

Sam Lieberman Regents' Award for Student Scholarship
Regents' Scholar - CSN
Adrian Edward Bell

Developing a taste for entrepreneurship through selling Little Debbie Honey Buns at a young age, Adrian has a tremendous work ethic and desire to one day create a successful Fortune 500 company. Adrian knew this was his passion and declared a major in Finance as his first step in understanding the business world. In high school, Adrian attended Advanced Technologies Academy which at the time lacked a successful business program. With the help of others in the business program, Adrian worked to create the school's first successful student store which provided the school with much-needed income to help provide students with additional resources. During the summer before Adrian's Freshman year of college, he lived in the Utah mountains where he conducted research on how to operate a successful small business in a town with less than one thousand people. Facing the challenges of weather, location, and tourism, Adrian was forced to learn how to adapt his small business to the many faces of adversity he encountered.

Adrian is a first-generation full-time college student that is a sophomore at the College of Southern Nevada and will graduate with his associates in Business in 2021. Adrian plans on transferring to a four-year institution that specializes in Business. While attending the College of Southern Nevada, Adrian has excelled in all of his classes demonstrating he is persistent and dedicated to accomplishing his dreams. Maintaining a 4.0 GPA while working two jobs has taught Adrian how to manage multiple projects and tasks within a busy schedule. At the College of Southern Nevada, Adrian is enjoying his role as a facilitator for the Nevada Promise Scholarship, a scholarship aimed at Nevada residents to increase the number of students that pursue a college education. Adrian uses his experience as a first-generation college student to help students like him with similar backgrounds and experiences, accomplish their dreams and aspirations through education. Along with this, Adrian guides students with the necessary tools and resources to help them excel in a college environment.

Adrian continues to look forward to making an impact on his peers and his community and is excited about what the future holds.

Sam Lieberman Regents' Award for Student Scholarship
Regents' Scholar – GBC
Kendall Martin

Kendall Martin is currently a second-year nursing student in the Associate Degree Nursing Program on the Elko campus of Great Basin College (GBC). Kendall has always been interested in helping people. He served as a volunteer Emergency Medical Technician prior to beginning the nursing program in 2019. He is an active member of his local church and is the first member to volunteer when a member of the community needs help. This sense of community service and responsibility is frequently demonstrated when working with his classmates. Kendall is often called upon to assist students with classroom work or school projects. As President of the Student Nurse Organization for GBC, Kendall has organized many events to help raise money for the Elko community and the graduating nursing class of 2021.

After graduation in May 2021, Kendall plans to continue his education by earning a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree and working in the Critical Care Unit at a local hospital in Elko. It is with great pride that the Department of Health Science nominates Kendall Martin for the NSHE Regent's Scholar Award for 2020-2021

Sam Lieberman Regents' Award for Student Scholarship
Regents' Scholar – TMCC
Imelda Gonzalez Ojeda

Imelda Gonzalez Ojeda is a native Nevadan born to Mexican immigrant parents. Imelda is the oldest of two children, and is fortunate to have a big, supportive extended family residing in Reno. Imelda is a first-generation American and student. As such, in elementary school Imelda worked her way up from taking English as a Second Language (ESL) courses, to being able to help her peers understand their reading assignments. From a young age, Imelda has learned and practiced resilience, determination, discipline and a strong work ethic. She has remained involved academically throughout the years whether it be in summer school opportunities, to camps and outreach program activities. Imelda may not have had knowledgeable parents that could clearly guide her through her school activities and assignments, but she was and continues to be an advocate for her success.

Throughout the years, Imelda has known that her greatest passion in life is helping others. From wanting to be a cook, owning a shelter to help the homeless, immigration lawyer to wanting to be a nurse, Imelda finally found her calling in life and is working towards her degrees in Human Development and Family Studies and Elementary Education to become an elementary teacher. She is passionate about helping others and hopes to help students realize their potential.

Today, Imelda is a Peer Recruiter for the Recruitment and Access Center at Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC). For the past two years, Imelda has helped high school students through the college application process, has helped coordinate a first-year program, and is a Success Coach for a group of first-generation students at TMCC. Imelda will be graduating with her associate degree in the spring of 2021 and will be transferring to the University of Nevada, Reno.

Sam Lieberman Regents' Award for Student Scholarship
Regents' Scholar - WNC
Gabrielle Clark

My name is Gabrielle Clark. I am the oldest of three siblings and I was born and raised in Spokane, Washington, until about four years ago when I moved to Carson City, Nevada. I started my higher education journey at a four-year university in Washington only to find myself lost, without direction, and in debt. I moved to Carson City to be closer to my mom and regain focus on my education. So, after a rocky start, I thought it was wiser to continue my educational journey at Western Nevada College (WNC) for financial reasons and the longing for a sense of community and connection.

During my time in ASWN I have learned how to advocate for higher education students as well as establishing solid relationships with WNC's faculty and staff. My role as president within ASWN was very sudden and my understanding and knowledge of the position was a learn as I go situation, where I needed to be very flexible and adaptable. However, my focus remained constant, which was finding and meeting the needs of WNC students. In the spring of 2019, WNC students completed a Student Needs Survey which identified food insecurity within the WNC community. I immediately began working closely with the Coordinator of Student Life, Institutional Research, and the WNC Foundation as well as community partners such as FISH and the Food Bank of Northern Nevada, to create a plan to help our students and to establish a food pantry on WNC's Carson Campus. Together, we are on track to open the WNC food pantry by the end of this year.

Recently, I was nominated to be the chair for Nevada Student Alliance (NSA) where my voice and role for advocating for higher education students transcended from a college level to a system level. WNC has propelled me forward in my educational career in so many ways and now I can confidently say that I am prepared to transfer to the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), to achieve my bachelor's degree where I will be majoring in Human Development and Family Studies with a minor in Business Administration. With these credentials I believe I will have the building blocks to pursue my passion of helping others in my community.

Sam Lieberman Regents' Award for Student Scholarship
Regents' Scholar
Tanya Smith – NSC

Tanya Smith began pursuing her bachelor's degree in Psychology at Nevada State College in Fall 2017. In the Fall of 2018, she applied to be a Course Assistant to help other students at NSC be successful because of her passion for the role higher education can play for those groups that have historically been denied access to it. She served as a Course Assistant for Psychology 101 (General Psychology) with Professor Mark Brana in Spring 2019, Psychology 210 (Introduction to Statistical Methods) with Dr. Shantal Marshall in Fall 2019, and currently holds the position of peer mentor to her fellow Course Assistants providing training and guidance to new and returning CAs. As a Course Assistant she facilitated learning by role modeling successful student behaviors and leading supported study sessions every week to help students stay caught up with material and prepare for exams. One of her favorite aspects of this position is the ability to mentor students from her current and former courses who ask for both professional and personal advice. In her current position she has the opportunity to focus solely on providing mentorship while acting as a liaison between the Course Assistants and the program coordinator.

In addition to her passion for higher education, she is committed to using research as a tool to advocate for marginalized communities. She worked with Dr. Christina Squires and presented a poster on their research on the impact of inadequate resources (e.g., poverty) and maternal depression on children at the Association for Psychological Science, which also won "Best Poster" at the NSC Undergraduate Research and Creative Works conference. More recently, she presented research on the effects of vermin metaphors that describe undocumented immigrants with Dr. Shantal Marshall at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology and now has the role of "Senior Research Assistant" in Dr. Marshall's research lab. She is currently on a research team headed by Dr. Stephanie Fryberg at the University of Michigan that is studying social perceptions of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls epidemic. Upon graduation, she plans to continue her studies by pursuing a PhD in Social Psychology focusing on the intersection of multiple minority identities, e.g., Black and woman, and ultimately becoming a researcher and professor.

Sam Lieberman Regents' Award for Student Scholarship
Regents' Scholar – UNLV – Undergraduate
Michael Schwob

Mr. Schwob is a senior in UNLV's College of Sciences, the Department of Mathematical Sciences, with a major in Mathematics. His current GPA is 3.96. Mr. Schwob possesses a multidisciplinary research agenda that transcends the boundaries of conventional academic disciplines. He has conducted research within the fields of engineering, physics and astronomy, economics, and hospitality. His very laudable and visible track record of very high research activity also includes research assistantships in Colorado State University and the Air Force Research Laboratory. Additionally, Mr. Schwob's most recent research applies to real-world issues and probes the global pandemic from a data collection techniques vantage point. Some of his other notable and impressive academic and scholarly accomplishments are as follows: (1) Recipient of the prestigious Goldwater Scholarship in April 2019 as a sophomore. (2) Recipient of OUR's 2019 Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher award. (3) Co-author of a peer-reviewed article published in the journal *International Statistical Review* in 2020. (4) Lead author of a peer-reviewed article in the open-access, multidisciplinary studies journal *IEEE Access* in 2020. In addition to his outstanding scholarly productivity and distinct accolades, Mr. Schwob demonstrates an ongoing and increasing commitment to leadership and community service, as evidenced by his key roles as a mentor in the Army Education Outreach Program and founder of UNLV's American Statistical Association and American Economics Association chapters.

Sam Lieberman Regents' Award for Student Scholarship
Regents' Scholar – UNLV - Graduate
Cindy Kha

Prior to UNLV, Cindy earned her bachelor degree in Neuroscience at the University of California, Riverside. Afterward, she began her graduate studies at the California State University, Los Angeles, earning a master's degree in Biology. She then continued her graduate studies at UNLV, where she earned her master's in Biological Sciences and is currently a PhD Candidate in the School of Life Sciences. Cindy's PhD work focuses on eye tissue regeneration since one of the major challenges with tissue lost is the inability for humans to regrow new eyes. Her work led to the development of a new model to investigate the mechanisms and genes that enable the repair of eye tissues, paving the way for the improvement of future regenerative therapies. Towards this goal, she has made significant contributions to the field and published four first-author peer-reviewed publications and a book chapter in high impact journals. She has been recognized for her work, earning both the President's UNLV Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship and Nevada NASA Space Grant Graduate Research Opportunity Fellowships at UNLV. At the national and international stage, she is recognized for her research and is active in the Sigma Xi research honor society, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory community, and have presented and won numerous first- and second-placed awards for her poster and oral presentations at conferences. In addition to her research, community and mentoring have always been important areas for Cindy. Within her community in Las Vegas, Cindy volunteers with the College of Sciences to perform science demonstrations and judge science fair projects for middle and high school students. She also works with the Southern Nevada-Northern Arizona Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation program, which specifically targets underrepresented groups in the STEM field. In this role, she actively mentors current undergraduates to succeed in their STEM disciplines, obtain opportunities to join research laboratories, and continue on to pursue graduate studies. Cindy values this opportunity to mentor and inspire students, instilling in them the belief that through hard work and education, they can overcome hardship. Cindy plans to graduate from UNLV in 2021 and pursue a career as an independent research scholar. With this, she plans to continue with her mentorship to inspire young people pursue careers in STEM fields to give back to their communities.

Sam Lieberman Regents' Award for Student Scholarship
Regents' Scholar – UNR – Undergraduate
Jayde Powell

Jayde Powell is a third-year honors undergraduate student at the University of Nevada, Reno. She is a double-major in biology and psychology with a minor in addiction treatment services, and is also pre-med. Coming from a military family, Jayde's dedication to service began at an early age and she volunteered frequently with her mother for Make-A-Wish Southern Nevada. She moved to Reno, Nevada in fall of 2017 to start her undergraduate career. She volunteered for High Sierra Area Health Education Center (AHEC) during a service-learning course for the Honors College, and continued her service as a Lead Ambassador after the course had ended. Over the years, she has continued her service to the community in various ways. She served as Service Chair for the Honors Ambassador Corps and as a Community Impact Intern with the American Heart Association. She "rushed" Phi Delta Epsilon Medical Fraternity at UNR and was accepted into their new member class in spring 2019. During fall of the same year, she was elected to the position of Vice President of Recruitment, and continues to serve in that position. When the COVID-19 pandemic began to hit the United States, the University's spring break was beginning. Jayde developed the concept of Shopping Angels, a volunteer program where people could volunteer to help deliver groceries to the at-risk and immunocompromised. The mission of Shopping Angels resonated on a much larger scale than she had anticipated, now growing to encompass all fifty states and chapters operating in Australia and Canada. She has received endless support and assistance from her peers, who also serve as Board members for the newly-established 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Sam Lieberman Regents' Award for Student Scholarship
Regents' Scholar – UNR – Graduate
Jena Casas

Jena Casas is a fourth year doctoral student in the Clinical Psychology program at the University of Nevada, Reno. She holds a master's degree in criminal justice and master's degree in Clinical Psychology. Mrs. Casas served as the Associate Director of the THRIVE Center, a University behavioral health clinic, for the treatment of primary and secondary victims of interpersonal violence from Fall 2019 to Spring 2020. She is currently completing her internship year at the Carson City Rural Clinic, an APA accredited internship site at a clinic within the division of public and behavioral health that is dedicated to providing services to underserved and disadvantaged populations throughout the state. Mrs. Casas is primarily interested in researching questions related to the intersections of culture, psychology, and law; this has included an examination of cultural issues in sexual assault, cultural considerations in the forensic interviewing of children, the prevalence rates of interpersonal violence amongst Latinxs, and personality characteristics of self-reported perpetrators of sexual violence, among a number of other research topics. She has both a clinical and research interest in the development, maintenance, and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder. Most recently, this has piqued her interest to study post-trauma sequelae among first responder populations and she currently has two manuscripts in preparation related to this topic. For her dissertation, she is examining the feasibility and acceptability of a brief written exposure based intervention for the treatment of PTSD utilizing telehealth. To date, she is the author of 16 peer reviewed publications, 5 book chapters, and 15 conference presentations. She has 7 articles under review and 2 in progress.