

NEWS RELEASE

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J. Sargeant Reynolds
Community College



Students chosen as college ambassadors—awarded scholarships

RICHMOND, Va. (June 14, 2007) – J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College recently selected seven new student ambassadors for the 2007-2008 school year. Students were chosen by a selection committee which consisted of faculty members and current student ambassadors.

Student Ambassadors serve in various public relations, recruiting, and leadership roles at the college. They participate in a variety of activities on campus including staffing new student orientation programs, giving campus tours, assisting with special events such as job fairs, transfer fairs, and blood drives, developing special projects within academic and student affairs units, and engaging in community outreach and visits to the General Assembly. For their work, each student ambassador earns a scholarship to help pay for tuition and other educational expenses. For full time students, the scholarship is \$1,000 per semester for 3 semesters. For part-time students, scholarships range from \$500 to \$750 depending on the number of semester hours completed.

“I am very excited about working with this class of Ambassadors. They are a great team who truly represent the diverse experience of the JSRCC student body. I am confident that all who come into contact with them, including our new students and their families, as well as our faculty and staff, will enjoy working with them,” said Meg Buchanan Foster, counselor for first-year initiatives.

Reynolds student ambassadors for the 2007-2008 academic year are:

- Gabriela Benavides—Richmond, VA
- Katrice Brake—Richmond, VA
- Laura Castro—Richmond, VA
- Tara Clark—Richmond, VA
- Mea Molner—Chesterfield, VA
- Reggie Stroble—Sandston, VA
- Matt Vinson—Montpelier, VA

“Being a Reynolds student ambassador is very exciting. I am most excited about helping all incoming students’ transition in to Reynolds comfortable and easy. This opportunity will also allow me to meet new people and stay active within the college community,” said Laura Castro, JSRCC student ambassador.

Gabriela Benavides is an enthusiastic JSRCC student in her second year. A native of Ecuador, she is pursuing a double major in Administration of Justice and Liberal Arts with plans to eventually become a criminal defense attorney. Benavides says that she knew about Reynolds long before she attended through the Talent Search program in which she was referred to by one of her teachers. In her spare time she enjoys getting involved with the community by organizing groups that look to improve our communities and its resources. After Reynolds she plans to transfer to VCU to complete her bachelors in Psychology.

Katrice Brake, as described by several of her professors, is a natural leader. Brake is a social science major and plans to further her education at Virginia Commonwealth University to become a psychologist. Katrice has a passion for serving, assisting, and helping others. She currently works as a customer service representative at Friendly's restaurant.

Laura Castro came to the United States seven years ago from Bogota, Columbia. She is pursuing associate degrees in Business Administration and Social Science. Castro is a proud member of Phi Theta Kappa, an international honor society for two-year colleges. Her interests include International Business and Politics.

Tara Clark is in Social Science program with hopes of eventually entering the Nursing Program. Clark is a single mother of three who enjoys reading and watching movies with her children. Her passion is helping others.

Mea Molnar is a returning student ambassador who also serves as the college's VA 21 campus coordinator. A recent recipient of an associate's degree in Liberal Arts at JSRCC, Molnar has returned to Reynolds to pursue a second degree in Business Administration. Her future goals include transferring to Virginia Commonwealth University to pursue a bachelor's degree in Mass Communications. She plans to become a public relations advocate for foster care agencies.

Reggie Stroble is a full-time business administration major at JSRCC. He also works full-time as a customer service representative for Honeywell. In his limited spare time, he enjoys watching football and working out.

Matthew Vinson is pursuing an associate's degree in Engineering and hopes to transfer to UVA to complete a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering. Vinson has been a home school student since the first grade. His extra-curricular activities include softball, soccer, and running.

Serving over 17,000 students annually, J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College is the youngest and third largest of 23 community colleges in Virginia. The College operates three campuses serving residents in the City of Richmond and the counties of Henrico, Hanover, Goochland, Powhatan and Louisa.

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