

Congratulations 2023-2024 We CU Scholars!



81 Students



8,075 Service hours



11 Colleges represented

Congratulations to our Distinguished Scholars with 200+ service hours!

- Aaryaman Patel
- Alexa Huber
- Anna Zei
- Bradley Grieser
- Brannock McVey
- Carli Klein
- Cyrus Murray
- Elizabeth Coder
- Frida Sabina Romero
- Ilana Zeitzer
- Jiayi Guo
- Justo Hendrix
- Mikaela Jopes
- Natalia Rzepa
- Nicole Romano
- Sooliat Bakare
- Yasmen Pugh
- Zackary A. Landers

Congratulations, Aaryaman!

A senior majoring in Mechanical
Science & Engineering

Aaryaman plans to use art and
engineering to address global
problems.

280 service hours with We CU!



“From my service experiences, I will carry forward an unwavering commitment to amplifying underrepresented voices, fostering inclusive communities, and driving systemic change.”

- Aaryaman Patel

Congratulations, Brannock!

A History major with a minor in
Secondary Education

Following graduation, Brannock will
enlist in the United States Coast
Guard.

300 service hours with We CU!



“I will carry the importance of building a positive environment and culture in a community, and how having all community members pulling in the same direction can lead to so much success.”

- Brannock McVey

Congratulations, Elizabeth!

A PhD student in Education Policy,
Organization, & Leadership

Post-graduation, Elizabeth is
interested in pursuing a career in
international relations.

329 Service hours with We CU!



“Volunteering with Books to Prisoners has reinforced how it important it is to find fulfillment outside of school and to help me feel like a member of the broader Urbana-Champaign community.”

- Elizabeth Coder

Congratulations, Justin!

A senior majoring in Early Childhood
Education

Post-graduation, Justin plans to
venture into educational policy to
ensure resources for all.

200 Service hours with We CU!



“I believe in student-centered approaches, family-partnered collaborations, and redefined yet determined serving districts.”

- Justin Hendrix

Congratulations, Mikaela!

A History and Psychology major with
a minor in Secondary Education

Following graduation, Mikaela will
be working as a Social Studies high
school teacher.

206 service hours with We CU!



“I plan to carry forward a commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of others. Through my volunteer work, I've had the opportunity to contribute to important causes, advocate for positive change, and gain insights into the struggles faced by others. Furthermore, I intend to continue developing valuable skills, forging connections, and finding personal fulfillment through my involvement in philanthropy.”

- Mikaela Jopes

Congratulations, Natalia!

A Speech & Hearing Science and Spanish major

Following graduation, Mikaela will begin her Masters of Arts in Speech & Hearing Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

218 service hours with We CU!



“Volunteering has taught me so much about the individuals in my community and topics that are related to my future career goals. I hope to continue learning more in future volunteer opportunities!”

- Natalia Rzepa

Congratulations, Sooliat!

An Integrative Biology major with a minor in Psychology

Following graduation, Sooliat plans to take a gap year before starting medical school. She plans to work as a clinical research associate or coordinator.

231.5 Service hours with We CU!



“I carry forward a deep appreciation for community collaboration and the impact of service learning. I've developed skills in partnership building, project management, and creating meaningful learning experiences. My time with We CU has also strengthened my commitment to fostering positive change in my community and recognizing the value of community service.”

- Sooliat Bakare

Congratulations, Yasmen!

A Psychology and Sociology major
with a minor in Criminology, Law &
Society

Following graduation, Yasmen will
begin her Master's Degree in Social
Work at Indiana University.

402 service hours with We CU!



“Based on my service experience, I aim to advance my communication skills by advocating for others and actively listening to other’s needs. I’m also committed to continuing my learning to grow as a better leader and community member.”

- Yasmen Pugh

Congratulations, Zackary!

A M.S. Candidate in the College of
Media

Zackary will continue his career in
federal civil service, growing as a
government communicator and
strategic thinker.

205 Service hours with We CU!



“Above all, I have come to understand that our community needs more mental health and physical wellness resources at every stage of the continuum and more places where community can happen.”

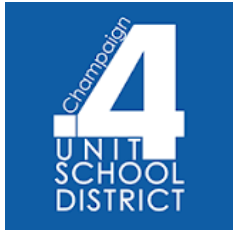
- Zackary A. Landers

We CU is grateful for the support of the School of Social Work's Community Learning Lab!

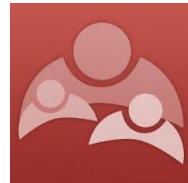
This partnership allows project matching to be extended across the entire Illinois campus, so we can better meet the needs of our community.



Thank you, community partners!



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Franklin STEAM Academy



UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Franklin STEAM Academy

“We had great groups come in to share their knowledge with our students. It was a great learning experience for our middle schoolers! I love that you are so willing to help. It is **INVALUABLE!**”



The Well Experience



UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

The Well Experience

“We love working with the students. They are friendly and eager to support the youth at The Well Experience.”



Rantoul Township High School



UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Rantoul Township High School

“The students were able to help us complete and meet the objectives of a federal grant that would have been almost impossible to do with our current manpower.”



Strides Shelter



UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Strides Shelter

“You all are awesome and probably have somewhat of an idea how much you are helping social service organizations, like ours! If you don't have an idea—you are just simply amazing! Thank you for your continued support.”

Congratulations, 2023 Humanities in Action Scholars!



Jessica Vargas



Sydney Turner



Sophie Campa



Cely Urbina

Congratulations, 2023 Humanities in Action Scholars!



Humanities in Action Celebratory Lunch 2023



Welcome to the 2024 Humanities in Action Cohort!

Alexandra Carbajal

Courtney Dillon

Jimena Lopez

Lillian Webb

Victoria Martinez

Welcome, Alexandra!

A Speech and Hearing Science major
with a minor in Spanish

Alexandra is also an intern with The
Autism Project, a student teacher
aide at the International Prep
Academy, and volunteers as mentor
through the Illini Mentor Program.



Welcome, Courtney!

A Sociology and Journalism major with minors in Political Science and Criminology, Law & Society

Courtney is an LAS James Scholar, president of the campus organization Women of Color, and interned with the Women's Resource Center.



Welcome, Jimena!

A Spanish major with minors in Legal Studies and Anthropology

Jimena volunteers with The Immigration Project. She is also part of Chicago Scholars and will be president for the University's Undergraduate Moot Court Team this upcoming year.



Welcome, Lillian!

A History and Anthropology with a
minor in Integrative Biology

Lillian is the social media chair for the
Society for Minority Students in History
and a member of Beta Psi Omega, a
fraternity for the biological sciences.



Welcome, Victoria!

An English and Political Science major

Victoria is a founding member of the *Illinois Global Review Journal* and the membership coordinator. She is also an active member of the English Student Association and the Women's Undergraduate Law Society.





**We CU is grateful for the support of
our campus partners!**

**Office of Public Engagement
School of Social Work
College of Education
Humanities Research Institute
University of Illinois Alumni Association
Siebel Center for Design**