

The 2015-2016 START Scholars at Johnson State College



Top row: Nasser Abdel-Fatah, Heather Davis, Mikaela Rutter, Bridget Giles, Shayna Bennett, Steven Eng, Eliza Doncaster
Middle row: Kelsey Carrier, Heather Murphy, Eden Towers, Brynn Cairns, Amanda Ovitt
Bottom row: Amanda Keilty, Kelsey Craig, Steven Lamonde, Shelby Rosten

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

As a senior majoring in Environmental Sciences I plan to apply my knowledge in the field towards law school. This will allow me to work with policy makers and to help protect our ever changing environment.

Shayna Bennett, Junior, Environmental Science major, from Belvidere, VT.

I have been fortunate enough to participate in several faculty-mentored research projects, present at national scientific conferences, and explore my growing interest in mathematics. After graduating with a double major in environmental science and mathematics, I plan to pursue a PhD in computer and mathematical modeling.

Brynn Cairns, Sophomore, Biology major, from Rutland, VT

I became a biology major because of my fascination with genetics. After I graduate I will continue on to get a doctorate in the field of genetics and pursue a career conducting research to help prevent genetic diseases.

Kelsey Carrier, Freshman, Environmental Science major, from Jericho, VT

I chose to pursue Environmental Science because of my passion for water and water quality and am interested in the areas of the world that do not have access to potable water. I wish to be further educated on hydrology and be able to pursue it after college.

Kasie Craig, Sophomore, Biology major with pre-med concentration, from Newbury, VT.

The world of medicine fascinates me. After I graduate from Johnson, I plan to continue on to medical school to become a general surgeon. I am currently doing an independent study in the Exercise Physiology Lab here at Johnson and I am excited to get involved in more research in the near future.

Heather Davis, Sophomore, Biology: Field Naturalist major, from North Conway, NH.

As a young child I had a passion for saving animals and the environment. As a single mom I work hard to balance life as a full-time student and a full-time mom. Although some days may be challenging, I am a firm believer that hard work pays off. I am now on the path to pursue a lifelong dream to work with the conservation of coastal habitats and marine life.

Eliza Doncaster, Senior, Biology major, from Irasburg, VT.

Growing up on a small family dairy farm in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont, I have always been surrounded by the natural world and have been truly fascinated by how biological systems work and organisms interact. After graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Biology, I will secure a career in the sciences or pursue graduate school.

Steven Eng, Senior, 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 acquire a Master's Degree in Environmental Law and Policy and plan to be a leader in the stewardship of our planet by preventing frivolous wasting of resources.

Bridget Giles, Sophomore, Biology major, from Buffalo, NY.

Ever since I was a child I had a love for animals and I am excited to learn more about how to conserve endangered species. After I graduate I will attend graduate school and focus on wildlife conservation. With the help of the START scholarship I have been able to discover my passions and plan for my future.

Amanda Keilty, Sophomore, Environmental Science major, from Bethlehem, CT.

I have a passion for protecting organisms that live on this planet. I want to conduct field research someday. My interests include music, hiking, learning about the environment, and thinking of how I can positively affect the Earth. I intend on keeping the environment clean, while being the best person I can be.

Steven Lamonde, Senior, Environmental Science major, from Hingham, MA.

The Environmental Science major allows me to combine intellectual challenges with an innate thirst for knowledge to make discoveries about the natural world. I will attend graduate school in pursuit of a terminal degree in ornithology. I will aid conservation groups to preserve bird species threatened by climate change and human encroachment.

Heather Murphy, Junior, 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 ecology.

Miranda Ovitt, Sophomore, Mathematics major, from Montgomery, VT.

I am pursuing a double major in Mathematics and Business Management. Upon completion of my work at Johnson State College, I plan to continue my education to gain a Master's degree in a field related to business.

Shelby Rosten, Freshman, Biology major with pre-med concentration, from Groton, VT.

I chose to study biology because I love science and studying life. I specifically love chemistry and genetics and I plan to get a doctorate in biochemistry after graduating from JSC. I would like to study cancer and autoimmune diseases to help cure them or find ways to make them more manageable.

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

Johnson State College has so many opportunities as a START scholar that I plan to take advantage of while pursuing a biology degree. The sense of community and welcoming environment ensure that students enjoy their experience. After I graduate from Johnson I will continue my education by going to medical school so I can become a pediatrician.

Eden Towers, Senior, 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 am going to apply for medical school this spring and work my way toward becoming a pediatric gastroenterologist.