

# SIU System Presents Distinguished Student Service Awards

by Megan Wieser  
July 27 2021 10:56 AM



EDWARDSVILLE – Southern Illinois University Edwardsville students are among the inaugural recipients of the 2021 SIU System Distinguished Student Service Awards. Awardees were honored during the Board of Trustees meeting held via Zoom Thursday, July 15.

During the meeting, Dianah McGreehan, chair of the award selection committee, announced the recipients and shared brief highlights of their outstanding acts of service. Each will receive \$100 and an honorary plaque.

## **Winners included:**

Madalynn McKenzie – SIUE graduate student

Taylor Jeans – SIUE undergraduate student

Nourah Abdul Kader – SIU School of Dental Medicine (SDM)

Justin Shiau – SIUE School of Pharmacy (SOP)

Alexander Worix – SIU School of Medicine  
Daniel Asonye – SIU School of Law  
Otis Duncan – SIUC graduate student  
Nelson Fernandes – SIUC undergraduate student

“The accomplishments of these students are incredible,” said SIU System President Dan Mahony. “We thank you for all that you have done as students, and for everything you’ve done for the SIU System. I could not be more impressed with your tremendous dedication to our campuses and communities.”

McKenzie is pursuing a master’s in industrial/organizational psychology. She is a graduate assistant in the Inclusive Excellence, Education and Development Hub (The Hub), formerly the Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion (CSDI). She has served on several important SIUE and SIU System search committees, and participated as a panelist in the first Conversation of Understanding, sponsored by the SIU System and Mahony.

Jeans is studying public health. She serves as a peer support volunteer within the public health program, and was selected to serve the SIUE CORE TEAM, which works with low-income high school students and first-generation students to prepare them with resources to excel both in high school and to prepare for college. Jeans is also an Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (URCA) assistant.

Abdul Kader is pursuing the SIU SDM’s International Advanced Placement Program (IAPP). Over the past year, she launched a non-profit organization that simplifies the admissions process for international students into U.S. dentistry programs. She also serves as the community service chair for the Special Care Dentistry Association, which increase access to oral healthcare for special needs patients.

Shiau is a fourth-year student in the SOP. He’s made a tremendous impact as a campus leader serving as president of the Student Society of Health System Pharmacists and as leadership and development chair of Phi Lambda Sigma, the pharmacy leadership society. He is co-founder of the Industry Pharmacy Organization. Additionally, he volunteers to provide patient care at the St. Louis Chinese Center, a free monthly clinic that provides pharmaceutical care to underserved Chinese speaking patients from the greater St. Louis area.

Noting the strong applicant pool featuring exemplary students from all SIU System campuses, McGreehan also acknowledged several students who received honorable mention, including, but not limited to SIUE graduate student Amanda Depew, SOP third-year student Aneesh Asokan and SIU SDM student Allison Lang.

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville provides students with a high-quality, affordable education that prepares them for successful careers and lives of purpose to shape a changing world. Built on the foundation of a broad-based liberal education, and enhanced by hands-on research and real-world experiences, the academic preparation SIUE students receive equips them to thrive in the global marketplace and make our communities better places to live. Situated on 2,660 acres of beautiful woodland atop the bluffs overlooking the natural beauty of the Mississippi River's rich bottomland and only a short drive from downtown St. Louis, the SIUE campus is home to a diverse student body of nearly 13,000.

Photo: 2021 SIU System Distinguished Student Service Award winners (L-R) Madalynn McKenzie, Taylor Jeans, Nourah Abdul Kader and Justin Shiau.