

Harold Washington College  
One of the City Colleges of Chicago

30 E. Lake St. | Chicago, IL 60601 | 312.553.5600 | hwc.ccc.edu

# Transfer- Mation



AN INFORMATIVE NEWSLETTER FOR THE TRANSFER  
CENTER AT HAROLD WASHINGTON COLLEGE

## FALL 2020/SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER

### *A note from the Transfer Center Director*

Hello fabulous students, advisors, administrators, faculty, and staff of Harold Washington College. Welcome to Transfer-Mation, the Fall 2020/Spring 2021 edition of the Harold Washington College Transfer Center Newsletter! This publication offers tips for making a seamless transfer from HWC to four-year institutions and alumni updates about the success that your classmates have achieved after graduation from the City Colleges of Chicago.

We call the newsletter “Transfer-Mation” for two reasons. First, it provides you with transfer information. Second, it celebrates each student’s personal “transformation” as they pursue their education. HWC students are continually growing and changing. This growth will continue beyond CCC as well.

We at the City Colleges of Chicago are proud of our students, and this newsletter highlights their accomplishments personally, professionally, and academically. We look forward to our students earning degrees, jobs, and accolades throughout their entire lives!

- Ellen Goldberg, Transfer Center Director  
[egoldberg1@ccc.edu](mailto:egoldberg1@ccc.edu)

### Transfer Center Services

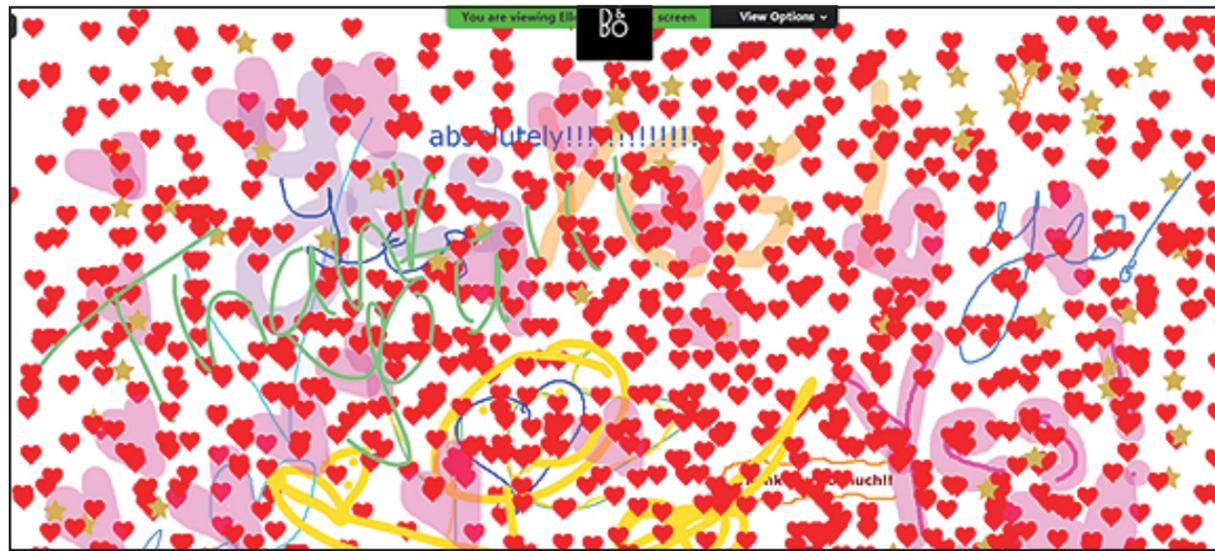
Located at Harold Washington College  
Students can do the following:

- Make an appointment to talk about transferring to four-year institutions.
- Get an unlimited number of application fee waivers for your transfer destinations. To qualify for waivers, the Estimated Family Contribution for Financial Aid should be zero. (However, exceptions can be made.)
- Learn about scholarships and other funding opportunities after graduating from CCC.
- Attend workshops that help you in every step of your transfer process.

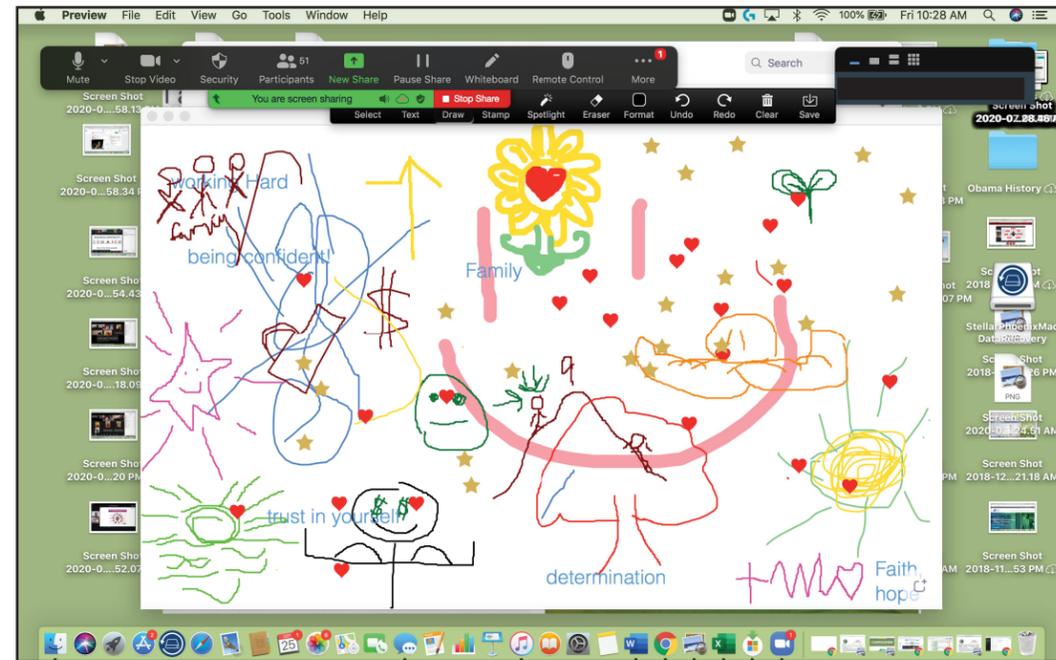


*Ellen Goldberg, the Director of the  
Transfer Center at Harold Washington College*

# Transfer-Mation Leadership Conference 2020



At the end of the City Colleges Transfer-Mation Leadership Conference, we asked the students if they enjoyed the day! This was the picture that they produced in responding to that question.



This is a piece of artwork produced during conference at the session entitled, "Thrive" that was hosted by Elle Davis, CEO (Chief Elevation Officer) of the Elevate Group LLC and an HWC Professor. During this exercise, Elle asked the students to draw a picture of what it means to thrive!



**Jeannina Villalobos-Alvarado**  
Harry S Truman



**Juliet Silvestre**  
Richard J. Daley



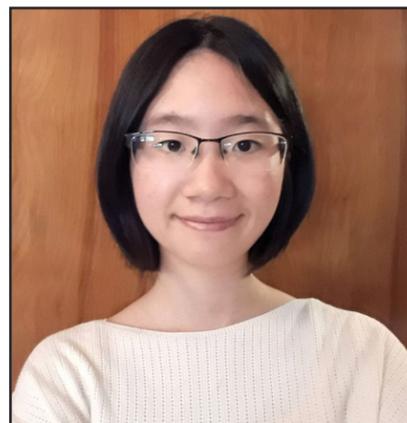
**Joya-Nicole Conyers**  
Olive-Harvey



Tina Watson is a Rockstar Alumna of Kennedy-King College (KKC). She was the keynote of the City Colleges Transfer-Mation Leadership Conference. Tina graduated from KKC and transferred to Fisk University, an Historically Black College or University (HBCU), and she now works for Toyota in Dallas. She spoke to the audience about the importance of finding one's North Star in life or of living life by one's guiding principles. Tina is a true inspiration!



**Jolaade Adesibikan**  
Harold Washington



**Amanda Jiang**  
Wilbur Wright



**Martell Buckley**  
Malcolm X

8<sup>th</sup> Annual  
City Colleges of Chicago

# TRANSFER-MATION

Leadership Conference

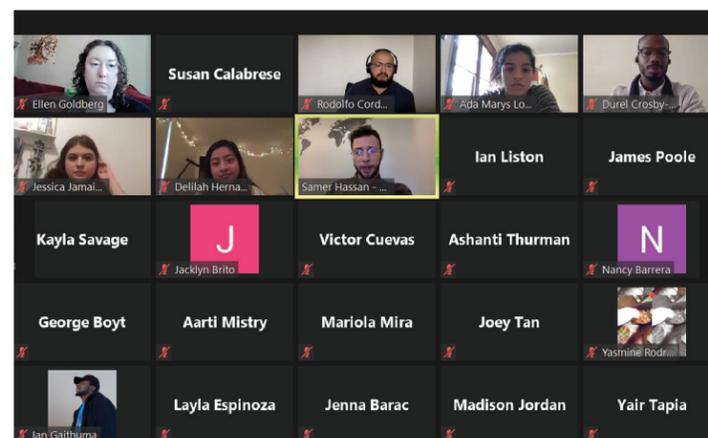
TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE

**Friday, September 25, 2020**  
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

CITY COLLEGES OF CHICAGO #WeAreTransfer

# Transfer Leadership Class

The Transfer Leadership Class (TLC) starting in Summer 2020 was district-wide with the collaboration of other Transfer Center Directors in the City Colleges. Students from all seven City Colleges attended Summer 2020, Fall 2020, and Spring 2021 Sessions. During the Fall and Spring, we hosted two TLCs. In Summer and Fall 2020, the TLC was 6 weeks long, but starting in Spring 2021, the TLC was 4 weeks long. The class is designed to help Rockstars and high achievers to learn how to get into their dream schools all over the United States and to get full funding. Students also learn how to read their financial aid award (offer) letters, get to watch a Rockstar Alumni Panel, and learn about how to get scholarships, and write admissions and scholarship essays. The artwork on this page is from when we asked students what they thought of the TLC during the Spring 2021 Session #2 on the last day of class. There is also a picture of the City Colleges of Chicago Transfer Leaders group which is a Facebook Group for former TLC Rockstars! All City Colleges of Chicago students are invited to join future Transfer Leadership Classes!



## HWC Rockstar Alumni Transfer Reunion

On Thursday, July 29, 2021, we held the **HWC Rockstar Alumni Transfer Reunion!** We invited students who transferred in the last calendar year or who will transfer in Fall 2021 and also alumni from the last decade or so.

Below is a list of the lineup of speakers! The HWC Alumni were asked to give shout-outs to their professors, advisors, and staff at HWC!

### Summer 2021 HWC Rockstar Alumni Transfer Reunion:

The lineup of the speakers:  
 Ellen Goldberg  
 Shelley Lemons  
 President Daniel López, Jr.  
 Jackie Werner  
 Ian Liston

### Alumni who transferred from the last calendar year or who will transfer for Fall 2021:

Olivia Rice  
 Daniellia Marshall  
 Crystal Lara Rodriguez  
 Dianna Garzon (Wright College)  
 Luke Straube  
 Dana Bisher (Truman College)  
 Khadijah Bilal

### Transfer Alumni in the last 11 years:

Delilah Hernandez  
 Ryan Patwell  
 Angelique Moore  
 Jillian Schumann  
 Xia Xiang  
 Tony Holloman  
 Marcus Peak  
 LaShonda Tate  
 Kristine Romich  
 James Barnett  
 Durel Crosby Sankofa  
 Jennifer Honeycutt  
 Esteban Valtierra  
 Jai Caldwell  
 Maria Gonzalez

# Recent Updates from our Rockstar HWC Transfer Alumni

Last spring, I was promoted from Outreach Specialist to Community Programs Manager at Connections for the Homeless in Evanston, IL.

- **James L. Barnett,**  
*Associate of Arts - Spring 2012*

I earned my master's degree in physics from California State University, Northridge in August 2020 and have since relocated to the Denver area. I currently work as an Associate Scientist at the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences, a partnership of the University of Colorado-Boulder and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. I also teach physics at Red Rocks Community College in Lakewood, CO. Additionally, I'm a new mom -- my husband and I welcomed a baby girl last year!

- **Kristine Romich,**  
*Associate of Science - Fall 2016*

I transferred to Yale University, and I still work at a tech start-up, ShoppingGives.

- **Rudy Cordero,**  
*Associate of Arts in Science - Spring 2020*

I graduated from HWC in 2017 and transferred to UIC. I am graduating from UIC this semester and will start graduate school at the UIC Jane Addams College of Social Work in the Fall of 2021.

- **Michelle Valdez Román,**  
*Associate of Arts 2017*

2020 was a very full year! I graduated from Smith College with my Bachelor's in Government as an Ada Comstock Scholar and Kathleen Bostwick Boyden prize winner in spring 2020. I also got married, gave birth to my daughter, and started a position as a Bachelor level therapeutic aid with Massachusetts Children's Behavioral Health Initiative (CBHI) program working with adolescents. 2021 is shaping up for big moves, starting with a relocation to the Southeast and applying to graduate school for my master's in social work.

- **Jessica Reilly, (Previously Reinert)**  
*Associate of Arts - Spring 2017*

I transferred to DePaul and am one quarter away from graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations and Advertising with a 4.0 GPA. I am concurrently pursuing my Master's in Science in Business Analytics at DePaul's Kellstadt Graduate School of Business, and I am receiving an academic authorship credit this spring for published research I have collaborated on. Additionally, I am on the executive board of DePaul's PRSSA chapter in the capacity of VP of Creative. It's been a busy two years, but I've loved every minute of it.

- **Jennifer Honeycutt,**  
*Associates of Arts - Spring 2019*

We ♥ our  
Rockstar Alumni!

In 2018, I graduated summa cum laude with an A.B. in Black Geographies from Mount Holyoke College as the first and only person in history to earn a degree in Black Geographies. After Mount Holyoke, I was admitted to geography departments at UCLA, the University of Kentucky, and UC Berkeley, and waitlisted in the African American Studies department at Yale. I am now a second-year Ph.D. student at UC Berkeley and the recipient of the Chancellor's Fellowship. Currently, I am preparing for my qualifying exams, and working with my colleague Robert Moeller to develop a theory and methodology that interrogates the methodological salience of scale as a Black feminist geographic practice that foregrounds the geographies of intersectionality. We are presenting our research at the American Association of Geographers conference in Seattle and our abstract has also been selected to appear as a refereed article in a special issue of the Professional Geographer. Additionally, I am presenting my research on the ways Black Twitter uses music to cultivate digital spaces of Black virtual care and sonic wellness during the corona virus pandemic at the Society of Ethnomusicology conference in Atlanta. I also serve as the graduate student rep for the Black Geographies Specialty Group and I am developing a Black Geographies method lab and library guides at UC Berkeley that is part of the Berkeley Black Geographies Project.

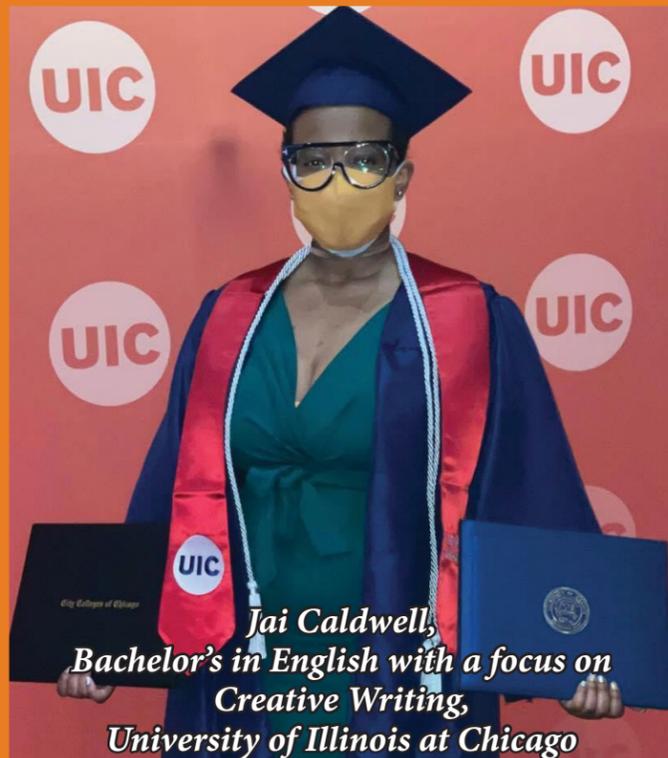
- **April L. Graham-Jackson,**  
*Associate of General Studies - Spring 2015*

Yes, I transferred to the School of General Studies at Columbia University and graduated with summa cum laude in 2019. The same year, I was accepted to the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Columbia University, the Harriman Institute. I received my Master's degree in the Fall of 2020. In August of 2020, I have obtained a job as a research analyst at an international organization that fights systemic corruption. I am also a UN representative of a large NGO and a member of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women at the UN Headquarters.

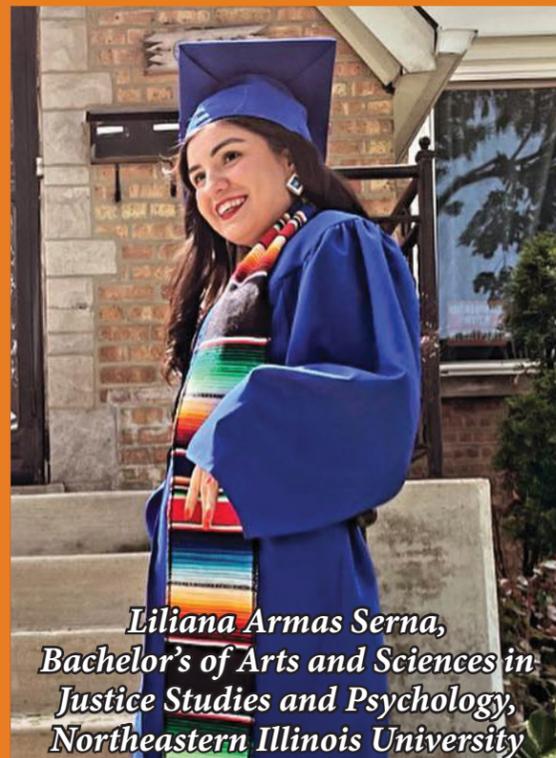
- **Mariya Chukhnova,**  
*Associate of Arts - Spring 2017*



# Recent HWC Alumni that have gotten their bachelor's and beyond



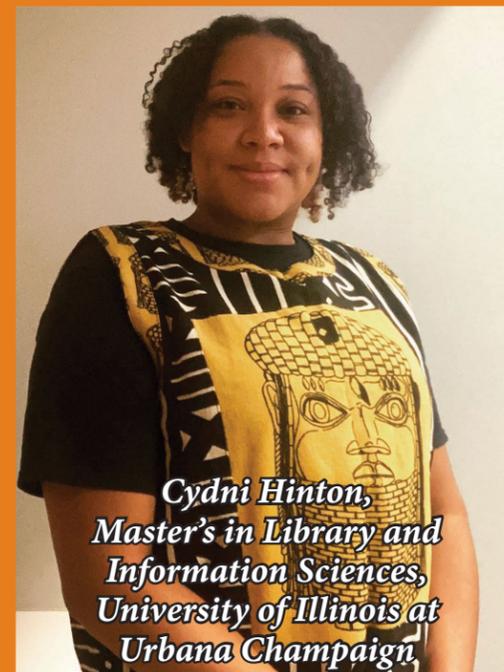
**Jai Caldwell,**  
Bachelor's in English with a focus on  
Creative Writing,  
University of Illinois at Chicago



**Liliana Armas Serna,**  
Bachelor's of Arts and Sciences in  
Justice Studies and Psychology,  
Northeastern Illinois University



**Ashley Jones,**  
Bachelor's of Arts in Television,  
Columbia College Chicago



**Cydni Hinton,**  
Master's in Library and  
Information Sciences,  
University of Illinois at  
Urbana Champaign



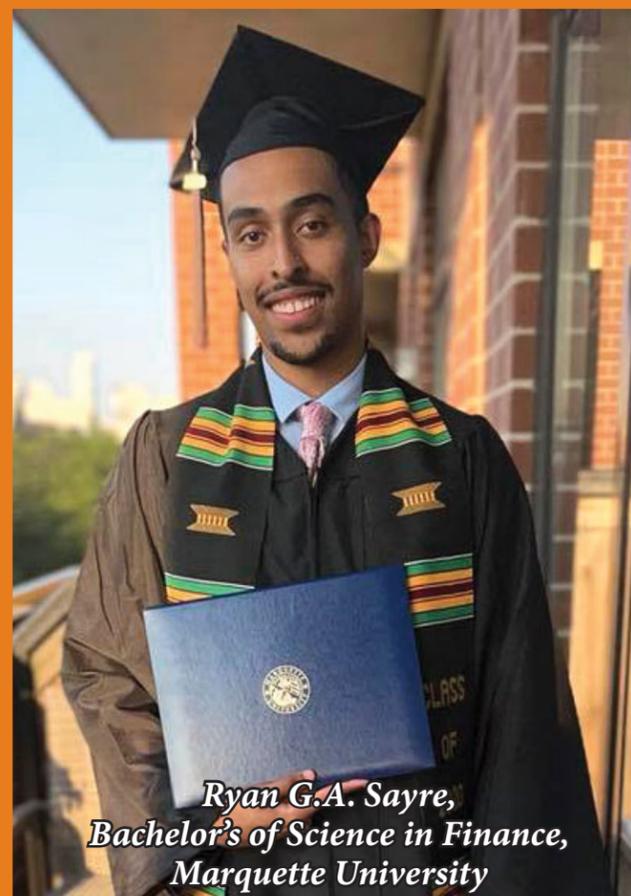
**Priscilla Ini Akpabio,**  
Bachelor's of Science in  
Mechanical Engineering,  
Illinois Institute of Technology



**Jennifer Diane Honeycutt,**  
Bachelor's of Arts in Public  
Relations and Advertising,  
DePaul University



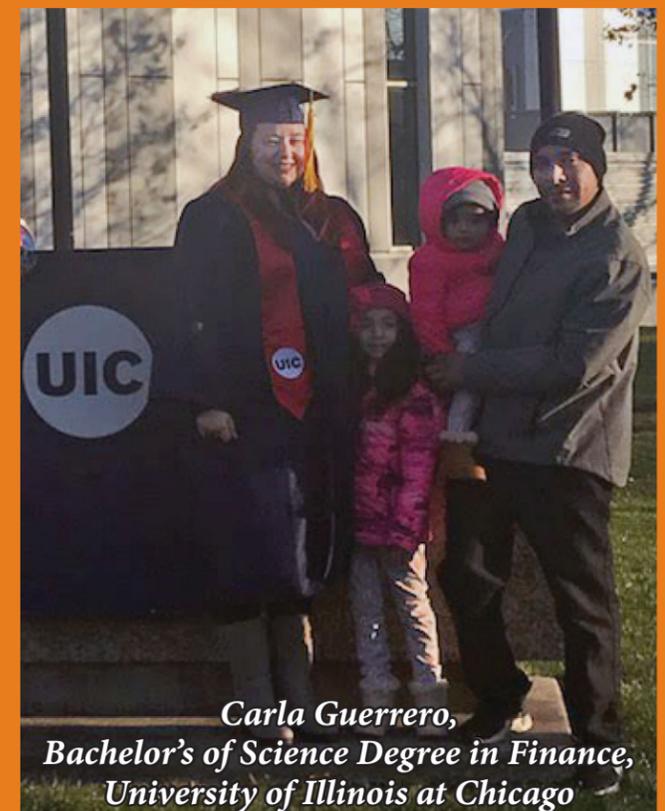
**Tonja Girtten,**  
Social Work,  
Aurora University



**Ryan G.A. Sayre,**  
Bachelor's of Science in Finance,  
Marquette University



**Marcus Brandon Peak,**  
Bachelor's of Medical Science,  
Emory University

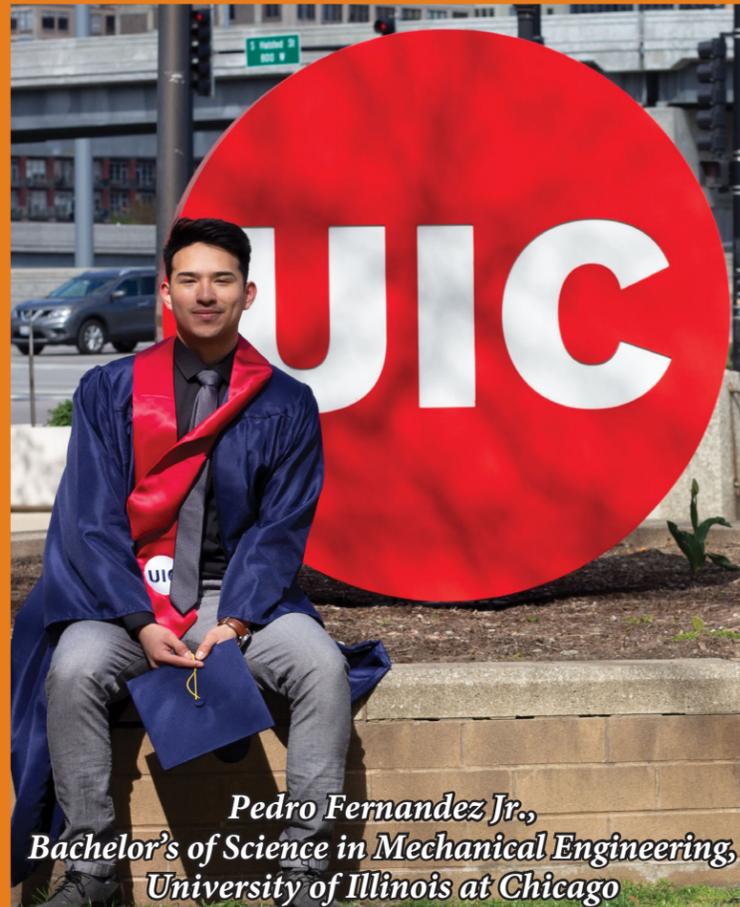


**Carla Guerrero,**  
Bachelor's of Science Degree in Finance,  
University of Illinois at Chicago

# Recent HWC Alumni that have gotten their bachelor's and beyond



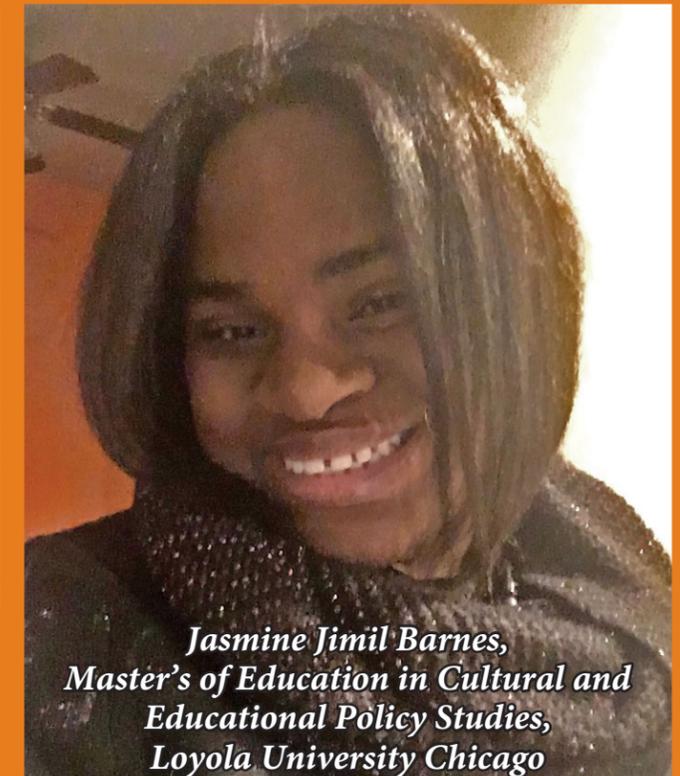
**Kaliah S. Little,**  
*Bachelor's of Science in  
Health Systems Management,  
North Park University*



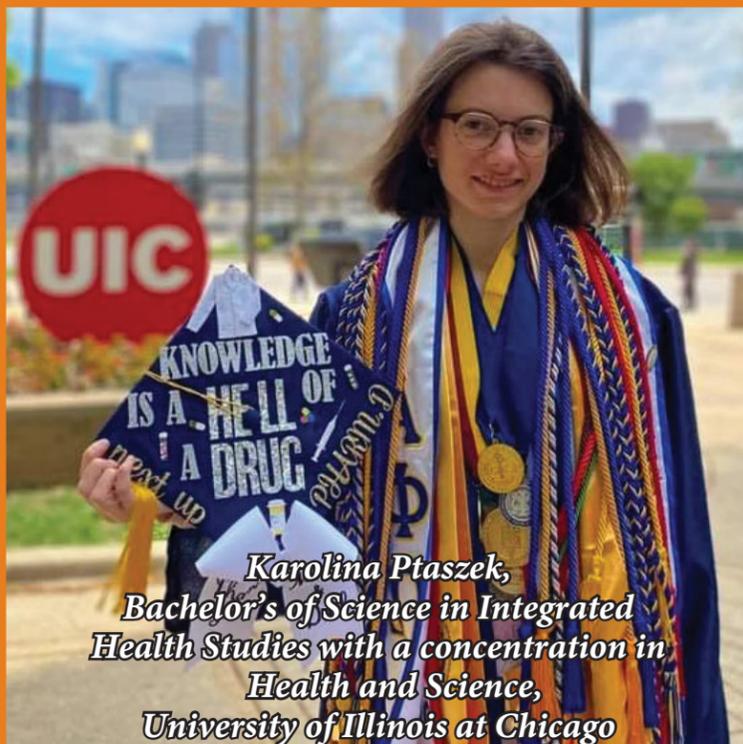
**Pedro Fernandez Jr.,**  
*Bachelor's of Science in Mechanical Engineering,  
University of Illinois at Chicago*



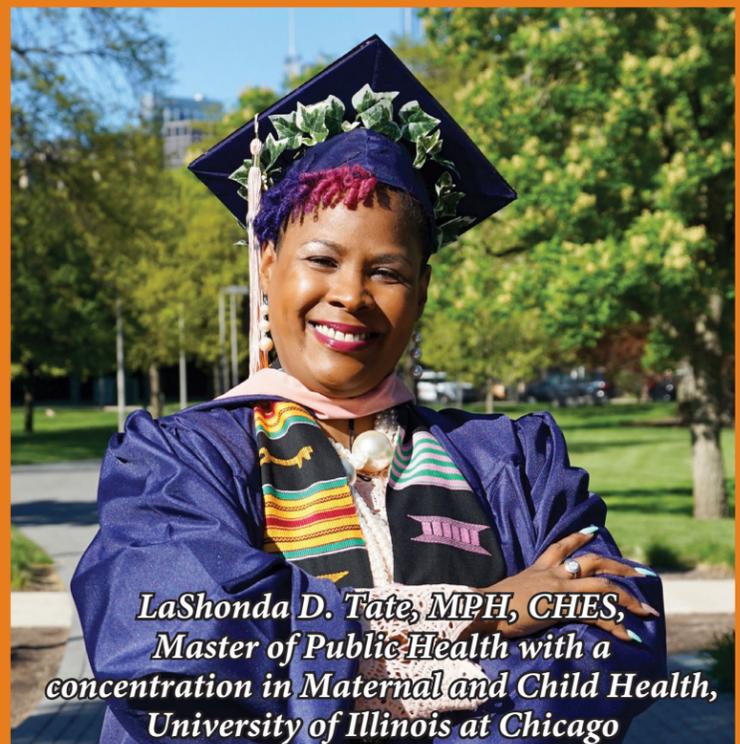
**Antonia Coleman,**  
*Master's of Divinity,  
McCormick Theological Seminary*



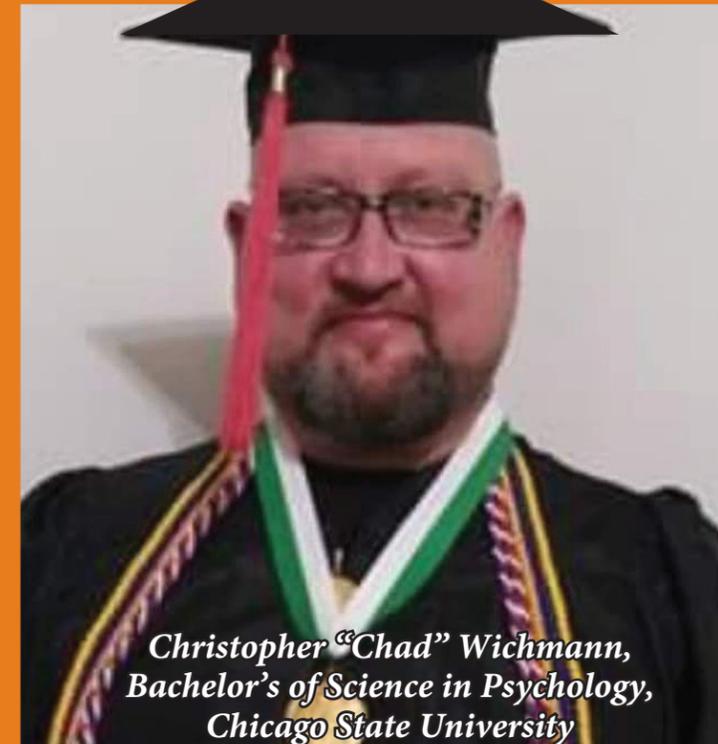
**Jasmine Jimil Barnes,**  
*Master's of Education in Cultural and  
Educational Policy Studies,  
Loyola University Chicago*



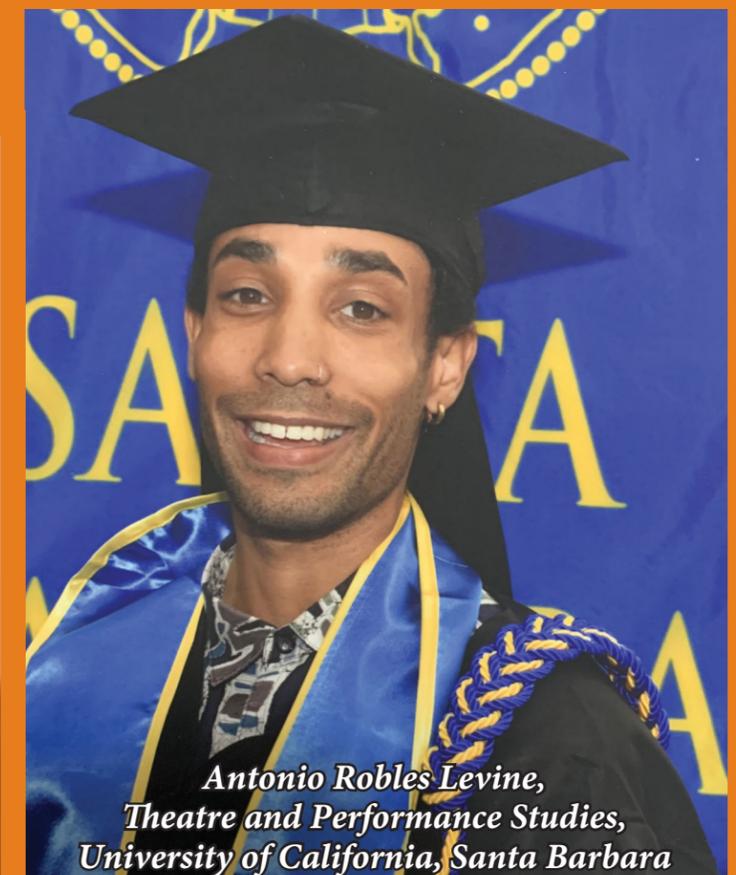
**Karolina Ptaszek,**  
*Bachelor's of Science in Integrated  
Health Studies with a concentration in  
Health and Science,  
University of Illinois at Chicago*



**LaShonda D. Fate, MPH, CHES,**  
*Master of Public Health with a  
concentration in Maternal and Child Health,  
University of Illinois at Chicago*



**Christopher "Chad" Wichmann,**  
*Bachelor's of Science in Psychology,  
Chicago State University*



**Antonio Robles Levine,**  
*Theatre and Performance Studies,  
University of California, Santa Barbara*

# Early Advice

## 1. Apply Twice

Even if you don't feel ready, apply in your first year because schools really like to see it. It will also get you familiar with the process and make everything seem more doable when stakes are higher the second time around.

## 2. Set Aside Money For Standardized Testing

Students just like you at top-tier universities commonly take the ACTs and/or SATs several times to get their best score. Don't let a lack of funds get in the way of performing as well as you know you can. Set aside, well in advance, the money you need to take your test of choice at least 2 or 3 times.

## 3. Pay Close Attention to Transfer Requirements

Schools and programs list which courses you need to complete in order to transfer. Take these lists seriously and use them to choose your classes pre-transfer/at CCC.

## 4. Student Contributions and Self-Advocacy

At Cornell, the least amount of money you will have to pay even on a full ride is \$3,500.00. This is known as a student contribution and there is a set direct-from-the-school loan process to cover the cost (addressed by something called the Undergraduate Appeal Form) but you have to look/ask for it.

The universal rule here is, as I was advised by a Cornell employee, "advocate for yourself." Speak up and ask for help when you need it; people and universities want to help you but they need to know what you need. More often than not, many other people have asked the same and have made a path for you to take.

## 5. Consider Off-Campus Housing (If Your School Pays For It)

Weigh the potential benefits of dorm life (e.g. safety/security, community-specific events, dining halls, possible mentorship from faculty dorm staff) with those of off-campus living (e.g. freedom, privacy, larger and more personalized space).

At Cornell, the same amount is provided through financial aid for dorms or off-campus housing, and dorms are expensive. So if it costs \$1200.00 to live in a dorm, and you find an off-campus apartment

for \$700.00, you get the remainder of the money--which could go toward your student contribution or a new wardrobe or whatever you want or need.

Sometimes the school owns but doesn't manage off-campus residences, which may provide some additional protection if you're apartment hunting non-locally.

You can also move into the dorms, take a look around, and then move off-campus, like I'm doing.

## 6. Be Proactive About Changing Your Mind

University life asks students to make some important decisions pretty quickly. It may benefit you to make a habit of going into any such situation by determining how much time and leverage you have to change your mind. For example, when you start classes, mark the drop date and try to have backups (it can be good, for this reason, to over-enroll at the start and then pare down). If there is a fee for moving off-campus from the dorms after a certain date, make sure you know that date and/or the reasons that fee may be commonly waived. Be aware of similar in declaring your major or minor.

Universities expect students to shift gears, so help the guidelines they've set up in advance work for you--by knowing deadlines, any consequences for missing them, and processes of appeal.

## 7. Be Nice

I used to study/work in the entertainment industry, and a golden rule I hope to always remember is be nice to everyone, especially the gatekeepers. When a secretary answers your call, keep in mind that they have the power to get you what you want and, as anyone who has worked in such a position knows, they are probably regularly disrespected, tired, etc. So be extra nice.

The same applies when you call or email anyone about admissions, financial aid, housing, or any such topics at your university of choice. Especially around the start of the semester, these workers are tired, they're probably being yelled at a lot by strangers. Be patient, considerate, grateful, and acknowledge how busy they must be, even or especially if you're feeling overwhelmed yourself.

Just a tiny extra effort from these people can do a lot for you. It's a good habit to cultivate for your future career. And generally, the world would be better if we all treated each other this way.

Also, use proper grammar, capitalization, and punctuation in emails to signal respect--especially to representatives of an academic institution.

## 8. Train Your Resilience

An increasing amount of study is going into how people cultivate resilience (Angela Duckworth's book, *Grit*, is popular for conveying some of it well); this will be a useful tool in your application process and life so, if you haven't already, start developing it now. A few basic tools are things like conscious gratitude; getting enough sleep; getting enough water; connecting regularly with nature, even recorded nature sounds, setting aside time for friends and family; and connecting with some kind of spirituality or system of meaning-making.

Also narrative, describing your life in terms of an inspiring story. You may have to do it for your admissions essays so, once again, start now.

## 9. Read for Pleasure

Get in the habit of reading things that aren't a part of your school curriculum. Let yourself be excited by ideas. Allow one book or thought lead you to another.

The more information you take in (off the Internet) regarding what interests you, the quicker you might arrive at knowing what you most or most specifically want to study when you transfer, what you most want to pursue in your professional life, and the more compellingly you can share that when you apply to your dream schools. Stanford actually asks for a list of books you've read in the year leading up to your application, and having a book to talk about will never fail you when you start developing a talent for networking--something you hopefully make time for while you're still in school.

*I hope some if not all of these ideas have been useful to you. Good luck on your educational path (and in everything after)*  
*Stephen Young, Associate of Arts, Spring 2020,*  
*Currently attending Cornell University*

## City Colleges of Chicago Transfer Dream Team Holiday Card

The Transfer Dream Team consists of 9 people. There are 7 Transfer Center Directors, and they are all under the leadership of Shelley Lemons, the District Director of Transfer Programs and Services. We also work in tandem with Brittany Burton who is the District Director of Transfer Systems. Every year, Shelley Lemons creates a holiday card for our transfer university partners. This was the holiday card from December 2020. It Rocks!



# HWC Transfer Alumni Ambassadors

Thanks to the work of the Harold Washington College Rockstar Graduate Student Intern, Maggie Hitchcock, we now have a Harold Washington College Transfer Ambassadors Program. HWC Alumni are invited to create a page in the Rockstar Transfer Ambassadors Directory, and then, current HWC students can reach out to them to receive guidance about their transfer plans. The Alumni can serve as transfer mentors. We also invited the Alumni to join the Facebook Group that Maggie created entitled the "Harold Washington College Rockstar Transfers." So far, the Directory includes 8 students. They are the following:

**Isabeau J. Belisle Dempsey:** Seattle University

**Ryan Carter:** Columbia University

**Jaegen Ellison:** University of Illinois at Chicago

**Stephanie Kuwornu:** University of Southern California

**Lou Stephamae Sarangaya:** DePaul University

**Jillian Schumann:** Smith College

**Eivan Herrera-Valdez:** Northwestern University

**Esteban Valtierra:** University of Illinois at Chicago

Here is the link to view the directory:

<https://bit.ly/HWCTransferAmbassadorsDirectory>

Thanks to Maggie for creating the Directory and the Facebook Group! Thanks to all the Rockstar Harold Washington College Alumni who are willing to give back to Harold Washington College! YAY!

## HWC Transfer Ambassadors' Directory!



- Name and Email: Stephanie Kuwornu, [stephanie.kuwornu@gmail.com](mailto:stephanie.kuwornu@gmail.com)
- Dream School and Major: University of Southern California (USC), Economics
- A Short Bio: Stephanie Kuwornu was a full-time student at Harold Washington College from 2013-2015 and graduated with her AA Degree in Spring 2015. While at HWC, she was involved in Student Government, One Million Degrees (OMD) and was the President and co-founder of the Transfer-Mation Club. She transferred to USC in the fall of 2015 and graduated with a degree in Economics in May 2018. While at USC, she was involved in Pan African Student Association, Global Fellows Internship Program, and Christian Challenge. She has made life-long friends that have been a huge aide in transitioning to post-grad life as an alum. She loves helping others and is available to review any personal statement/scholarship essays!



## Harold Washington College Rockstar Transfers

Private group · 3 members



+ Invite

# ROCKSTAR TRANSFER CHECKLIST

DURING YOUR TIME AT HWC

- Check out our transfer partnerships with four-year colleges/universities.** Apply for as many partnerships that you are interested in before it is too late!
- Participate in the Transfer Leadership Class (TLC).** It is amazing to have a group of Rockstars & high achievers learning about the transfer process together.
- Attend the Transfer-Mation Leadership Conference.** It is an inspirational all-day conference about transferring to your dream school.
- Attend all Transfer Center Workshops.** They are - Transfer 101 Workshop or Webinar, Ready to Apply (RTA) Workshop, Transfer Writing Workshop, and the Transfer Leadership Class (TLC).
- Schedule a campus tour with your dream school.** You will know almost immediately when you visit a campus if it is the right fit for you.
- Request recommendation letters from your college advisor or professors.** It is important to form solid relationships with your professors and/ or advisors while at City Colleges. Only ask for letters of recommendation from individuals who know you well, can speak to your academic excellence, and will write a positive letter of recommendation.
- Save all syllabi for courses.** You may need them as part of the credit evaluation process at your dream school.
- Find out if your dream school require or strongly encourage standardized tests such as the ACT/SAT or TOEFL.**
- Find out if your dream schools accept CLEP Exams.** Many selective enrollment institutions do not accept credit for online classes or CLEP Exams.
- Become a leader on campus.** Join the Honor's Society, Phi Theta Kappa, or Student Government Association. Stop by the Student Activities Office to learn more.
- Consider joining One Million Degrees (OMD) or America Needs You (ANY).**
- Schedule an appointment with the Career Center to prepare for admission interviews.** You may have to do an interview as part of your admissions process with your dream school.
- Do something extra!** You should consider participating in summer internships or programs such as Exploring Transfer Program at Vassar College after your freshman year and Research Experience for Undergrads (REU) for STEM majors.

# ROCKSTAR TRANSFER CHECKLIST

When you are ready to transfer...

- Apply to 10-15 schools (or more)! Apply to schools with different levels of selectivity or different transfer rates. You will learn how to do this at the Transfer 101 Workshop!
- If you have a Rockstar GPA (3.4 or higher), think about applying to some schools that provide full funding. Do not be discouraged by the price tag of a school. It is not how much the school costs; it is how much it costs YOU! Private schools can often afford to give discounts on tuition or additional merit-based scholarships.
- Apply to some schools where students from City Colleges of Chicago have received admission!
- Write your essays (especially the supplemental essays) based on your research of the school. For instance, if the supplemental essay on the Common App requires you to answer why you would like to transfer to your dream school, please make your answers specific to the school and not generic answers that could apply to any school. Spend time writing your essay. Show it to people you trust to edit it such as the Writing Lab, your favorite professors, or your advisor. Attend the Transfer Writing Workshop to edit your essays as well.
- If you are transferring in the fall semester, try to have all applications completed by Thanksgiving. Get them done early. It will allow you to have a great spring semester.
- Apply for the Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship if you have a 3.5 or higher GPA and have only taken classes at community college. This is a selective scholarship for community college students. Students can receive up to **\$55,000** for two to three years. City Colleges had six winners in 2021. Find out who is the Jack Kent Cooke liaison on your campus, and work with them or speak with your Transfer Center Director for more information.
- Find out the financial aid deadlines for your schools and complete the College Scholarship Service (CSS) Profile, if necessary. The CSS Profile is important if your goal is to get full tuition scholarships to your dream schools. If eligible, complete the FAFSA application on October 1<sup>st</sup> each year for the following academic year or the Alternative Application for the Illinois RISE Act. Complete the CSS Profile by the financial aid deadline of your dream schools.
- Check out the PowerPoint by Diane Melville about Admission's Applications. It is on the HWC Transfer Center Brightspace site. There is a slide with sound files and slide #10 talks about a formula for writing Rockstar admissions and scholarship essays. Be sure to check out the sample essays on Brightspace.
- Speak with your Transfer Center Director before paying application fees! Ask if you are eligible for application fee waivers.



CITY COLLEGES of CHICAGO

Harold Washington

Transfer Center  
30 E Lake St.  
Ellen Goldberg, Director  
[Egoldberg1@ccc.edu](mailto:Egoldberg1@ccc.edu)  
(312) 553-5778

Harold Washington  
College Transfer Center



Find us on:  
**facebook**®