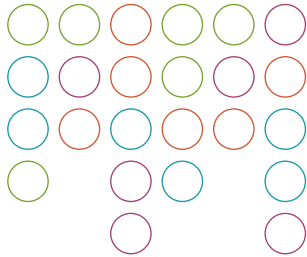


WELCOME CLASS OF 2022



GREENHOUSE
SCHOLARS

CLASS OF 2022



In December, more than 320 high school seniors submitted their applications to Greenhouse Scholars in the hopes of creating a better future for themselves, their families, and their communities.

Over the course of the next 6 months, **350 volunteers** spent over **4500 hours** reviewing applications and interviewing candidates to identify those who exemplified our core values of leadership, relentlessness, accountability, and community.

We are incredibly proud to introduce the newest Greenhouse Scholars, 27 exceptional young leaders and role models!

Facts about the Class of 2022

- These 27 students held a **collective 74 leadership positions** in high school as Student Board of Education board members, Founders of Debate, Service & Mentor programs, Presidents of their class and/or National Honor Society, Founders of nonprofits, Founders of Environmental Club, Battalion Commanders of JROTC and captains of sports teams
- Their average household income is **\$36,500** for a family of 4
- Their average high school **GPA is 3.8** (unweighted)
- They held **30 part- or full-time jobs and internships** while in high school; 5 Scholars worked 20 or more hours per week to support their families
- 18 are **first-generation college students**
- **4 are entrepreneurs** who have founded their own nonprofits or filed a patent of a scientific research finding
- **100% are poised to create positive, lasting change** for generations to come

COLORADO
CLASS OF 2022



Elizabeth Gutierrez-Gutierrez

Graduated: South High School (Denver)
College: University of Denver
Career Goal: Nursing or Law

As the oldest of seven siblings and the first person in her family to graduate high school and attend college, Elizabeth has been an important role model to and resource for her siblings. Elizabeth faced an unexpectedly life-changing event with grace and persistence, when she learned she was pregnant during her sophomore year. Determined as ever, she continued to pave the way for her siblings by maintaining her grades and combatting stigma with strength for herself and her son. Due to limited space in her home, Elizabeth slept on the couch during her pregnancy and continues to do so. In high school, she dedicated over 1,000 hours to clubs and volunteering, worked part-time to support her family, took college level courses, and had perfect attendance. Today she graduates in the top 5% of her high school class and she is passionate about fighting childhood poverty so that every child has a chance.

Says one of Elizabeth's mentors: "Before having a baby, she was already very driven. But now, she's unstoppable. She has become a strong, lively, amazing young adult and is truly an inspiration and a leader that I admire."

COLORADO
CLASS OF 2022



Jennifer Lam

Graduated: Hinkley High School (Aurora)
College: Colorado College
Career Goal: Foreign Language and Science

The daughter of Vietnamese immigrants, Jennifer is a first-generation college student. Jennifer is passionate about developing her cultural competency and has studied both Mandarin and Spanish. During her senior year of high school, she was selected to represent the United States at the International Youth Conference in South Korea, where she spent a week discussing the impact of the digital revolution with students from around the world. Jennifer is also a delegate for the Asian Pacific Development Center's youth program. As a delegate, she has helped raise Asian visibility and dispel misconceptions through dance and an anti-bullying campaign. Jennifer and her team members won the "Most Sustainable" Award at the Asian Pacific Development Center's Think Like A Genius Foundation Challenge for their solution to combat bullying in the Asian community.

In high school, Jennifer was president of National Honor Society and co-captain of speech & debate, while also graduating in the top 5% of her class. She is excited to continue to expand her knowledge of culture and language as a means of providing innovative ideas around the world. Her dream is to travel the world and help people through the use of science.

COLORADO
CLASS OF 2022



Megan Curry

Graduated: Alamosa High School (Alamosa)
College: Harvard
Career Goal: Pre-Med

Before moving to Alamosa, Megan and her family lived in California. Due to job loss, they spent a year moving between states before settling in Colorado when she was 12 years old.

Once settled in her new community, Megan made an incredible impact on her school and district's Key Club, holding the positions of vice president, president, executive lieutenant governor, and class director during her tenure. As executive lieutenant governor, she increased communication throughout the district, comprising eight different Key Clubs, in order to revive clubs on the verge of suspension.

In 2015, Megan's relentlessness was tested when she sustained four concussions and severe side effects of post concussion syndrome. As a result, she became determined to study the treatment of traumatic brain injuries and the prevention of related diseases. She is on the Pre-Med track at Harvard and ultimately wants to treat individuals diagnosed with a concussion or minor brain injury in understanding how to help their bodies recover.

COLORADO
CLASS OF 2022



Sama Kareem

Graduated: South High School (Denver)
College: University of Colorado, Boulder
Career Goal: Pre-Med, Neuroscience

Born in war-torn Iraq, Sama and her family fled from persecution, living in Jordan before moving to Colorado. As doctors in both Iraq and Jordan, her parents' overwhelming dedication to patients while providing care in low-quality hospitals and under harsh conditions shaped a young Sama's understanding of the responsibility of physicians. When they arrived in the US, her parents' medical licenses were invalidated, causing significant financial hardship to their family. Today, Sama is driven to become a physician as well, and she wants to personalize the provider-to-patient relationship.

While attending South High School, Sama was the co-president of the Muslim Student Alliance, head of advertising for a club focused on increasing the number of minority students in Advanced Placement and honors level classes, a member of the Student Board and Student Senate, and attended summer programs at both Harvard and the University of Michigan.

COLORADO
CLASS OF 2022



Sara Gebretsadik

Graduated: South High School (Denver)
College: University of Colorado, Boulder
Career Goal: Business / Law

Born in Ethiopia, Sara was 10 years old when she moved to the United States. Based on her own assimilation experiences, she decided to help other immigrants as an avid volunteer within the Denver Ethiopian community, as a translator for recent immigrants to her high school, and as a mentor to a new student from Ethiopia. Sara is a founding member and President of Rising Rebels, a club focusing on increasing the number of students of color taking Advance Placement and honors level classes in pursuit of higher education. Under her guidance, participation by students of color in more challenging curriculum has increased by four times. Sara also co-founded 'Modeling Club - We Redefine Beauty' at her high school to promote diverse beauty and self-love, as a catharsis to her own journey to acceptance in her new American home.

Says her counselor, "As president of Rising Rebels, Sarah has helped to develop the mission statement, create concrete goals and lead students in collaborating with University of Denver professors and mentors."

COLORADO
CLASS OF 2022



Samantha Freeman

Graduated: Palmer High School (Colorado Springs)
College: University of Washington, Seattle
Career Goal: Pre-Med, Biochemistry

Samantha's interest in medicine began at four years old, when her mother underwent a double amputation. Unfortunately, her family's health difficulties continued to play a central role in her life when her father suffered a severe stroke in 2017. As the primary caregiver for her father during his recovery her senior year, Samantha was left unsatisfied with the treatment he received from his doctor. Now, she intends to become a physician and is focused on studying Western medicine in tandem with traditional Chinese medicine to treat the whole person.

As a passionate problem solver, Samantha founded a Peace Jam program called "Sources of Strength", which focuses on suicide awareness and prevention, in response to her cousin's suicide. Samantha says of her own leadership: "My purpose is to learn from my own and other's experiences, hear different perspectives, and lead by example, all while demonstrating commitment to those around me."

COLORADO
CLASS OF 2022



Sophie Clarke

Graduated: South High School (Denver)

College: University of Delaware

Career Goal: Environmental and Political Science

Sophie's deep responsibility for her two younger sisters inspired her to show them a better path. Their mother's serious addiction issues meant Sophie and her younger sisters had little guidance and lots of independence at young age. Choosing not to care about her future for a period of time, Sophie noticed the negative effect her decisions had on her siblings. She pivoted quickly, focusing on her academics and leadership pursuits, earning a role as captain of both her club soccer team for four years and her high school's varsity soccer team. A passionate environmentalist, Sophie interned with the Sierra Club where she co-led a social media outreach video for a program to commit Denver to 100% clean energy by 2030 that was used on the organization's national website. Sophie will be playing Division 1 soccer at the University of Delaware.

Says one of her teachers: "Both on the soccer field and in the classroom Sophie is tenacious. Sophie leaves nothing to chance. She plays and studies as if nothing in life were easy or handed to her. What makes Sophie all the more amazing is her wonderful attitude and disposition through all of this."

COLORADO
CLASS OF 2022



Theresa Nguyen

Graduated: John F. Kennedy High School (Denver)

College: University of Colorado, Denver

Career Goal: BA/BS-MD Program, Biology

Witnessing her mother's hospitalization caused Theresa to step up and financially contribute to her household. Additionally, she began to think about becoming a doctor to help low-income patients like her mom. While in high school, Theresa held an internship at Denver Health, leading her to learn about safety net hospitals that care for low-income and vulnerable communities. As a result, Theresa has become passionate about serving in a safety net hospital as a future physician. Theresa worked hard to graduate in the top 1% of her high school class of 250, while taking college classes and becoming a Junior ROTC Battalion Commander. She joins only 10 other students this year in being accepted into a pre-med partnership program at CU Denver, reserving her a spot at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

Theresa's Junior ROTC instructor wrote, "Theresa's dedication to community and the needs of others also reminds me of Greenhouse Scholars' vision. Theresa is exactly the change-maker, leader, and future doctor you are speaking about here."

COLORADO
CLASS OF 2022



Yordanos Limeneh

Graduated: Overland High School (Aurora)

College: University of Washington, Seattle

Career Goal: Business

Born in Ethiopia, Yordanos became the head of her household at a young age when her parents came to America before her. Moving among family members during this time, Yordanos and her sisters finally joined their parents in the US when she was 10. As the first person in her family to become fluent in English, Yordanos' parents relied heavily on her to make doctor's appointments, fill out job and health insurance applications, and take care of her siblings. She was sometimes mistaken as her sisters' mother at parent-teacher conferences. In high school, Yordanos worked over 30 hours a week as a manager at Subway to contribute to family finances, dedicated significant time to her Ethiopian Orthodox Christian Youth group, and raised awareness about issues affecting the local, Black community through Black Youth Denver.

Her desire to major and succeed in business has been instilled in her by her family in Ethiopia. She is determined to become a CEO while also addressing the gender and racial inequity that contributes to only 1.5% of private sector, senior-level positions being held by African American women.

COLORADO
CLASS OF 2022



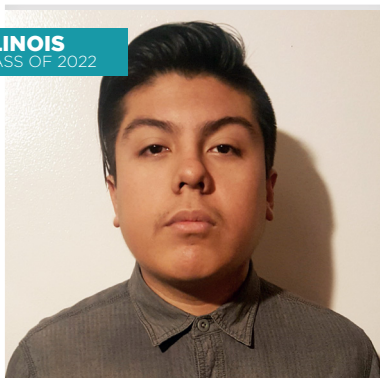
Yisel Castaneda

Graduated: Denver Center for International Studies at Montbello
College: Colorado School of Mines
Career Goal: Petroleum Engineering

Growing up in Mexico, Yisel witnessed her two older sisters involvement in local gangs. At 12 years old, her mother sent her to the United States to live with her father - a man whom she had never met - as an opportunity for a better future. Yisel began to build a relationship with her father, learned English, cared for her younger sister and the family home, and held three part-time jobs to contribute financially, all while attending high school. Often times, Yisel found herself starting her day at 2:30am and ending at 10:00pm.

When her high school was shut down due to violence and poor test scores, three different schools opened and closed: there was no library, no art or music classes, and no higher-level Advanced Placement or honors courses. Yisel took classes at her local community college to ensure she was prepared for higher education and also began a tutoring program at an elementary school to ensure others were preparing for their futures as well. Today, Yisel graduates in the top 10% of her class and is the first in her family to attend college.

ILLINOIS
CLASS OF 2022



Ricardo Reyes

Graduated: Whitney M. Young Magnet High School (Chicago)
College: Stanford University
Career Goal: Mechanical Engineering

Innovator, first-generation, hard-worker, scholar: these are a few words that describe Ricardo. Raised in a single parent, immigrant household, Ricardo has been financially contributing to his family since he was 13 years old by working an average of 20 hours a week during the school year. Often not getting home until 10:30pm, he maintained a 3.9 GPA and gaining acceptance into Stanford University.

As a freshman, Ricardo cofounded a club aimed at increasing the electrical efficiency of his high school. With Ricardo's leadership, the club received a \$10,000 grant to convert all of the lights in one gym to LED and install curtains throughout the building to decrease air conditioning usage.

Ricardo also invented an ultrasonic sensor called the Eyebrator to replace a traditional cane for the visually disabled, and this invention led him and his team to win first place at the Motorola Chicago Make Challenge. At Stanford, Ricardo will major in mechanical engineering and strives to work in the prosthetics industry to improve the lives of people living with disabilities.

ILLINOIS
CLASS OF 2022



Terri Martin

Graduated: South Shore International College Prep (Chicago)
College: Emory University
Career Goal: Psychology

Terri's father died from Alzheimer's when she was six years old. She was placed into foster care, where she shuffled between multiple homes, experiencing further instability and abuse, before settling with her guardian. Rather than letting her situation deter her, Terri focused on her education and developed into a strong, determined, reflective leader. She graduated as the Valedictorian of her high school, the presidents of both the National Honor Society and the Christian Youth Fellowship, and the captain of the varsity volleyball team.

Terri's determination continues in her desire to study psychology at Emory University, as a means of finding empowering through the challenges she and her family have faced with her sister's autism, her brother's ADHD, and her own experience in the foster care system.

Terri's reference notes, "She is a true leader, and an individual that others in her age group look to for guidance."

ILLINOIS
CLASS OF 2022



Elisa Flores

Graduated: Waukegan High School
College: Denison University
Career Goal: Psychology

After experiencing bullying in middle school, Elisa chose to take hurtful words and build a sense of strength from them. She focused on encouraging positivity through her friends' actions, group projects and her entire school. When Waukegan's two high schools rearranged the student populations, negativity spread like wild fire. Elisa's new school, which had once been known for its colorful walls and school spirit, was now a drab gray that fueled a negative atmosphere. Elisa took it upon herself to create positive energy by creating the Wall of Positivity. The spirit of the school immediately began to change, so much so the principal asked Elisa to expand the Wall of Positivity to every floor of the building. Elisa plans to study psychology at Denison University.

Her reference states: "she believes that everyone, regardless of their circumstances can defy expectations and become exceptional."

ILLINOIS
CLASS OF 2022



Luis Cordero

Graduated: Lane Tech High School (Chicago)
College: Davidson College
Career Goal: Neuroscience

From a very young age, Luis faced many difficulties. At five years old, Luis' mother was diagnosed with schizophrenia, and he became a main caregiver. At eight, he was tasked with injecting his grandmother with insulin to treat her diabetes. In high school, his mom was also diagnosed with Alzheimer's. As the only male child in a Catholic, Hispanic family that defined hetero-normative, hyper-masculinity as important, Luis' process of coming out as gay was marked with significant conflict. He faced discrimination in his church and in his own family. Instead of letting intolerance affect him, Luis became a role model to other LGBTQ+ youth in his church, while also stepping up to care for his mother and grandmother.

Turning his experiences into a call to advocate for inclusion and learn about other minorities, he became the president of his school's Muslim Club. He lives by the motto "We're a community for all". His counselor said: "Luis has been instrumental in building community among other youth to build their confidence and comfort in their identities."

Attending Davidson College, Luis plans to found a club on campus to raise awareness and funds for mental health and Alzheimer's research.

ILLINOIS
CLASS OF 2022



Kyle Wong

Graduated: Elgin High School
College: Yale University
Career Goal: Energy Resource Engineering

"If I have seen further it is only by standing on the shoulders of giants," Sir Isaac Newton. Kyle describes his life and his accomplishments in the same manner. He is a first-generation American, the son of Vietnamese refugees and is first-generation, college bound. At the age of 15, he began to contribute financially to his family to ease the burden placed on his parents with two children already in college.

In high school, Kyle's passion for environmentalism and energy equality led him to found an effective recycling program. He also learned coding online, dual-enrolled at another high school in order to take Advanced Placement classes, assisted in founding his school's Science Olympiad program, and was the Vice President of a service-oriented club. Kyle graduates valedictorian with a 4.0 un-weighted GPA and will be majoring in energy resource engineering at Yale University.

ILLINOIS
CLASS OF 2022



Ousaf Moqheet

Graduated: Lane Tech High School (Chicago)
College: Emory University
Career Goal: Computer Science

As a young boy, Ousaf's father brought him electronics left behind in his cab that couldn't be returned. Ousaf would often break them to figure out how they worked, sparking a love for computers. Ousaf soon found a second love for debate. Debate enables him to build his advocacy skills, communicate ideas effectively, and further develop his capacity to innovate. During the championship round of the Wake Forest University policy debate tournament, Ousaf and his partner forfeited the debate. Instead, they sparked a dialogue about the inequities among schools that often lack resources and support for their debaters. As the founder of Friends of Urban Debate Leagues, this dialogue led to increased support from both coaches and debaters.

His recommender shares, "if any student is on a trajectory to change the world for the better, it is Ousaf Moqheet."

ILLINOIS
CLASS OF 2022



Nikki Medanovic

Graduated: Vernon Hills High School
College: University of Illinois, Chicago
Career Goal: Political Science

Nikki's family emigrated from Serbia to the United States during the Yugoslav wars, and her Eastern European heritage is very important to her. After devastating floods hit Serbia in 2014, Nikki volunteered at an orphanage there to help children through the aftermath and inspire them to think about their futures. She has been the dance captain of the Gracanica Folklore Dance Group for five years, president of both Band Council and Acapella Group, and began the orchestra at her church..

One of her recommenders shared: "Nikki explores new ideas willingly and commits herself fully to everything she does. This combination of deep curiosity and determined work attitude will lead her to be a lifelong explorer of ideas." Politics has always been a discussion in Nikki's household, leading her to major in Political Science in college, where she plans to expose herself to different viewpoints and challenge her own views.

ILLINOIS
CLASS OF 2022



Willa Sauer

Graduated: Valmeyer High School
College: Colorado State University
Career Goal: Chemical Engineering

As a hardworking, motivated high school student with a laser focus on college, Willa found herself unique in her ambition within her small town. Peers called her "crazy" for setting high expectations and goals to move out of state and attend college. Willa was the Cross Country captain, president of Model UN, and worked part-time at the YMCA teaching swim lessons. Her experience in Model UN ignited a passion for international politics, another area that set her apart from the people in her town.

Majoring in chemical engineering at Colorado State University, she is motivated to create environmentally friendly chemicals to use in farming towns like her own.

ILLINOIS
CLASS OF 2022



Rafael Aguilera

Graduated: Cristo Rey St. Martin College Prep (Waukegan)
College: Santa Clara University
Career Goal: Pre-Pharm/Neuroscience

Rafael is focused on changing his hometown of Waukegan, Illinois for the better. At the age of 16, Rafael launched a music page focused on promoting new, Mexican artists on Instagram. By doing so, he was able to show outside communities how much Waukegan has to offer. In high school, Rafael founded a recreational club by creating a proposal, collecting signatures from students and educators, and making a presentation to the school administration. He also sat on his community's Teen Court jury, which allows youth facing criminal charges to avoid court records through restorative justice. Rafael volunteered at Beacon Place Tutoring Center where he helped low-income 2nd graders with their math homework. He held three internships throughout high school at Grainger, Barilla and Hospira, and his work at Hospira inspired him to enter the pre-pharmacy program at Santa Clara University.

ILLINOIS
CLASS OF 2022



Alexandra Almanza

Graduated: Grayslake North High School
College: Loyola University, Chicago
Career Goal: Political Science / International Relations

When confronted with a growing communication issue at her school surrounding the 2016 election, Alexandra founded an organization focused on "conversing before convincing" to promote positive discourse through one-on-one trainings.

Alexandra is the daughter of Mexican immigrants and was raised by her grandparents while her mother was the sole income earner for the household. Emboldened by her family's path to the U.S. and the ongoing immigration issues plaguing this country, Alexandra cofounded the Lake County Youth DACA Council and was the President of Latinos Stand Up. Additionally, Alexandra was a student representative on Grayslake Board of Education, cofounder of Social Studies Honors Society, Supervisor of Students Who Achieve Together, and an active delegate on the Principal's Advisory Committee. Alexandra will study political science and international relations at Loyola on her path to practicing immigration law.

A teacher said of Alexandra: "She possesses the character and the discipline that will allow her to succeed in college and in her chosen career; she will not just survive in college – she will thrive and make a difference."

GEORGIA
CLASS OF 2022



Adiela Vasquez

Graduated: Hapeville Charter Career Academy (Atlanta)
College: Emory University
Career Goal: Immigration Law

Adiela has experienced and witnessed multiple instances of discrimination in her Dominican and Latinx communities by police and others, which ignited her desire to support a sense of security and empathy for immigrant communities. She strives to study law after obtaining her bachelor's degree from Emory, and she has plans to join the Vera Institute of Justice to ensure that other immigrant families know their rights and have access to attorneys.

The first in her family to graduate high school, she has provided significant leadership in her family, accompanying her mom to job interviews, paying bills, in charge of filling out healthcare forms, and taking significant care of her little sister. Adiela also knew college was her next step. At the same time, she wanted to make sure other students in her school knew it was an option as well. She organized a college fair, creating workshops to provide college and financial aid application support. Thanks to Adiela's workshops, nearly 70% of her graduating class filled out the federal financial aid form for college by the end of November 2017, a staggering achievement.

GEORGIA
CLASS OF 2022



Somtochukwu (Somto) Obiegbu

Graduated: South Cobb High School (Austell)
College: Mercer University
Career Goal: Pre-Med

The son of Nigerian immigrants, Somto built a repertoire of leadership while in high school. During his senior year, he developed a proposal to renovate a conference room in his high school into a much-needed study lounge. With input from students and educators, he met with administrators and built a budget to ensure this plan became a reality that benefits students long after his own graduation. Additionally, Somto was the presidential advisor of the Magnet Student Council, the Vice President of HOSA, Beta Club president, vice president of Eagle Scholars, and the vice president of Flying ACES. Somto's life goal is to innovate the healthcare system in Anambra State, Nigeria, the birthplace of his parents and the location of countless family and friends who have lost their lives to poor healthcare. Somto will attend Mercer University on the Pre-Med track.

A recommender said of his work on the study lounge: "Somto's priority is never furthering his own self interests, but instead he is always working on behalf of others, and will give his complete effort to positively effect the lives of others."

GEORGIA
CLASS OF 2022



Victoria Lamar

Graduated: Westlake High School (Atlanta)
College: University of California, San Francisco
Career Goal: Public Health

Victoria is the youngest of four siblings and was raised by her mother when her father cut off all contact after her parents' divorce. When her mother became severely ill and incapable of functioning at time, leading to a recent brain surgery, Victoria stepped up to become the main caregiver. Her mother's illness inspired Victoria's interest in research. She won first place for her research at Morehouse School of Medicine in 2015 and has since conducted research at Georgia State and Emory University. Passionate about debunking stereotypes and uplifting young girls, Victoria created PEARLS, which stands for: Positive, Educated, Ambitious, Respectful, Loyal, Scholars. This free mentor program allows middle school girls with similar goals to unify and provide them with resources to help them excel in their future.

Victoria will attend University of San Francisco where she will study public health.

GEORGIA
CLASS OF 2022



Kai Hartman

Graduated: Lithia Springs Comprehensive High School
College: Howard University
Career Goal: Screenwriter/Law

Growing up, Kai had a crooked smile, something she didn't always appreciate about herself. She was also part of the Boys and Girls Club of Metro Atlanta. This organization helped her to find beauty in herself through the peers she met and creative writing courses she took. Through this club, Kai also found her voice and passion for public speaking.

While in middle school, Kai's parents divorced. An avid cheerleader, Kai and her mother struggled to pay the costs associated with the sport. Instead of giving up, she founded a cheerleading team as a freshman in high school through the Boys and Girls Club, and the club doubles as a mentoring program to teach low-income girls both confidence and fearlessness. It is free to participants thanks to Kai's fundraising. As a senior in high school, Kai won the prestigious honor of being named Youth of the Year for Boys and Girls Club of Metro Atlanta, which has 25 clubs and 10,000 young people.

Kai will attend Howard University and will major in film and media studies, with plans to pursue law school.

NORTH CAROLINA
CLASS OF 2022



Shiv Patel

Graduated: North Carolina School of Science and Math (Durham)
College: Northwestern University
Career Goal: Pre-Med

Shiv's introspective mindset has sparked a constant desire to solve real-world problems. Shiv helped to maintain the home and pay the bills. When he began attending North Carolina School of Science and Math (a residential public high school), and learned his roommate had suffered from Dengue Fever before moving from India, he founded a nonprofit called SECURED to raise awareness for mosquito-borne illnesses. In less than two years, Shiv established nine chapters throughout the U.S., Thailand, and India. SECURED created a multilingual brochure distributional program to deliver information on disease prevention, diagnosis and treatment to areas prone to mosquito-borne illnesses. Additionally, Shiv developed, in partnership with NC State's Reiskind Lab, a mosquito trap, which he owns the patent for. SECURED was recently awarded the Governor's Medallion for Volunteer Service.

Shiv will be entering the Honors Program in Medical Education at Northwestern, reserving him a spot at the Feinberg School of Medicine after completing his bachelor's degree.

NORTH CAROLINA
CLASS OF 2022



Desiree Lucas

Graduated: Phillip O. Berry Academy of Technology (Charlotte)
College: University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Career Goal: Speech-Language Pathology

During the second semester of her sophomore year, Desiree's pre-calculus teacher quit, leaving the class with instability for the remainder of the year. Instead of sitting idly by, Desiree looked up the math curriculum for North Carolina, taught it to herself, and then taught her classmates. As vice president of the Math Honor Society, she dedicated her personal time to tutoring fellow students on multiple math classes and took initiative to get the club chartered to become the school's first-ever recognized Mu Alpha Theta, an honor society for math students. Desiree also has a love for language, communication and literature. At Chapel Hill, she will major in linguistics with plans to become a speech-language pathologist.

Her honors math teacher and Math Honor Society Advisor says: "I have never met a more mature, ambitious, and involved student who makes her education and future plans her number one priority and focus."

NORTH CAROLINA
CLASS OF 2022



Alexandra Martinez Lopez

Graduated: Josephine Dobbs Clement Early College High School (Durham)
College: Wellesley College
Career Goal: Pre-Med

Before moving to the United States, Alexandra grew up in El Salvador without her parents, who had moved to the U.S. in search of economic stability. When she was seven years old, Alexandra joined her mother and new stepfather in North Carolina. Alexandra was a leader in her family by taking care of her two younger siblings. Her family relied heavily on her as she often accompanied her mother to work and also cared for her two, much younger siblings. Her family was rocked by the unexpected passing of her stepfather during her senior year, causing a precarious emotional and financial situation.

After her childhood friend was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, Alex developed a desire to learn more about the brain and nervous system and worked under a neuroscience graduate student at Duke's Center for Cognitive Neuroscience. In the future, Alexandra wants to research the origins of multiple sclerosis. She plans to create a program called Promoting Disease Prevention with community health centers and continually support youth to become leaders in their communities.



GREENHOUSE
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1820 Folsom Street, Boulder, CO 80302

115 S. LaSalle Street, 34th Floor, Chicago, IL 60603

www.greenhousescholars.org