



**Southern Illinois University System**  
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April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022

The Southern Illinois University System, SIU Board of Trustees and the SIU System Student Advisory Committee is honoring eight outstanding students with the 2022 SIU Student Distinguished Service Award at the April 28<sup>th</sup> SIU Board of Trustees meeting.

The SIU System Student Advisory Committee (SSSAC) received applications from all of the campuses throughout the system and selected one (1) undergraduate student and (1) graduate student from both the SIU-Edwardsville and SIU-Carbondale campuses. In addition, the SSSAC also selected one (1) student from each of the following schools: School of Medicine, School of Dental Medicine, School of Law and the School of Pharmacy. The members of the selection committee consisted of Dianah McGreehan (SIUC), Isaac Ludington (SIUC), and Maddie McKenzie (SIUE). The selection committee is proud to honor the following recipients.

#### **2022 SIU STUDENT DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD WINNERS:**

**Hailee O'Dell (SIUE Undergraduate Student)** is an undergraduate student studying Psychology at SIU Edwardsville. Hailee currently serves as the Student Body President and was recently elected to serve as the SIUE Student Trustee for the 2022-2023 academic year. In her role as the Student Body President, she serves on a multitude of campus-wide committees and serves as an advocate for all students on the Edwardsville campus. This year, she helped to change the dress code policy at the SIUE fitness center to be more inclusive. However, she notes that her greatest accomplishment was changing SIUE's policies on summer employment for students. Students can now access on-campus work opportunities, even if they are not enrolled in summer courses. Immediate messages of gratitude flooded Hailee's inbox when the change of this policy was enacted by the university.

**Emily Love (SIUE Graduate Student)** is a Master's student in Sociology at SIU Edwardsville. Emily is a Graduate Research Assistant for the ADVANCE TIME team at SIUE. In this role, she helps to create workshops, speaker events and policy changes regarding the diversity, inclusion, and equity issues for faculty on the Edwardsville campus. In addition, she helped to develop Equity Scorecards and tool kits to help train departments on mindful practices used throughout the hire of new faculty. Emily's commitment to DEI work also extends into cross-institution collaborative work, such as the building of the Advocates and Allies program at SIUE. Emily also launched a series of interactive theater workshops to help demonstrate the faculty experience in a creative way.

**Tristan Workman (SIUC Undergraduate Student)** is a December graduate from SIU Carbondale. As an undergraduate student, he worked at the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and the Office of Innovation and Economic Development to serve as a consultant to 50 local businesses across Southern Illinois. In addition, he served as the President of the Saluki Entrepreneur Corps. He personally helped to create SIUC's first-ever virtual pitch competition in the fall of 2020 which allowed SIUC students to pitch their innovative ideas for the opportunity to win seed money to help fund and advance their vision. He

also helped to grow the co-working space programs at the Dunn-Richmond Economic Development Center. One of his nominators noted how Tristan's commitment to serving regional small businesses quite literally helped those businesses survive and grow despite the challenges they all faced in the midst of COVID-19

**Anna Wilcoxon (SIUC Graduate Student)** is a PhD candidate in the School of Communication Studies at SIU Carbondale. Anna served as the Graduate Assistants United President from 2019 to 2021, as well as, served in other executive roles from such as the grievance officer, treasurer and secretary. While serving as the President of the graduate student union at SIUC, Anna was the lead negotiator of the 2020-2021 impact bargaining team, which negotiated contract amendments for Graduate Assistants due to Covid-19. Anna has had an impactful voice on the working conditions of graduate students on the campus of SIUC. Anna also had a tremendous impact on their department by serving as the editor of the 101 CMST introductory course workbook that is used by hundreds of students. In addition, Anna has also served on community projects like Carbondale Spring and Y'll Rock Carbondale.

**Barra Madden (School of Medicine)** is a fourth year medical student at the SIU School of Medicine. He is highly involved in the P4 Program, which is a high school pipeline program in Springfield, Illinois. Throughout Covid-19, she has been heavily active in promoting vaccination awareness at numerous agencies and local churches. She collaborated with the NAACP to organize medical student volunteers to help run a free immunization clinic in order to help local students return to school. She is the President of the local SNMA Chapter, which helps to promote medicine in underrepresented communities. During the pandemic, she worked with the city of Springfield to use CARES Act resources to partner with local black owned restaurants to serve hot meals weekly to underserved areas of the community. In addition, she served as the Chair for Addressing Systematic Racism Committee medical student section of the Illinois State Medical Society.

**Morgan Wiggins (School of Law)** is a third year law student at the SIU School of Law. Morgan has dedicated herself to an array of services in support to her local community. She is currently a currently a volunteer at the Department of Public Advocacy in the Paducah trial office. Over the last two years, she has also served as a volunteer at the Lotus Children Advocacy and Sexual Assault Center and at the SIU Domestic Violence Clinic. She has also volunteered internationally in El Salvador with the Starfish Orphan Ministries to help feed the homeless and build homes. She also traveled to Belize and the Philippines to teach children about their human rights and provide basic sexual education. Recently, she has served as a volunteer for the Lotus Children's Advocacy & Sexual Violence Resource Center where she helped to compile a new manual for regional investigators and partner disciplines to use in improve collaboration.

**Allison Long (School of Dental Medicine)** is a fourth year student at the SIU School of Dental Medicine. Allison is a member of multiple campus organizations, which serve to enhance the education and community commitments of the campus, such as the SIU American Dental Student Association, Give Kids a Smile and Veteran Care Days. Allison is the Wellness Chair for SIUSDM American Student Dental Association. While being the Wellness Chair Allison organized a Virtual Dental Dash 5k raising over \$1,500 for student membership dues. During the 2021 academic year Allison was the on the Breast Cancer Fundraiser Committee for the SIUSDM American Association for Women Dentists. The AAWD committee raised over \$2000 for Siteman Cancer Research by selling pink-themed scrub caps.

**Aneesh Asokan (School of Pharmacy)** is a fourth year student at the SIU School of Pharmacy. Aneesh has served as the class President of the School of Pharmacy since 2019. In addition, and he has served as President of the School of Pharmacy Student Representative Council and as the fundraising chair for the American Pharmacists Association- Academy of Student Pharmacists & Illinois Pharmacists Association. He and his other classmates started the professional organization, Industry Pharmacist Organization (IPhO). In just a three-year timeframe, this organization has brought an array of opportunities to learn about the different areas of Industry Pharmacists and assists students in finding fellowships and internships. In addition, he served as a member of the SIU System Student Advisory Committee from 2020-2021.

#### **HONORABLE MENTION:**

Sidney Leno (School of Medicine) is a first year medical student at the SIU School of Medicine. During her short time at the Carbondale campus, she helped to establish and organize a food bank for the School of Medicine. In addition, she helped to organize a variety of programming to celebrate Black History Month; these events included a panel discussion, movie screenings, and a journal club session for first year medical students.

Matthew Mannion (School of Medicine) is a fourth year medical student at the SIU School of Medicine. He serves on the executive board of the Physician Pipeline Preparatory Program (P4), which prepared high school students for a medical degree. In addition, Matt led a student initiative to establish a “Medical Student Research Scholars Program” within the Medical School to assist students as they prepared for their national board exams.

Kamaria Coleman (School of Medicine) is a third year medical student at the SIU School of Medicine. She is the Marginalized Student Network Coordinator and Anti-Racism Task Force Training Co-Facilitator. She currently serves as the President of the Student National Medical Association. In addition, she served as a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Health Ambassador and worked with the local NAACP and Department of Family and Community Medicine to assist with back to school physicals and vaccinations.

Lorren Pack (SIU School of Law) is a third year law student at the SIU School of Law. Lorren currently works as a legal intern for the Jackson County State’s Attorney. She has had a critical role as the Operations and Communications Chairperson for the SIU Law School’s OUTLaw. OUTLaw is an organization that promotes the rights and inclusion of LGBTQIA+ persons and their allies through legal advocacy and the development of policies/practices that establishes equality and inclusion. In addition, she is working on an Illinois task force, which will implement OUTLaw programming to all Illinois Law Schools.

Khushali Sarnot (SIU School of Pharmacy) is a second year student at the SIU School of Pharmacy. Khushali is the Vice President and Historian for the Class of 2024. In this role, she started a voluntary program through “Love for Our Elders” in which students volunteer at local nursing homes. She is currently the President for the Student Society of Health-System Pharmacists. In addition, she is the fundraising chair for the American Pharmacists Association – Academy of Student Pharmacists

Olivia Middendorf (SIUE Graduate Student) is a Master's student in Nutrition & Dietetics at SIU Edwardsville. She helps to oversee the SIUE Community Teaching Garden. As a member of the SIUE Climate and Sustainability Advisory Board, she co-created a composting guide and plan of action for the SIUE Nutrition Department. Her interest in nutrition also led to volunteering at the SIUE Cupboard Food Pantry, the Nelson Mandela University Feeding Scheme, and the L. May Eatery – Farm to Table Garden program.

Isabella Pruitt (SIUE Undergraduate Student) is an undergraduate student studying Public Health at SIU Edwardsville. She is currently the Vice President of the SIUE undergraduate student body. Under this role, she assisted in reforming the dress code of the SIUE fitness center. She also serves at the Director of Health and Wellness Education for your sorority, Alpha Phi. She also helped to plan and organize four different protest and marches, including the Women's March and a Black Lives Matter Protest in Springfield, Illinois while she was in high school.

Chloe Goldbach (SIUC Graduate Student) is a PhD candidate in Counseling Psychology at SIU Carbondale and is a Celia M. Howard Fellow for the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute. She has served as an officer for WGSS and has organized community-wide events on transgender and nonbinary issues in this role. She is currently a practicum therapist at SIUC Counseling and Psychological Services with a focus on serving LGBTQ+ clients, clients with eating and body image concerns, and clients with histories of sexual trauma.

Olivia Hood (SIUC Graduate Student) is a Master's student in Public Health at SIU Carbondale. Olivia is the President of SIUC's Leadership Development Program (LDP). In addition, Olivia serves as a volunteer at The Gary Learning Institute in Carbondale. From 2018-2022, she served as the Director of Service for the Timmy Global Health. Olivia has volunteered numerous hours to educate the community on public health issues such as flu vaccinations, mental health awareness, and blood drives.

Dianah McGreehan (SIUC Graduate Student) is a PhD candidate in the School of Communication Studies at SIU Carbondale. She currently serves as the President of the Graduate and Professional Student Council and is the past President of the graduate student union, GAUnited. In the fall of 2020 and 2021, Dianah served as the Chair of the Diversity Week planning committee and helped to coordinate and plan over twenty events, which celebrated diversity, equity, and inclusion on the campus of SIUC. To ensure the success of diversity week this past fall, she personally raised \$25,000 in sponsorships.

Nelson Fernandez (SIUC Undergraduate Student) is an undergraduate in Mechanical Engineering student at SIU Carbondale. Nelson is the founder and project manager of the SIUC Green Roof Project, which helped to install a smart irrigation system on the roofs of SIUC, as well as, the installed temporary wind turbines throughout the campus. Nelson and his team are leading the charge for sustainability efforts across SIUC.

Patrick Murphy (SIUC Undergraduate Student) is a December graduate from SIU-Carbondale, dual majored in Public Service and Pre-Law. Patrick is an extremely active student, who has served on a variety of organizations and committees. For example, he is the current President of the Omega Delta Fraternity.

He has served as a senator on USG. In addition, he was the past President of SIUC's United Nations Association and has had great involvement on local and statewide elections.

*Riley Sander (SIUC Undergraduate Student)* is an undergraduate student at SIU-Carbondale. Riley has served as the President of the Student Alumni council, the secretary for the National Speech Language Hearing Association, and has served as a Saluki Ambassador. Riley is a University Excellence Scholar and is a member of the University Honors Program. She will graduate Summa cum Laude this May with a degree in Communication Studies Disorders & Sciences.