

Makayla Flanders

Makayla is a pre-nursing major at Florida A&M University. Makayla is a Conflict Resolution Peer at Florida A&M. She is also an active member of the NAACP and the College Democrats and has lobbied on behalf of progressive legislation at the State Legislature. Makayla's organizing work in the Black Lives Matter movement in Gainesville helped earn her the Edna M. Hart Keeper of the Dream Scholarship in 2023. One of Makayla's recommenders noted that, "She believes in activism, which she lives by being involved with young people getting registered to vote. She believes in lifting others and economic empowerment, which she lives by participating in many food drives during and after the pandemic." "Once I complete Nursing School," Makayla writes, "I plan to utilize my degree by providing aid to my community by hosting clinic days on the East Side of Gainesville, and I plan to start a scholarship to provide funds for two students each year to assist them with obtaining an education the same way I did."

Charlotte Rose Leavins

Charlotte Leavins served 7 years in the United States Marine Corps as a military police officer including combat deployments to Iraq beginning in 2006. Currently enrolled as a student at Santa Fe College, Charlotte's letter writers commended her for her direct work assisting homeless veterans find clothing, shelter, and health care. Charlotte is known for always being on call in the local veterans' community. She writes, "There have been instances where a veteran would call me in the middle of the night needing to talk, and I am always available to them. In addition, I know other veterans who have been incarcerated due to their PTSD and depression or due to medications, and I have served as a liaison between those veterans and the Veterans Treatment Court." Charlotte plans to earn her Master of Social Work degree and to specialize in substance abuse counseling with veterans and to help combat veterans' transition peacefully back into society.

Caleb Little

Caleb Little is a senior at P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School in Gainesville. He is active in efforts to stop gun violence and has participated in numerous panels, theatrical performances, and events including the 5th Avenue Arts festival where he has promoted messages of creative nonviolence, peaceful resolution of conflicts, and economic justice. Caleb volunteers with Star Theatre Inc., where he serves as a junior counselor focused on encouraging younger local students to become involved in the arts. One of his nominators wrote, "His humble demeanor, great stature, unassuming personality, great intelligence and love for people is noticeable when you have a conversation with him; but more importantly, if you watch his life, work ethnics and passion, there is no doubt this is a very special young man." Caleb's activism in the community has earned him the Patricia Hilliard-Nunn Cultural Ambassador Award. He plans to enroll in Tallahassee Community College in the fall and to eventually earn his law degree at Florida A&M University.

Janie Zhang

Janie Zhang is a first-generation college student and a pre-med major enrolled at the University of Florida. Her letter writers praised Janie's indefatigable volunteer work in the community. She writes, "I am involved with the Human Rights Coalition of Alachua and am dedicated to defending human rights on issues such as immigration, education, poverty, and equality. Janie is a member of the local chapter of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Especially concerned with gender inequalities in the United States, Latin America, and China, Janie writes, "Our goal is to spread more awareness regarding the inequalities that women face and to support women's rights and to educate women from diverse backgrounds." Janie's goal is become a medical provider, and she writes, "I aspire to be a social justice educator and researcher...I believe that my journey is driven by a purpose to serve and aid others."