

The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*Honoring the great citizens of today
Celebrating the great citizens for tomorrow*

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 again this year due to COVID-19 restrictions on large in-person gatherings.

The 47th 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.

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, 2016 Laureate Scott Simon; 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 2021 Student Laureates include:

<u>Student Laureate</u>	<u>Institution</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Laura Kathryn Keenan	Augustana College	Chicago, IL
Gavin Edward Withaeger	Aurora University	Plainfield, IL
Maryam Salik	Benedictine University	Naperville, IL
Briana Milich	Blackburn College	Washington, IL
Nailah L. Brown	Bradley University	Country Club Hills, IL
Nekoiya O. Washington	Chicago State University	Chicago, IL
Anna Elizabeth Baumeister	Columbia College Chicago	Jacksonville, FL

Jesse Muehler	Concordia University Chicago	Fenton, MO
Ankit Pal	DePaul University	Chicago, IL
Nathaly Valdivia Oberto-Besso	Dominican University	Chicago, IL
Asha Thompson	East-West University	Chicago, IL
Jerimiah A. Boyd-Johnson	Eastern Illinois University	
Hannah Riley Bacon	Elmhurst University	Cincinnati, OH
Chloe Kaye Overstreet	Eureka College	Kansas City, MO
Sedona Lynn Smith	Governors State University	Freeport, IL
Adin Fleischer	Greenville University	Carlinville, IL
Lauren Regina Sgambelluri	Illinois College	Springfield, IL
Joyce Gu	Illinois Institute of Technology	Naperville, IL
Luke Christian Madden	Illinois State University	Carol Stream, IL
Daniel John Maisch	Illinois Wesleyan University	Batavia, IL
Madison Kendall Psinas	Judson University	Pekin, IL
Rebecca Belle Gadiel	Knox College	New Buffalo, MI
Hernandez Mizraim	Lake Forest College	Waukegan, IL
Jada Hoffman	Lewis University	Chicago, IL
Bryce Andrew Cook	Lincoln Christian University	Wolcott, IN
Jacilyn Nicole Gunderson	Lincoln College	Bloomington, IL
Jessica Ann Hoffmann	McKendree University	Belleville, IL
Nat Mars Long	Millikin University	Verona, WI
Elizabeth M. Gustafson	Monmouth College	Kewanee, IL
Louwallien D. Krupa	National Louis University	Orland Park, IL
Bry'Shawna A. Walker	North Central College	Lake in the Hills, IL
Ellen G. Hilbrands	North Park University	Ada, MI
Kimberly Nu-Tall	Northeastern Illinois University	Oak Park, IL
Megan Nicole Nordstrom	Northern Illinois University	Galva, IL
Claire Koster	Northwestern University	St. Louis, MO
Natalie E. Cook	Olivet Nazarene University	Flint, MI
Sophie Hills	Principia College	Orleans, MA
Bailee S. Highbarger	Quincy University	Amboy, IL
Ryan Nathaniel Callahan	Rockford University	Rockford, IL
Rose Poplawski	Roosevelt University	Hawthorn Woods, IL
Katherine M. Hutto	Saint Xavier University	Downers Grove, IL
Shreva Agarwal	School of the Art Institute of Chicago	Pune, India
Francesca C. Burkett	Southern Illinois University Carbondale	Carterville, IL
Samantha Rae Gallatin	Southern Illinois University Edwardsville	Machesney Park, IL
Stephanie Catherine Reitzig	The University of Chicago	Longmont, CO
Evie Jo Dykhouse	Trinity Christian College	Byron Center, MI
Catherine Alles	Trinity International University	Wauwatosa, WI
Courtney J. Washington	University of Illinois at Chicago	Chicago, IL
Summer L. Warner	University of Illinois Springfield	Paducah, KY
Alexa Christine Smith	University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	Geneva, IL
Jonathan Matthew Wolf	University of St. Francis	Kalamazoo, MI
Daniel Richard Schmitt	VanderCook College of Music	Yorkville, IL
Elizabeth N. Lutz	Western Illinois University	California, MO

Natalie Ann Schuetz
Edith Sanchez Hernandez

Wheaton College
ICCB. McHenry County College

Downers Grove, IL
Harvard, 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 or The Lincoln Academy's social media sites.

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