

2021 Students of the Year

The Maine Community College System Board of Trustees is proud to recognize the following outstanding students.



Andrea N. Atkinson, Southern Maine Community College

Andrea, of Portland, is enrolled in SMCC's liberal studies program with a concentration in art. Andrea attended college over a decade ago and says at SMCC she has gained new skills and a clearer direction for her career. She is the public relations director for the Student Senate, president of Phi Theta Kappa, a leader in her community and an advocate for other students. Andrea plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in art with a K-12 education certification with the goal of becoming an art teacher.



Jennifer Mae Hodgins, Eastern Maine Community College

Jennifer, of Brewer, is enrolled in EMCC's human services program. A student leader, she is president of both Phi Theta Kappa and Student Senate and created a Psychology Club affiliated with other college campuses and has statewide membership. As a student advocate, she worked to get more students involved in college-centered activities and classes during the pandemic. She is also a tutor at the Student Success Center and serves on the College Senate and the COVID-19 response and planning committee. She plans to continue her education with a focus on research in human services.



Adrian Hoyt, Kennebec Valley Community College

Adrian, of Benton, is enrolled in KVCC's liberal studies program. Adrian was unsure about his ability to succeed in college, but with the support of an advisor he applied to KVCC, where he has thrived. It has also helped him transform his educational and career goals. Adrian has a strong passion for helping others, social justice, and learning about media and technology. Adrian is the recipient of a Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholarship and plans to continue his education with the goal of becoming a UX designer.



Darci Marie Lentz, York County Community College

Darci, of Steep Falls, is enrolled in YCCC's business administration program. Darci struggled in high school, but eventually earned her GED. When she was laid off in 2018 Darci decided it was the right time to go to college to learn the skills she needed to run her own small business. She quickly gained confidence and determination. She works as a math tutor, a pet groomer and at a kennel while attending classes. Her long-term goal is to own her own kennel and grooming business.



Caleb Michael McManus, Northern Maine Community College

Caleb, of Fort Fairfield, is enrolled in NMCC's liberal studies program. Caleb is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and NMCC's esports team. He has excelled academically, earning a 4.0 GPA while working two jobs, including a position as a tutor in NMCC's Academic Success Center. He said the academic challenges were just what he needed to grow and he felt supported by faculty and staff throughout his time at NMCC. He plans to continue his education at University of Maine Presque Isle with the goal of becoming an English teacher.



Sarah Pierce, Central Maine Community College

Sarah, of Greene, enrolled at CMCC because she wanted a career change. She earned her degree in business administration in 2019 from CMCC and is currently enrolled in the college's network security program. Sarah is vice president of the Student Senate, president of the Gender Equity Club, and is a student worker in IT. Sarah's career goals include accident investigations and becoming a digital forensics investigator specializing in transportation accidents.



Jessica Stevens, Washington County Community College

Jessica, of East Machias, is enrolled in WCCC's human services program. Jessica previously earned a degree in medical assisting and has worked full time as an essential worker during the pandemic while taking classes toward a degree in human services. She has excelled academically with a 4.0 GPA. Jessica plans to obtain a bachelor's degree in mental health and human services and eventually a master's degree in counseling.