

# The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

One Old State Capitol Plaza

Springfield, Illinois 62701

Telephone: 217-785-5030

[www.thelincolnacademyofillinois.org](http://www.thelincolnacademyofillinois.org)



October 19, 2020

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

CONTACT:

Julie Kellner (217) 785-5030

## Student Laureates to be honored The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – The top students representing Illinois' colleges and universities will be honored via a pre-recorded Zoom production by The Lincoln Academy of Illinois. The ceremony to recognize the Student Laureates of The Lincoln Academy is historically held every fall at the Old State Capitol State Historic Site in Springfield, but is going virtual this year due to COVID-19 restrictions on large in-person gatherings.

The 46<sup>th</sup> annual Lincoln Academy Student Laureate virtual ceremony will recognize excellence in curricular and extracurricular activities by seniors from each of the state's four-year, degree-granting colleges and universities, and one student from the community colleges in Illinois. It will be available November 10 at [www.thelincolnacademyofillinois.org](http://www.thelincolnacademyofillinois.org).

The Zoom production will include a congratulatory statement by Governor J. B. Pritzker, the President of the Lincoln Academy. Academy Vice Chancellor, The Honorable Ron Spears, will give the invocation and Chancellor Frank Clark will make welcoming remarks. Four Laureates of The Lincoln Academy will speak to each of the four recognized pillars Abraham Lincoln's leadership, and these include: Courage, 2012 Lincoln Laureate and 1990 Student Laureate Jean Driscoll; empathy, 2005 Lincoln Laureate and past Academy Chancellor Stephanie Pace Marshall, PhD; honesty, 2019 Laureate George Will; and integrity, 2014 Laureate Michael 'Coach K' Krzyzewski.

Student Laureates will receive a letter and certificate of merit signed by Gov. Pritzker, a Lincoln medallion, a challenge coin, and a \$500 check from The Lincoln Academy. Student Laureates are selected by their individual schools. Those to be honored as Class of 2020 Student Laureates include:

<b><u>Student Laureate</u></b>	<b><u>Institution</u></b>	<b><u>Hometown</u></b>
Aleksander Jacobs	Augustana College	Rock Island, IL
Basma Outhman	Aurora University	Aurora, IL
Brittany Lynn Chally	Benedictine University	Algonquin, IL
Jacob D. McGiles	Bradley University	Jacksonville, IL
Jason B. Jones	Chicago State University	Chicago, IL
Anthony Fuentes	Columbia College Chicago	Sterling Heights, MI
Gerardo Medina	Concordia University Chicago	Cicero, IL
Gisselle M. Cervantes	DePaul University	Darien, IL

Carlos Benitez	Dominican University	Chicago, IL
Esther Jimenez	East-West University	Chicago, IL
Cole D. Hoover	Eastern Illinois University	Mattoon, IL
Christopher Michael Binder	Elmhurst University	Frankfort, IL
Madison Loger	Eureka College	LaSalle, IL
Jeanine Latrice Koger	Governors State University	Harvey, IL
Sidney Rose Webster	Greenville University	Effingham, IL
Olivia R. Jordan	Illinois College	Moweaqua, IL
Diana Silvas	Illinois Institute of Technology	Chicago, IL
Kathryn J. Bruce	Illinois State University	Bensenville, IL
Meghan Lehmann	Illinois Wesleyan University	Peoria, IL
Rebecca Marie Johnson	Judson University	Mount Prospect, IL
Isaac S. Hughes	Knox College	Vashon, WA
Uchechi Okeke	Lake Forest College	Rockford, IL
Grace Ann Crumbaugh	Lewis University	Joliet, IL
Seth Alan Webster	Lincoln Christian University	Bath, IN
Melissa Joy Benson	Lincoln College	Morris, IL
Camille Jackson	Loyola University Chicago	Chicago, IL
Caleb Reid Shipley	McKendree University	Centralia, IL
Justin N. Craig	Millikin University	Naperville, IL
Joseph Coan Botte Doner	Monmouth College	Arlington Heights, IL
Vontain Cornelius Wray	National Louis University	Lake Beach, IL
Emma L. Nelson	North Central College	Newark, IL
Jessica Torres	North Park University	Chicago, IL
Obsmara Ulloa	Northeastern Illinois University	Chicago, IL
Jill Elizabeth Belluomini	Northern Illinois University	Cary, IL
Femke Munting	Northwestern University	Amsterdam, Noord Holland, The Netherlands
Lily A. Jarzabkowski	Olivet Nazarene University	Wheaton, IL
Tara Marie Adhikari	Principia College	Lewisville, TX
Jacob Flynn	Quincy University	Mt. Sterling, IL
Tanner Elliott	Rockford University	Loves Park, IL
Kaitlyn N. Greenholt	Roosevelt University	Chicago Ridge, IL
Yasmine Zavala	Saint Xavier University	Chicago, IL
Anavi Bhushan Nugyal	School of the Art Institute of Chicago	Malad West, Mumbai
Maryam Makhdoom	Southern Illinois University Carbondale	Carbondale, IL
Tessa Renee Walker	Southern Illinois University Edwardsville	Glen Carbon, IL
Firouz Jon Niazi	The University of Chicago	Evanston, IL
Ross Michael Barz	Trinity Christian College	Zeeland, MI
Justin Chu	Trinity International University	Brookfield, WI
Wasan Mani Kumar	University of Illinois at Chicago	Skokie, IL
Kodi J. Smith	University of Illinois Springfield	Taylorville, IL
Isabella "Issy" Rose Marquez	University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	Chicago, IL
Alysa Ann Kline	University of St. Francis	Joliet, IL
Ashley Barajas-Galan	VanderCook College of Music	Chicago, IL
Paula A. Ramirez	Western Illinois University	Roselle, IL

Matteson 'Tess' Aliece De Pretis  
Samiha Syed

Wheaton College  
IICB. College of DuPage

Pleasanton, CA  
Addison, IL

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) or The Lincoln Academy's social media sites.

# # #