

# Riki Jacobs Livingston Pride Award

The **Riki Jacobs Livingston Pride Award** is given annually by the Livingston Alumni Association (LAA) to the Rutgers-New Brunswick graduating senior who most embodies the spirit of Livingston College and its attributes of leadership and social action.

All Rutgers University-New Brunswick undergraduate seniors with a minimum cumulative GPA of are eligible to apply for the award.

Riki E. Jacobs (1957-2009, pictured at right) was the director of the Hyacinth Foundation, an AIDS support organization, among many roles she fulfilled to assist vulnerable populations.

Jacobs (LC'80) also was one of LAA's first Livingston College Distinguished Alumni, honored in 2000.

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## **Recipients of the Livingston Pride Award** (renamed for Riki Jacobs in 2010)

Honorees from 1990 through 2010 graduated from Livingston College. Since 2011, honorees may be graduates of any undergraduate college at Rutgers University-New Brunswick/Piscataway.

The years in the list below link to the Livingston College yearbook page where each student is pictured. / \* Photo not available.

The names link to more information about each awardee, as available.

1990: Yantra E.				
Zavala *				
1991: Stephanie	1999: Irene	2006: Keith A.		
Heitman	Shenouda	Gottesman		
1992: Daniel	2000: Geraldine	2007: Zuleima	2014: Emilie	
Malloie	Burgos	Feliciano *	Transue	
1993: Harry R.	2001: Randall	2008: Jacqui	2015: Amy Albert	2021: Amanda Wells
Knabe	Gordon Stamm	Whitfield *	2016: Victor A.	2022: Tara Krishna
1994: Janel C.	2002: Michael	2009: Rob	Mensah	2022: Anthony Rivera-
Patti	Lawrence Dimond	Drucker *	2017: Maria Alba	Rosario
1995: Ayana D.	2003: Kazim A.	2010: Victoria	2018: Lucy Anne	2023: Divon Pender
Gee	Rizvi	Rowland *	Blevins	2023: Sara Rubiano
1996: Caren A.	2004: Gregory	2011: Matthew	2019: Eshan Kaul	
Tinney	Ordun	Cortland	2021: Janelle L.	
1997: Connie	2005: Lisa M.	2012: Amy Tran	Taliaferro	
Liauw	Lattanzi	2013: Melanie		
1998: Ashwini		Davila		
Reddy				

Stephanie Heitman, LC'91	Daniel Malloie, LC'92	Harry R. Knabe, LC'93	Janel C. Patti, LC'94	Ayana D. Gee, LC'95
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Caren A. Tinney, LC'96	Connie Liauw, LC'97	Ashwini Reddy, LC'98	Irene Shenouda, LC'99	Geraldine Burgos, LC'00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Randall Gordon Stamm, LC'01	Michael Lawrence Dimond, LC'02	Kazim A. Rizvi, LC'03	Gregory Ordun, LC'04	Lisa M. Lattanzi, LC'05
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Keith A. Gottesman, LC'06	Matthew Cortland, SAS'11	Amy Tran, SAS'12	Melanie Davila, SAS'13	Emilie Transue, SAS'14
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Amy Albert, SAS'15	Victor A. Mensah, SAS'16	Maria Alba, SAS'17	Lucy Anne Blevins, SAS'18	Eshan Kaul, SEBS'19
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Janelle L. Taliaferro, RBS'21 Amanda Wells, SAS'21 Tara Krishna, SAS'22				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Anthony Rivera-Rosario, SAS'22 Divon Pender, SMLR'23 Sara Rubiano, SAS/EJB'23				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

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## Sara Rubiano, 2023 Pride Award Winner, Is a Dreamer Who Refuses to Live in the Shadows; Studied Public Policy at Rutgers

Sara Rubiano, a 2023 graduate of Rutgers University-New Brunswick, was named that year as a recipient of the Riki Jacobs Livingston Pride Award given by the Livingston Alumni Association at Rutgers.

Rubiano and her family fled from Colombia when she was 2 and found a haven in South Brunswick, New Jersey, according to *Rutgers Today*. The family came without documentation, and Rubiano qualified for certain legal protections under the policy known as Deferred Action for Late Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Rubiano is the first woman in her family to graduate from college or high school.

“I risked everything, every day to remain in this country, and after the Deferred Action for Late Childhood Arrivals passed in 2012, I refused to live in the shadows,” she wrote in her Pride Award application essay. “DACA was

here, and it changed my life. I put my passions for advocacy and government to test by working to implement a dynamic civic education workshop to foster engagement outside of the classroom and into the polling centers."

At Rutgers, she earned a bachelor's degree in public policy with a minor in economics from the School of Arts and Sciences and Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers-New Brunswick. In college, she studied the effectiveness of physical and nutritional literacy curricula in K-6 populations as the student research director with the New Jersey Healthy Kids Initiative.

In the 2020 midterm elections, she created a step-by-step video in Spanish and translated voter registration information with the Eagleton Institute of Politics, where she served as a Darian Civic Engagement Fellow.

Rubiano was one of only 18 members of the 2023 class of Rutgers' elite Cap and Skull Honor Society. Part of the test was singing Rutgers' alma mater. She also participated in student leadership programs as a Douglass Residential College BOLD Woman and as a member of the Zeta Tau Alpha Fraternity.

Rubiano began her career with J.P. Morgan Private Bank shortly after graduating from Rutgers. In August 2025, she was promoted to an associate with the bank's alternative investments group.