

The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

49th Annual Convocation and Investiture of Student Laureates

Saturday, the fourth of November
Two thousand twenty-three

President Abraham Lincoln Hotel
Springfield

*Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed
is more important than any other thing.*

Abraham Lincoln

The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

Sangamon Woodwind Consort

McKenna Vereeke
Violin

Jillian Krieger
Violin

Ryan Rowe
Cello

Call to Order

Eric Trimble, Regent

Opening of the Convocation

The Honorable Ronald D. Spears, Chancellor

Speaking on behalf of the Student Laureates

Daniel McLaurin
University of St. Francis

Presentation of the Class of 2023 Student Laureates

Robert A. Easter, Trustee
Linda Schielke, Trustee

Remarks

The Honorable JB Pritzker
President, Lincoln Academy of Illinois
Governor of the State of Illinois

Closing Remarks

The Honorable Ronald D. Spears, Chancellor

The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

2023 Student Laureates

Student Laureate	Institution	Academic Trustee
Rachel Nandelenga	Augustana College	Andrea Talentino
Mason Allen Brauer	Aurora University	Susana Rivera-Mills
Ayesha Amin Moosani	Benedictine University	Joseph Foy
Aryanna Harris	Blackburn College	Gregory J. Meyer
Brigitte Ashley McCormick	Bradley University	Stephen Standifird
Tereshia J. Weathers	Chicago State University	Zaldwaynaka “Z” Scott
Elizabeth Barajas Vasquez	Columbia College Chicago	Kwang-Wu Kim
Kate Johnson	Concordia University Chicago	Russell Dawn
Magoli Garcia	DePaul University	Robert L. Manuel
Bianca Leon	Dominican University	Glena Temple
Anna Joy Sipes	Eastern Illinois University	David Glassman
Chris Jamison	East-West University	M. Wasiulla Khan
Daizja Hollman	Elmhurst University	Troy D. VanAken
Hannah Colleen Cliff	Eureka College	Jamel Santa Cruze Wright
Laila Atra-Yassin	Governors State University	Cheryl Green
Lucas Dean Motsinger	Greenville University	Suzanne Davis
Shannon Engmann	Illinois College	Barbara A. Edwards Farley
Alison Frances Yurchak	Illinois Institute of Technology	Raj Echambadi
Shariq M. Zaman	Illinois State University	Aonover Tarhule
Nora deLaine Robinson	Illinois Wesleyan University	S. Georgia Nugent
Erin R. Aubrey	Judson University	Gene C. Crume
Angelica M. DeBenedictis	Knox College	C. Andrew McGadney
Hayley Headley	Lake Forest College	Jill M. Baren

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2023 Student Laureates, cont.

<i>Student Laureate</i>	<i>Institution</i>	<i>Academic Trustee</i>
Morgan Maria Jennings	Lewis University	David J. Livingston
Shayne Ignacio Alcantara	Lincoln Christian University	Silas McCormick
Nathanal Jeffrey Caamoan	Loyola University Chicago	Mark C. Reed
Bradley L. Eston	McKendree University	Daniel C. Dobbins
Elyce M. Knudsen	Millikin University	Jim Reynolds
Lillian Zhang Hucke	Monmouth College	Clarence Wyatt
Nathan Cristea	National Louis University	Nivine Megahed
Erica Leigh Johnson	North Central College	Anita Thomas
Isabella Christine Santos	North Park University	Mary Karsten Surridge
Bianca "Mykee" Defensor Vives	Northeastern Illinois University	Katrina Bell-Jordan
Merveille Muyizere	Northern Illinois University	Lisa C. Freeman
Lily Ng	Northwestern University	Michael H. Schill
Gloria Ishimwe	Principia College	Daniel Norton
Graci White	Quincy University	Brian McGee
David Lopez	Richard J. Daley College	Janine E. Janosky
Nor Ali Alamery	Rockford University	Patricia Lynott
Elizabeth Valdivia	Roosevelt University	Ali Malekzadeh
Cydni R. Washington-Bolden	Saint Xavier University	Rebecca Sherrick
Liberty Harris	School of the Art Institute of Chicago	Elissa Tenny
Alexis Hamon	Southern Illinois University Carbondale	Austin A. Lane
Hannah Patrice Sheahan	Southern Illinois University Edwardsville	James T. Minor
Matthew "MJ" Huizenga	Trinity Christian College	Aaron J. Kuecker
Amanda Chacon	University of Chicago	Paul Alivisatos
Abigail Elizabeth Pettineo	University of Illinois Chicago	Marie Lynn Miranda

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2023 Student Laureates, cont.

Molly Harms	University of Illinois Springfield	Janet L. Gooch
Caren Marie Morris	University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	Robert J. Jones
Daniel S. McLaurin	University of St. Francis	Arvid C. Johnson
Amanda Joy Siegert	VanderCook College of Music	Roseanne Rosenthal
Jordan W. Rouse	Western Illinois University	Guiyou Huang
Hannah Marie Helinsky	Wheaton College	Philip G. Ryken

Trustees at Large

Timothy L. Killeen
University of Illinois

J. Kevin Dorsey (Interim)
Southern Illinois University

Brian Durham, Executive Director
Illinois Community College Board

The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

History of the Academy

The Lincoln Academy was established by proclamation of the Governor of Illinois in 1964, shortly after the New York World's Fair. During the World's Fair a reception was given for some of our state's most celebrated sons and daughters which impressed Governor Otto Kerner and gave birth to a program to recognize distinguished Illinoisans annually through the establishment of the Order of Lincoln.

The medallion design is based on that of the French Legion of Honor. The colors represent the State symbols: red for the cardinal; deep purple for the violet; and green for the leaves of the oak tree. The motto, "Palmas Qui Meruit, Ferat" ("Let him who merits bear the palm") is based on that of Horatio Viscount Nelson.

The first Convocation and Investiture of Laureates was held on Lincoln's birthday, February 12, 1965, at the Chicago Historical Society and convocations have been held in locations across the state every year since then. During the Bicentennial of Lincoln's birth in 2009, a special Bicentennial Edition of the Order of Lincoln was established, and thirty distinguished Lincoln scholars, collectors, artists, and curators from around the world were honored.

In 1992, Governor Jim Edgar, President of the Lincoln Academy, initiated the creation of a Hall of Fame of Historic Illinoisans whose achievements and contributions were made prior to the establishment of the Lincoln Academy in 1964. Fifty Hall of Fame Honorees were selected. In 2018, in recognition of the Bicentennial of Illinois, the Academy re-constituted the Hall of Fame and additional Historic Illinoisans have been selected.

The mission of the Lincoln Academy was expanded in 1975 by the Student Laureate Program, in which an outstanding senior from each of the four-year degree-granting colleges and universities in Illinois and one student representing our state's community colleges are honored. **Thus, the Lincoln Academy honors the Great Citizens of Today and Celebrates the Great Citizens of Tomorrow.**

The 21st Century has welcomed a world of change and diversity. The sons and daughters of the Twenty-first State continue to make their imprint on history, and in the main, help to make this a better world for their own and future generations.

The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

Organization of the Academy

The Lincoln Academy is a nonpartisan organization governed by a Board of Regents and a membership of General Trustees.

The Governor of the State of Illinois is the President of the Academy and the Board of Regents elects a Chancellor who serves as Chief Executive Officer.

The General Trustees are appointed by the Governor or elected by the Academy.

Ten Rectors serve as ex officio trustees and assist in identifying potential nominees for the Order of Lincoln.

The Academic Trustees are the chief executive officers of all four-year colleges and universities in Illinois and three members at large.

At the discretion of the Regents, a former Governor may be elected a Regent for Life, and a former Member Regent, General Trustee, or Rector who has served in office for ten years or more may be elected an Emeritus Member, in recognition of distinguished service to the Academy.

Former Chancellors of the Academy

The Honorable Michael Butler, Chicago (1965-1969)

Robert Bone, Bloomington (1969 - 1971)

William K. Alderfor, Chicago (1971 - 1975)

Thomas R. Mulroy, Chicago (1975 - 1979)

Marshall Burman, Chicago, (1979 - 1985)

John Trutter, Chicago (1985 - 2001)

The Honorable John B. Simon, Chicago (2001-2010)

Thomas S. Johnson (2010 – 2015)

William Bennett (2015 – 2016)

Stephanie Pace Marshall, PhD (2016 – 2019)

Frank Clark (2019-2022)

The Lincoln Academy of Illinois

Officers of the Academy

The Honorable JB Pritzker, President
The Honorable Ronald D. Spears,
Chancellor
Todd Shapiro, Vice Chancellor

Ethel Holladay, Secretary
Graham Grady, Treasurer
Leanne R. Barnhart, Executive
Director

Regents for Life

The Honorable Jim Edgar
The Honorable Pat Quinn

The Honorable Bruce Rauner
The Honorable George H. Ryan

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Frank M. Clark
Immediate Past Chancellor
Margaret A. Cline
Jane Denes
Dr. George J. Dohrmann

Andrea O. Hasten
Dennis Lyle
Lester H. McKeever, Jr.
Stephanie Pace Marshall, PhD
Alexandra Ransburg

Doug Stewart
Don Tracy
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Rectors

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Larry Dietz, PhD, *Education*
The Honorable Anne Burke, *Government & Law*

Jorge Ramirez, *Labor*
Dr. Helen Morrison, *Medicine and Science*
Vacant, *Religion*
Ricardo Estrada, *Social Services*
Ryne Sandberg, *Sports*

Emeritus Members

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The Honorable Peter Bensinger
Rev. Stanley Davis, Jr.
James G. Gidwitz

Robert J. Lenz
Gayl S. Pyatt
William E. Shaw
Courtney C. Shea

Honorable John Simon
Wayne C. Temple
Ernest Wish

* *Sustaining Member*