SUNY Cortland celebrates student employees

The National Student Employment Association has designated April 7 to 13, 2024, the second full week in April, as National Student Employment Week.

Thank you to all students for the contributions you have made on campus this past year. Nominated honorees are noted in this digital yearbook, and following that, many students volunteered to be featured with spotlights. Congratulations to all!
### 2023-2024 student employee honorees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sabrina Alberti</td>
<td>Brandon Cosentino</td>
<td>Jennifer Koestner</td>
<td>Janielis Rivera Bauzo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalyn Badgley</td>
<td>Gianna DeCicco</td>
<td>Kaylee Lang</td>
<td>Alexandre Rodrigues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aaron Bazicki</td>
<td>Julian Deroziere</td>
<td>Madison Lauber</td>
<td>Meghan Sainsbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mariana Beeman</td>
<td>Lexi Devlin</td>
<td>Prince Linboom</td>
<td>Raysa Saint-Hillaire</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manuel Beltran</td>
<td>Elizabeth DuBois</td>
<td>James Marino</td>
<td>Jayne Saunders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arianna Borucinski</td>
<td>James Escolastico</td>
<td>Samantha McKay</td>
<td>Taylor Schantz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marissa Brennan</td>
<td>Aspen Eden</td>
<td>Taylor Moore</td>
<td>Kendall Sobczyk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily Bruno</td>
<td>Noelle Fox</td>
<td>Allison Perna</td>
<td>Nicholas Solano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samantha Bunn</td>
<td>Wilson Garcia</td>
<td>Michael Pichardo</td>
<td>Felix Sprock</td>
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<td>Mackenzie Carroll</td>
<td>Isaiah Hargett</td>
<td>Andrew Reed</td>
<td>Amanda Squillini</td>
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<td>Ryleigh Carson</td>
<td>Shalise Hill</td>
<td>Madison Riedl</td>
<td>Sydney Sullivan</td>
</tr>
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<td>Roberto Coppola</td>
<td>Veronica Hoffman</td>
<td>Val Reith</td>
<td>Makaela West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emma Correia</td>
<td>Joshua Jenkins</td>
<td>Theo Ricketts</td>
<td>Lawrence Wilde</td>
</tr>
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Thank you to our nominators!

- **Asha Bhatt**, Recreational Sports
- **Penny Bushaw**, Physical Education
- **Kyle Cannon**, Campus Activities and Corey Union
- **Peter Dawes**, The Help Center
- **Peter Ducey**, Biological Sciences
- **Makayla Ferguson**, Recreational Sports
- **Michael Foki**, International Programs Office
- **Jeanenne Hall**, Extended Learning Office
- **Kate Jensen**, Recreational Sports
- **Marilyn Jones**, Advisement and Transition
- **Kate Kamler**, Recreational Sports
- **Stephanie Lenhart**, EOP
- **Louise Mahar**, Recreational Sports
- **Eve Mascoli**, Recreational Sports
- **Megan Mau**, The Learning Center
- **Kerri Moshkowski**, Advisement and Transition
- **Matt Nuesell**, Recreational Sports
- **Matthew Pestle**, Recreational Sports
- **Ray Savoie**, The Learning Center
- **Lauren Scagnelli**, Health Promotion
- **Kayla Sewer**, The Cortland Fund
- **Judy Stoddard**, EOP
- **John Suarez**, Institute for Civic Engagement
- **Chris Widdall**, School of Education
- **Jacob Wright**, Career Services
- **Brian Zoll**, The Help Center
Student spotlight – Aaron Bazicki

Senior Physical Education major

Aaron was nominated by Michael Foki in the International Programs Office, who said:

“Aaron has done an amazing job as an orientation leader during international student orientation week. Aaron has a positive attitude, strong work ethic, and always willing to pitch in to help our office team out. we are lucky to have Aaron as an OL!”

On the experience Aaron said: “During my time working for the International Programs Office at SUNY Cortland, I was able to effectively learn and apply many career readiness competencies. However, one competency stood out above the rest in my opinion: equity and inclusion. As an International Orientation Leader, I utilized feedback from multiple cultural perspectives to make inclusive and equity-minded decisions, aiming to help our international students feel welcomed to our campus and included as equal parts of our student body. Being an international orientation coordinator involved managing many moving parts, and I feel I did my absolute best to keep an open mind and listen to what our students wanted or needed here at Cortland.”
Student spotlight – Emily Bruno

First year Exercise Science major

Emily was nominated by Eve Mascoli in Recreational Sports, who said:

“The group of first-year students who entered our Student Life Center staff has been nothing short of amazing. Emily is the perfect example of this. Emily started by working the most undesirable shifts due to being hired last minute. In addition to working these shifts, she picked up more undesirable shifts as her choice. Emily is always smiling, friendly and always asks about your day. She has a good head on her shoulders and will excel at Cortland and in life. I can see a bright future for Emily and her work ethic is unmatched! I wish I could get 5 more Emily’s :) Emily cares about her job at the Student Life Center and both the patrons and coworkers love her.”

On the experience Emily said: “Working on campus has made me learn about how important teamwork and communication is. I have continued to develop problem-solving and leadership skills as well as developing friendships with my co-workers!”
Student spotlight – Roberto Coppola

Junior Adolescence Education-Mathematics major

Roberto was nominated by Megan Mau in The Learning Center, who said:

“Roberto continues to be a bright and energetic presence in our office. In his new role as Peer Tutor Mentor, I am constantly impressed at his ability to guide the new tutors. He provides excellent constructive feedback and praise to the new tutors and is truly invaluable to the program.”

On the experience Roberto said: “This is my fourth semester here as a Peer Tutor and I feel like I have learned so much since day one! This job really provides me a great opportunity on working on teaching students their independent learning skills which I could relay back to my future students I will be teaching. As well as working with a diverse group of learners and how I can switch what works best for what student. Thank you to The Learning Center for this great opportunity!”
Student spotlight – Emma Correia

Junior Speech & Hearing Science major

Emma was nominated by Megan Mau in The Learning Center, who said:

“Emma really stepped up this semester in filling a last-minute opening as a Peer Tutor Supervisor. This position comes with a new level of responsibility that Emma entered with grace. She quickly found her groove in the role and is doing a fantastic job!”

On the experience, Emma said: "My experience working at The Learning Center has improved my time management skills, developed my communication skills, and strengthened my ability to build positive relationships. The Learning Center has provided me with such a supportive and memorable work environment!"
Student spotlight – Noelle Fox

First year Inclusive Education major

Noelle was nominated by Louise Mahar and Makayla Ferguson in Recreational Sports, who said:

“Noelle teaches yoga for the Recreational Sports Department. She upholds the core values required to serve the Group Exercise Program and often goes above and beyond through her willingness to teach custom group exercise classes. Noelle is a kind and gentle instructor with the ability to motivate participants to keep coming back for more.”

On the experience, Noelle said: "My campus work experience has enhanced my dedication and creativity."
Student spotlight – Willson Garcia

Senior English major

Wilson was nominated by Michael Foki in the International Programs Office, who said:

“Wilson is an excellent student worker with a great sense of professionalism mixed with positive sense humor. Wilson consistently shows up on time and goes above and beyond to complete all tasks he is assigned. We are lucky to have him on our team.”

On the experience, Wilson said:
“During my work experience at the international program on campus, I developed valuable skills in tailoring communication materials, such as newsletters, to specific audiences. Witnessing the kindness and patience demonstrated by the office workers significantly improved my experience at Cortland. The welcoming atmosphere created by everyone involved in running the international program office truly made my days much better.”
Student spotlight – Isaiah Hargett

Junior Criminology major

Isaiah Hargett was nominated by Asha Bhatt in Recreational Sports, who said:

“Isaiah is personable, motivated, has a strong work ethic and is a problem solver.”

On the experience, Isaiah said:
“As a building manager of the Student Life Center, I took on the role of a leader and mentor to my coworkers. By offering direction, encouragement, and support, I created a collaborative environment in which everyone felt empowered to give their all. This experience not only increased my leadership abilities, but also demonstrated the value of cooperation and mentorship in attaining common goals.”
Student spotlight – Samantha McKay

Junior Physical Education K-12 major

Samantha was nominated by Kyle Cannon in Campus Activities, who said:

“Sam is consistently willing to go above and beyond to help those around her. Sam has been a consistent member of the Student Director team, assisting in the operations of events ranging from conferences, ceremonies, and live streams to performances and student-led events and fundraisers. Sam understands the importance of each of these events to the campus community and is often one of the first to lend a hand.”

Regarding working on campus, Samantha said: “I am a Personal trainer at the Student Life Center and a Student Director at Corey Union. At the SLC, I teach workouts to clients and try to build their confidence and happiness from exercising. At Corey Union, I communicate with the clubs and campus activities in the building and help provide technical support for the events. My student employment opportunities have helped me connect with others at Cortland and has greatly built my professionalism with others and leadership skills that will help me as a future educator.”
Student spotlight – Michael Pichardo

Junior Exercise Science major

Michael was nominated by Louise Mahar and Makayla Ferguson in Recreational Sports.

“Michael possesses infectious positive energy which has contributed to the overall atmosphere in the Student Life Center. As a group exercise instructor, Michael teaches a Box & Burn class. He is an innovative thinker with an amazing ability to make his classes fun and energizing while building community.”

On the experience Michael said: “I have learned countless things while having an employment position here in SUNY Cortland. Working at the Student Life Center is a great opportunity for me to be a leader and navigate through real world challenges in a controlled environment. I have learned how to provide exemplary customer service, manage a staff and overall be the resource for others. It goes without saying that in my position I have grown in areas as an employee, part of a team, but most importantly as a man.”
Student spotlight – Raysa Saint-Hillaire

Junior Psychology major

Raysa was nominated by Lauren Scagnelli in Health Promotion, who said:

“Raysa does a great job communicating with others and researching content. I can always count on Raysa to step up and be a leader. Raysa is very professional and works well with others.”

On the experience, Raysa said: “Through my jobs on campus, I’ve learned to be more comfortable putting myself in positions that although not fully within my comfort area, allow me to continue to grow. Overtime applying feedback and continuing to practice these uncomfortable tasks has led to me being more aware of my many strengths as well as those areas where I should continue practicing!”
Student spotlight – Felix Sprock

Senior Fitness Development major

Felix was nominated by Louise Mahar and Kate Jensen in Recreational Sports, who said:

“Felix has only been working as a personal trainer for one semester and he is doing an amazing job! He communicates well and is very attentive to his clients. The spouse of one of his clients had this to say: ‘My wife started with just 6 sessions to see how it goes, BUT she is so impressed with Felix, That she purchased 12 more sessions. She is impressed with how professional and passionate Felix is. He is never on his phone and is very in tuned to how my wife is doing and he is always giving her feedback on every rep she does. We are very happy with this program and the staff!’”

On the experience Felix said: “Being given the opportunity to gain experience as a personal trainer at SUNY Cortland has only made me surer of my career decisions for the future. I have had nothing but good experiences with my clients, as their success and happiness with their progress has only further cemented that this is what I want to continue to do as a career. It has been an opportunity that I am extremely grateful for and one that I will always look back on as the starting point of what will hopefully be a good career for me!”
More student spotlights

Julian Deroziere – Junior Recreation Administration major

“In my time as an RA, I have learned so much about what it means to be a mentor and how important it is to be a student resource; not only in the residence halls, but all throughout campus. Being an RA has taught me that all students’ intersectional identities are an important strength to our community. Each day I strive to make our campus a brave space by being open and transparent to all.”

Kaylee Lang – First year Political Science major

“Working in the PE equipment room has led me to meet new people that I probably would not have if it was not for work. I've made great friends because of having good teamwork with my coworkers. For a large portion of the fall semester, I was opening the room alone, and I felt a sense of leadership by writing important messages on the white board for other workers to see and completing the whole next two days’ worth of orders each time I worked. Working has helped me improve my communication skills with instructors and other students. I have also felt a strong sense of professionalism working in the physical education room. When instructors or other employees have questions, I know how to make myself as useful as possible, even just being a student. Working in the physical education room has strengthened my ability to communicate with peers, as well as with staff. I will always value my time working this position.”

Jayne Saunders – First year Physical Education major

“Working in the Student Life Center is the best opportunity that was presented to me! Through working here, I have met such amazing people, and we truly are one big team that wants everyone to succeed. Working here allows me to be social and meet and talk to so many different types of people and patrons. Through working here, I have found that going into recreation is something I’m interested in and looking into exploring as future plans. I am also applying for building manager for next semester to gain a more leadership role. This job has provided me great opportunities not just only socially but gaining me the confidence to be able to collaborate well with others. I absolutely love working here and I am so honored to be nominated!”