



Student Advisory Board



Anna Barbosa



Perseus Cordero



Jenna Crocker



Kareem Dangerfield



Rebekah Garrett



Andrea Haigood



Judiht Hilares



Shreesha Jamkatel



Nardos Kebede



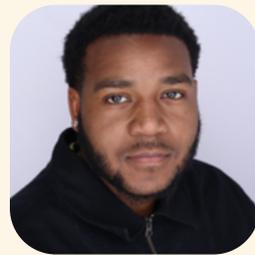
Kayon Morgan



**Heidyl Perez
Aquino**



Jaidyn Porter



Malik Richardson



Kimberly Rivera



Olene' Togiallua



Tyler Torres



Anna Barbosa

Anna Barbosa (she/her) is a senior student currently enrolled at Lee University and an active participant in the McNair Scholars TRIO program. Anna is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts majoring in psychology with minors in health sciences and disaster healthcare mission management. Anna holds several salient identities, including being a first-generation college student, second-generation American, and Mexican-American. Anna is passionate about first-generation college students, immigrant and refugee rights, mental health, and community service. Anna joined the advisory board because she wants to advocate for underrepresented college students and gain a better understanding of how to effectively help them reach their academic goals.



Perseus Cordero

Perseus Cordero (They/he) is a 4th year student currently enrolled in Westminster University and an active participant in the McNair Program. Perseus is pursuing a BFA majoring in Theatre Acting. Perseus holds several salient identities, including being trans nonbinary, queer, Puerto Rican mixed, first generation and disabled both physically and mentally. Perseus is passionate about theater, activism in theater for disabled and queer people, singing, playing video games, and watching anime. Perseus joined the advisory board because they wanted to have their voice heard and to be exposed to more opportunities.



Kareem Dangerfield

Kareem Dangerfield is a sophomore student currently enrolled at North Hennepin Community College and actively participates in TRIO SSS. Kareem is pursuing a double associate degree, majoring in Computer Science and Psychology. Kareem is passionate about helping people navigate life through social, psychological, and civic engagement, traveling to learn about new places and the local people, music from around the world, spoken language, and sustainable fishing. Kareem joined the advisory board because he wants current and potential students of all ages and backgrounds to have a say and a seat at the table when it comes to their education.



Jenna Crocker

Jenna Crocker (She/Her) is a senior currently enrolled in Texas Woman's University and is an active participant in both the Trio McNair Scholars and Trio S.S.S programs. Jenna is pursuing a bachelor's degree in child development. Jenna is currently enrolled in her first graduate class while she finishes her bachelor's degree. Jenna is a Cherokee Nation citizen, mother of three, in TWU's Honors Scholars Program, a fellow in TWU's College of Professional Education's Emerging Leaders program, a member of Alpha Sigma Lambda, TWU's non-traditional student senator, and student president of Student Pioneers Also Raising Kids. Jenna joined the advisory board because she wants to advocate for everybody to have the opportunity to receive a higher education, regardless of where they come from or what their past may be. Jenna wants to help her community by supporting other non-traditional students as they embark on an academic journey that is sure to give back to their communities. Being on the advisory board gives her the opportunity to work alongside like-minded individuals who are also supporting non-traditional and underrecognized students. Jenna hopes to learn from her peers and mentors how she can better help those in her community.



Rebekah Garrett

Rebekah Garrett is a junior student currently enrolled in the University of Kansas and an active participant in the TRIO SES & STEM program. Rebekah is pursuing a Bachelors of Science, double majoring Secondary Education: History and Government and African American Studies. Rebekah holds several salient identities, including being bicultural, an advocate for African American studies and all social studies, and LGBTQIA+ advocate, and overall a human rights advocate. Rebekah is passionate about her campus, as she is a Diversity, Equity, And Inclusion chair in her dorm hall, and is employed on her campus as a Student Specialist, working with and for her peers. Rebekah enjoys her studies, reading, listening to music, and hanging out with her friends and family. Rebekah joined the advisory board because she wanted to surround herself with like-minded people who could combine their voices and inspire change in how underrepresented and minority students interact with higher education. She wants those students to know that they have an important voice and that they belong in higher education.



Andrea Haigood

Andrea Haigood [she, her] is a senior student currently enrolled at Southeastern Oklahoma State University and is an active participant in the TRIO program with Student Support Services. Andrea is studying Early Childhood Education. She is a Citizen of The Cherokee Nation, LGBTQIA+ ally, and proud mother to son Brody, and fur baby Willie. Andrea is passionate about the ACLU, the Innocence Project, civil rights, early childhood education, and serving the Native, Black, and Latinx communities. Andrea joined the advisory board because she supports the mission of the project. She has been involved with Native American education in her community for sixteen years



Judiht Hilares

Judiht Hilares is a dedicated first-generation Latina who has demonstrated her commitment to academic excellence and personal growth at Passaic County Community College. Judith is involved in various other programs and organizations, including TRiO SSS. She has successfully obtained her Child Development Associate certification and is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in biology at the same institution. Alongside her academic and professional endeavors, Judiht actively serves at her local church and works diligently as a lab technician and associate at Star of Hope Ministries. Her increasing interest in advancing research and policy initiatives that address the needs of underserved populations and foster inclusive higher education environments was one of the primary reasons that motivated her to join the advisory board at the Pell Institute.



Shreesha Jamkatel

Shreesha Jamkatel (She/her) is a junior currently enrolled at Suffolk University and actively participating in the McNair Scholar Program. Shreesha is pursuing a bachelor's degree in psychology. Shreesha holds several salient identities, including being a first-generation college student. Shreesha is passionate about helping people with childhood trauma and is interested in counseling therapy. She intends to travel around underdeveloped countries to educate and offer her service in any way she can. She wants to open her own practice one day and open some type of organization to help underrepresented and minority groups have easy access to therapy in any way possible. Shreesha joined the advisory board because she wants to be a voice and an advocate for everyone to have an opportunity to have a higher education. This is her way of entering the academic world to connect with others who are just as passionate as her to help others. She hopes to make long-term connections with her peers and mentors who will help her become better and learn how she can implement what she has learned in the real world.



Nardos Kebede

Nardos Kebede is a junior currently enrolled in the University of Maryland Baltimore County and actively participates in the UMBC McNair's Scholar Program. Nardos is pursuing a bachelor of arts in political science and a certificate in public policy and administration. Nardos holds several salient identities, including being a first-generation college student, Ethiopian-American, and a proud older sister and community leader. Nardos is passionate about conducting research on campus, interning at the Department of State, and leading community service projects for nonprofit organizations like BEREA. Nardos joined the advisory board because of her passion for making access to higher education more equitable for all students.



Kayon Morgan

Kayon Morgan is a senior at Vermont State University at Castleton and is an active participant in the McNair Scholars program. Kayon is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Political Science with minors in Statistics and Marketing. Kayon holds several salient identities, including being a first-generation college student, an immigrant, and an underrepresented African American student. Kayon is extremely passionate about diversity, representation, and supporting marginalized communities. Kayon hopes to be a legislator to create and enforce policies that address systemic oppression of marginalized communities so that every space is safe, diverse, and representative of all identities. Kayon prides herself on being involved in her community as much as possible. Kayon serves as President of her NAACP chapter, Senior Class Vice President, an Resident Assitant, Peer Mentor, Delegate for Student Government, and has completed two research experiences for undergraduates. These experiences have allowed Kayon to learn the importance of having support and resources and having your voice heard. As a result, Kayon joined the advisory board for the opportunity to to learn from different perspectives, contribute her perspective, and serve as a support system for TRIO students as they decide to pursue higher education



Heidy Perez Aquino

Heidy Perez Aquino (She/Her) is a junior student currently enrolled in the Interamerican University of Puerto Rico in the San German Campus and is an active participant in the McNair Scholar Program. Heidy is pursuing a bachelor's degree in English teaching as a second language, majoring in elementary school with a minor concentration in high school education. She is a Puerto Rican first-generation college student, Latina-Hispanic woman, and LGBTQIA+ ally. Heidy is passionate about many things, including working hard to provide a better education for the next generation of Hispanic kids. Heidy joined the advisory board because she hopes to help other students just like her to obtain higher education opportunities, for which she advocates so much. She hopes that through the advisory board, she gets to connect with other students across different areas of the United States who, just like her, have a desire to help others and to learn through their experiences as members of other TRIO programs.



Jaidyn Porter

Jaidyn Porter (She/Her) is a third-year student currently enrolled at Nevada State University and is an active participant in the Trio McNair Scholars and Trio S.S.S programs. Jaidyn is pursuing a bachelor's degree, majoring in Business Administration with a concentration in Management and Leadership and a minor in Education. Jaidyn holds several salient identities, including being a first-generation college student and an underrepresented African American student. Jaidyn is passionate about giving back to her community, especially those who have been systematically excluded from receiving equal opportunities, giving a voice to the youth, and helping them achieve their passions and goals relating to post-secondary education. As a first-gen student, Jaidyn felt empowered to join advisory board to advocate for higher education and its benefits, driven by her awareness of negative connotations surrounding its value. Being on the advisory board gives her the opportunity to learn more about the perspective of higher education within underrepresented groups, which is an important interest of hers.



Malik Richardson

Malik Richardson (He/Him) is a Junior currently enrolled in The University of Memphis and an active participant in the TRIO SSP program. Malik is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree majoring in Business Management and a minor in Entrepreneurship. Malik holds several salient identities, including being a first-gen college student and raised in a single-parent household. Malik is passionate about being a positive role model for the youth by taking on and learning new leadership skills to implement into our community. Malik joined the advisory board to bring a diverse philosophy and raise awareness about certain problems that exist in the African American community.



Kimberly Rivera

Kimberly Rivera (She/Her/Ella) is a junior student currently enrolled in Yuba Community College and an active participant in the TRIO STEM program. Kim is pursuing a bachelor's majoring in Biology and Criminal Justice (Forensic Biology). She holds several salient identities, including first-generation Chicano, LGBTQ+ Ally, and Native American. Kim is passionate about many things including fighting for civil rights, Astronomy, video gaming, hiking, going to concerts and traveling, cooking, reading/listening to true crime/horror, and caring for her family. Kim joined the advisory board because she hopes to network with others across the country who are just as passionate about education as she is. Kim also hopes to learn more about the real world and how to survive in it.



Olene' Togiailua

Olene' Togiailua (He/Him) is a third-year student currently enrolled at Central Washington University and an active participant in the McNair Scholars Program. Olene' is pursuing a Sociology Degree with an emphasis on Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Olene' holds several salient identities, including being a BIPOC first-generation college student, and an LGBTQ+ advocate. A product of a single-mother household in an impoverished socioeconomic neighborhood, Olene' is passionate about student organizing, lobbying, boxing, singing, and dancing when not buried in books. Olene' joined the advisory board because of his interest in joining the academic world and the limited firsthand knowledge of what that looks like for a minoritized identity. He is excited to be a part of something bigger than himself!



Tyler Torres

Tyler Torres (He/Him) is a second-year student currently enrolled at South Central College North Mankato and an active participant in the TRIO program and the TRIO Leadership Council at SCC. Tyler is pursuing an Associate of Science degree, majoring in Social Work. After attaining his associate's degree, he is planning to attend the University of Minnesota - Mankato to attain his bachelors, and eventually his master's degree in social work while minoring in sociology. Tyler holds several salient identities, including Hispanic, Multiple Sclerosis and disability advocate, first-generation college student, and communication mediator, to name a few. Tyler is passionate about leadership, community outreach, disability and addiction advocacy, music, and communication.