

Phelps CAP Scholarship 2024

My name is Marjorie (Jorie) Burnes, and I am a junior majoring in Criminology and Criminal Justice and minoring in Leadership Studies and Psychology.

Contribute: During my freshman year I started working with UNC's Student Honors Activity Council (SHAC). I was elected to the role of co-secretary/treasurer as we supported Honors students coming out of COVID to attend a variety of events. Eventually I fully took over the duties of secretary, treasurer, and vice president as I made my way into the spring semester. Beginning in my sophomore year I was elected as the president of SHAC. Also, I became a peer mentor for honors students, a class leader for University 101 Honors section students, and began to work in the Honors office. This year I stepped down from my duties as SHAC president, but I continue to assist as a general member in any way I can. I continue to work as a class leader and peer mentor while working in the Honors Office.

Achieve: After being elected as President of SHAC I dedicated myself to completing three goals; balancing the budget, gaining more participation at events, and having a full elected council. I achieved these goals by running fundraisers, offering more incentives for students to attend events while improving marketing for events, and constantly advertised open positions on the elected council. Throughout my college career I have received several awards for academic achievement. During my freshman year I received recognition for excellence in Criminology and Criminal Justice. Then, in my sophomore year I received the UNC Legacy Scholarship and achieved Dean's list distinction. Finally, this year I received the award for excellence in Leadership Studies and created a service project alongside another student. We designed a professional women's clothing drive to support a local Greeley business, Leanna's Closet, which donates clothing to women entering the workforce.

Pay-It-Forward: This year I started working on my Honors Thesis Project which focuses on how rehabilitation and reintegration reduces recidivism in felony offenders. I fell in love with this topic as I started college, I began as a double major in criminology and psychology, but quickly realized that I was more passionate about criminology and criminal justice. My passion for corrections became more apparent as I wrote my independent research paper for my Honors University 101 class regarding how juveniles can be deterred from crime with correctional programs. As I continued in my educational journey, I learned that what I truly wanted to dedicate myself to was developing rehabilitation and reintegration programs in as many correctional facilities as possible. I see the potential for reducing recidivism with these programs and I believe it is important to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves. As a society we expect for criminals to learn from their mistakes and reenter into society as productive citizens with a lack of support and resources. I wish to change that through implementation of these groundbreaking programs and advocacy for offender rights.