

2025-2026

# Student Employee Appreciation Digital Yearbook

Student Employment Services  
Career Services  
SUNY Cortland



# **SUNY Cortland celebrates student employees**

The National Student Employment Association has designated April 12 to 18, 2026, 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!

# 2025-2026 student employee honorees

Sarah Adams  
Autumn Adkins  
Mohammadreza Afkhami  
Rachida Ali Noma  
Kay Anderson  
Anna Aubrey  
Ayleen Caban  
Matthew Casey  
Isabella DiMartino  
Sinead Dobey  
Samantha Downey  
Alyssa Ebenhoch  
Michael Emmart  
Owen Falgiano  
Elizabeth Fitzpatrick-Càrcamo  
Sydney Follick  
Kaselyn Foot  
Juliana Franco  
Kerry Hare  
Hayley Henggeler

Madison Houghton  
Melissa Innocent  
Joshua Jenkins  
Fiona Joss  
Jessica Kam  
Minju Kim  
Aiden Kozireski  
Madison Lauricella  
Kimberly Lemus  
Alexandra Martinez  
Brandon Mulholland  
Kelly Newman  
Jake Niederbuhl  
Hawa Oulale  
Alexa Rose Pahila  
Angelina Ratzel  
Andrea Rivera-Ramirez  
Ojilvy Sanchez  
Daniella Santagata  
Tiana Schelble

Tommy Seda  
Adrianna Sigler  
Lisa Smith  
Ann Marie Thorell  
Kelsey Thornton  
Giovanna Valeriano  
Analie VanManen  
Chloe Wirth  
Maleah Young

# Thank you to our nominators!

- Paige Crittela, Admissions
- Karen Dafoe, Memorial Library
- Karen Diescher, Childcare Center
- Abigail Droge, English
- Peter Ducey, Biological Sciences
- Dominick Fantacone, Research and Sponsored Programs
- Katelyn Goodman, Campus Activities
- Jeffrey Horowitz, Admissions
- Marilyn Jones, Advisement and Transition
- Nimisha Muttiah, Communication Disorders and Sciences
- Krista Natale, Technology Support
- Jenifer Phelan, Memorial Library
- Mariah Riccardi, Sociology/Anthropology
- Lauren Scagnelli, Health and Wellness Promotion
- Wylie Schwartz, Art and Art History
- Sarah Serdar, Alumni Engagement
- Kayla Sewer, Annual Giving
- Alexis Shura, Career Services
- Megan Swing, Sustainability
- River Vooris, Multicultural Life and Diversity Office
- Sophia Weber, PC Services

# Student spotlight – Sarah Adams

## Senior, Exercise Science

Sarah was nominated by Marilyn Jones who said, "Sarah has been a work-study student in Advisement and Transition for two years. She is thorough in completing tasks and willing to help with whatever projects that need to be completed. She is a fast learner and her attention to detail has helped in creating academic resources for other students. Sarah is very reliable and always has a positive attitude. We are happy to be able to work with Sarah in her last semester at Cortland. She will be missed!"

On the experience, Sarah said: "Working in the Advisement and Transition Office has strengthened my time management and communication skills. I have had the opportunity to help out with various projects within the office, which have increased my proficiency in using software such as Excel. Working on campus has allowed me to develop skills that will be valuable in my future career."

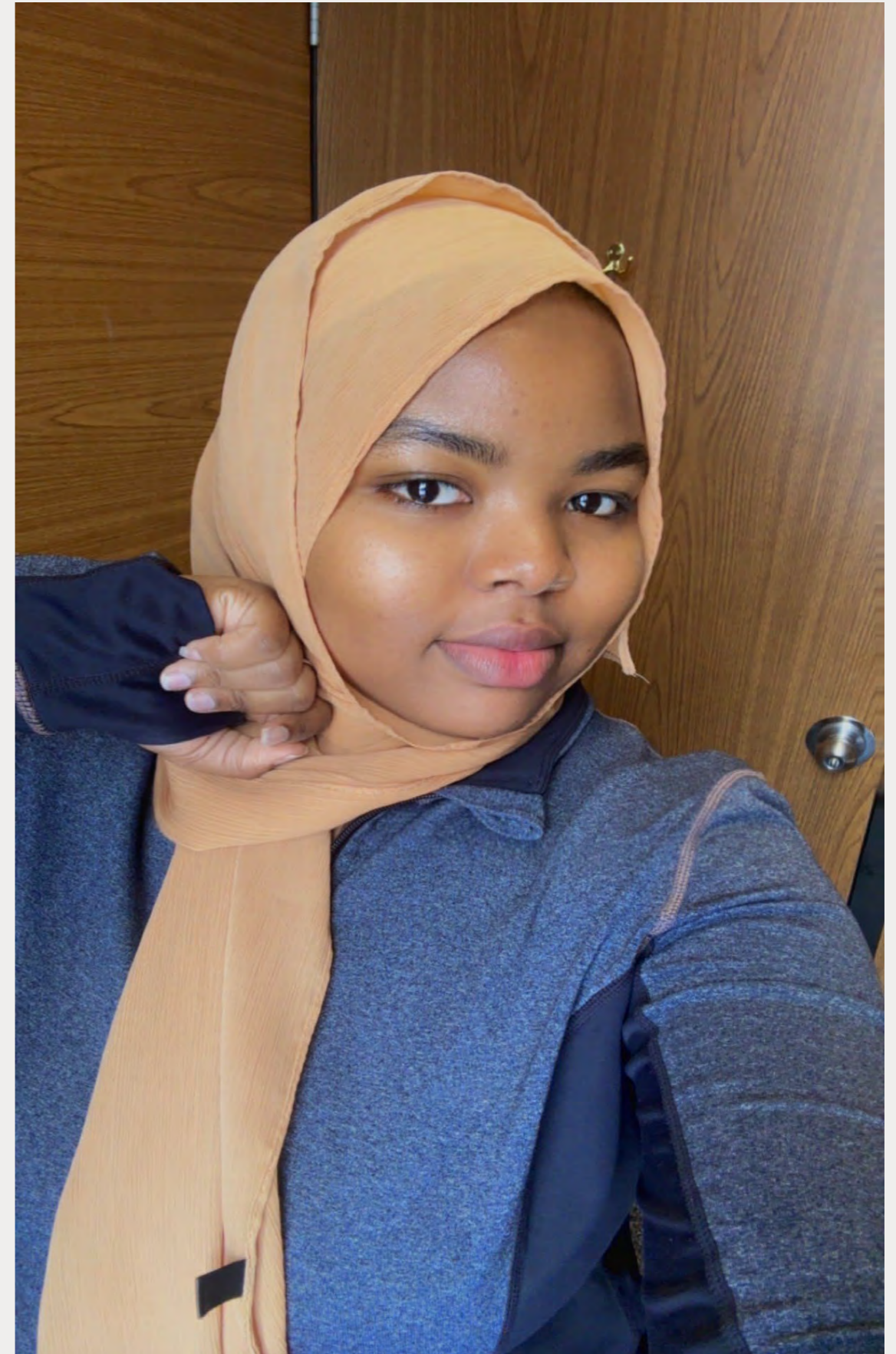


# Student spotlight – Rachida Ali Noma

## Senior, Biomedical Sciences

Rachida was nominated by Lauren Scagnelli who said, "Rachida is a great role model on SUNY Cortland campus. She is very involved and still works, volunteers and helps the Cortland community. Rachida has greatly helped the Health and Wellness Office by getting information to students about their health and wellness. Rachida is a great communicator and team member. She clearly and effectively communicates while also listening carefully to ensure everyone is heard and respected."

On the experience, Rachida said: "Working on campus has helped me become more comfortable communicating with different people and handling responsibilities in a professional setting. As an international student, it also helped me adjust better and gain confidence in myself. I've learned a lot about time management, teamwork, and how to balance work with school, all of which are valuable skills for me."



# Student spotlight – Isabella DiMartino

## Senior, Childhood/Early Childhood Education

Isabella was nominated by Kayla Sewer who said, "Isabella's compassion, mentorship and resourcefulness has made her the lead example of how engagement ambassadors are supposed to advance and maintain the positive connections SUNY Cortland has with its community. She is the first one to ask questions, develop a work plan for others to follow and always offers a helping hand to anyone who may need it. Isabella is committed to not only being the best engagement ambassador but being an even better Cortland student and friend. Her ability to connect with others is unparalleled as she is dedicated to fostering an inclusive and fun environment everywhere she goes. Isabella has been the captain of our Resource Fair table as she has been responsible for setting up our display in creative and unique ways along with encouraging students to visit our table to learn about the resources the Cortland College Foundation offers such as scholarships, undergraduate research, and the student emergency fund. Isabella's efforts in teaching the best practices for donor stewardship videos to her peers has not only increased donor replies but contributed to a culture of donor retention as well. Her dynamic participation in the first ever "Cortland Challenge 2025 Announcement Video" helped inspire people to get involved and give back to the different areas on campus during our 24-hour annual giving day."

On the experience, Isabella said: "From working on-campus as an Engagement Ambassador at the Cortland College Foundation, and a Group Exercise instructor at the Student Life Center, I have learned many skills. For instance, I have learned the skills of formal communication, teamwork, and emphasizing support and care for the people I am working with. I have also understood that showing up for other people has a huge impact. I am honored that I have had the chance to make that impact for people whether it is from a personal letter, or from having one feel powerful after a workout. I have had the opportunity to have two jobs during my four years of college. All that I have done and learned has shaped me as a person and has prepared me for my future."



# Student spotlight – Sydney Follick

## Sophomore, Adapted Physical Education

Sydney was nominated by Paige Crittella who said, “Sydney has made a positive impact on our department and campus through their role as a campus ambassador by consistently demonstrating professionalism, strong communication, and teamwork. During campus tours, they create a welcoming and engaging environment for prospective students and their families, clearly sharing information about campus resources, academics, and student life. Their enthusiasm and genuine pride in the institution help visitors feel connected to the campus community. They also work collaboratively with other ambassadors and staff to ensure tours run smoothly, while confidently addressing questions and adapting to different groups. Through their dedication and positive attitude, they serve as an excellent representative of our campus.”

On the experience, Sydney said: “Being a tour guide on campus has not only spread my love for SUNY Cortland but has helped me grow in so many ways, as a person and future educator. I have gotten more comfortable talking in front of people and thinking on the spot. It definitely has built my confidence and communication skills. Leading tours has helped me present information clearly, engage with different people, and represent Cortland in a positive and professional way.”



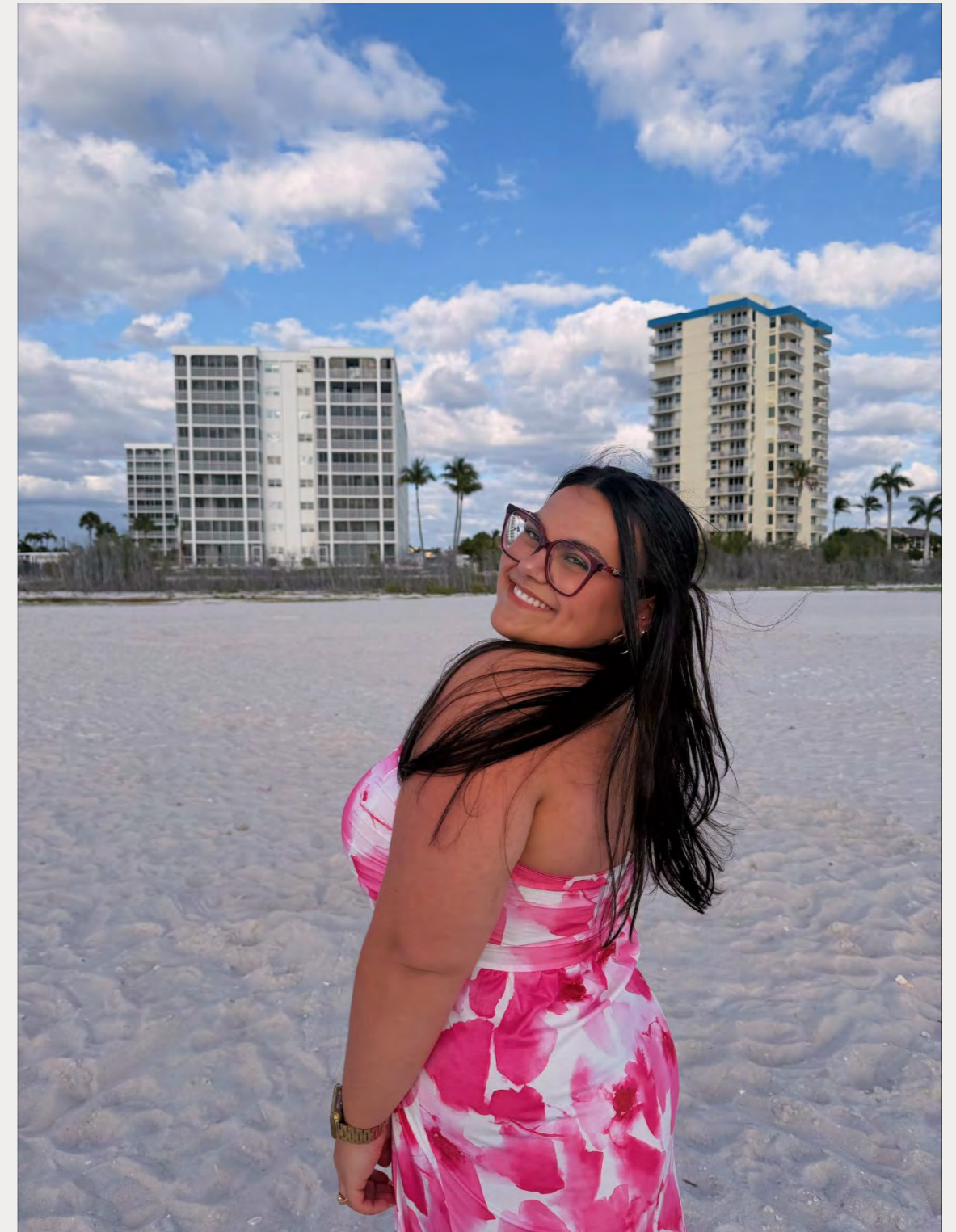
# Student spotlight – Juliana Franco

## Junior, Health Education

Juliana was nominated by Paige Crittela who said, "Juliana has made a meaningful and lasting impact on the SUNY Cortland Admissions Office through her work as a campus ambassador. She consistently demonstrates professionalism, strong communication skills, and a genuine commitment to creating a welcoming environment for every visitor who steps onto campus. Through her role leading campus tours, Juliana ensures that prospective students and their families not only receive important information about our academic programs, resources, and student life, but also leave feeling a sense of connection to the Cortland community. What makes Juliana particularly effective is her ability to balance knowledge with authenticity. She shares her personal experiences with enthusiasm and pride, helping visitors envision themselves as part of the campus community. Her tours are engaging, informative, and thoughtful, as she adapts her approach to meet the interests and questions of each group she guides. Through her dedication, professionalism, and authentic pride in our institution, Juliana exemplifies the qualities we hope every campus ambassador will demonstrate. She has truly helped strengthen the connection between prospective students and the SUNY Cortland community."

On the experience, Juliana said: "Through my on-campus work as the Fall 2025 Senior Intern at the Lynne Parks '68 Alumni House, I've learned how to lead under pressure while staying adaptable in fast-paced environments. Managing events and working closely with a team showed me how important clear communication and problem-solving in real time really are. It also taught me how to trust the people I'm working with and stay composed when things don't go exactly as planned.

Outside of that, working as an intramural scorekeeper and campus tour guide during the Spring 2026 semester has helped me grow in different ways. As a scorekeeper, I've learned how important it is to stay focused, be accurate, and take responsibility in a fast-paced setting. As a tour guide, I've become more confident speaking and connecting with a wide range of people. All these experiences together have helped me become more adaptable, reliable, and ready to step up as a leader when it matters most."



# Student spotlight – Kerry Hare

## Senior, Inclusive Childhood Education

Kerry was nominated by Kayla Sewer who said, “Kerry has served as a positive role model as she never fails to exceed any expectations that we have of her and is able to inspire her peers to give their all at work and have fun while doing so. She has been the longest tenured student in the annual giving office and always takes charge when it comes to teaching others how to manage the tasks and responsibilities that come with being an enthusiastic proponent of Annual Giving and The Cortland College Foundation. Kerry is the first person to sign up to participate in any campus event or project as she loves to connect with the community and help them learn about all the ways they can give back and get involved to make their college career a transformative one. Kerry is committed to not only making every environment a better and brighter one but getting to know people and spending time making genuine friendships. Her presence at the Resource Fair showed that everyone who stops by our table leaves with a smile on their face, a giveaway, a piece of information and a new friend. Whether they learned about how to apply for scholarships, what day is the best to workout at the Student Life Center or what their favorite season of Dance Moms is, I can guarantee that Kerry left a lasting impact on them. Her kindness, generosity and compassion are unmatched, and it has been a joy to see how not only our office and program have grown due to her efforts but how many people she has touched along the way.”

On the experience, Kerry said: “Working as an engagement ambassador has been one of my favorite experiences at Cortland. I have made so many connections and grown my skills in so many ways that I plan to use throughout my life both personally and in my career. I have grown into more of a leader and learned so much about technology and working with a team (the best team!).”

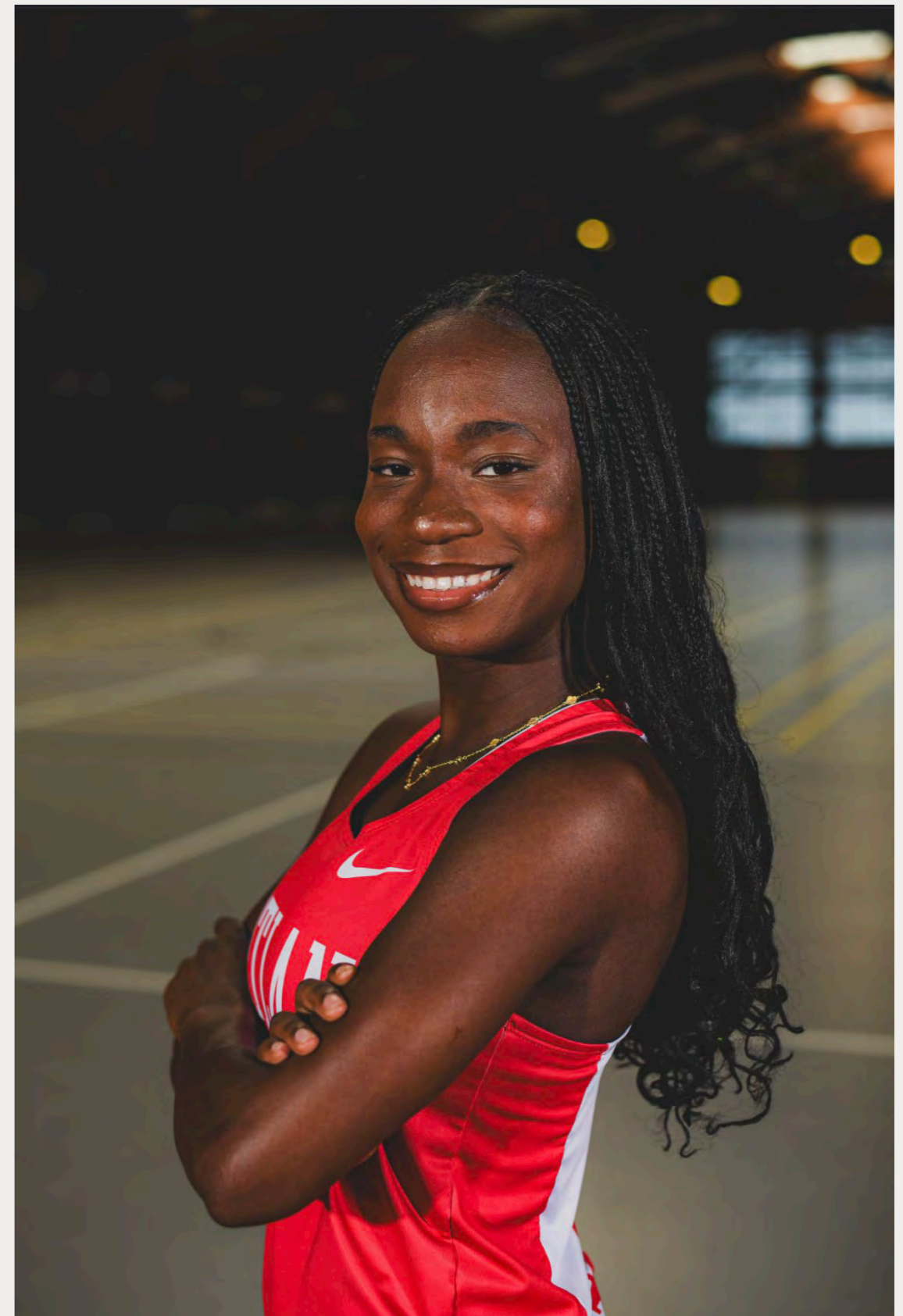


# Student spotlight – Melissa Innocent

## Junior, Therapeutic Recreation

Melissa was nominated by Paige Crittela who said, "Melissa has distinguished herself as an exceptional campus ambassador whose presence consistently enhances the experience of prospective students and their families visiting SUNY Cortland. From the moment guests arrive, Melissa brings a calm confidence and welcoming energy that immediately helps visitors feel comfortable and excited about learning more about the university. Her ability to communicate clearly and thoughtfully ensures that each tour is not only informative, but also engaging and meaningful for those considering Cortland as their future home. Melissa takes great pride in representing SUNY Cortland and thoughtfully shares her knowledge of the university's academic programs, campus resources, and student life opportunities. She has a natural ability to connect with visitors by listening carefully to their questions and tailoring her responses to meet their interests and concerns. Through her genuine enthusiasm and authenticity, she helps prospective students picture themselves thriving within the Cortland community. In addition to her work with visitors, Melissa is a valued member of the ambassador team. She is dependable, collaborative, and always willing to support her peers and admissions staff to ensure that tours and events run seamlessly. Whether assisting with large group visit days or leading individual campus tours, Melissa approaches each opportunity with professionalism and a strong sense of responsibility. Melissa's dedication to creating positive and memorable experiences for prospective students reflects the very best of SUNY Cortland. Her leadership, warmth, and commitment to excellence make her a truly deserving nominee and an outstanding representative of our campus community."

On the experience, Melissa said: "Through my role as a campus tour guide, I developed strong communication and leadership skills while learning how to engage with individuals from diverse backgrounds. This experience has prepared me for a future in therapeutic recreation by strengthening my ability to create welcoming, supportive environments—especially when working with children."



# Student spotlight – Alexandra Martinez

## Senior, Criminology

Alexandra was nominated by Mariah Riccardi who said, “Alex is a hard-working student and student-worker. She is willing to assist the department faculty with their needs including printing requests, filing, scanning, and providing technical support when needed.

Alex has been a dependable, kind, and trustworthy member of this department and we will truly miss her when she graduates this spring.”

On the experience, Alexandra said: “I have learned a lot while working in the Sociology/Anthropology department as a student worker. I've met all the really amazing professors that work in the department, and I have talked with them and seen how much work they put into creating a safe and conducive environment for their students. It feels like a family more than just co-workers. I also enjoy helping organize the office and answering questions students have when they come in looking for help. I love working with my supervisor, Mariah, who has been very supportive and always goes out of her way to check in and make sure I and others are going okay. I have honed my professionalism skills by working in this setting and I am always prepared and do the tasks I am given on point and with lots of attention to detail.”



# Student spotlight – Hawa Oulale

## Senior, Biochemistry

Hawa was nominated by Lauren Scagnelli who said, "Hawa is a great role model on SUNY Cortland campus. She is very involved and still works, volunteers and helps the Cortland community. Hawa has greatly helped the Health and Wellness Office by getting information to students about their health and wellness. Hawa is very professional by arriving on time, being reliable, and having an appropriate demeanor. "

On the experience, Hawa said: "As a Wellness Peer Educator, I have learned that effective health advocacy is more than just sharing facts, it is about building empathy and trust. This role sharpened my communication and listening skills, enabling me to provide peers with relatable and actionable advice. Most importantly, it taught me how to foster an inclusive environment where every student feels empowered to take charge of their mental and physical well-being."

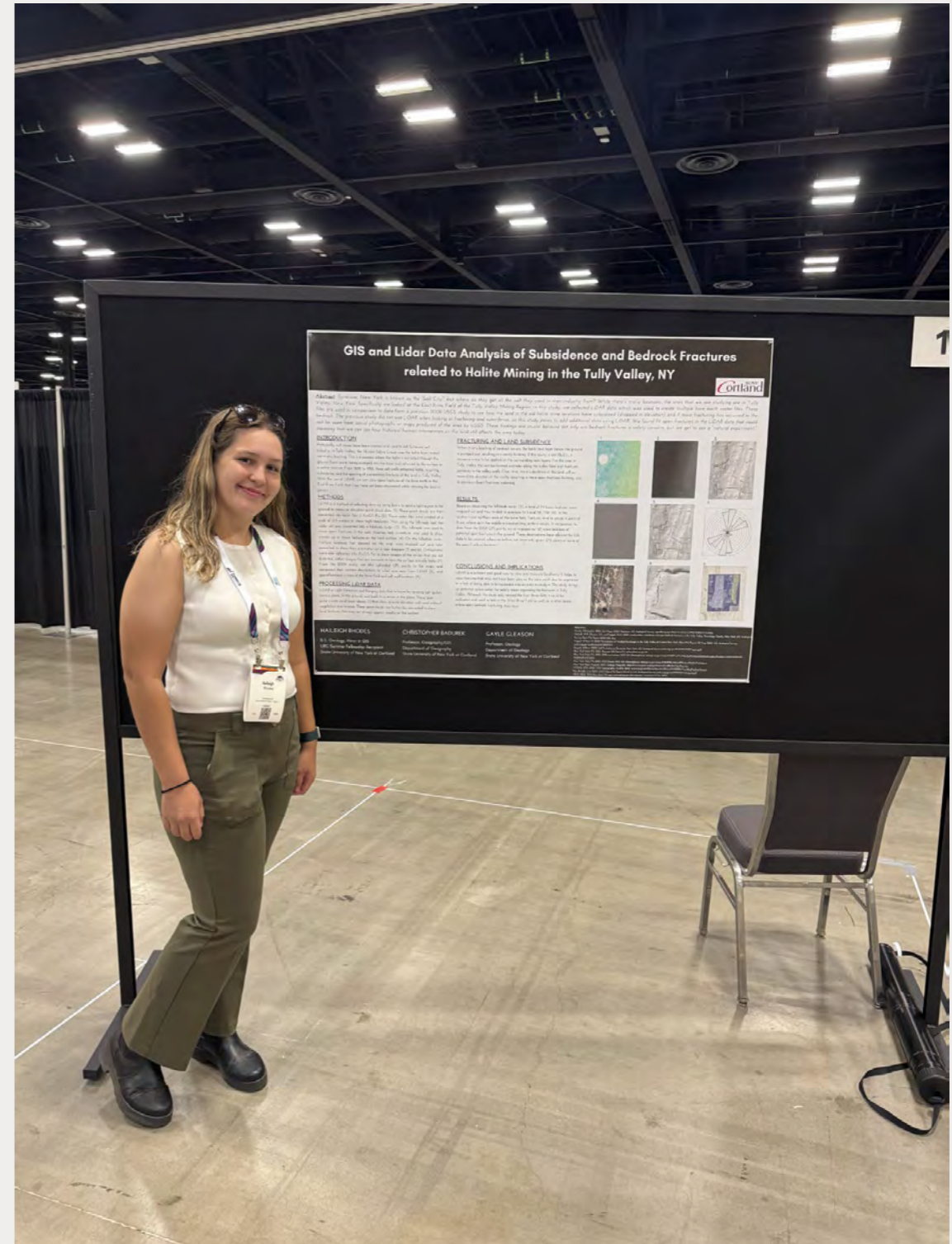


# Student spotlight – Haileigh Rhodes

## Senior, Geology

Haileigh was nominated by Alexis Shura who said, “Haileigh is an incredibly reliable and trusted member of the career services team who consistently demonstrates a strong work ethic and commitment to excellence. She takes initiative in her role, often completing tasks without needing direction, and can always be counted on to follow through. Her organizational skills and attention to detail ensure that nothing is overlooked, and her strong communication makes her a valuable team member. She also plays an important role in training new employees, helping others feel supported and set up for success. In addition to her work in the office, her involvement and leadership across campus further reflect her dedication and ability to balance multiple responsibilities while still showing up fully in each area. Her contributions make a meaningful impact on our team, and we truly appreciate all that she brings to the office. We will miss Haileigh so much next year and know she has a bright future!”

On the experience, Haileigh said: “Throughout my work experience at Career Services, I have developed many skills that have helped me in my current leadership positions and will help me in the workforce as a future Geologist. From thinking critically to ensure student employment paperwork is filled out correctly to communicating important information about the student employment, these skills are essential to everyday professional work skills and can be transferred to my work as a geologist.”



# Student spotlight – Tiana Schelble

## Sophomore, International Studies

Tiana was nominated by Megan Swing who said, "Tiana is one of the longest running Green Reps who has been a leader in campus sustainability since the first semester of her freshman year (and the first semester the program was back on campus). She truly pushes for sustainable change to come to campus and is always thinking of new ways change can be implemented. She is vocal during meetings and is a leader amongst the other Green Reps."

On the experience, Tiana said: "Throughout my jobs at SUNY Cortland, I developed my soft skills such as communication, teamwork, time management, and leadership. I learned how to get out of my comfort zone and interact with strangers by working at the rock wall and doing green rep tabling events in the dorm halls. I learned how to not get embarrassed easily and make people comfortable in situations. School teaches you a lot but the skills I learned being an employee are ones I would have never developed in a classroom alone. I'm so grateful for all of my work opportunities and my co-workers."



# Student spotlight – Kelsey Thornton

## Junior, Criminology

Kelsey was nominated by Megan Swing who said, “In Kelsey's first few months as a Green Rep she has stepped up and taken a leadership role going above and beyond with research and lending a helping hand when needed.”

On the experience, Kelsey said: “ Throughout my experiences working for SUNY Cortland, I have learned so many valuable things that have shown me how to be the best leader I can, work collaboratively and professionally with faculty and students, and get a jump start on my career options! Some of the most important things I have learned are how to professionally communicate with others, how to lead projects and collaborate within them, and critically think about issues and find solutions to them. I am forever grateful to my employment experiences across campus for helping me gain the skills necessary in order to take the next steps towards a professional career.”



# Student spotlight – Maleah Young

## Senior, Childhood/Early Childhood Education

Maleah was nominated by Paige Crittella who said, “Maleah has made a positive impact on our department through their reliability, professionalism, and strong communication skills. They effectively manage our social media presence by creating engaging content and helping keep our audience informed about campus opportunities and events. In addition, they play an important role in checking visitors in and helping manage daily schedules, ensuring that operations run smoothly and efficiently. Their friendly and approachable demeanor creates a welcoming environment for students, families, and guests, making everyone feel comfortable and supported. Through their organization, teamwork, and positive attitude, they contribute greatly to the success of our office and overall visitor experience.”

On the experience, Maleah said: “During my on-campus work experience, I have learned the extensive behind the scenes work that occurs in the Admissions Office. This has also aided my time-management skills balancing a full class schedule, field placement, club sports, and this internship. My critical thinking was enhanced greatly for the many tasks that I had to take on each day. From creating tour guide schedules, organizing tour guides for group visits, and welcoming hundreds of prospective students each week, I have improved my skills greatly. I have also broadened my communication skills as I have learned to speak with people of all ages such as prospective students, parents, and professionals in this field. This has aided in improving my teaching skills as communication is a major part of the education field.”



# More student spotlights

**Jessica Kam** – Junior, Criminology

“My on-campus work experience has helped me develop a greater understanding of technology and how to use it to accomplish my goals. This experience has also improved my decision-making skills, as well as communication and question-asking abilities.”

**Lisa Smith** – Junior, Art and African American Studies

“I've been given openings to experiment and contribute to classroom settings to improve the education of other students; for example, doing short lectures on certain topics, creating assignments, meeting with students one-on-one, and brainstorming in-class activities for engagement. Not only do I aid the education of my peers, but I also improve my skills in teaching and professionalism as a work-study student.”

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