

2026 Student Scholarship Expo Awards Winners

President's Awards

The President's Award for a Graduate Student

Hamed Abdul Baseer for his project titled
Improving Sentiment Analysis using Fine-Tuned Large Language Models
under the mentorship of Dr. G.G. Md. Nawaz Ali, Computer Science and Information Systems

The President's Award for an Undergraduate

Jocelyn Huebner for her project titled
Quantifying the Effects of Nab-Paclitaxel on Triple Negative Breast Cancer
under the mentorship of Dr. Craig Cady, Biology

The Susan Brill de Ramirez and Antonio Ramirez Barron Provost's Awards

The Susan Brill de Ramirez and Antonio Ramirez Barron Provost Award for a Graduate Student

Bailey Streitmatter, Anthony Alwan, Ethan Baker, Hunter Jackley, and Nicholas Rebbe for their project titled
Integration of Social Determinants of Health into Graduate Rehabilitation Science Education Curricula: A Scoping Review
under the mentorship of Dr. Kyle Cottone and Dr. Kristina Latva, Physical Therapy and Health Science

The Susan Brill de Ramirez and Antonio Ramirez Barron Provost Award for an Undergraduate

Hayley Tran for her project titled
Stop, whey-t a minute, fill my cup, put some protein in it: an analysis of protein levels in commonly consumed protein supplements at Bradley University
under the mentorship of Dr. Catherine Lipovsky, Biology

Dean's Awards

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Award in the Social Sciences for an Undergraduate

Tyler Thomas for her project titled

What's in the Box?: An Examination of How Transgender Women are Labeled, Fetishized, and Dehumanized in Pornography

under the mentorship of Dr. Amy Scott, History

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Award in the Humanities for an Undergraduate

Ayusha Sarangi for her project titled

Empowering Students at Bradley University Through Reproductive Healthcare Access and Education

under the mentorship of Dr. Amy Scott, History

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Award in Biology for a Graduate Student

Eli Porojan for his project titled

The Effects of a Microsporidian Parasite on the Gut Microbiome of Japanese Beetles

under the mentorship of Dr. Kelly McConnaughay and Dr. Anant Deshwal, Biology

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Award in Biology for an Undergraduate

Andrew Mischler and Keaton McTaggart for their project titled

*Using qPCR to evaluate the role of antioxidants in the invasive zebra mussel, *Dreissena polymorpha*, under aerial conditions*

Under the mentorship of Dr. Jen Jost, Biology

Helen Ratchford and David Estrada for their project titled

Trematode Communities in Wetlands at Two Restored Sites in Central Illinois during Fall

Under the mentorship of Dr. John Marino, Biology

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Award in Chemistry for a Graduate Student

Violet Swanson and Mallory Jordan for their project titled
Oxanorbornene-Derived Antimicrobial Polymer Synthesis using Ring-Opening Metathesis Polymerization (ROMP)
under the mentorship of Dr. Arijit Sengupta, Chemistry and Biochemistry

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Award in Chemistry for an Undergraduate

Nadine Daugherty for her project titled
Comparative Quantitative Analysis of Fructose Content in Soft Drinks Using Refractometry and Raman Spectroscopy
under the mentorship of Dr. Dean Campbell, Chemistry and Biochemistry

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Award in Computer Science and Mathematical Sciences for a Graduate student

Antonio Andrade-Fernandez, Niharika Miriyala, Pipriya Deshpande, and Katherine McLaughlin for their project titled
IFH Vision-Based Fall Detection
under the mentorship of Dr. Sherif Abdelfattah and Dr. Saifuddin Mahmud, Computer Science and Information Systems

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Award in Computer Science and Mathematical Sciences for an Undergraduate

Silas Mattern for his project titled
A Two-Stage Deep Learning Framework for Breast Cancer Detection and Segmentation in Mammograms
under the mentorship of Dr. Sherif Abdelfattah and Dr. Lavanya Mandava, Computer Science and Information Systems

Caterpillar College of Engineering and Technology and the Foster College of Business:

The Caterpillar College of Engineering Award in Mechanical Engineering for an Undergraduate.

Jonathan Sanchez-Huanca for his project titled
On the Role of Spatial Configuration in Modulating Drag in Canopy Patches
under the mentorship of Dr. Jaqueline Henderson, Mechanical Engineering

Unice Astorga for her project titled
Force Characterization for Hydraulic System Validation in an MR-Safe Knee Dynamometer
under the mentorship of Dr. Jaqueline Henderson, Mechanical Engineering

The Caterpillar College of Engineering Award in Electrical and Computer Engineering for a Graduate student

Lekhana Chaparala for her project titled
Frequency Miniaturisation of a Microstrip Patch Antenna Using SRR for 915 MHz RF-to-DC Conversion
under the mentorship of Dr. Prasad Shastry, Electrical and Computer Engineering

The Caterpillar College of Engineering Award in Electrical and Computer Engineering for an Undergraduate

Maxwell Duffy and Steven Ohlson for their project titled
Braves Shell Eco-Car
Under the mentorship of Dr. Steve Gutschlag, Electrical and Computer Engineering

The Prasad and Sunita Shastry Award is made possible by a generous gift from Drs. Prasad and Sunita Shastry. Through an endowed fund which they have set up, an annual award of \$250 is given to exemplary undergraduate research conducted in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering featured at the Bradley University Student Scholarship Exposition.

The Drs. Prasad and Sunita Shastry Award for Excellence in Electrical and Computer Engineering

Maxwell Duffy and Adolfo Lopez Jr. for their project titled
5G-Band GaAs FET Low-Noise Amplifier
under the mentorship of Dr. Prasad Shastry, Electrical and Computer Engineering

The Foster College of Business Award for an Undergraduate

Collin Grebner for his project titled

Fama-French Three and Five-Factor Models: Comparing Explanatory Power Across Industry Index Returns
under the mentorship of Dr. Amit Sinha, Finance and Quantitative Methods

College of Education and Health Sciences:

The College of Education and Health Sciences Award in Health Professions for a Graduate Student

Andi Zobotka, Mallory Johnston, Rebecca Hudson, and Matthew Thomson for their project titled
The Influence of a Core Muscle Strengthening Program on Jump Landing Mechanics in Females
under the mentorship of Dr. Patricia Starkey, Physical Therapy and Health Science

The College of Education and Health Sciences Award in Family and Consumer Science for an Undergraduate

Madison Moore for her project titled

*Lived experiences and effects of pediatric Cyclic Vomiting Syndrome (CVS) on perceptions of food choices,
family relationships, quality of life, and social life of child and parents*
under the mentorship of Dr. Rachel Vollmer, Family and Consumer Sciences

The College of Education and Health Sciences Award in Education for an Undergraduate

Michelle Stern and Carly Desutter for her project titled

Do looks matter? Gauging which social assistive robot students prefer
under the mentorship of Dr. Dietra Kuester, Teacher Education

Katie Schaefer for her project titled

Mind Over Matter: How Mindset Shapes English Teacher Resilience
under the mentorship of Dr. Melinda McBee Orzulak, English

Slane College of Communications and Fine Arts:

The Slane College of Communications and Fine Arts Award in Communication for an Undergraduate.

Joli Steffenauer for her project titled
When Darkness Meets the Light: KPop Demon Hunters & the Humanization of Female Characters
under the mentorship of Dr. Sara Netzley, Communication

Lily Rinchiuso for her project titled
Marketing for Everybody
under the mentorship of Dr. Travis Stern and Dan Matisa, Theater Arts

The Slane College of Communications and Fine Arts Award in Fine Arts for an Undergraduate

George Illes and Arin Bass for their project titled
The Strength of America's Music: A Unifying Force
under the mentorship of Dr. Kyle Dzapu, Music

Dean's Interdisciplinary Award:

The Interdisciplinary Award

Anna Belogliadova, Elda Osmani, Mary Larsen, Isabella Wilson, Gabriel Rodriguez, Joseph Traskaski, Michael Ungaro, Scott Berry, André Isola, Dalsten Yan, and Melanie Phillips for their project titled
Gamification of Safety Procedures for Caterpillar
under the mentorship of Dr. Eden Blair, Management and Leadership, Amy Lambert, Turner Center for Entrepreneurship, and Dr. Samantha Khairunnesa, Computer Science and Information Systems

Expo Mentor of the Year Award

The Expo Faculty Mentor of the Year award is given to the faculty mentor of a student presenting a poster in this year's Student Scholarship Expo. Faculty are nominated for this award by their student mentee. The recipient of the award is decided upon by the Student Scholarship Expo Advisory Board based on the guidance, inspiration, encouragement, and/or a transformational learning experience the mentor has provided to their student mentee.

The Expo Mentor of the Year Award for a Graduate Student

Dr. Babu Baniya
Associate Professor of Computer Science and Information Systems

Expo Mentor of the Year Award for an Undergraduate Student

Dr. Valerie San Juan
Assistant Professor of Psychology

Johanna Pershing
Associate Professor of Theater Technology