

# HSL Happenings

Center for Honors, Scholars, and Leadership:  
2019-2020 A Year in Review

## Greetings from the Honors Director

*Loree Crow*

We are not finishing up with the momentous year of 2020 as we all thought we would, with the added dimensions of the pandemic and subsequent shut-down of the University! My daughter is graduating high school this year, Class of 2020, and so I have been acutely aware of the disappointment for those who were to have these kinds of culminating experiences. This publication is our end of year wrap-up, which has traditionally been provided during the Annual Awards Banquet, where we celebrate our seniors graduating and our scholarship recipients. I am quite sad that the distribution this year is so much more impersonal, via email and social media channels. On the other hand, I am glad that at least we have this avenue to recognize the achievement and successes of our Honors students.

A few thoughts about what I have seen during the second half of Spring semester, when our University went on shut down, like the rest of the world:

- Our students are amazingly resilient and withstood the impact of the switch to online instruction that for most students included conditions that were less than ideal for learning. I know of many who moved back home with younger siblings, anxious family members and general fear. And yet, they persisted in continuing to complete their work, communicating on a regular basis, joining zoom calls, submitting research project progress, switching from one plan for their work for the semester to another plan.

- All of the Honors juniors who began their thesis work this semester completed a proposal with project design and at least a preliminary literature review. ALL of these students continued to plunge forward, and even in the isolation of their remote work environments, wrote strong proposals with meaningful topics.

- Students in Honors Interdisciplinary Program created on-line portfolios and adapted their course by contract projects to fit with the new scenarios.

- Students in study abroad programs managed the chaos of conflicting information coming from the U.S. and the countries where they were housed to find their way back home.

- 75 incoming freshmen have accepted their space in Honors Program and at UNC, a 30% increase over this time last year! Although incoming freshmen are unsure about what the world will bring, they are finding UNC's messages as reassuring.

Our graduates again represent a diverse group of dedicated, innovative, and passionate individuals who have pursued their own individual interests, developed their own themes for exploration, and created projects that are both personally meaningful and significant to their disciplines. The Honors Program served 251 students this year from all Colleges on campus. This number is an increase of 3% over the previous year, which was a 35% increase from the year before that. The programs statistics provide a snapshot of its numeric impact, with a 94% freshmen retention rate from Fall to Fall, and a 6-year graduation from UNC rate for students who participated in Honors at 78%, exceeding the University average. However, the Honors Program continues to focus on individual student success that looks different for each of our students from their diverse backgrounds. No matter what their background, our students, continue to impress the world with their commitment to the public good. The student's highlights are included in this end of year snapshot.



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# Honors Program Shenanigans





# Research Day: HIP and UHP Winners and Finalists

An alternate, virtual Research Day was held April 9 & 10 including judging of Research Excellence Awards.

## Undergraduate Oral Natural & Health Sciences:

### First Place:

**Isabella Aspromonte** - *Activation of the Aryl Hydrocarbon Receptor: an Analysis of 2,3,7,8-Tetrachlorodibenzo p-dioxin Dose-Response on Antigen-Specific Antibody*  
Faculty Sponsor: Gregory DeKrey

### Finalists:

**Erin Munder** - *Transformation of Humulone by UV-Visible Spectroscopy with Introduction of Magnesium*  
Faculty Sponsor: Michael Mosher

**Brittany Ross** - *The Drug and Alcohol Awareness Training: A Peer-led Harm Reduction Approach*  
Faculty Sponsor: Grace Turner

## Undergraduate Oral Social Sciences, Education, Business

### First Place:

**Kaitlin Erpenbeck** - *Yikes! Spider Targets Interfere with Task Completion*  
Faculty Sponsor: Joanna Lewis

### Finalists:

**Kerigan Flynn** - *CHILDHOOD EMOTIONAL ABUSE IN RELATION TO DSM DISORDERS*  
Faculty Sponsor: Rosann Ross

**Nathan Olin** - *Perceptions of Police Self- Legitimacy in the Rocky Mountain Region of the United States*  
Faculty Sponsor: Kyle Ward

## Undergraduate Poster Humanities & Arts

### Finalists:

**Lisa O'Connor** - *The Intersections of Math, Art, and Identity*  
Faculty Sponsor: Anna Ursyn

**Jorge Rubio** - *Bonus: A journey to masculinity*  
Faculty Sponsor: Kristin Bovaird-Abbo

## Developing Scholars Poster(1st & 2nd Year Students)

### First Place:

**Dani Magasano** - *Comprehensive Evaluation and Assessment of First-Year Experience Honors Courses to Promote Holistic Learning*  
Faculty Sponsor: Angela Vaughan

### Finalists:

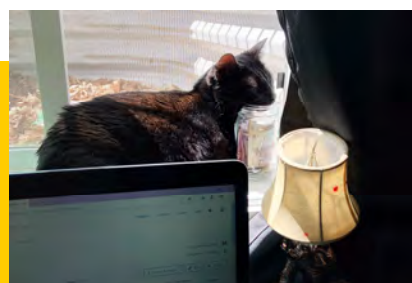
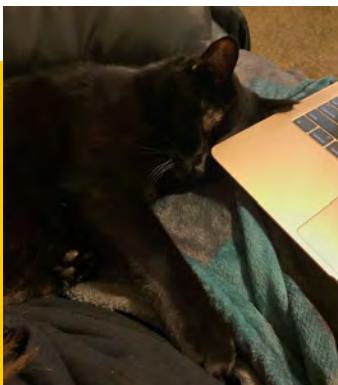
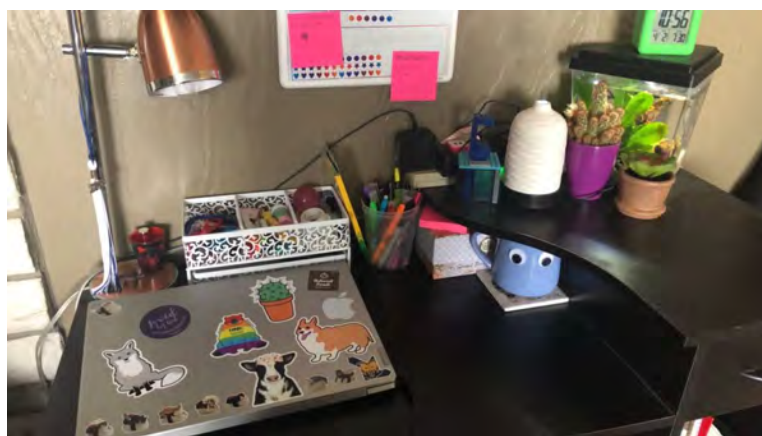
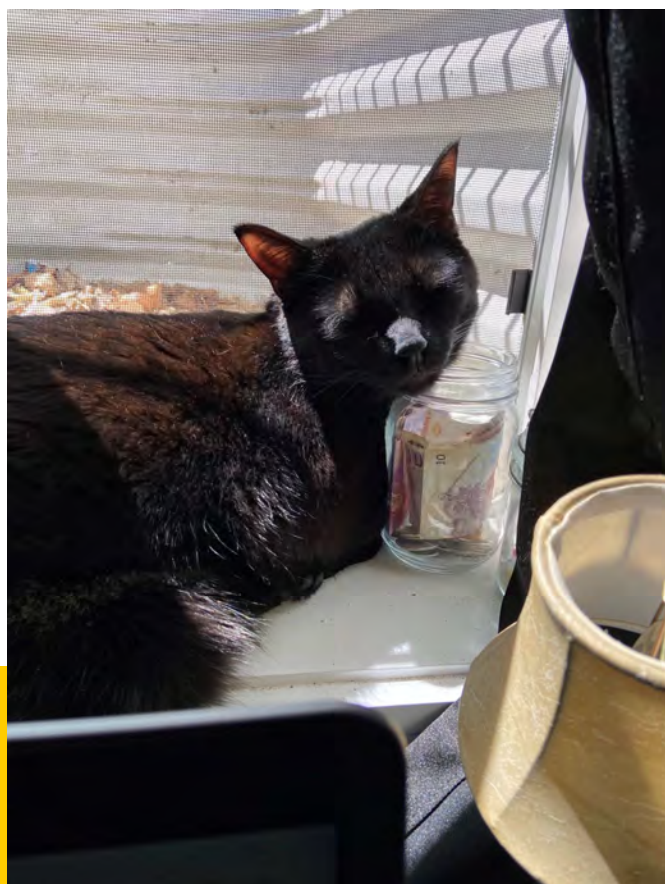
**David Janson** - *Hairy Ainu and Lost Aryans: Differing Perceptions of the Ainu as shown by the Osaka and Louisiana Purchase Expositions*  
Faculty Sponsor: Jiacheng Liu

**Angie Kaufmann** - *Long Forgotten or Still Among us: The Influence of Modern Alchemy in The Name of the Wind*  
Faculty Sponsor: Kristin Bovaird-Abbo

**All Research Day posters and all Research Day abstracts can be viewed on the Research Day webpage:**

# Honors Program Stories from Quarantine

After the announcement that classes would be moving online due to the pandemic, students and staff went home and were asked to work remotely. Below are some of the new workspaces Honors Program students and staff have created to work remotely along with their new co-workers.





# Honors Events and Workshops

## A special note from Danielle Pacheco:

Honors students have the unique opportunity of attending Honors Workshops throughout their academic career. The workshops are designed to support students, offer professional development and provide information to campus and community resources. The honors workshops help to enrich the college experience, engage students in the community as well as inspire civic commitment. Students learn first-hand from campus partners and takeaway valuable information to support them along their educational journeys. The workshops are a way of building community among other honors students as well as honors staff. Students learn everything from self-care, resume and cover letter tips to valuable skills to help them succeed as a student and as a professional. The workshops offer an inclusive space for diverse students who hold many identities and passions.

## Honors Workshops:

### Fall Workshops:

- Fail Forward
- Making the most of your Academics
- Avoiding the Plague
- Self-Balance

### Spring Workshops:

- Resume Workshop
- Graduate School Workshop

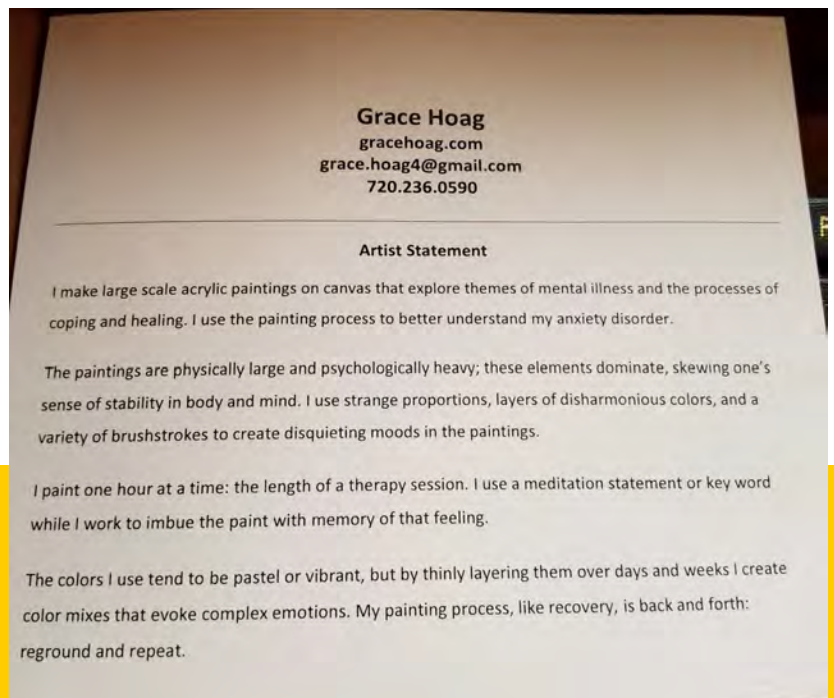


# An IDEA from Adam Zhao:

As part of the re-orientation of the Honors program towards becoming more **holistic and inclusive**, we have been at work developing the **Inclusivity, Diversity, and Equity Advancement (IDEA) initiative**. The goals for the IDEA initiative are to better serve our students that have been historically underrepresented in Honors environments, to build a more connected Honors community that promotes greater sense of belonging, and to facilitate the development of **altruistic and empathetic student leaders** that are going to change the world for the better.

With this initiative comes many new developments for our program, starting with HON101. Two new instructors for HON101 have been hired for Fall 2020, the selection process, training, and expectations for Honors TAs have been **revamped**, and an extended mentoring system has been created, all in alignment with the ideals of the IDEA initiative and student as well as campus feedback. Our assessment of the program will now include specific IDEA self-evaluations, an HON101 evaluation, and additional student opportunities for feedback. Furthermore, we have been connecting more with many of the student services and social justice leaders across campus to receive input for how to build our program and to ensure our program is **interwoven into the fabric of the community** as a bastion of consistent support and success. Lastly, for the time being at least, we have been more intentional about the programming and events we want to offer our students, designing an **inclusivity workshop and identity-centered art showcase** for the past semester that would have certainly been the **bees' knees** if not for the whole pandemic thing. But fret not, there will still be much more to come **#staytuned**.

We are so very excited to be moving forward with this new direction for Honors and with the IDEA initiative and we are excited to see the positive impact it has on you, our **incredibly valued students**. In the meantime, please stay safe and sane, we will see you as doves fly over the horizon on the **dawning of a new day**.



Left: Painting by UNC alumnus **Grace Hoag** as part of the **identity-centered art showcase** located in the Honors Lounge



# Student Honors Council

## A Letter from SHC President Dani Magasano:

Student Honors Council (SHC) is a student-lead organization within the Honors Program that provides social gatherings, leadership opportunities, and community service projects to Honors students. The organization was led by Grace Davis (President) and Shukuru Rushanika (Vice President) in the fall 2019 semester. In the spring 2020 semester, leadership was passed on to Dani Magasano (President) and Karissa Terry (Vice President).

SHC hosted an ice cream social, Harry Potter Butterbeer social, and numerous study nights for Honors students this year. We are planning to host the art gallery that was postponed this spring in the coming fall to showcase some of our students' amazing work.

Our members are applying their leadership and service skills across campus in organizations such as Student Senate, Community Council, New Student Orientation, Center for Peer Education, and many other leadership and peer mentoring opportunities.

Please review our Student Honors Council Officers below:



**President & Fall 2019  
Treasurer – Dani Magasano**



**Vice President – Karissa  
Terry**



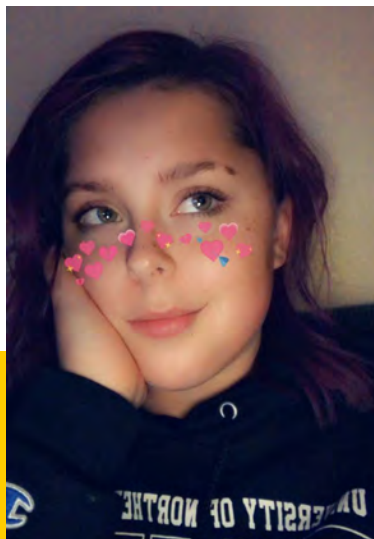
**Fall 2019 Vice  
President – Shaq  
Rushanika**



**Curriculum Committee  
lead & Fall 2019  
President – Grace Davis**



**Secretary – Brandon Elias**



**Treasurer – Eli Shoemaker**



**Event Coordinator – Rowan Smart**

# Peer Mentor Programs:

## UHP Peer Mentor Program

As students enter the Upper Division Honors Program (UHP), research development can feel overwhelming. Questions float like: *how am I going to write an entire lit review?, who will my research advisor be?, and what am I going to even research?!* The UHP peer mentor program was created to assist students in answering these questions. HON- 351/251 is a once a week course that leaves students with a lot of room for creativity and time to develop a research project base over the course of a semester. Peer mentors, who have been selected out of the previous HON- 351/251 cohorts, are available for students to ask advice in chiseling their project out of the stone block the Honors program curriculum provides. Spring 2020 was the first semester this program took place and provided help to students in areas of on-campus resources, networking, pinpointing research advisors, topic development, and creating a literature review. I was excited to be a peer mentor this semester and look forward to the rewards peer mentors can reap for the Honors program in upcoming semesters. ~ [Grace Davis](#)

### UHP Peer Mentors:

Shukuru Rushinaka, Ashley Snell, Jorge Rubio, Grace Davis, Collin Slutzky, Gabriela Masztalerz

## HON 101 Peer Mentor Program

Of all skills an Honors student at UNC gains, critical thinking is perhaps the most important. It is for this reason that Honors 101: Introduction to Critical thinking serves as many student's introduction to the program. Three sections of HON 101 introduced many new students to the program under the direction of Dr. Rebecca Broghammer and a team of undergraduate TAs. For the students, this was an opportunity to engage in interdisciplinary discussions and think about how they view the world. For the TAs, this was a rare opportunity to gain experience leading a class and preparing curriculum as an undergraduate. Although the structure of the class will likely change as new professors and TAs lead the class going forward, the principle of providing a unique and diverse classroom experience will remain. ~ [Collin Slutzky](#)

### HON101 TA/Peer mentors:

Collin Slutzky, Brandon Elias, Grace Davis, Grace Cheney, Karter Knox





# Spring 2020 Honors Graduates



## Isabella Aspromonte – UHP Graduate – Sport and Exercise Science

**Thesis:** Activation of the Aryl Hydrocarbon Receptor: An Analysis of 2,3,7,8-Tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin Dose-Response on Antigen-Specific Antibody

To be an honors student, to me, has meant being pushed scholastically and emotionally allowing me into spaces which have allowed me to grow confidence in myself, science, and conceptual learning. My favorite memory from my time in honors was the choice of my project at Research Symposium to present at the National Conference of Undergraduate Research.

**Future Plans:** Internship in Exercise Physiology, Rehabilitation, and Diagnostic Sonography at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Employment as the Director of Wellness at the Cincinnati YMCA

**Scholarships:** Presidential Transfer Scholarship

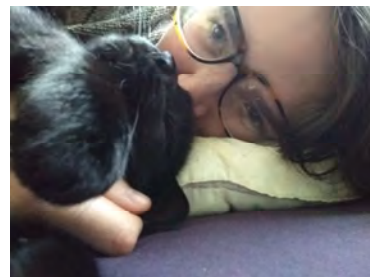
## Kerigan Flynn – UHP Graduate – Psychology

**Thesis:** CHILDHOOD EMOTIONAL ABUSE IN RELATION TO CERTAIN DSM DISORDERS

Being an Honors Student has meant directing and controlling my own learning. It has been a beautiful adventure, and my favorite part was the moments when my advisor would remind me to enjoy the view or inform me that I was about to steer us into a dead end. What a great journey this has been!

**Future Plans:** Masters in Social Work, Currently working at Mental Health Partners, Volunteer at Face to Face Client Care Internships and Community Volunteering

**Scholarships & Internships:** Transfer Student Scholarship, Research Assistance



## Vivian Hoang – UHP Graduate – Chemistry, Criminal Investigation

**Thesis:** Recovering Latent Fingerprints from Duct Tape after Removal from Various Surfaces using a Dry Ice Acetone Slush

To me, being an honors student meant holding myself to a higher standard, knowing that this research required dedication, passion, and a lot of hard work.

**Future Plans:** I did finish an internship with CBI this past summer, so hopefully I will get to work with them as an employee! And then consider grad school sometime in the future.

**Internships & Accomplishments:** Colorado Bureau of Investigation Forensic Services Intern, Was able to present research project at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences 72nd Annual Scientific Conference

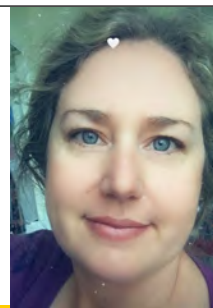
## Kathryn Niebch – UHP Graduate – Psychology

**Thesis:** Systematic review of masculinity, gender role conflict, and shame as hurdles for men in therapy and suggestion for future research on therapeutic intervention with men

Working with Brianne was the most amazing part of being in the honors program. She is very passionate about her students.

**Future Plans:** Graduate School

**Internships:** The Blue Bench



## Adam Rojas – UHP Graduate – Communication Studies

**Thesis:** Policy Analysis of Broadband Deployment in Colorado

To me, being an Honors student isn't only about excelling in academics but also striving to become a well-rounded individual. My favorite memory from my time in honors would be having the opportunity to meet other students and learn about their projects.

**Future Plans:** Graduate Program in Technology, Cybersecurity, and Policy program at University of Colorado Boulder



### Jorge Rubio – UHP Graduate – Philosophy

**Thesis:** Bonus: A Journey to Masculinity

Being an honors student has been intrinsically and extrinsically valuable for me. As a person I have grown my resilience because of the sheer work that it takes to get through the other side. As a scholar the honors program has given me the flexibility to be my intellectual self. I have truly enjoyed being a part of the honors program!

**Future Plans:** University of Northern Colorado Counseling Psychology MA

**Scholarships & Awards:** McNair, Courage to Excel, Bob and Bonnie Phelps Family CAP Award, 1st Place Research Day Winner

**Clubs:** Caesar's Legacy

### Kyra Yenter – UHP Graduate – Psychology

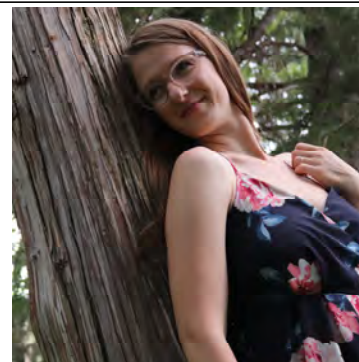
**Thesis:** Creativity and Long-Term Memory

The opportunity to do research, build connections with other amazing students, and have access to all the resources the Honors Program provides has been instrumental for my success as a student and in my future.

**Future Plans:** Graduate School or Gap Year before Continuing

**Scholarships & Awards:** Bears Scholarship, Dean's List

**Clubs & Internships:** Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity, Psi Chi International Honor Society for Psychology, Internship at Lutheran Family Services Care House



### Nathan Olin – UHP Graduate – Criminology & Criminal Justice, Political Science

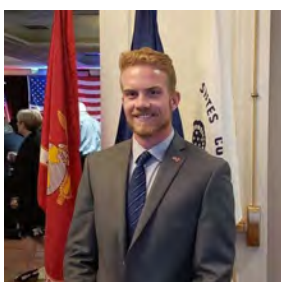
**Thesis:** Perceptions of Police Self-Legitimacy in the Rocky Mountain Region of the United States

Being an Honors student has meant the world to me because the Honors program allowed me to pursue my academic interests. My favorite memory from the Honors Program was presenting my study at the Western Association of Criminal Justice in Cour d'Alene, Idaho.

**Future Plans:** Wyoming State JD

**Awards and Accomplishments:** Courage to Excel, Honors Program Scholarship, 2018 Campaign Intern, SALUTE: National Veterans Honor Society, 2019 Deans List

**Acceptance to Grad School:** Wyoming College of Law



### Cassidy Lang – UHP Graduate – Sport and Exercise Science

**Thesis:** Therapeutic Interventions for Visual Impairments After Stroke

Being a part of the Honors Program at UNC has made me a more well-rounded student and working professional. I originally applied to Upper Division Honors to add an additional challenge to my coursework, but learned so much more about conducting research, engaging in professional relationships with teachers and peers, and from attending workshops. My favorite memory from my time in Honors was learning about the different research projects at UNC and having the opportunity to conduct my own research.

**Future Plans:** Regis University DPT Program, Denver

**Internship:** Integral Physical Therapy



### Erin Munder – UHP Graduate – Chemistry

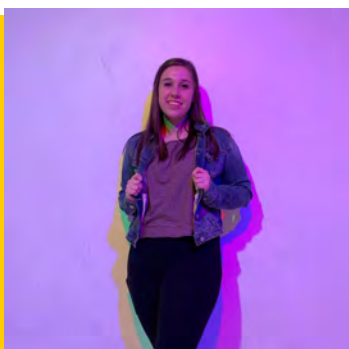
**Thesis:** Transformation of Humulone by UV-Visible Spectroscopy with Introduction of Magnesium

To me, being an Honors student is having a passion for my research and dedication to go above and beyond since a lot of work was required to complete my research. My favorite memory from being in Honors is having the opportunity to get to know the faculty in the Chemistry Department especially my advisor Dr. Mosher.

**Future Plans:** Pursuing a Master's in Chemistry at University of Northern Colorado

**Scholarships:** Bears Merit Scholarship

**Clubs & Activities:** Intramural sports, volunteering, Delta Zeta, Women's Club Soccer







## Alejandra Long – UHP Graduate – Psychology

**Thesis:** The role of random drug testing in family reunification: More questions than answers

Being an Honors student gave me the opportunity to be a distance learner while still being involved. There are limited opportunities for students that are taking online courses to be involved with the university and being in the Honors program helped me establish networks. My favorite memory from my time in Honors is when I was started finding answers, or lack of answers, for my research thesis.

**Future Plans:** I will continue my employment with Montrose County Health and Human Services where I am currently a Child Protective Services Caseworker; I will also be completing the required courses and supervision needed to apply to become a Certified Addictions Counselor (CAC II)

**Scholarships:** Courage to Excel

**Clubs:** Psi Chi



## Riley Barela – UHP Graduate – Psychology, Criminology & Criminal Justice

**Thesis:** The Stigmatization of Mental Illnesses



## Jasmyn Mosqueda-Banuelos – UHP Graduate – Spanish

**Thesis:** The Experience of First-Generation College Students in STEM Classrooms



## Chris Canipe – UHP Graduate – Political Science

**Thesis:** The Relationship between College Students' Snapchat Use and Proclivity to Vote in the 2018 United States Midterm Elections

## Malaika Michel-Fuller – HIP & UHP Graduate – English

**Thesis:** Navigator, Narrator, Negotiator: Autoethnographic Reflections of an Elected Student Representative

If I could sum up my Honors experience in 3 words, it would be: interconnected, vibrant, and meaningful. Honors has made me a better student, researcher, and public servant.

**Future Plans:** Master of Public Administration at The Ohio State University

**Awards & Accomplishments:** Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement program; Student Senate: 4-term Senate member and 2-term Student Trustee on UNC's Board of Trustees, Reisher Scholar, Dean's List of Distinction, Research Excellence Award, Community Engaged Scholar Award, Intern for Senator Dominick Moreno, 2020 Legislative Session, Truman Scholarship Finalist, Newman Civic Fellow, and **I'm the first in my family to graduate college!**



## Phoebe Khaliqi – HIP Graduate – Nursing

**Future Plans:** Employment: Nursing

**Clubs:** The Navigators

## Nina Skylar – HIP Graduate – Communication Studies



## Gabriella Genova – HIP Graduate – Psychology

To me, the honors program has been an opportunity to experiences a breadth of different disciplines. My favorite experience was with the friends I made.

**Future Plans:** Graduate School

**Awards & Scholarships:** Courage to Excel, Dean's Honor Roll

**Activities:** Band

**Internships:** Internship at Nicheange





### Ashley Jones – HIP Graduate – English

Being an honors student has meant so much for my growth as a student and as a person. I made so many wonderful friends that helped push me toward meeting my goals. My favorite memory from Honors is the Netflix and Chili night where we just watched Avatar the last Airbender episodes.

**Future Plans:** Looking to head into marketing on a writing team

**Scholarships:** Provost Academic

**Clubs:** Quidditch

**Study Abroad:** Dublin

### Ally Van Dyke – HIP Graduate – Music, Arts Entrepreneurship

Being an honors student provided me with a source of connection and empowerment while on campus. I enjoyed the challenge of pushing myself to expand my world view and have meaningful discussions with my peers. My favorite memory of the honors program is shooting an MTV cribs style video for Habitat for Humanity in the Leadership 200 class I took. In particular it was the opportunity to make something creative and impactful to share with our peers that made that experience memorable.

**Future Plans:** Working as an entrepreneur in music business

**Scholarships and Awards:** UNC Legacy, UNC Trustee

**Clubs and Activities:** Northern Lights A Cappella, New Vocal Music Ensemble, Music Business Club, Athena Arts Project Internship



### Miranda Villavicencio – HIP Graduate – International Affairs

My favorite memory was the Qdoba quiz lunch we had every year to welcome the new students it was always fun to see all the new faces and all the old ones as well. Being an honor student has meant holding myself to a higher standard both academically and as an example UNC student.

**Future Plans:** Pursuing a Master's Degree in Global Finance, Trade, and Economic Integration at University of Denver.

**Scholarships:** Bears Scholarship

**Internships:** China Internship

### Bryanna Wattier – HIP Graduate – Mathematics

Being a Scholar has taught me that I am stronger than the challenges I face and can overcome any challenges. I have learned that I can contribute to the world of academia and am good enough to thrive in graduate school.

**Future Plans:** I have not picked a school, but I plan to model hazardous materials upon graduating from undergrad.



### Joshua Wiggins – HIP Graduate – English

Being an Honors student has allowed me to pursue interdisciplinary studies and fields of research and thought that are normally prevented by focusing my classes to a particular major. My favorite memory is split between an entire class I took focusing on J.R.R. Tolkien's legendarium (shout out to the amazing Dr. Bovaird-Abbo!) and the time I was the TA for an Honors 101 class. I still love all my students I had that semester, and it's been amazing watching them blossom into little genius flowers.

**Future Plans:** Currently Pursuing a Master's Degree in English here at UNC

**Accomplishments:** Paul Heidger Scholarship, UNC Trustees Scholarship, Loveland Anonymous Benefactor Scholarship, acceptance to UNC's Master's Program, Completed NaNoWriMo two years in a row

**Clubs:** Sigma Tau Delta





### Sydney McVicker – HIP Graduate – Psychology

To be an Honors student is to be truly authentic, and involves personal motivation and work towards the best version of oneself. My favorite Honors Student moment has been working on Student Honors Council... laughing, problem solving, and experiencing as a team!

**Future Plans:** Gap year(s) before graduate school/further schooling

### Alyssa Dunbaugh – HIP Graduate – International Affairs, Communication Studies

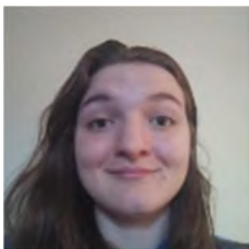
Being in the Honors Program means being in a community of like-minded individuals who support your academic goals and accept you for who you are. My favorite part of being in the Honors Program was living in the Honors RLC my freshman year because I met some amazing individuals who have become my best friends.

**Future Plans:** Graduate School; Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University in D.C., Master of Arts in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies

**Awards:** Trustee Scholarship, Dean's List of Academic Distinction, HSS Honors Recipient

**Clubs and Activities:** Club Tennis, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Lambda Pi Eta, Club Sports Executive Council, Phi Sigma Pi

**Acceptance to Grad School:** George Washington University



### Kaitlin Erpenbeck – HIP Graduate – Psychology

My favorite memory from my time in Honors comes from a "painting with Bob Ross" program hosted by the program and attended by many non-Honors students. The atmosphere was relaxed and enjoyable rather than stuffy and pretentious.

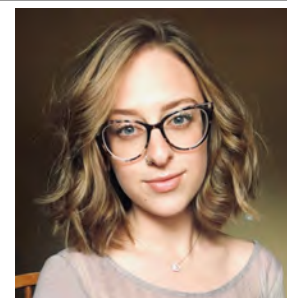
**Future Plans:** Employment; Lab manager/research assistant in a psychological research lab

### Desiree Batteiger – HIP Graduate – Foreign Language

Being a part of the UNC honors program was full of unexpected twists and turns. It gave me insight on so many things, including leadership, creative thinking, and diversity. It also brought me my best friend and for that I am forever grateful!

**Future Plans:** Employment: I plan to work internationally at first, and hopefully one day work stateside with immigrants as a French language interpreter

**Scholarships:** UNC Trustee Scholarship



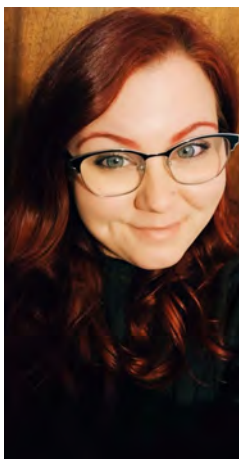
### Olivia Kasten – HIP Graduate – International Affairs, Foreign Language

With the Honors Program, I loved Coffee with the Profs, where we had the opportunity to sit down and pick the brilliant minds of those who taught us. As a little, inexperienced freshman the professors seemed untouchable- down in the center of the lecture hall at their podiums- but, with a cup of coffee in hand, conversations were had and connections made which impacted the rest of my college experience.

**Future Plans:** Volunteer Work (I hope to work for an international humanitarian organization)

**Awards:** Study Abroad Scholarship, Trustee Academic Scholarship, Summa Cum Laude

**Activities:** Youth director at my church, Interned in Chios, Greece for a month with the Greek America Foundation; worked a summer at St. Innocent Orphanage in Rosarito, Mexico building homes in the area; worked two months in Belgrade, Serbia with Orthodox Christian youth, Ambassador to the Air Force Academy Conference, Honored Student for the Political Science Department



### Brittany Ross – HIP Graduate – Human Services

The community I found in the Honors Program made my transition to college so much easier. The support from the Graduate Assistants helped me to see that there were people on campus rooting for me and willing to invest their time in me. I loved all of the participation in research by Honors students, and it was so much fun to see my peers present on projects that they were passionate about.

**Future Plans:** Currently Applying to the Colorado School of Public Health

**Scholarships & Awards:** Courage to Excel, Undergraduate Academic Scholar Award for Natural and Health Sciences Department, Research Excellence Award Finalist Spring 2020

**Clubs:** Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity

**Internships:** Internship with Center for Peer Education

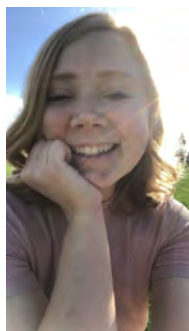
### Alex Schaffer – HIP Graduate – Business Administration

Being an Honors student has allowed me to be in classes I would not have found otherwise. It helped me find my minor in Leadership Studies.

**Future Plans:** Employment: UNC Navigators Staff

**Clubs:** Club Tennis, Navigators

**Internships:** Internship with University Relations Department on Campus



### Kristie Kinch – HIP Graduate – English

Being an Honors student has meant always having a community that I can be a part of. The Honors program challenged me to think about things differently, which changed how I interacted with the rest of my classes as well. Even if the topics were completely different, what we discussed in my honors classes ended up applying to my major and minors. My favorite memory of the Honors program would probably be the very first Honors activity my freshman year. We spent the day in downtown Greeley, working together and forming our community. Being in the new environment was made easier by making those connections early.

**Scholarships:** UNC Trustee scholarship, UNC Scholars, Courage to Excel Scholarship

### Christian Sunblade – HIP Graduate – Environmental & Sustainability Studies

To me being an Honors Student means trying your best to challenge yourself and put yourself out of your comfort zone. I am very thankful to be a part of the Honor Program here at UNC. My favorite memory was during Honors Orientation and meeting the awesome HIP staff.

**Future Plans:** Further Schooling: U.S. Army Signal Basic Officers Leadership Course; Employment: U.S. Army Signal Corps

**Awards:** Army ROTC 3yr Advanced Designee, Courage to Excel, Debra & Gregory Holman Scholarship, The Senior Military Instructor's Award for Excellence, The Commandant of Cadets Award for Excellence, Excellence in German at the Honors Convocation

**Clubs and Activities:** UNC Army ROTC (Executive Officer), UNC Club Tennis

**Internships:** USDA NIFA Internship



### Claire Metusalem – HIP Graduate – Theatre Arts

It has meant delving deeper into my academics and developing better critical thinking skills. My favorite memory from my time in the Honors Program was my involvement in Soliya in Confluence of Cultures.

**Future Plans:** Gap year(s) before graduate/further schooling; Moving to LA or NYC To pursue acting

**Awards and Achievements:** Academic and Talent Scholarship, Summa Cum Laude

**Clubs and Activities:** Theatre Department Shows, Bearly Shakespeare

**Post-Grad Acceptance:** UNLV MFA Acting, East 15 MFA Acting, Rose Bruford MFA Acting



# NCHC (National Collegiate Honors Council)



## NCHC Portz Fellowship Award

Gabriela Masztalerz, a junior honors student majoring in Speech-Language Pathology at UNC, is the recipient of the \$5,000 2020 Portz Fellowship from the National Collegiate Honors Council for her research project, "Accent Modification and Identity: A Phenomenological Study Exploring the Experiences of International Students and Immigrants/Refugees."

The selection committee wrote in the email, "The members of the committee were impressed with your preparation, your deep engagement in honors, and evident enthusiasm for your project."

Congratulations Gabriela!

## NCHC Conference, 2019 New Orleans, LA "Disrupting Education"

In November 2019, two honors students traveled to New Orleans to attend the National Collegiate Honors Council's annual conference. Both students had been accepted into the competitive student poster competition in their respective categories. Student Honors Council President Grace Davis presented her research on the intersectionality of Queer Christian identity in college students. Malaika Michel-Fuller presented research on the Greeley/Evans community response to the floods of 2013. Director Loree Crow accompanied the students, and also presented in the faculty poster session on a quantitative project analyzing withdraw data from UNC's Honors Program, which was co-authored by past Honors Program Graduate Assistant Sarah Zwetzig. As a surprise, the poster won the faculty poster session. Malaika and Grace came back to UNC and presented their findings about honors students and program and curricular structure to the Student Honors Council and helped to inform the Honors Program current re-visioning process regarding developing a more holistic and inclusive program.



# Donor Recognition



## Eugene D. and Peggy J. Koplitz Scholarship

Dr. Koplitz, Professor Emeritus of Educational Psychology, came to UNC in 1958 and studied mental processes of advanced intellects. Because of his experience in gifted education, the task of establishing an Honors program was given to Koplitz. In only a year-and-a half, Koplitz established the UNC Honors Program with partnership in 19 departments on campus as well as establishing the Honors thesis tradition that still stands to this day as one of the more rigorous Honors thesis requirements in the State. As founder of the UNC's Honors Program, Gene Koplitz began a tradition that centered on the intellectual development of many of the University's top students. Throughout his professional career, Dr. Koplitz presented research papers at international, regional, state, and local levels, and he made a large impact on all he met and taught. Sadly, Gene passed away in early September 2017, and is survived by his wife, Peggy, his children David and Stephanie, and five grandchildren.

## Becky R. Edgerton Memorial Honors Scholarship

The Honors Program is pleased to recognize the generosity of Ronald K Edgerton who provided the gifts to create the permanent fund to perpetuate excellence in the University Honors Program through the Becky R. Edgerton Memorial Honors Scholarship. Dr. Edgerton was Director of the Honors Program from 1985 to 2000. Becky Edgerton (April 22, 1941-December 17, 1999) loved poetry, opera and good movies; The New York Times Book Review and The New Yorker magazine, good literature, wine and conversation; feminist theory, loyal friends and her family. For her, reading was a way of life, and she read just about everything. She published poetry, taught in the Honors and Life of the Mind programs. We honor Becky Edgerton through the Becky R. Edgerton Memorial Honors Scholarship.



## Marie Livingston Honors Scholarship

Dr. Marie Leigh Livingston is Professor Emerita of Economics at University of Northern Colorado. She came to Colorado in 1979 to work for the Economic Research Service, U.S.D.A. and began her career at UNC in 1985 after earning her Ph.D. While at UNC, she was Professor and Chair of Economics, and served as Director of several interdisciplinary programs, including the University Honors Program, International Trade and Relations (now International Affairs) and the Life of the Mind Program. With specializations in water resources and international economics, she worked extensively in Central Europe and has been a visiting professor at University of Minnesota, University of Frankfurt and University of Madrid. In 2009 she was a Fulbright Senior Specialist at the University of Economics in Prague. Since retiring from UNC, her most recent international experience has been to teach at Foreign Trade University in Hanoi, Vietnam.





### Gregory E. and Debra K. Holman Scholarship

Greg and Kaye Holman's love of students and belief in the power of education to transform lives strongly guided how they give of their time and talents. As recipients of a variety of grants and scholarships over the course of their academic careers, Greg and Kaye hoped to support other first generation students through the establishment of the Gregory E. and Debra K. Holman Scholarship. In directing their support towards honors and leadership students, the Holmans recognized the students Kaye had worked with in her time at UNC—students like the Holmans themselves, who had a passion and a commitment to academic excellence and the capacity and drive to serve others and the natural world. Currently, Kaye is completing a national fellowship in sustainability in higher education through the Higher Education Associations Sustainability Consortium, and she serves in international sustainability leadership in both ACPA and NASPA.

### Barbara Heidger Memorial Scholarship

Barbara Jane Heidger (Hyslop) entered UNC (then Colorado State College) as a member of the newly inaugurated Honors Program, then under the direction of Professor Eugene Koplitz. There she met fellow Honors student Paul Heidger, who she later married. Barbara's academic excellence and devotion to her field (international relations) led her to work abroad with Columbia's Teachers for East Africa during the completion of her Master's coursework. She taught at a residential boy's secondary school in Kericho, Kenya for two years, teaching world history and researching the development of political parties, which had just begun in Kenya in 1964 after emerging from British colonial rule. She continued to be involved with the local and international community, sponsoring the Model UN Program and assuming a leadership position in her church's efforts to welcome and resettle refugee families from Southeast Asia. It is sincerely hoped that this scholarship bearing Barbara's name may assist students at UNC to reach their life goals and full potential. Barbara passed in 1994, and is survived by Paul and their two daughters, Julie and Lisa.



### Paul Heidger Scholarship

Paul Heidger '63 was part of the first UNC Honors class of graduates, where he met Barbara. Barbara and Paul married shortly after she returned from Kenya. Until he retired in 2012, Paul taught for 38 years at the University of Iowa, where he was a professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology. After retirement, he continued to work closely with UI students, working as a student adviser for an undergraduate research training program. He led an accomplished path of service and dedication to his profession and his students. Paul eventually remarried, and currently enjoys an expanded family of their shared children and grandchildren.

During his time at UNC, Paul became lifelong friends with then Honors Director and creator Eugene Koplitz, pictured right.



*Eugen Koplitz & Paul Heidger*

# Thank you, Donors!

# Scholarship Winners



## Eugene D. and Peggy J. Koplitz Scholarship – Collin Slutzky

I am a 5th year double major in Mathematics and Economics with a minor in Environmental and Sustainability Studies. I am a member of Upper Division Honors, McNair Scholars, and will participate in the USDA-NIFA Agroecology and Sustainability Fellowship this Summer. I intend to pursue a PhD in Economics. In my free time, I enjoy playing guitar and recording music.

The scholarships I have received through Honors have been essential in allowing me to continue my education. They have allowed me to overcome housing insecurity and cover my tuition and fees when I had no other way to come up with the money. Without these scholarships, I would have had to drop out and seek full-time employment.

## Becky R. Edgerton Memorial Honors Scholarship – Jorge Rubio

The Edgerton Memorial Award is for the Honors graduate who combines the completion of a meritorious thesis, and the greatest breadth of intellectual curiosity among honors peers.

Jorge exemplifies everything that it means to be honors. He has led an honorable life, giving more of himself to others before he even begins to work on his own needs. Even as he was in his final semester at UNC finishing both his McNair philosophical research exploration and his Honors creative work, he also served as a peer mentor to first year upper division honors students.

As a scholar, he has chosen to explore the big questions in life: What does it mean to be man? What does it mean to be human? His thesis was an exploration of these questions through the story of a man named "Bonus." Jorge is an inspirational person and a true scholar of ideas.



## Honorable Mention for Meritorious Thesis:

- Isabella Aspromonte
- Nathan Olin
- Vivian Hoang



## Directors' Civic Engagement Award – Malaika Michel-Fuller

If I could sum up my Honors experience in 3 words, it would be: interconnected, vibrant, and meaningful. The Honors Program fostered my ability to use research to address key public issues without sacrificing academic rigor and intellectual depth, and my experiences motivated me to pursue graduate education to enhance my academic and professional skillset. Honors has made me a better student, a better researcher, and a better public servant. I look forward to carrying my Honors education to graduate school and into my future career.

I poured four years of my life into UNC, and it gifted me with lifelong friends and mentors, a worldwide community of Bears, and the access, support, and opportunities to chase what I wanted in life. The tangible opportunities for growth and life fully lived that UNC has provided me will undoubtedly guide my future steps; once a Bear, always a Bear!





### Honors Program Scholarship - Kinzy Burke

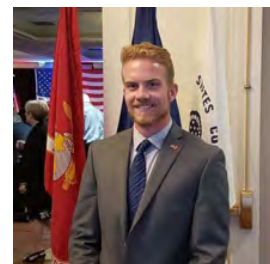
I am currently a junior at the University of Northern Colorado, completing my third semester in the School of Nursing. Over the past two years, I have been conducting academic research through the Upper-Division Honors Program on campus, to work towards breaking down potential barriers in the healthcare system. In addition to that, I was nominated to be a Class Leader to serve as mentor for incoming freshman students for University 101. Eventually, I plan on going to graduate school to obtain my Master's of Science in Nursing and specialize as a Clinical Nurse Specialist to help those with neurological disorders.

As a current student at the University of Northern Colorado, I am familiar with the amount of time and money it takes to be successful. I have earned a 3.91 GPA while working a part-time job in order to pay for my education. This scholarship has contributed to the necessary resources needed to continue my education and better my future. With that being said, I have been able to spend more time focused on my education rather than working to pay for tuition. I am forever grateful for the generous donors that continuously support my educational journey.

### Honors Program Scholarship – Nathan Olin

Being an Honors student has meant the world to me because the Honors program allowed me to pursue my academic interests. My favorite memory from the Honors Program was presenting my study at the Western Association of Criminal Justice in Cour d'Alene, Idaho.

Nathan Olin is a graduate who plans to pursue a JD at the Wyoming College of Law. He also was a 2018 Campaign Intern, was part of SALUTE: National Veterans Honor Society, and was on the 2019 Deans List.



### Marie L. Livingston Honors Scholarship – Grace Davis

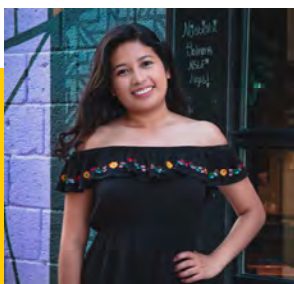
Grace C. Davis (S/H/Hers) is an Anthropology student with a minor in Gender Studies. Davis participates in both the Honors Interdisciplinary Program (HIP) and Upper Division Honors (UHP). She serves as a UHP peer mentor and conducts research on religious and LGBTQ+ identity intersections. Beyond this, Davis is an avid writer, poet, and policy analyst.

Receiving the Marie L Livingston scholarship has impacted my ability to continue my undergraduate studies and freed up time for me to create and focus on homework, research, and extra-curricular responsibilities. This scholarship has equipped me with much-needed support in order to prepare for a career post-graduation.

### Paul Heidger Scholarship – Joshua Fenn

I graduated from Broomfield High School in 2019 and, alongside pursuing a major in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, I like to draw. I am also attending a Dungeons and Dragons club, which I first joined in my freshman year. Although the specifics are uncertain as of now, one thing I want to pursue as a career is the study of animals, whether it be extinct life or creatures that are alive today.

This scholarship has helped me greatly in that it allowed me to spend more time focused on my college career. Since it has allowed me to not use as much time worrying about college payment, I have been able to further hone in on my academic studies as I go on my path towards my future, whatever it holds in store for me. As evidenced by the fact that I'm currently carrying a GPA of 4.00 while also being in the Honors program.



### Barbara Heidger Memorial Scholarship – Karla Guerra Santos

My name is Karla Guerra Santos. I am a first generation, first-year student with a Human Services Major. On-campus, I am part of the Honors Interdisciplinary Program and Caminando Unidos. These are two programs have had a positive impact on my college experience. Some of my hobbies include reading and watching TV with friends or family. My plans for the future are to continue being part of the two organizations I am currently part of. Career-wise, I hope to be able to make a difference and help people in need.

Receiving this scholarship has helped me as a first-year student financially. As a first-generation student, I did not know a lot about the financial side of attending university. I knew it would be a lot of money, but I knew I could get financial aid from the government. Even with the help received it is not enough to cover all the fees. Scholarships would be what could help me cover another portion of the cost. Receiving the scholarship has allowed me to have to worry less about the high cost of getting a higher education.

# Courage to Excel Winners

**Kinzy Burke**

**Nathan Olin**

**Grace Davis**

**Collin Slutzky**

**Joshua Fenn**

**Karla Guerra Santos**

**Brittany Ross**

**Jorge Rubio**

**Abigail Avalos**

**Victor Banuelos**

**Tyler Chavez**

**Tatiana Dixon**

**Brenner Dugan**

**Alyson Duran**

**Melissa Escalera**

**Amelia Gardner**

**Kayla Garza**

**Rosemary Gonzalez**

**Aiyanna Hernandez Staci**

**Higgins Aliceson Jones**

**Sophia Kelly**

**Alejandra Long**

**Manuel Lopez Arredondo**

**Hailie Macy**

**Angelica Manuel**

**Fernando Cynthia**

**Mollendor Shukuru**

**Rushanika Madelyn Sadler**

**Olivia Sponsler**

**Francis To**

**Hadley Vogler**

**Bryanna Wattier**

## **Courage to Excel Scholarship—Colorado Department of Higher Education**

This scholarship, provided through a grant from the Colorado Department of Higher Education, distributes scholarships to incoming Honors Program students who have demonstrated high levels of academic achievement and motivation to continue with their learning through honors education. The scholarships are intended to provide additional financial assistance for students and are renewable for students who continue in Honors.



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