieving students. She is hoping to also pledge Alpha Kappa Alpha before graduating.</p> <p>Elise is excited to finish the semester and go back to the bakery she worked at prior to being back on campus full-time.</p>
<p><u>Brianna Comrie</u></p> 	Stony Brook '24	undecided	<i>2020 Bender-Fishbein Award</i>	<p>Being a college student during a pandemic has its challenges, and Brianna felt quite a few this semester. Attending virtual clubs & events really helped cure the need for interpersonal interaction while she attended classes remotely from home. A class she took this semester helped her validate some of the challenges she experienced with attending a predominantly white institution. Through this, she was able to connect with another student and together, support other students who had the same challenges. She is working hard to maintain or improve her 3.5 this semester, and looking forward to working and taking an anatomy and physiology class this summer. She really likes the mentorship program and thinks her mentor, Ashley, is great!</p>
<p><u>John Oppong Jr</u></p> 	NYU '24	Drama	<i>2020 Henry & Lucy Moses Fund Award</i>	<p>John reported that school this semester on campus has been going great. He's taking classes virtually from his dorm room, but group chats and club meetings have helped cure the social distancing blues. He recently joined the Student Producers organization at his school, where they work to produce short films. He's currently working on a drama/rom-com! Academically, he's achieved a 3.44 GPA and taken several film, and script writing and analysis classes. He is inspired by filmmakers and actors like fellow NYU alum Spike Lee, Mahershala Ali, and John Singleton. He is looking forward to fulfilling an internship and taking classes this summer.</p>

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				He really appreciates the support that he receives from his SPEAK Mentor, Sourav! Working on his resume was huge for John, and he's happy to have received that guidance.
<u>Tashani Kerr</u> 	Ithaca '24	Health Sciences	<i>2020 Grant Avenue Capital Scholarship</i>	Tashani's focus was transitioning from home, where she attended school virtually during her first semester, to being on campus for her second semester. She reveals that this spring semester has definitely been more challenging as having more freedom on campus was a distraction. She has since readjusted and is working on maintaining her 3.0 GPA. She loves the mentorship she receives from SPEAK Mentor Heather. She especially likes that it's not overwhelming and feels that Heather is really there for her.
<u>Yazmine Ortega</u> 	Hunter College '23	Early Childhood Education & Psychology	<i>2018 Amy Timmins Memorial Scholarship Award</i> <i>2019 Helen F. Robison Outstanding Scholar Award</i> <i>2020 Dorothy Sharrock Memorial Outstanding Scholar Award</i>	Yazmine continues to thrive at Hunter. She attended classes completely remotely while maintaining her job as an afterschool group leader. She is taking 5 classes this semester, and has already begun the process to register for summer classes. Since she is a double major, she will graduate in 2023. She is looking forward to graduating so that she can begin her career as a teacher.
<u>Monserate Valdez</u> 	NYU Tandon School of Engineering '22	Mechanical Engineering	<i>2018 Bender-Fishbein Award</i> <i>2019 O'Neil Family Outstanding Scholar Award</i> <i>2020 Isaacs Center Outstanding Scholar Award</i>	Monse continues to work really hard throughout her junior year. She tried to be on campus as much as she could. She appreciates her SPEAK mentor Alana's help and loves the structure of the program. She is hoping to get an internship at the Port Authority again this summer that aligns with her ultimate career goal – working in Engineering and Transportation Management.

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<p><u>Giftbelle Lomotey</u></p> 	<p>Brandeis University '24</p>	<p>Undecided</p>	<p><i>2020 Henry & Lucy Moses Fund Award</i></p>	<p>Giftbelle continues to work on personal growth while she excels academically. She spent her winter break in California with her brother and nieces, and was able to come back to school with a fresh mindset. She currently has a 3.8 GPA and is looking forward to declaring her major during her sophomore year. She is really interested in traveling to Ghana to do some research on her bloodline and continue to work on her YouTube page, where she will share her poetry!</p>
<p><u>Janel Rodriguez</u></p> 	<p>Desales University '24</p>	<p>Early Childhood Education</p>	<p><i>Henry & Lucy Moses Fund Award 2018, Outstanding Scholarship 2019 & 2020</i></p>	<p>Janel has been checking off quite a few of her goal-setting boxes! She is on her way to graduate this June and will be attending Lehman college this fall. She was recently hired to work full-time at an afterschool program through ACS. She'll be taking one class this summer and is looking forward to continuing her education.</p>
<p><u>Yanira Lebron</u></p> 	<p>Touro College '23</p>	<p>Social Work</p>	<p><i>Isaacs Center Award 2018</i></p>	<p>Yanira has been working and going to school full-time since her last award. She's currently a respite worker at St. Dominic's. She is passionate about becoming a social worker, specifically with elementary and middle school aged-youth. She would like to maintain a 3.6 GPA and hopes to be able to win an additional scholarship this year to help her pay for a new laptop and cover her tuition gaps.</p>