

W.E.S.S. News

From the Desk of Amanda Cavin, Director

Special points of interest

- Scholars added to President's List
- Seventh Graduating Class!



Amanda Cavin

What a semester spring of 2021 has been! Campus continues to look weird as we navigate social distancing, masks and other restrictions COVID has placed on society. I continue to be so proud of the Eagle STEM Scholars! They persevered through our year of COVID and finished strong. Of the 54 scholars currently in the program, 21 of them finished spring on the Dean's List or on the President's List. Considering the challenges offered by this year,

they have so much to be proud of. We are sad to see our graduating seniors leave the Winthrop Community but we are thrilled with where they are headed and what they still plan to accomplish. We wish them all the very best! While we can never know what the future holds, we hope that all scholars can be back on campus this fall. ■

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Eagle STEM Scholars Seventh Graduating Class - What Are They Saying?

Alyssa Petty - The Eagle STEM program is an amazing program, and I am so happy that I was given the opportunity to be a part of it. Being a first - generation college student, I was very unsure of myself and did not know what to expect. I was also incredibly scared and nervous about leaving home for the first time and not knowing anyone or what I was doing. The Eagle STEM program helped me navigate through my first year of college as well as throughout the other three years. During the summer bridge program, I was set up in a biochemistry lab and me, the professor really enjoyed the research. I went on to work in the lab after my sophomore year during the summer and have been working there since. I also met one of my closet friends during the Eagle STEM program's summer bridge program, and she is still one of my closet friends and will be in my wedding as a bridesmaid this coming March. Overall, as a first - generation college student; the Eagle STEM program provided me with all of the necessary tools that I needed to be more confident and comfortable at Winthrop and ultimately aided with my success.

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Graduating Class - Continued from front

Sydney Frazier - Eagle STEM gave us a community, with multiple resources to make sure we did not get left behind and were able to succeed. The summer bridge program was challenging, but along the way I met and formed relationships with so many talented people in my cohort that I still catch up with today. I don't think I would have the experience I have now if it wasn't for Eagle STEM introducing us to faculty early because I was pretty shy coming into it, but with the program I felt comfortable talking to them and ended up doing research with an amazing professor.

Sigrid Ashton Mae Binkley (Dorman) - The Eagle STEM Program provided a safe space for me to discuss my future plans with people who were eager to see me succeed and were willing to do what they could to help me accomplish my goals. The summer Bridge Program allowed me to get acclimated to college life and start making connections with other students and professors before any of my peers who did not have this oppor-

Samariya Fant - The Eagle STEM program has not only offered me academic support over course of my 4 years at Winthrop, it has provided me with numerous opportunities and life long connections that I am very grateful for. ■

Sophia Stefanov - I will forever be thankful for the Eagle STEM program as it brought me to Winthrop University. Without the undergraduate research exposure or financial assistance, I would not have been able to achieve everything I have. Prior to attending Winthrop, I had never visited the state of South Carolina, so the summer bridge program helped me establish myself here and meet people who I am still friends with. In addition, I met professors like Dr., Harris and Dr. Stern, who have served as spectacular mentors throughout my Winthrop Career. Being a part of Eagle STEM held me accountable to be the best student possible and kept me involved in the science department. This program has offered me support and guidance that I would not have received elsewhere, I am so blessed with everything they have helped me with.

Alexander, Frazier, Talley, Lumbert, Rucker, Walker, Walters, Walker Made the President's List or had 4.0 GPA for Spring 2021



Kiera Alexander



Laela Walker



Sydney Frazier

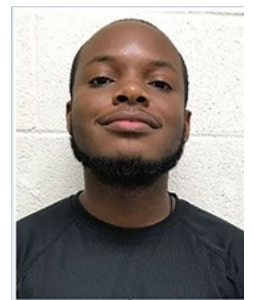
Eight Eagle STEM Scholars made the President's List at Winthrop University having achieved a 4.0 GPA for the Spring 2021 semester.

Three seniors who achieved this milestone were Kiera Alexander, Sydney Frazier, and Olivia Talley. The one junior student that achieved this milestone was Ryan Lumbert. The three Sophomores that achieved this milestone were Jordan Rucker, Laela Walker, and Eric Walters. The one Freshman that achieved this milestone was Gabrielle Walker.



Olivia Talley

Kiera is a human nutrition major and plans to joined the Navy to enter the Nuclear Power Program or work as an officer. Sydney is a biology major with plans to take a gap year and shadow Physician Assistants. Olivia is a biology major and plans to become a physical therapist. Ryan is computer science major and plans to get a PhD in Cyber Security. Jordan is a biology major and plans to become a PA in pediatrics. Laela is a biology major and plans to attend a veterinarian school. Eric Walters is a chemistry major with a concentration in biochemistry. Gabby is a biology major and concentration is in biomedical research.



Jordan Rucker

We congratulate Kiera, Sydney, Olivia, Ryan, Jordan, Laela, Eric and Gabby, on their outstanding academic accomplishments.■



Ryan Lumbert



Eric Walters



Gabby Walker



Class of 2021 - Congratulations!



Kiera Alexander



Samariya Fant



Ashton Binkley



Evan Thibodeaux



Sophia Stefanov



Alyssa Petty



Sydney Frazier

Not Pictured:
Olivia Talley



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The Eagle STEM Scholars Program was formed as a result of the INBRE II diversity initiative to effectively matriculate more students from diverse groups into biomedical science Ph.D. programs. Winthrop, because of its diverse population of students, is uniquely poised to increase the number of under-represented minority, low income and first generation under graduates in South Carolina who matriculate into Ph.D. biomedical science, bioengineering, biochemistry, biology and chemistry programs. The program is taking steps to move over the next two decades towards national leadership in this area.

