

## The 2014-2015 START Scholars at Johnson State College



**Top row:** Nasser, Eliza, Steve, Neil, Travis, Brynn, Steven

**Middle row:** Shayna, Bridget, Mikaela, David, Zachary, Katherine

**Bottom row:** Heather, Eliza, Amanda, Eden

**Nasser Abdel-Fatah, Senior, Integrated Environmental Science, from Randolph, VT.**

I continue to pursue my passion for preserving and protecting our environment. I plan to expand my knowledge and obtain a Masters and PhD in the field of climatology. With these tools I will be fully knowledgeable to advocate and protect our changing environment.

**Shayna Bennett, Sophomore, Environmental Science major, from Belvidere, VT.**

I chose JSC because the faculty encourages exploration outside of the classroom. As an Environmental Science major, I have been able to work with two faculty members on their research since freshman year. This type of opportunity is invaluable and has encouraged me to pursue an advanced degree in agent-based modeling after graduation.

**Brynn Cairns, Freshman, Biology major, from Rutland, VT.**

I chose biology because of my fascination with the sciences, particularly genetics and anatomy. Once I graduate from JSC I will continue on to get a doctorate in the field of genetics. I will conduct research and help prevent genetic diseases.

**Eliza Chevalier, Senior, Biology major, with a pre-med concentration, from Alburgh, VT.**

I chose biology because I am extremely interested in the morphology, physiology, anatomy and behavior of living organisms, especially humans. I am passionate about the medical field, and I plan to go physician's assistant school.

**Eliza Doncaster, Junior, Biology major, from Irasburg, VT.**

I have chosen biology as a major because of my life-long interest in the sciences. Growing up on a small family farm in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont, I have always been surrounded by nature and living organisms and have been truly fascinated by how biological systems work. After graduating from Johnson State College, I hope to secure a career in the sciences or pursue graduate school.

**Steven Eng, Junior, Integrated Environmental Science, from New Milford, CT.**

I came to JSC to further my education in a small classroom setting while gaining the most relevant life skills associated with my future goals. I will study the environment that I live in while at JSC. Upon graduation I plan to further my knowledge and invest in a career in the sciences.

**Bridget Giles, Freshman, Biology major, from Buffalo, NY.**

Ever since I was a child I had a love for animals and I am very excited to learn more about all that biology has to offer. After I graduate I will attend graduate school and focus on wildlife conservation. I am also interested in piano, hiking, biking, and being in nature.

**Amanda Keilty, Freshman, Environmental Science major, from Bethlehem, CT.**

I have a passion for protecting organisms that live on this planet. I look forward to expanding my knowledge in the sciences and hopefully discover what I want to do with the rest of my life. I hope to study in a lab someday or out practicing field research. I intend on keeping our environment healthy, while being the best person I can be.

**Neil Kutensky, Freshman, Environmental Science major, from Gloucester, MA.**

I am interested in preserving the environment and have found that I am most interested in renewable energy. I am hoping to use my knowledge to get into the renewable energy business. I intend on researching the effectiveness of solar panels (and other renewable energy options) and then implementing them in the most effective way.

**Steven Lamonde, Junior, Environmental Science major from Hingham, MA.**

I enjoy intellectual challenges and making discoveries about the natural world. I can mix my innate curiosity with my quest for knowledge to learn about the environment and help others practice better conservation techniques. My goal is obtain at least a master's degree in spatial modeling and geographic information systems. I envision working in northern New England mapping environmental processes to aid in the sustainable conservation of flora and fauna in the face of climate change and human encroachment.

**David Leuba, Biology major, with a minor in mathematics, from Eden, VT.**

I chose Johnson State College precisely because I felt that I would be able to study in an environment that would be more suitable for my studies, including not having to commute too far from home. When I graduate from JSC, I would like to go to graduate school to specialize in any of the neuroscience-related fields of study. I have come to this decision for personal reasons and because I have always been fascinated by the human brain.

**Heather Murphy, Sophomore, Environmental Science major, from Morgan, VT.**

The START scholarship provided a feasible option for earning a bachelor's degree in science. At JSC I have had the opportunity to work in a molecular biology lab while pursuing an environmental science curriculum. After graduation, I plan to obtain a master's degree in environmental ecology.

**Travis Nassau, Freshman, Biology major, with a pre-med concentration, from Proctor, VT.**

My goal is to work hard in order to get into medical school. I will accomplish this goal by asking for help when I need it, applying for many scholarships, and doing volunteer work and other activities to help me get recognized as a good student by medical schools. I want to go to medical school so that I can work in a hospital as a general practitioner.

**Zachary Navaroli, Junior, Biology major, with a pre-med concentration, from Wickliffe, KY.**

At Johnson I will study Biology with a pre-medical concentration. After I get my bachelor's degree I will apply to the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

**Katherine Nunez, Freshman, Biology major, with a pre-med concentration, from Queens, NY.**

I have always been fascinated with the work of doctors and everyone in the medical field. In my opinion they are much like heroes, we rely on them for the well-being of our society, which is why biology is the right path for me. In my long term goal I plan on going to medical school and eventually become a surgeon.

**Mikaela Rutter, Freshman, Biology major, with a pre-med concentration, from Mannsville, NY.**

I chose to attend Johnson State College to pursue a Biology degree in order to obtain a career in the field of medicine. The small class sizes and dedication by the professors will help me to achieve this goal. After I graduate from Johnson I will continue my education by going to medical school so I can become a pediatric physician.

**Eden Towers, Junior, Biology major, with a pre-med concentration, from Morrisville, VT.**

I chose my major because I have always wanted to become a doctor. My passion arises from an interest in what the human body does and why. In high school I was a junior emergency medical technician for three years with the Stowe Emergency Medical Services. I recently completed a five-week internship at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital in Nashville, TN, observing doctors in the pediatric cardiac surgery department.