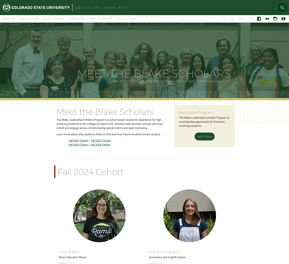

Meet the Blake Scholars

The Blake Leadership Scholars Program is a merit-based scholarship supporting students in the College of Liberal Arts. Scholars take seminar courses with their cohort and engage service projects during special events and paper mentoring.

Learn more about why students chose to CSU and how they're involved across campus.

Fall 2021 Cohort | Fall 2022 Cohort
Fall 2023 Cohort | Fall 2024 Cohort

Interested in Applying?

The Blake Leadership Scholars Program is a scholarship opportunity for first-time, incoming students.

Learn More

Fall 2024 Cohort

Lucy Bullen
Music Education Major

Why CSU?

"I (Ram) State University has been my dream school since moving to Colorado. I was born in Fort Collins and have lived here my whole life. I love the small campus, CSU has the most welcoming students and faculty that you don't find anywhere else! I'm ready for some CSU Ram Pride!"

- Blake Leadership Scholars
- Marching Band

Meet Lucy's Story

Alice Greene-Lewis
Economics and English Majors

Why CSU?

"I chose CSU because it allowed me to pursue my passions. CSU's Honors College and Blake Leadership Scholars Program provided opportunities, and a vibrant community. From the second I stepped on campus, I felt like this was - I am proud to be a CSU Ram!!!"

- Blake Leadership Scholars
- The Collegian
- Honors Program
- Intrigue

Meet Alice's Story

Sierra Fisher
Journalism and Media Communication major

Why CSU?

"I wanted a school with outstanding journalism/writing program options for me, was affordable for my family, was in a location with a lot going on, and had a beautiful campus. CSU has all of that and more! I am lucky and supported and challenged in academics and I am well accommodated to my need for adventure. So I commend my life, my education, and my experiences to CSU and to Ram Pride. Rams Forever! Learn to Lead! Go Rams!"

- Blake Leadership Scholars

Meet Sierra's Story

Ruby Mueller
Anthropology major

Why CSU?

"I knew Alumni Hall's hallway practically my whole first but and recently was I able to experience how amazing it is to live at CSU. There are so many opportunities to get involved, and I've met so many people I hoped to and more, as well as many I never would've. The community here at CSU is profoundly and positively different from any I've ever experienced."

- Blake Leadership Scholars
- Alumni Hall Staff
- Entomology Club

Meet Ruby's Story

Dana Lanier
Music Education major

Why CSU?

"When I say that I (Ram) State University is my dream school, I mean it in every aspect of the phrase. I have had Fort Collins itself in my heart since I was a little girl and I have had CSU in my heart since the second I stepped foot on the campus. I fell for the small community, the beautiful campus, and the beauty of the environment. I have had the privilege of being a part of the Marching Band since my first day of CSU. Every moment I've been a part of it has been my favorite. It is the most welcoming, inclusive, and supportive community I've ever been a part of."

- Blake Leadership Scholars
- University Symphonic Orchestra
- Pride Network

Meet Dana's Story

Ethan McCormick
Political Science major
Marching Band Drum Major

Why CSU?

"I chose CSU not only because of its commitment to academic excellence, but also because of its commitment to its students. Unlike many similar institutions, the culture of not just the University, but the city of Fort Collins as a whole, 'from the moment that I stepped on campus' is one that I have found to be truly unique. I have found that the people here are truly willing to help you succeed, and that is the type of environment that I wanted to be a part of. I am confident that I will be able to be successful here."

- Blake Leadership Scholars
- Marching Band
- Photographer Club

Meet Ethan's Story

Aranza Yuen
Art major

Why CSU?

"I chose CSU because of its community, programs, and location. When I first visited CSU in the fall, I was greeted with kindness, respect, and a sense of belonging that I had never felt before. I knew that I wanted to be a part of a community that valued the contributions of each individual, and I have found that here."

- Blake Leadership Scholars

Meet Aranza's Story

Caleb Gilchrist
English (Creative Writing) major
History minor

Why CSU?

"I chose Colorado State University because of the opportunities it provides for students to get involved in their community. I knew that I wanted to be a part of a community that I could call home, and CSU has done that for me. I've found a place where I can be myself and be welcome, and I'm excited to see what else I can find."

- Blake Leadership Scholars
- Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity
- Horse Polo Team

Meet Caleb's Story

Brynn Swanson
Trombone Performance (BM) and Political Science majors

Why CSU?

"From the second I stepped foot onto this campus, everything from the people to the vibe to the beautiful campus felt like home. I knew I wanted to become a part of the community member of the Ram family. I felt so welcomed by the staff, especially those in the Blake Leadership Scholars Program. I knew that I wanted to be a part of the Ram family that I was welcomed into. I am proud to be a Ram and I am excited to see where CSU will take me and how I will grow during the next few years."

- Blake Leadership Scholars

Meet Brynn's Story

Micah Ryan Lawrence
English (Creative Writing) major

Why CSU?

"I chose CSU because I loved how supportive the campus was. As a first-generation student, I knew I wanted to be surrounded by a lot of support from my family and friends, and CSU's welcoming, accommodating college experience. During orientation and Ram Welcome, I loved how many people I met who were excited to be here and who were willing to make connections and give you a few easy questions, even from complete strangers. I knew I'd be happy spending a lot of time here."

- Blake Leadership Scholars
- Vision Fund, American Cultures Center (ACC), Flex Mentor Program

Meet Micah's Story

Sophia Mendoza
English Education major

Why CSU?

"While exploring college options, I decided to visit CSU's Lory Student Center. I wandered across the halls, and for once, I had the feeling that it wasn't out of place. I felt at my ease. I got to see the diversity of students and I knew that I wanted to be a part of it. I knew that I wanted to be a part of how to bridge that gap! I'm a Rocky Mountain native and I'm so excited to be a Ram. I'm excited to be a student and a person, I felt at home."

- Blake Leadership Scholars
- Community Engagement Academy

Meet Sophia's Story

Tia-Ann Sachi-Dawn Chung
Fine Arts-Visual Design (Graphic Design)

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Meet Tia-Ann's Story

Kayden Hayes
Fine Arts-Visual Design (Graphic Design)

Why CSU?

"CSU stands out to me because of its strong sense of community. CSU's campus and student life are so welcoming, and everyone I've met on campus has been very kind and supportive. I feel that CSU's campus and community will help me grow as a person and as a student and I'm excited to see what I can become."

- Blake Leadership Scholars

Meet Kayden's Story

Fall 2023 Cohort

Kathryn Gaines
Political Science and Fundraise Performance majors

Why CSU?

"I grew up in Fort Collins and have always been a Ram! Both of my parents are professors at CSU, so I grew up on campus. I've been attending the Ram's football and volleyball games since I was a baby and I've been looking forward to being a student here for as long as I can remember. I love the wonderful diversity of programs at CSU and am thrilled to be a part of the political science and music communities."

- Blake Leadership Scholars
- Fundraise Performance
- Jazz Band
- Marching Band

Meet Kathryn's Story

Mimi Chang
Economics major

Why CSU?

"CSU is a very inclusive environment, and I appreciate the way I am able to be myself without any fear of judgment. CSU holds students to high academic standards, and they've helped me rise to the occasion. I've been challenged and pushed to be the best version of myself."

- Blake Leadership Scholars
- Ram Pride
- Economics Student Leadership Council
- Community Ambassadors

Meet Mimi's Story

Brynn Swanson
Trombone Performance (BM) and Political Science majors

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- Community Engagement Academy

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Tia-Ann Sachi-Dawn Chung
Fine Arts-Visual Design (Graphic Design)

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- Community Engagement Academy

Meet Tia-Ann's Story

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- Blake Leadership Scholars

Meet Kayden's Story

Fall 2022 Cohort

Ella Dunn
Art (Graphic Design) major
Media Production
Art History certificate

Why CSU?

"I chose CSU because of its incredible leadership opportunities, outstanding art program, and most importantly, CSU has provided me with a community that I can call home. Since I've been here, I've made incredible memories, made friends that will last a lifetime, and I'm excited for the Passion and acceptance that I now pursue fueling me."

- Blake Leadership Scholars
- Et Cetera
- Ram Pride
- Art Committee

Meet Ella's Story

Emily Ellis
English (Creative Writing) major
Political Science

Why CSU?

"At CSU, I have room to grow and be myself at an institution that provides me with the resources I need to succeed. CSU's dedication to academic excellence and campus community really drew me to the university."

- Blake Leadership Scholars
- Honors Program
- Greenwood Alliance
- Ram Pride Network
- Chi Psi Omicron Sweet Club Office Manager

Meet Emily's Story

Chenae Jamison
Dance and International Studies majors

Why CSU?

"CSU is a university where I connect with similar opportunities to become involved. I chose CSU because I am in love w/ the community and the opportunities that are provided. I am excited to see what is in store and to become a student-to-be-benefit a professional career."

- Blake Leadership Scholars
- ACE (Leaders, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion) committee student representative
- SHTC Committee student representative

Meet Chenae's Story

Aidan Wyckoff
Music Education major

Why CSU?

"CSU felt like a home from day one. I specifically fell in love with the community through programs such as the Tryng On Teaching program, CSU Band Camp, and the Blake Leadership Scholars program. I appreciate the support of the staff and academic counselors and was sure to choose CSU for this reason."

- Blake Leadership Scholars
- Collegiate National Association for Music Education
- Marching Band
- CSU Trumpet Studio

Meet Aidan's Story

Fall 2021 Cohort

Tarryn Rebhahn
Political Science major
Legal Studies and International Development minors

Why CSU?

"My parents were international students at CSU in 2007, so I grew up on campus. I've been attending CSU events my whole life, and attending events as an Ram Welcome Week Team camp-alum as I knew I wanted to study political science and CSU seemed like the perfect place to do so."

- Blake Leadership Scholars
- Ram Welcome
- Pre-Law Club
- Student Ambassador, CSU Career Center

Meet Tarryn's Story

Cara Martin
Theatre Design and Technology (Stage Management) and Business Administration (Marketing) majors

Why CSU?

"Although I am from Texas, Colorado has always been my second home. I chose CSU because I knew it would be a place where I felt welcomed and belonged. I had a wonderful first year experience with a Rowdy Faculty Member and CSU has a with the Blake Leadership Scholars Program and Honors Program which promotes me with high academic standards and new ways to meet new people."

- Blake Leadership Scholars
- Scenic Coordinator, Student Activities Council
- Ram Welcome Team
- College of Liberal Arts Ambassadors

Meet Cara's Story

Kathryn Rose
Natural Resource Ecology and Management (Environmental Policy) and Ecosystem Science and Sustainability majors

Why CSU?

"During my decision process, it was important to me that my future university had a strong sense of community. I knew that I would be getting involved in many activities on campus while also at the same time, I wanted to be able to take advantage of the many international efforts to create climate policy and research, making CSU a great place to become engaged in climate action."

- Blake Leadership Scholars
- Ram Welcome Ambassadors

Meet Kathryn's Story

Carlie Rose Mendoza
Communication Studies major
Music, Stage, & Sports Production minor

Why CSU?

"I chose CSU because I felt drawn to the Blake Faculty. From my first visit, I knew that I wanted to be a part of the Blake family. I am so excited to be a Ram because of the strong community I will find through the Blake Leadership Scholars and Honors Program."

- Blake Leadership Scholars
- Presidential Leadership Program
- Ram Welcome Ambassador, Spirited Rowdy - Lowery Weapons for Ram Nation
- Honors Pre-Med Society

Meet Carlie's Story

Kathryn Rose
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Meet Carlie's Story

Community in the Blake Leadership Scholars Program

Hear more about the community in the Blake Leadership Scholars Program from the video below. Rowdy and presented by the Blake students.

Blake Scholars Alumni Stories

Nicholas Lee, BA '23

Hall Of Fame!

"I am currently serving as the Director of Global Marketing for an online retailer called Fanatics. I'm responsible for leading a team of 15 freelancers, and strategy. I couldn't be more grateful for the opportunities that CSU and the Blake Leadership Scholars Program provided me. Incredible places on earth. As much as I love the work that I get to do, I'm even more grateful for the relationships that I've built along the way. My office – from the privilege of living a stone's throw from my hometown, my family, my friends, and all of it. Can't offer the fourth-starting-quarterback-in-the-NFL kind of perks, but I'm pretty close. Rams Forever, and I'll see you soon!"

My five years at CSU were deeply formative. I had the privilege of being a part of the Blake Leadership Scholars program, which provided me with opportunities to develop as a leader and to engage with the community in meaningful ways. I also had the opportunity to be a part of the national championship of our Marching Band, who believed in me and gave me the opportunity to be a part of the Drum Major team.

Being a part of the Honors Program also had a lasting impact on the CSU community – something that was an immense gift to me as I was able to meet and connect with people from all over the campus and from all different backgrounds. I also had the opportunity to be a part of the Honors Program's Global Engagement Academy, which provided me opportunities to spend time overseas with Ram's students – it's been a very cultural experience which grew in a lot of ways. I'm grateful for the opportunities that I had at CSU and for the relationships I developed, and personal experiences I was given during my time at CSU that will greatly impact me for the new version of Me."

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