

FALL 2025

# DEAN'S CITATION

FOR  
EXCELLENCE

*and*

OUTSTANDING  
THESIS/DISSERTATION/  
SCHOLARLY PROJECT

**UNC**

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO

Graduate School

# DEAN'S CITATION FOR EXCELLENCE

The Graduate Dean's Citation  
for Excellence is awarded to students  
nominated by their school in recognition  
of superior academic achievement  
in graduate studies.

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## Mary Hall

Master of Science  
Chemistry

*Nominated by Bonnie Buss, Melissa  
Weinrich and Murielle Watzky*

## Isaac Subuloye

Master of Science  
Chemistry

*Nominated by Murielle Watzky  
and Aaron Apawu*

## Edwin Rodriguez

Doctor of Philosophy  
Sport and Exercise Science —  
Exercise Physiology Concentration

*Nominated by Laura Stewart  
and Nicholas Pullen*

# OUTSTANDING THESIS/DISSERTATION/SCHOLARLY PROJECT

The Graduate Dean's Citation  
for Outstanding Thesis, Dissertation  
and Scholarly Project is awarded  
to students recognized for outstanding  
research in graduate studies.

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## OUTSTANDING THESIS

## Ahmad Al Mousa

Master of Science  
Chemistry

*Exploring Efficient Neuropeptide Extraction Methods for Quantitative Peptidomics  
and Application in a Principal Central Auditory Nucleus  
Nominated by Aaron Apawu (Research Advisor) and Murielle Watzky*

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## OUTSTANDING DISSERTATION

## Diana L. Cruz

Doctor of Philosophy  
Special Education

*"The goal is to help the community": Motivations and Experiences of Diverse Families  
in a Special Education Parent Advocacy Program.  
Nominated by Tracy Gershwin (Research Advisor) and Silvia Correa-Torres*

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## CITATION FOR EXCELLENCE AND OUTSTANDING DISSERTATION

## Lyndsay McCabe

Doctor of Philosophy  
Special Education

*LGBTQ+ Adolescents with Disabilities' Experiences of School Connectedness  
and Identity Navigation  
Nominated by Nancy Sileo (Research Advisor), Sandy Bowen, Tracy Gershwin  
and Maria Lahman*

# Schedule of Events

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1. Refreshments

2. Dean's Remarks

*Cindy Wesley, Ph.D.*

*Associate Dean of the Graduate School*

3. Presentation of Awards

4. Closing Remarks