



# The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

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

November 10, 2022  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Student Laureates honored by the Lincoln Academy of Illinois**

SPRINGFIELD – The top students representing Illinois' colleges and universities will be honored via a pre-recorded congratulatory 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 replaced this year with an on-line program due to construction at the Old State Capitol building.

The 48<sup>th</sup> annual Lincoln Academy Student Laureate program 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 online program will include a congratulatory statement by Governor JB Pritzker, the President of the Lincoln Academy. Lincoln Academy Trustee J'Tia Hart will give the invocation and Academy Chancellor, The Honorable Ron Spears, 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: Integrity, 2018 Lincoln Laureate Ed McMillan; Courage, 2021 Lincoln Laureate Major General John Borling (USAF Ret.); Honesty, 2019 Lincoln Laureate George F. Will; and empathy, 2012 Lincoln Laureate and 1990 Student Laureate Jean Driscoll.

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 2022 Student Laureates include:

### Student Laureate

William "Nishal" Weems

Marco Antonio Olivera

Hiba Durrani

Miriam Wali-Uddin

### Institution

Augustana College

Aurora University

Benedictine University

Blackburn College

Makayla Horn	Bradley University
Jan Kirsten Cabatu	Chicago State University
Jewel Baker	Columbia College Chicago
Caleb J. Gustafson	Concordia University Chicago
Kellen L. Brown	DePaul University
Jenin Teleron	Dominican University
Angelica Ballesteros	East-West University
Maria Guadalupe Angel	Eastern Illinois University
Hiba Anees	Elmhurst University
Austyn Ellison	Eureka College
James Adduci	Governors State University
Claire Elizabeth Krober	Greenville University
Emily Katherine Bone	Illinois College
Ahmad Muhammad	Illinois Institute of Technology
Matthew M. Huisman	Illinois State University
Mishwa Bhavsar	Illinois Wesleyan University
Rebecca Nicole (Colson) Hall	Judson University
Kayla Marina Hope	Knox College
Julián Cano	Lake Forest College
Dominick D. Bartels	Lewis University
Olivia Grace Foster Beard	Lincoln Christian University
Farah Alaa Elhoumaidi	Loyola University Chicago
Breanna Lynn Sampo	McKendree University
Isabella Benning	Millikin University
Addison Rae Cox	Monmouth College
Edward Gomez	National Louis University
Adrian D. Brown	North Central College
Stephanie Joe Sorisho	North Park University
Javonti Modican	Northeastern Illinois University
Vilaya Sirivong	Northern Illinois University
Aida Zeleke	Northwestern University
Grace Marie Pécheck	Principia College
Jordan Heeter	Quincy University
Celia Elizabeth Rothermel	Rockford University
Rachelle Vinson	Roosevelt University
Angela Alexandra Sarlas	Saint Xavier University

HwiY Chang	School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Myla Croft	Southern Illinois University at Carbondale
Carley Alexis Wilkerson	Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Joshua “Eyshe” Daniel Beirich	University of Chicago
Abigail Leigh Olsson	Trinity International University
Melodie Angel Slaughter	University of Illinois at Chicago
Nicolette J. Owens	University of Illinois Springfield
Eric D. Hegemann	University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Diana Ortega	University of St. Francis
Nicholas Samuel Forlenza	VanderCook College of Music
Thalia L. Mercado	Western Illinois University
Natalie Grace Nichols	Wheaton College
Juan Gerardo Chiu	Illinois Community College Board selection from Waubonsee Community College

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.

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