



President's  
Society

LaGuardia Community College  
**President's Society Ambassadors**

2016-17

We'd like to introduce our **2016-2017 President's Society Ambassadors**. Each of these exceptional students is pursuing a degree at LaGuardia. Their participation in the President's Society program will help them get closer to fulfilling their aspirations and dreams.

**Spring 2017**



**Marwa Abdalla**  
New Media Technology Major

Marwa returned to LaGuardia to get a degree in New Media Technology after getting her BS and MA degrees in Psychology. She is currently interning at the Higher Ground Festival, a new and upcoming annual arts festival in Washington Heights that encourages collaborations between artists from different disciplines to create new works of art. Born in the US to Egyptian parents, she plans to work in nonprofits in the future, and hopes to have her own business someday.



**Alejandro Bonilla**  
Liberal Arts Math and Science Major

After working several jobs that led nowhere, Alejandro decided to return to his studies at LaGuardia. His passion is scientific research and hopes to continue his studies at a four year college after LaGuardia.



**Sherman Allen**  
Business Administration Major

Sherman loves writing, travel, and being exposed to different cultures. He hopes his experiences will lead him to realizing a successful business career.



**Erica Bynum**  
Travel, Tourism and Hospitality Major

Erica's enthusiasm and energy are a perfect fit for a career in travel and hospitality. She recently completed a flight attendant training, and hopes to add experience in the culinary arts.



**Kai-Shanet Blackwood**  
Biology

Kai-Shanet has always been curious about the world and her passion lies in human biology. One of her dreams is to establish a clinic or hospital to provide affordable professional healthcare in her native country, Jamaica. She also has a love for dance and music.



**Joshua Diaz**  
Criminal Justice

Instead of going off to college like the rest of his friends, Joshua decided to defend his country and enlisted in the Army at age 17. He knows that the training and discipline he learned while in the military prepared him to succeed in life and his academics. His ultimate goal is to begin a career in the forensic psychology. He is fascinated by the study of the brain, as well as the criminal mind.



**Christian Esquivel**  
Social Science and Humanities Major

For this Mexico native, the dream of higher education seemed unattainable because of difficulties with undocumented status and financial hardships. He reclaimed this dream at LaGuardia and it has changed his life dramatically. An officer of Phi Theta Kappa and a Kaplan Leadership Scholar, he is now on a path to become the first in his family to earn a college degree. His interests are in finance and law, and his goal is to provide access to these services in underserved communities.



**Kevin Jimenez**  
Political Science Major

Kevin aspires to teach political theory as a college professor. He loves to give back by working on campus in the College Discovery program and on the weekends as a personal care aide. Kevin finds time to take bass lessons and attends bi-weekly political forums in Queens.



**Joey Fernandez**  
Social Science and Humanities Major

Joey hopes to major in International Relations at a selective university after graduating from LaGuardia. He coordinates a free GED tutoring program at the community center where he took GED classes years ago. Joey is a natural leader as a member of the LaGuardia Student Government Association, is one of the head delegates for the Model U.N. Delegation, and is a member of the Honors Student Advisory Committee.



**Dong Ju Lee**  
Business Administration

Dong Ju, originally from South Korea, came to the U.S. with her family when she was 8 years old. The difficult journey of transitioning countries and culture has made her interested in supporting future immigrant children and their families. Her goal is to obtain a master's degree in finance and apply herself in the non-profit sector to help support this cause.



**Konstandinos Gobakis**  
Liberal Arts, Math & Science

Konstandinos is a trilingual Greek-Dominican student, who moved to the United States three years ago. His passions are computer science and opera singing. He hopes to one day transfer to Swarthmore to study computer programming and also learn how to sing professionally.



**Ninotska Love**  
Law/Philosophy Major

Ninotska moved to the U.S. seven years ago from Ecuador. She is very passionate about immigration law, gender studies and philosophy. As a transgender woman, she hopes to help change society's perception of transgender individuals.



**Ai Inaba**  
Biology

After working as a singer in Japan for 10 years, Ai moved to New York and discovered her dream of becoming a veterinarian. After LaGuardia she hopes to attend a veterinary medical school. She continues singing as a choir member at Middle Collegiate Church, and sang in a trio at the 2016 McDonald's Gospelfest at Prudential Center in NJ and won first place in the group category.



**Zakia Mahabub**  
Computer Science Major

This Bangladesh native is working towards one day getting a bachelor's degree in computer science. Zakia is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the Honors Society, and recently won the LaGuardia Public Speaking Competition.



**Mary Naughton**

Business Administration Major

Mary is an entrepreneur at heart. The NY native wants to create a line of cosmetics focused on natural, biodegradable ingredients. Mary maintains a 4.0 GPA and has volunteered for the Ambulance Corps.



**Supta Sen**

Electrical Engineering Major

Originally from Bangladesh, Supta is the first woman from her village to study engineering, as well as the only one in her family to continue her studies after marriage. She would like to do aeronautical research and has been involved in research projects on campus.



**Miguel Pena**

Psychology Major

Originally from the Dominican Republic, Miguel wants to be a researcher in the psychology field. He is driven by a desire to study people as well as philosophy.



**Vladyslava Solomiana**

Business Administration Major

Ukraine native hopes to study economics and eventually finish a master's degree. Vlada has traveled extensively which has influenced her perspective on people and cultures. She hopes to some day be self-employed, so that she can have the independence to travel and change her environment.



**Dan Rai**

Accounting Major

Dan, a Nepal native, wants to use his natural math skills to pursue a career in finance. He follows the markets and stays current with business news. He plans to transfer to a 4-year college once he completes his associate's degree.



**Dominique Tatom**

Philosophy Major

Dominique's goal is to become an attorney. She aspires to provide legal services to those who find themselves in unfortunate and often desperate situations. She believes that challenging herself academically will help develop her character as a person. In her spare time she enjoys dancing and acting.



**Angela Rojas**

Psychology Major

Angela didn't speak until the age of 5 and learned sign language to communicate. She overcame that set-back and she aspires to help others through social work and psychology.



**Naomi Villalba**

Psychology Major

As a deaf person Naomi wants to help the Deaf community achieve their dreams. She eventually wants to pursue an advanced degree in psychology. She also loves learning about new cultures and meeting new people.





**Ariel Williams**

Childhood Education Major

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Ariel strives to make a difference in children's lives. She volunteers for an organization serving underprivileged youth and wants to become an elementary school teacher, so that she can help build foundations for adulthood.



**Peire Wilson**

Paralegal Studies Major

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Peire was born and raised in Norfolk, VA and recently relocated to NYC from Tampa, Fl. His passion for music, community, and law has led him down the road of entertainment law. Peire is working towards getting a Bachelor of Arts in music business and later a J.D. in law.