

Goodnight Scholars Program | Transfer Class of 2027 Recipients

Finalists listed alphabetically first by county, then last name

Alamance County



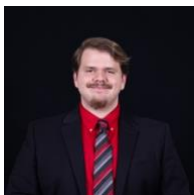
Laura Koech is graduating from Alamance Community College where she's been involved with the schools STEM community. She has enjoyed her time leading the schools STEM club as well as being an active in the community. Laura plans to major in aerospace engineering.

Buncombe County



Jasmin Lopez Reynoso graduated from Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College where she received an associate in science. She volunteered at the local hospital and an environmental conservation organization while maintaining a part-time job throughout college. Jasmin plans to major in computer engineering at NC State University.

Burke County



Camden Cook will graduate from Western Piedmont Community College where he served as President of the Natural Sciences club. Camden was also involved in volunteering at the Catawba Science Center and South Mountains State Park, the latter eventually hiring him as a seasonal employee. He spends most of his free time solo developing video games and uploading short educational videos to his YouTube Channel. Camden plans to major in biology with a focus on ecology, evolution and conservation. Ultimately, he wants to become a Paleontologist, educating the public on the wonderful creatures that once shared our world.

Caldwell County



Abigail Williams is graduating with an associate in science degree with honors from Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute. She was involved in the High-Altitude Balloon Team with which she pursued undergraduate research and was a presenting author at the 2024 NC Space Symposium. Abigail intends to major in Biochemistry and hopes to research autoimmune disorders in the future.

Camden County



Aaron Spivey will graduate from the College of the Albemarle with an associate in engineering degree. He was a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society, on the President's list, and received multiple academic excellence awards. Aaron is a youth group sponsor and a member of the music team for the South Mills Church of Christ. He also enjoys playing guitar, and football. Aaron plans to major in civil engineering.

Catawba County



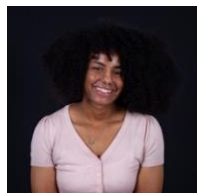
Ryder Trew will graduate from Catawba Valley Community College where he was a top student in the Math and Physics departments, receiving many awards and placing first in the AMATYC competition at his college for two years. Ryder was also involved in local arts and nonprofits through working for the Western Piedmont Symphony. Ryder plans to major in physics.

Chatham County



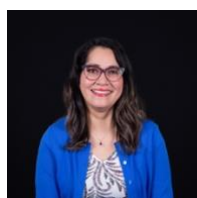
Jaelyn Comellas graduated from Central Carolina Community College with academic honors where she received her associate in science. Jaelyn also volunteers with Oak City Reach, a nonprofit that addresses food and housing insecurity concerns. Jaelyn plans to major in biological sciences.

Cumberland County

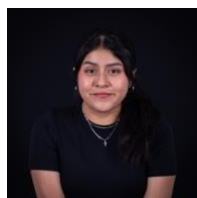


Trinity Jones is graduating from Fayetteville Technical Community College with her associate in science degree. She served as the community outreach chairperson for her school's National Society of Leadership and Success chapter. Trinity is currently an intern at UNC Chapel Hill for the EDGenomics program. She intends on majoring in biological sciences here at NC State starting this fall.

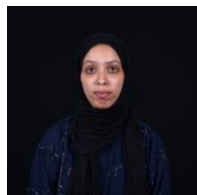
Durham County



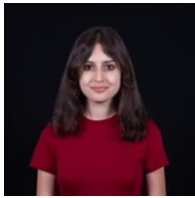
Lili Bolaños Abarca completed her associate in science degree at Durham Technical Community College in Fall 2023, where her involvement in the SEA-PHAGES Program sparked a passion for Microbiology and Genomics. As a participant in NC State's C3 Program, she broadened her academic pursuits. Last summer, Lili contributed to the EDGE Genomics Program at UNC Chapel Hill, returning this summer for further lab engagement. Now at NC State, she is pursuing a major in Microbiology while concurrently serving as a Spanish medical interpreter at UNC Hospitals.



Leslie Galicia will graduate with an associate of arts from Durham Technical Community College where she was a part of the NC State Community College Collaboration. During her time there, she served as an active member of the Phi Theta Kappa Chapter and demonstrated her commitment to her community through her volunteer work at the local community garden and Triangle Nonprofit Foundation. Leslie was also involved in strengthening Latino presence and appreciation on campus through her involvement in the Cambiando Caminos Club. Leslie plans to major in elementary education with aspirations of becoming a role model and inspiration for young students.

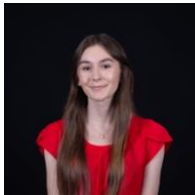


Amel Mojali is from Yemen and lives in Durham County. Amel will graduate with an associate degree in science from Durham Technical Community College. Amel is a member of the community college collaboration program (C3). Amel also has volunteered for three years as an Arabic teacher in her community. Amel plans to major in engineering, technology, and graphic design education.



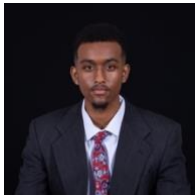
Selin Yalcin will graduate with an associate in science from Durham Technical Community College where she was the president of the STEM Journal Club and participated in the NCMATYC math competitions in Durham Tech's math team. Selin was also involved in her school's Student Government Association, was a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and engaged in volunteering and leadership activities. Selin plans to major in computer science.

Edgecombe County



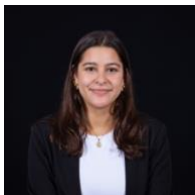
Dakota Newberry graduated from Pitt Community College with an associate in science degree in December 2023. During her time there, she excelled as a student-athlete, serving as their team's libero for two years. Dakota actively participated in her local 4-H club, focusing on community service initiatives and environmental conservation efforts. Dakota recently completed her first semester here at NCSU, where she is pursuing a major in fisheries, wildlife, and conservation biology!

Forsyth County



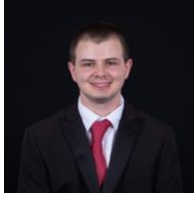
Ayub Hussein will graduate from Forsyth Technical Community College, where he was recognized as a high-honors student. Ayub was a member of the ASPIRE Program, where he interned for N.C. Cooperative Extension. Ayub plans to major in computer science.

Franklin County



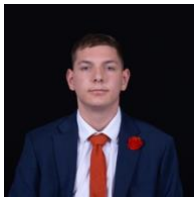
Alia Fayed will graduate from Wake Technical Community College where she was involved in Wake Tech's annual STEM Day. She is a part of the Engineering club. Her team won first place in The Rube Goldberg Competition in 2023. Alia had opportunities in volunteering at an assisted living home and The Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC. Alongside working 2 jobs, one of which at her school's food pantry, The NEST Food Pantry, at the CARE Center. Alia plans to major in materials science and engineering.

Gaston County



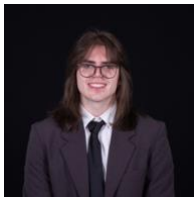
Damian Nikolov is graduating with high honors and an associate in science degree from Gaston College. At Gaston College, Damian was the president of the Science Club, a SPARC Scholar, a Gamma Beta Phi member, and a tutor at the Learning Center. Over the summer, he will also work towards a phlebotomy certification at the same institution. At NC State, Damian will major in the biological sciences with a concentration in molecular, cellular, and developmental biology, and he would love to pursue undergraduate research further.

Guilford County



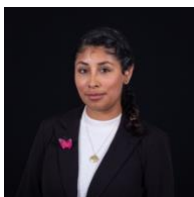
Calvin Hansmeyer has graduated from Guilford Technical Community College, where he received an associate in engineering and science. Calvin is an alumni of a cultural literacy roundtable discussion group called the Adler Table, and participated as a volunteer for the Magnalia foundation, dedicated to serving individuals who have suffered loss or debilitating disease. Calvin plans to major in Mechanical Engineering where he hopes to fulfill his childhood dream of becoming an engineer.

Haywood County



Nicholas Sutton will graduate from Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, where he was a member of the Phi Theta Kappa honors society. Nicholas was also one of the founding members of an old-time music band that has performed at local festivals, concerts, and charity events for almost a decade. Nicholas plans to major in computer science and minor in mathematics.

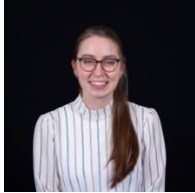
Johnston County



Aura Celeste Cerrato Canales or Celeste as she likes to be called, graduated from Wake Technical Community College in Fall 2023 with an Associates Degree in Science and in Arts. There she served as a senator in the Student Body Association, worked as a student success peer leader in the Care Center, and was a member of the Spanish Honor Society. She proudly serves in the Army Reserves and works part-time. Celeste plans to major in biological sciences with a concentration in ecology, evolution, and conservation biology.



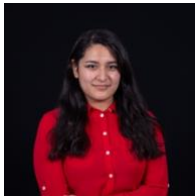
Nora Cam will graduate from Wake Technical Community College where she served as secretary of the Spanish club and was involved in Sigma Delta Mu, the Honors Program, Service-Learning, and the International Friends Club. Outside of college, Nora participated in NC State's C3 program, the NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars (NCAS) program, volunteered at the SPCA of Wake County, and worked as a server at a sushi bar in downtown Raleigh. Nora plans to major in computer science.



Abigail Close will graduate from Wake Technical Community College where she will receive both an associate in engineering and an associate in science. She worked for 6 years in the orthodontic field prior to attending Wake Technical Community College. Abigail plans to major in computer science to further technology in the medical world.

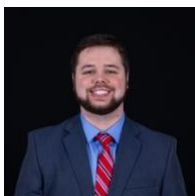


Marcos Garcia is poised to graduate from Wake Tech Community College, where he has been an active member of the community, serving as a chemistry study group leader with the Office of Volunteerism and Leadership and contributing as a lab assistant in the Biology Department. Marcos's dedication to science and his desire to make a difference is evident through his involvement. With a strong interest in genetics, Marcos plans to major in Genetics at NC State University, where he hopes to further his academic pursuits and contribute meaningfully to the field.



Claudia Martinez-Martinez graduated from Johnston Community College with an associate in engineering degree. Claudia was a member of the math club and participated in the Honors Experience program at JCC. Claudia is a Materials Science and Engineering major at NC State. She is currently involved in NC State's Engineers Without Borders chapter and is also a member of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers.

Lee County

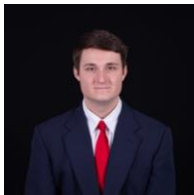


Joshua Kennedy will graduate from Central Carolina Community College with his associate in science and associate of engineering degrees where he was a math tutor at CCCCs Academic Assistance Center. He served as president of the CRU Club, member of the physics club, and he participated in the High Altitude Balloon Competition sponsored by NASA. He is also a member of Phi Theta Kappa. Joshua plans to major in mathematics and minor in statistics with plans of becoming a college professor.



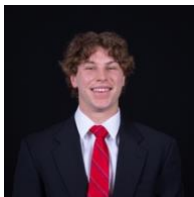
Aurelia Meyer will graduate from Central Carolina Community College where they were a part of the Karman Striders High Altitude Ballooning Challenge Team sponsored by the NASA North Carolina Space Grant. Aurelia was also the pioneer of Apex Friendship High School's Unity within Diversity mural project for National Art Honor Society, earning a mayoral coin from Mayor Gilbert of Apex for her involvement. Aurelia plans to major in physics and go on to do research in the field.

Lenoir County



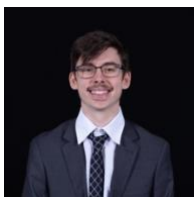
Cooper Emory will graduate from Wayne Community College where he was a part of the Community College Collaboration with Wayne and NC State. Cooper Emory plans to major in Civil Engineering and one day become a structural design engineer.

Moore County

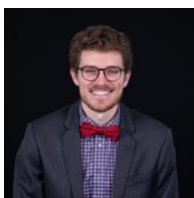


Ilyas Kalila attends Sandhills Community College where he will graduate Magna Cum Laude with an associate in science degree. Ilyas has been involved in supporting youth sports programs through his work with Southern Pines Parks and Rec and participation in Youth on Course. He has an interest in animal advocacy work and has volunteered with the Caring Hearts for Canines dog rescue. At NC State University, Ilyas will major in biological sciences with a concentration in human biology.

Orange County



Jacob King is a Magna Cum Laude graduate from Durham Tech where they earned his associate in science. Jacob has been involved with the YouTube community, where he made informational videos on how to do game development on his YouTube channel. Also, through his knowledge of computer science, was able to help automate processes for a business owner. Jacob King plans to major in computer science.



Truman Phipps will graduate from Johnson Community College with honors. Truman plans to major in civil engineering.

Pitt County



Je'Niya Nelson will graduate from Wake Technical Community College with an associate in science. While enrolled at Wake Tech, she participated in K-12 STEM outreach events, undergraduate research experiences, and numerous volunteer efforts. She also serves as an ambassador for the C3 Partnership Program at NC State University. Je'Niya intends to major in Biological Sciences with a concentration in human biology.

Surry County

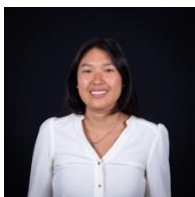


Selena Islas will graduate from Surry Community College where she helped tutor students. Selena was also involved in tutoring dually enrolled students from Elkin High and community events in Elkin, North Carolina. Selena plans to major in computer engineering.

Union County

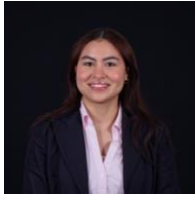


Molly Hunnicutt will graduate from Central Piedmont Community College with her associate in science degree. Molly was also involved in the community through volunteering at Carolina Waterfowl Rescue for three years, internships within animal care, and obtaining a job as a Veterinary Assistant since August 2023. Molly plans to major in Animal Science with a concentration in veterinary bioscience, continuing to pursue her life-long dream of becoming a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine.



Holly Truong will graduate from Gaston College where they were a part of SPARC and TRiO. Holly was also involved in the science club. Holly plans to major in biochemistry.

Vance County



Carolina Agamez Davila graduated from Vance County Early College High School and Vance-Granville Community College last year. She was involved in the National Honor Society, Beta Club, National Honor Society of High School Scholars, and the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. She was also involved in varsity soccer throughout her high school career and served as a volunteer at her local school county summer camp. Carolina plans to major in civil engineering.

Wake County



Grace Abraham will graduate from Wake Technical Community College, where she served as a student Senator for a year. Grace was also involved in other extracurricular activities, serving as the President of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and as a STEM Academic Research Training Intern (START). She actively participated in and won writing contests. Recently, one of her poems was published in the Wake Review Magazine, and she took first place in the NCDA 58th Annual Poetry and Art Contest. Grace plans to major in computer science with hopes of becoming a machine learning engineer and a writer someday.



Syed Abbas is set to graduate from Wake Technical Community College, where he has been an active member of the Phi Theta Kappa Academic Honor Society (PTK), the NC State C3 partnership, and the International Friends Club. Committed to advocating for human rights, Syed has contributed his time to various organizations dedicated to addressing injustices worldwide. In addition to his academic achievements and social activism, he has been involved in the Wake Tech Performing Arts Club and the Biology Club. Syed's passion for healthcare and nutrition has led him to pursue a major in nutrition science, aligning with his long-term career ambition of becoming an anesthesiologist.



Alaric Ani will graduate from Wake Technical Community College, where he was involved in the Student Ambassadors Program and was a work-study at the Individualized Learning Center (ILC). He was also involved in the C3 program. He is an active volunteer at the Visual Investigation Lab in the Museum of Natural Sciences. Aside from his academic involvement, he teaches children how to swim at Millbrook Pool. He plans to major in computer and electrical engineering.



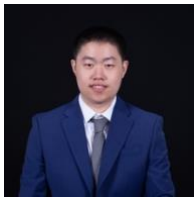
Kyle Curry will graduate from Wake Tech Community College where he will earn his associate in science. He earned a large portion of his associate degree while working full-time, participating in various leadership roles and mentorship programs. Kyle plans to major in statistics.



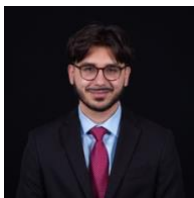
Damien Johnson II will graduate from Wake Technical Community College where he served as Vice President of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE). Damien was also involved as a STEM Academic Research Training (S.T.A.R.T) Intern, a Student Success Coach Ambassador, and C3 Volunteer. Damien plans to major in aerospace engineering concentrating on propulsion or orbital physics.



Demaris Keleta will graduate from Wake Technical Community College. She is pursuing her bachelor's degree with a major in Computer Science. Outside of class, she worked as a team lead and technician at a semiconductor manufacturing company. Her dedication to supporting orphaned children stems from her upbringing, having spent much of her youth closely involved with an orphanage. Before joining Wechtechnical Community College, Demaris worked as a teacher, showing her commitment to education and community service. Additionally, she managed and participated in various projects.



Pinmin Lin will graduate from Wake Technical Community College where he was involved in Math Club. He actively participated the Math Competition held by University of North Georgia and win the championship in group competition for Wake Tech with other groups. He had acquired the certificate of Associate Mechanical Design. Pinmin plans to major in computer science.



Ajmir Naseri will be graduating from Wake Technical Community College and was awarded placement on the Dean's/President's List throughout his time there. He will continue his involvement within the Afghan community through various endeavors, such as participating in local mosques and events. Ajmir Naseri will major in Mechanical Engineering



Michael Pacheco-Luciano will graduate from Wake Technical Community College with an Associate of Engineering degree, where he was actively involved in the Math Club and achieved first place in the 2022 NCMATYC Math Competition. He also participated in hackathons focused on cybersecurity, demonstrating his commitment to enhancing his skills in digital security. Michael is majoring in Computer Science, continuing to build his strong foundation in mathematics and engineering.



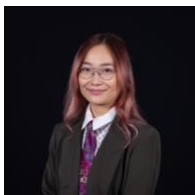
Kaina Percifield graduated last Fall from Wake Technical Community College where she obtained her associate in science. For several years she has been involved in her local community garden, is an avid plant collector, and loves to create art and design spaces using plants with other natural elements. She hopes to make a career out of these hobbies that also integrates her passion for environmental health. Kaina plans to major in Horticultural Science to become a landscape designer that incorporates aesthetics, conservation, and sustainability into urban environments.



Savannah Prosser will graduate from Wake Technical Community College where they were completing their associate in science degree. She is also a veterinary assistant at a local veterinary clinic where she helps others provide proper care for their pets. Savannah plans to major in animal science at North Carolina State University.



Lizbeth Torres Cervantes will be transferring from Wake Technical Community College where she completed her Associate of arts. Lizbeth has also been involved in different kinds of community outreach programs such as EFNEP, a nutrition education program for adults and youth. Lizbeth plans to major in Agriculture Education where she will pursue her love for teaching even further.

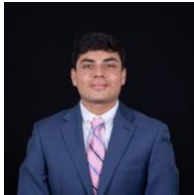


Angelina Yang will graduate from Wake Technical Community College where they were immersed in a vibrant campus community of diverse and high striving students and a supportive faculty and staff. Angelina was also involved in the START Program, NASA's Community College Aerospace Scholars program, and served as President of the Beta Alpha Zeta chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honors Society. Angelina plans to major in mechanical engineering.

Wilson County



Jimena Arreola graduated from Wilson Community College where she earned her associate in science. She graduated with High Honors while working to afford her education. Jimena plans to major in biological sciences with an IPN concentration.



Juanjo Espinosa will graduate Nash Community College with an associate in science with Engineering concentration. Juanjo plans to major in electrical engineering.