



Academic Engagement Awards

Celebrating Research, Teaching, Learning & Community
Engagement

Welcome!



Undergraduate Research & Engagement Symposium

*Cultivating
Knowledge:
Research and
Engagement in
Action*





Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award

Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award

Nominees

Aasrita Tulluri

Adam Belinson

Alayna Bland

Charles Weaver

Daniel Gaevskiy

Eve Owens

Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award

Nominees

Eman Rana

Emily Mordeson

Grace Courter

Jameson Walker

Kara Ehler

Katerina Serembytska

Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award

Nominees

Kody Bruce

Megan Wenner

Michael Clausen

Michael Quiroga

Michael Rogowski

Mikayla Cutler

Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award

Nominees

Muhammad T. Khan

Neva Lang

Noah Muller

Rehonoma Hasan Jahin

Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award

Nominees

Rujuta Durwas

Stella Riehl

Waralyz Hernandez

William Wade

Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award

Winners

Alayna Bland

Charles Weaver

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Eman Rana

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Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award

Winners

Kara Ehler

Mikayla Cutler

Muhammad Khan

Neva Lang

Stella Riehl

William Wade

Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award

Alayna Bland

“Alayna Bland is an exceptionally bright and productive researcher. She will continue to excel in her research, and her plans ultimately target an MD/PhD. I am delighted to provide the strongest possible recommendation.”

Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award

Charles Weaver

“Charles approaches our work together with curiosity, creativity, insight, and a strong intrinsic motivation for ongoing learning. He is dedicated to the research process and always approaches this work through the lens of social justice, embodying Loyola’s mission.”

Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award

Eve Owens

“Eve is extremely self-motivated student and always pushes beyond the comfort zone. It’s amazing to see Eve’s independent research capability. Eve is very detail oriented and asks relevant questions. She always achieves more than she is asked.”

Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award

Eman Rana

“She is always thinking about how to make our research more engaging to the public. She herself always exceeds expectations, always getting things in early and ready to disseminate after only 1 draft.”

Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award

Emily Mordeson

“Emily values learning and exceeds expectations of the typical Loyola student academically. Emily worked through the research process from conceptualization and operationalization to data collection, analysis, and dissemination of her findings.”

Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award

Grace Courter

"It has been an honor to watch Grace evolve from a general interest in health equity to a focused, actionable vision for future research and activism among the Awajún in the Peruvian Amazon."

Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award

Kara Mia Ehler

"I truly could go on and on about how exceptional Kara is. As a community, Loyola has been incredibly lucky to have her as a student and I believe her contributions to our prestige, especially in my field of paleontology, should be recognized by the university."

Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award

Mikayla Cutler

"Mikayla's resilience and determination are noteworthy. They successfully demonstrate not only perseverance, but also the ability to overcome personal and administrative hurdles with grace and courage."

Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award

Muhammad Khan

"In conclusion, as Muhammad's advisor, I witnessed his positive and humble scholarly personality numerous times. He was always willing to learn from and share his knowledge with his peers. His dedication to research makes him an ideal candidate for the award."

Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award

Neva Lang

"Neva not only developed the concept, scheduled and ran rehearsals, gave critical feedback, reflecting, revisiting, and re-editing throughout, she also collaborated with a team of production designers in areas of lighting and costuming that enhanced the work."

Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award

Stella Riehl

"Also worthy of note are Stella's approach to scholarly communication. The value of Stella's attention to how the argument is made and research presented is perhaps as important as the content."

Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award

William Wade

"William is undeniably one of the brightest and most hardworking students I have encountered. He has demonstrated an outstanding ability to grasp complex concepts quickly and apply them effectively in practical settings. He is always asking great questions!"

Mary Therese Langerbeck Award for Undergraduate Research Mentoring

Mary Therese Langerbeck Award for Undergraduate Research Mentoring

Nominees

George K. Thiruvathukal

Jennifer Mierisch

Meghan Iverson

Michael Burns

Mine Cinar

Mary Therese Langerbeck Award for Undergraduate Research Mentoring

Nominees

Molly Melin

Nicholas Baker

Paula Skye Tallman

Stephanie Grella

Dr. Xiang Wan

Yanan Chen

Mary Therese Langerbeck Award for Undergraduate Research Mentoring

Winners

Paula Skye Tallman

Anthropology

Molly Melin

Political Science

Mary Therese Langerbeck Award for Undergraduate Research Mentoring

Winner

Paula Skye Tallman

Anthropology

“Dr. Tallman has helped me realize what my career goals are. She is very real with me when I need to hear critiques, strengthening my work and sharpening my research skills.”

Mary Therese Langerbeck Award for Undergraduate Research Mentoring

Winner

Molly Melin
Political Science

“Since I began working with her my freshman year, Dr. Melin has gone out of her way to connect me and every other undergraduate researcher she’s come across with new and exciting opportunities for expanding our skills, knowledge, confidence, and career development.”

Graduate Student Mentor Award

Graduate Student Mentor Award

Nominees

Josh Honig

Emma O'Flaherty

Nicholas Synovic

Yoldas Yildiz

Tatum LeClair

Graduate Student Mentor Award

Winner

Tatum LeClair

Psychology

Graduate Student Mentor Award

Winner

Tatum LeClair

“Tatum’s ability to explain complex concepts in an accessible way has been instrumental in helping me develop advanced research skills that go beyond the scope of undergraduate training.”

**Adolfo Nicolas SJ Excellence in
Engaged
Learning and Teaching Award**

Adolfo Nicolas SJ Excellence in Engaged Learning and Teaching Award

Nominees

Joseph Milanovich

Martina Schmeling

Jenna Drenten

Zoe Smith

Daniel Swartzman

Catherine Nichols

Adolfo Nicolas SJ Excellence in Engaged Learning and Teaching Award

Winners

Catherine Nichols

Anthropology

Jenna Drenten

Marketing

Adolfo Nicolas SJ Excellence in Engaged Learning and Teaching Award

Winner

Catherine Nichols

Anthropology

“Nichols encourages multiple methods of engagement—asking students to observe, analyze, discuss with each other, and engage in reflection. Nichols models an unmatched enthusiasm for discovery, advancement, and transformation.”

Adolfo Nicolas SJ Excellence in Engaged Learning and Teaching Award

Winner

Jenna Drenten

Marketing

“Jenna excels in engaged learning by integrating real-life businesses into the curriculum, allowing students to tackle genuine challenges. By listening to clients, she emphasizes understanding needs, fostering practical skills like communication and problem-solving, and ensuring impactful, hands-on learning experiences.”

Faculty Certificate in Experiential Education

Faculty Certificate in Experiential Education

John Bieber - SES

Sparkle Springfield - Parkinson

Jennifer Armstrong - Arrupe

René Alvarez - Arrupe

Rasha Abbasi - Physics

Yoo Na Youm - Quinlan

Thomas Deberge - Quinlan

Faculty Certificate in Experiential Education

Janaki Soni - Quinlan

Sheldon Lyke - Law

Jami Eddington - Quinlan

Osman Abraz - Quinlan

Catherine Nichols - Anthropology

Noah Butler - Anthropology

Community Engagement Awards

Community Engagement Awards

Nominees

Andrianna Wrobel

Anya Komkova

Ariana Bedford

Charlotte Baekey

Charlotte Swift

Claire Jackson

Cooper Stahl

Community Engagement Awards

Nominees

Emma Harmata

Erin Ryan

Itzel Flores

Jaimee Cibulka

Justin Julian

Kaycie Bilicki

Maura Green

Community Engagement Awards

Nominees

Megan Barnhart

Mya Nasser

Paige Lillegard

Paulina Perez Gil

Ravidi Serasinghe

Ren Horst

Community Engagement Awards

Nominees

Shubham Patel

Sophie Botzet

Ursalo Madrigal

Community Engagement Awards

Winners

Sophie Botzet

Academic Internship - Administration for
Community Living

Jaimee Cibulka

Academic Internship - American Academy
of Pediatrics – Illinois Chapter

Community Engagement Awards

Winners

Itzel Flores

Service-Learning - Chicago Recovery
Alliance

Maura Green

Academic Internship - Sullivan High
School

Community Engagement Awards

Winners

Justin Julian

Service-Learning - Fitzsimmons Home
Medical Equipment

Ravidi Serasinghe

Academic Internship - Misericordia

Community Engagement Awards

Winner

Sophie Botzet

“Sophie has conducted outstanding work reviewing State reports covering millions of dollars in federal Older Americans Act programs.

Sophie's work will have a lasting impact because of her engagement, as her data visualization models are being used with other States in other regions of the country.”

Community Engagement Awards

Winner

Jaimee Cibulka

“I was impressed with the way Jaimee was able to take direction and just run with it early on without needing a ton of guidance. She immediately dove into her research and demonstrated a strong ability to turn complex data into clear, digestible messaging for informational materials. This work directly contributes to social justice by promoting and spreading awareness about youth firearm violence prevention throughout various channels.”

Community Engagement Awards

Winner

Itzel Flores

“Itzel’s involvement at CRA went beyond her assigned tasks. She actively engaged with the staff and other volunteers, fostering a strong sense of community and collaboration. Her ability to listen, empathize, and provide support to those in need has been truly inspiring.”

Community Engagement Awards

Winner

Maura Green

“Maura takes time out of her personal schedule to come into Sullivan to help build partnerships that will benefit our community. Maura demonstrates a tenacity for social justice that is evident in her work. Maura is always researching and developing new ways to engage with her clients. Maura is able to advocate for her clients due to her strong ability to connect with them and understand them.”

Community Engagement Awards

Winner

Justin Julian

“Justin’s project was one of the most comprehensive and professional projects I have ever seen in my tenure teaching this course. For his project, he created a free medical equipment program for numerous hospitals that would serve folks who are without insurance or who were underinsured in historically marginalized communities. It was truly a phenomenal project.”

Community Engagement Awards

Winner

Ravidi Serasinghe

“Ravidi has become a valued member of our HR/SD team- she is always willing to help, has displayed critical thinking skills, shown initiative in her work, is so well spoken, and a true pleasure to work with and be around. I have received nothing but positive feedback from my team since she has started her internship with us. I believe she will go on to do big things in her career.”

Learning Portfolio Award

Learning Portfolio Award

Nominees

Allison Kiewatt

Grace Herman

Zoe Holland

Learning Portfolio Award

Winners

Allison Kiewatt

Dance and Visual Communication

Learning Portfolio Award

Winner

Allison Kiewatt

“Developing a learning portfolio has been integral to my Jesuit education, helping me draw connections between diverse learning experiences and clarify my goals as a liberal arts student and aspiring professional.”

Community Partner Award for Coeducation

Community Partner Award for Coeducation

Nominees

Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital

The Covenant Home Chicago

Emergency Medicine Global Learning

Exchange

Forging Opportunities for Refugees in

America

Community Partner Award for Coeducation

Nominees

C200

The Healing Academy

American Academy of Pediatrics

Lawndale Christian Health Center

Sullivan High School

Tomahawk Science

Community Partner Award for Coeducation

Winner

*Emergency Medicine Global
Learning Exchange*

Sullivan High School

Community Partner Award for Coeducation

Winner

*Emergency Medicine Global
Learning Exchange*

“As an undergraduate student, working as an intern with EMGLEX is a very unique opportunity not only to gain insight into the US healthcare system, but into a broad range of international healthcare systems directly from those working in other countries.”

Community Partner Award for Coeducation

Winner

Sullivan High School

“This hands-on experience allows Loyola students to apply academic knowledge in real-world settings, collaborate with Sullivan’s dedicated team, and develop skills to advocate for and empower marginalized communities.”



CELTs

Center for Engaged Learning,
Teaching, & Scholarship



Preparing people to lead extraordinary lives