MEET THE BLAKE SCHOLARS

Meet the Blake Scholars

The Blake Leadership Scholars Program is a team-based academic experience for high achieving students in the College of Liberal Arts. Scholars take seminar courses with their cohort and engage across cohorts during special events and peer mentoring.

Learn more about the Blake Scholars Program and how they're involved across campus:

Fall 2022 Cohort | Fall 2021 Cohort
Fall 2020 Cohort | Fall 2019 Cohort

Become the Next Scholar

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

Learn more

Fall 2024 Cohort

Lucy Mullen
Music Education Major

"I chose the Blake Scholars Program because I was drawn to the way it encourages its members to be life-givers. I have always loved the energy around the Blake Scholars and I am excited to be a part of a group that cares for its students and fosters the love and desire to be a life-giver in all of its members."

- Blake Leadership Scholars
- Marching Band

Meet Lucy's Portfolio

Ana Gonzalez
Economics and English Majors

"I chose CSU because I was drawn to its openness to questions, CSU and the wider CSU area offers access to the outdoors, networking opportunities, and a diverse community of students. I chose the Blake Scholars over other universities I was accepted to at CSU because I can spend time with CSU faculty."

- Blake Leadership Scholars
- Rotaract Club
- Intramural sports
- Hikings

Meet Ana's Portfolio

Journi Foster
Journalism and Communication Major

"I wanted a school with entertaining and exciting program options for me, one that offered me my family, but also one that was still not a big city. I love all of Northern Colorado, and I love the Blake Scholars program because it's a community that is not overwhelming, but is also accommodating for my ambitions. As I commented on my Colorado State acceptance letter, I'm pretty sure the only truth I've ever told is that I'm going to CSU."

- Blake Leadership Scholars

Meet Journi's Portfolio

Kelsey Hoeger
Anthropology Major

"I have lived in Fort Collins practically my whole life but just recently have I able to experience how amazing it is here at CSU. There are so many opportunities and ways to get involved, professors are willing to help you in any way they can, and the Blake Scholars community has a lot to offer and provides a big difference from any other college."

- Blake Leadership Scholars
- Anthropology Club
- Kinesiology Club

Meet Kelsey's Portfolio

Sarah Gaylord
Music Education major

"When I say that Colorado State University is my dream school, I mean it with every fiber of my being. I had that from 1,000 miles of consulting distance. It was a perfect fall day when I took my first tour of CSU. I remember walking around campus and thinking, 'I can see myself here.' I remember thinking that the beauty of the environment, in the mountains, was unlike anything I had ever seen. I remember thinking, 'as an LGTA, Every interaction I've had with an alumni, student, or staff member made me more inspired to be here than before I stepped foot on campus.'"

- Blake Leadership Scholars
- University Symphony Orchestra
- Marching Band

Meet Sarah's Portfolio

Ethan Gonzales
Political Science Major
Spanish Minor

"I chose CSU because it's a welcoming community, and I wanted to be a part of it. I chose the Blake Scholars because I wanted to be a part of a community of students and other colleagues. As a student, I like to say that I continue to see the CSU community as a welcoming and caring community."

- Blake Leadership Scholars
- Alpha Kappa Psi Fraternity
- Hispanic Business Student Association
- Pronoghorn Club

Meet Ethan's Portfolio

Kaylie Hall
Art major

"I chose CSU because of its community, programs, and location. When I visited campus, I felt a sense of belonging and knew that I could see myself here. I chose the Blake Scholars because I wanted to be a part of a group that I continue to see the CSU community as a welcoming and caring community."

- Blake Leadership Scholars

Meet Kaylie's Portfolio

Cassidy Gonzales
English (Creative Writing) major
History minor

"I chose Colorado State University because of the opportunities it presented for its students and the access to resources for campus offices. As soon as I stepped onto campus I knew this is where I wanted to be. I chose the Blake Scholars because I saw the ways another up to the community I want to be."

- Blake Leadership Scholars
- Figure Skating Club
- Horse Polo Team

Meet Cassidy's Portfolio

Fall 2023 Cohort

Emma Kolste
Political Science and Trombone Performance majors

"I grew up in Fort Collins and have always been a Ram. Most of my parents are professors at CSU, so I grew up on campus. I've been around CSU my entire life and have always loved the campus and culture and have dreamed of going to the University of Fort Collins as long as I can remember. I love the wonderful Music as a program at CSU and I love the opportunities the Political science and music departments."

- Blake Leadership Scholars
- Presidential Ambassadors
- Jazz Band
- Marching Band

Meet Emma's Portfolio

Ben Cragg
Economics major

"CSU is a very diverse environment, and I appreciate the way I am able to be myself without any fear of judgment. CSU holds students to high standards, and I appreciate the way I am pushed to be my best self and to always to achieve more than I thought I could."

- Blake Leadership Scholars
- Alpha Kappa Psi
- Economics Student Leadership Council
- Community Ice Excellence

Meet Ben's Portfolio

Sofia Gutierrez
Trombone Performance (BM) and Political Science majors

"From the second I stepped foot onto campus, everything from the Spanish speakers to front of the University Center of the Arts drew me in. I chose the Blake Scholars because I wanted to be a part of a community of students who were passionate about self-improvement and dedicated to making a difference in the world around them. I'm excited for the beginning, that I was going to be able to do any and everything I wanted to do."

- Blake Leadership Scholars
- Presidential Ambassadors

Meet Sofia's Portfolio

Sarah Jane Lanning
English (Creative Writing) major
Theatre minor

"I chose CSU because I loved how supportive the campus was. As a theatre, biomed, and undergraduate neuroscience woman, it was important for me to have a diverse, welcoming, and accommodating campus. I chose the Blake Scholars because I wanted to be a part of a community that values change academic and diversity centers. There are many opportunities for students to get involved in clubs, activities, resources, or simply want a place to hang out and study!"

- Blake Leadership Scholars
- Undergraduate Theatrical Association (UPTAC) Peer Mentor Program

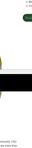
Meet Sarah Jane's Portfolio

Sophia Gonzalez
English Education Major

"Colorado has everything a girl like me could ever want and CSU has so many opportunities to get involved in. I chose Blake because I was saying a lot because it's gotten its diversity." The Blake program was the perfect fit for me because I was looking for a community of students and faculty that desire to work education beyond the normal education."

- Blake Leadership Scholars

Meet Sophia's Portfolio



Hannah Lee Armstrong
English (Creative Writing) major
Theatre minor

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- Blake Leadership Scholars
- Undergraduate Theatrical Association (UPTAC) Peer Mentor Program

Meet Hannah Lee's Portfolio

Sophia Gonzalez
English Education Major

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- Blake Leadership Scholars

Meet Sophia's Portfolio

Hannah Lee Armstrong
Fine Arts major (Graphic Design)

"While supporting college sports, I decided to visit CSU's very Outdoor Center. I wandered around the halls, and to me, I love the feeling that I wasn't out of place. I felt at my girl, but was the diversity of students and faculty that I encountered. I chose the Blake Scholars because I was here my heritage wouldn't be a hindrance, and how to me identity would be embraced without judgment and were also a strength. Finally, as a student and a person, I felt at home."

- Blake Leadership Scholars
- Community for Excellence

Meet Hannah Lee's Portfolio

Kelsey Hoeger
Fine Arts major (Graphic Design)

"CSU stands out to me because of its strong sense of community. CSU has a community for everyone, and I wanted to be a part of one of those as well. Because college is so short of exploration, I feel that CSU supports me and provides me with opportunities that will help me grow and help me as I continue my career journey."

- Blake Leadership Scholars

Meet Kelsey's Portfolio

Fall 2022 Cohort

Celeste Kissling
Art (Graphic Design) major
Spanish minor
CU History certificate

"My parents were international students at CSU in 2007, so I grew up in Fort Collins and campus. I have many memories of attending events as a child like international night. Since I grew up, I've been a part of many communities, but I've never found one like the Blake Scholars program. I enjoyed being a part of a community that is so welcoming, supportive, and dedicated to making a difference in the world around them."

- Blake Leadership Scholars
- Ski Club
- Pre-Law Club
- Presidential Ambassador, CSU Career Center

Meet Celeste's Portfolio

Hope Cragg
English (Creative Writing) major
History minor

"At CSU, I have found a space that has supported me as an individual that wishes to live with care and with joy. Attending this university has allowed me to be surrounded by a community that is kind, incredibly diverse, active campus that really does value the importance of community."

- Blake Leadership Scholars
- Sigma Kappa Sorority
- Educational Outreach
- Gaming Association
- Into the Commons Team Cast Office Manager

Meet Hope's Portfolio

Cooper Jamison
Dance and International Studies majors

"CSU is an exciting, inclusive university with ample opportunities to become involved. I chose CSU because I was drawn to its beautiful campus and wonderful professor and student vibe on the campus tour. I chose the Blake Scholars because I was drawn to professors and students."

- Blake Leadership Scholars
- Arts Coalition, Equity Diversity, Inclusion) committee student representative
- SHPE (Hispanic student representative

Meet Cooper's Portfolio

Mason Hughes
Music Education major

"CSU felt like home from early on—especially the music community. Through programs such as the Camp for Teaching program, CSU Intro Band, All-State Orchestra at CSU, and more, I felt welcomed into the CSU community and the community of students and faculty."

- Blake Leadership Scholars
- Undergraduate Theatrical Association
- Collegiate Orchestra Association for Music Education
- CSU Marching Band
- CSU Trumpet Studio

Meet Mason's Portfolio

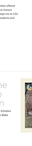
Fall 2021 Cohort

Ella Lee
Political Science major
Legal Studies and International Development minors

"My parents were international students at CSU in 2007, so I grew up in Native Fort Collins and campus. I have many memories of attending events as a child like international night. Since I grew up, I've been a part of many communities, but I've never found one like the Blake Scholars program. I enjoyed being a part of a community that is so welcoming, supportive, and dedicated to making a difference in the world around them."

- Blake Leadership Scholars
- Kennedy for UNICEF, UNICEF
- Pre-Law Club
- Presidential Ambassador, CSU Career Center

Meet Ella's Portfolio



Kaitlyn Hoeger
Theatre Design and Technology (Stage Management) and Business Administration (Marketing) majors

"Although I am from Texas, Colorado has always been my second home. I visited Fort Collins every summer and although it meant missing something just shorter. I had a wonderful trip and immediately knew that I wanted to be a part of the CSU family. The campus, I always come to the scenic mountain locations, and CSU provides me with high academics standards and keep all options open for my career. I chose the Blake Scholars because"

- Blake Leadership Scholars
- Undergraduate Theatrical Association Council
- Theatre Alumni Program
- College of Liberal Arts Ambassadors

Meet Kaitlyn's Portfolio

Kate Hancock
Political Science (Environmental Policy) and Ecosystem Science and Sustainability majors

"During my decision process, it was important to me that my future community not only had opportunities for me to reach what I wanted to do in my career, but also to grow as a person. Many of my professors are connected to many community, regional, and national organizations that provide opportunities for students. CSU's great place to become engaged in diverse areas."

- Blake Leadership Scholars
- College of Liberal Arts Ambassadors

Meet Kate's Portfolio

Kyle Hey-Hawkins
Communication Studies major
Music, Stage, & Speech Production minor

"I chose CSU because I fell down in the wetter faculty, most of my wetter is campus and the opportunities within the area of study. I chose the Blake Scholars because I wanted to be a part of the Honors College and the Blake Leadership Scholars program."

- Blake Leadership Scholars
- Undergraduate Theatrical Association
- Editorial Team Member, Spiritus Mundi, Literary Magazine
- Speech Team
- Alumnus Phi Beta Sorority

Meet Kyle's Portfolio

Community in the Blake Leadership Scholars Program

Hear more about the community in the Blake Leadership Scholars Program in the video where, friends, and partnership by the Blake students.

Blake Scholars Alumni Stories

Miranda Ann (BA '17)

Fall 2019 Cohort

"I am currently serving as the Director of Global Marketing for an oil and gas company in Houston, Texas. I graduated from CSU with a degree in Anthropology and Sociology. I created the most powerful opportunity to step into the role and to do and to speak of the most powerful opportunity to step into the role and to do and to speak of the most powerful opportunity to step into the role and to do and to speak of