

AWARD RECIPIENTS



Cody Prichard
TRIO Student Support Services

Cody joined The University of Iowa community in November 2015 as a Student Success Coach and Tutor Coordinator for TRIO Student Support Services (TRIO SSS), where he now serves as the Project Director. Cody is a proud first-generation college graduate earning his B.S.Ed. in Mathematics from Emporia State University (Kansas) in 2011 and his M.S.Ed. in Higher Education Administration in 2013 from the University of Kansas. Prior to joining The University of Iowa, Cody worked in fraternity and sorority life. Cody credits his undergraduate involvement, including being a founding member of his fraternity chapter, as his introduction to working in higher education; however, what really made him choose to pursue this path was his time spent as a tutor and peer mentor for the

TRIO SSS program at Emporia State. Cody's passion of first-generation student success extends beyond TRIO SSS and includes work with the 1stGen@Iowa Implementation Team, First-Generation Task Force, and others.

Dana Thomann
Department of Rhetoric



Dana grew up on a family farm in small-town Iowa with a high school graduating class of forty. She is a first-generation, 2005 graduate of The University of Iowa. Upon graduation, she ventured to South Dakota and completed a two-year commitment with Teach For America on the Rosebud Reservation. In 2007, she returned to The University of Iowa where she was employed by the Center For Diversity & Enrichment's TRIO programs as a Coordinator of Academic Services and, later, directed the Upward Bound Project, securing grants to continue the program on The University of Iowa campus. She currently works as a Lecturer in the Department of Rhetoric.

Passionate about educational equity, she partners with the Academic Support & Retention team to embed peer tutors in Rhetoric classrooms to assist all Rhetoric students in achieving academic success. The program is called Success in Rhetoric (SiR). Thomann holds an M.F.A. (with distinction) in Creative Writing and Environment from Iowa State University (2016). She is currently working on a collection of linked short stories that focuses on the drama and heartache of the 1980's Farm Debt Crisis.

Adam Lorenzana
College of Law



Adam is a third-year law student at The University of Iowa College of Law. He is a Long Island, New York native and completed his undergraduate and graduate studies at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. As an undergraduate, Adam was elected student body Vice President, and at Iowa Law, Adam was elected President of the Student Bar Association. Born to immigrant parents, Adam is a first-generation college, graduate, and law school student. In his free time, he enjoys cycling, watching the New York Mets and cooking.



Michael Aragon-Jacques Journalism & Mass Communication

Originally from West Liberty, Iowa, Michael is a proud first-generation college student at The University of Iowa. In his time at The University of Iowa, Michael has been an Iowa Edge participant and peer leader. He has also led two Hawkeye Service Break trips including one sponsored by the Center for Diversity and Enrichment. As a first-generation college student, Michael knows the importance of first gen visibility in empowering other first gen students to get involved and he has always strived to be a role model. Michael is a senior at The University of Iowa and will graduate with a BA in Journalism and Mass Communication as well as a certificate in Entrepreneurial Management.

Ruth Kahssai Social Justice and Social Work

Ruth is a fourth-year undergraduate student double majoring in Social Justice and Social Work with a minor in Psychology. She was born and raised in Carol Stream, IL and is the first in her family to attend college. Upon her arrival on campus, Ruth was overwhelmed with institutional challenges relating to her identities as a young Black woman, first-generation student, among many others. Soon, she found a passion for social justice and community building, which lead her to her academic and extracurricular path towards bettering campus for students like Ruth. She started in Campus Activities Board, and served in admin leadership and started the Inclusion Task Force in the organization. Ruth was heavily involved in Undergraduate Student Government and worked on initiatives such as Healing Spaces with Dr. Maria Bruno and chairing the 3rd Annual "I'm the First" First-Generation Summit. In her third year she worked as a Resident Assistant to the Political Matters Living Learning Community, a residence education community focused on political and social justice learning and engagement. In 2019, she traveled to Memphis, TN for Alternative Spring Break focusing on Racial Justice in the area. Ruth had another opportunity to travel in January of 2020 to the Dominican Republic for an interdisciplinary study abroad experience with the School of Social Work and Tippie School of Business. She has had multiple volunteer and internship opportunities, including the Women's Resource Action Center, Rape Victim Advocacy Program, and Domestic Violence Intervention Program. Academically, Ruth is interested in the intersections of racial justice and public health. She worked with Dr. Lina-Maria Murillo as an Academic Intern in the Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies (GWSS) department. In spring of 2019, Ruth was awarded the 2020 Kristen K. Lippke Memorial Scholarship through the GWSS and Social Justice program. She has served on numerous committees, including Iowa charter and search committee. Ruth now works with Dr. Maria Bruno in Belonging & Inclusion initiatives. Ruth's goal since childhood has always been to attend college, and she is thankful to be able to complete this goal this upcoming May with the love and support of those in her college journey.

