

# The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

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November 1, 2019  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Student Laureates to be honored November 16 by Lincoln Academy

SPRINGFIELD – The top students representing Illinois’ colleges and universities will be honored by The Lincoln Academy of Illinois during the annual Student Laureate Convocation at 11 a.m. Saturday, November 16 at the Old State Capitol State Historic Site in Springfield.

Each fall, an outstanding senior from each of the state’s four-year degree-granting colleges and universities and one student from the community colleges in Illinois is awarded the *Abraham Lincoln Civic Engagement Award* and thereby becomes a Student Laureate of The Lincoln Academy of Illinois. In the spirit of Lincoln, Student Laureates are honored for their leadership and service in the pursuit of the betterment of humanity and for overall excellence in curricular and extracurricular activities.

Each student will be presented with a certificate of merit signed by the governor, a Lincoln medallion, and a \$1,000 check.

This will be the 45<sup>th</sup> year The Lincoln Academy has celebrated students’ excellence in Illinois. Those to be honored as Student Laureates on November 16 include:

<b><u>Institution</u></b>	<b><u>Student</u></b>	<b><u>Hometown</u></b>
Augustana College	Nadia Ayensah	Cape Coast, Ghana
Aurora University	Khadeil Threlando Ergas	Bluffton, South Carolina
Benedictine University	Rebecca Weber	Tinley Park, IL
Bradley University	Rhome Apton	Libertyville, IL
Chicago State University	Ali Kleiche	Chicago, IL
College of DuPage	Amna Razi	Chicago, IL
Columbia College Chicago	Kierah Tarah Imani King	Hartford, CT
Concordia University Chicago	Abigail Catherine Deddens	Toledo, OH
DePaul University	Michaela Jane Milligan	Newark, OH
Dominican University	Maya Banks	Riverdale, IL
East-West University	Stephany C. Starks	Downers Grove, IL
Eastern Illinois University	Lindy Jane Dokken	Rockford, IL
Elmhurst College	Emily M. Marquez	Shiloh, IL

Eureka College	Paige Dobbyn	Bourbonnais, IL
Governors State University	Amanda K. Spayer	Brodhead, WI
Greenville University	Josiah Mohr	Springfield, IL
Illinois College	Charlotte Jeanne Crofton	Burr Ridge, IL
Illinois Institute of Technology	Avesha Anees	Bloomington, IL
Illinois State University	Radiance J. Campbell	Carol Stream, IL
Illinois Wesleyan University	Kayley Lyn Rettberg	Elgin, IL
Judson University	Anali Cisneros	Denver, CO
Knox College	Sarah M. Henderson	Gaborone, Botswana
Lake Forest College	Kgotla "Kotch" Mmopi	Orland Park, IL
Lewis University	Katarzyna Majchrowicz-Wolny	Bloomington, IL
Lincoln College	Alex Beck	Zanesville, OH
Lincoln Christian University	Jonah Christopher Steele	Hoffman Estates, IL
Loyola University Chicago	Adrian De La Cruz	Peoria, IL
MacMurray College	Georgia Lynne Estoye Suau	O'Fallon, IL
McKendree University	Emily Murray Berry	Zion, IL
Millikin University	Mikayla Marie Krieger	Valley City, ND
Monmouth College	Hadley A. Smithhisler	Chicago, IL
National Louis University	Nathan Kenyon	West Chicago, IL
North Central College	Noah Daniel Cordoba	Grand Rapids, MI
North Park University	Lydia Ruth Vander Stelt	Chicago, IL
Northeastern Illinois University	Miriam I. Varela	Rockford, IL
Northern Illinois University	Ian Joseph Pearson	Naperville, IL
Northwestern University	Lillian Guo	Monee, IL
Olivet Nazarene University	Jonathan Gonzalez	South Pasadena, CA
Principia College	Sophia-Annette Hathaway	Festus, MO
Quincy University	Mary Teresa Argana	Chicago, IL
Robert Morris University	Jessica Gonzalez	Pecatonica, IL
Rockford University	Nathan Neal Alldritt	Chicago, IL
Roosevelt University	Janessa Garcia	Crestwood, IL
Saint Xavier University	Nancy A. Lesnicki	Rossville, GA
School of Art Inst. of Chicago	Haylie Jimenez	Chatham, IL
SIU Carbondale	Allison Meredith McMinn	Carlyle, IL
SIU Edwardsville	Jessica J. Hammel	Schaumburg, IL
The University of Chicago	Shriram Chennakesavalu	Hoffman Estates, IL
Trinity Christian College	Indira Escalante	DeKalb, IL
Trinity International University	Kristina Carol Olsen	Geneva, IL
University of Illinois at Chicago	Leigha Elizabeth Sommer	Lincoln, IL
University of Illinois Springfield	Melissa Van	Rockford, IL
U. of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	Elena M. Wilson	Joliet, IL
University of St. Francis	Morayma Barron	Geneva, IL
VanderCook College of Music	Rachel Nesti	Lockport, IL
Western Illinois University	Mariah Caitlin Dicksen	Clifton, VA
Wheaton College	Michael Kitchen	Chicago, IL
College of DuPage	Amna Razi	

In addition to honoring the state's Student Laureates, Illinois is unique in the United States in selecting present or former citizens who have made outstanding contributions toward the progress and betterment of humanity to be honored as Laureates of the Lincoln Academy and receive the "Order of Lincoln" from the Governor, a process that has been in place since 1964.

Proceeds from the spring Laureate Convocation are used to support the Student Laureate program each fall.

For more information visit [www.TheLincolnAcademyofIllinois.org](http://www.TheLincolnAcademyofIllinois.org).