


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.

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

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

[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.