#### Iowa Colony High School

# ICI PIONERS

Class of 2025

#### Adarynn Randolph

#### **Valedictorian**

Syracuse University - Geology



Most Influential Educator
Ester Solis - Mary Burks Marek Elementary

Ms Solis was my dual language teacher in elementary school. She had trust in my abilities and never thought less of me for not always understanding Spanish. Without her, elementary school would have been much harder, I'm very happy I got to have her as a teacher.

#### Emily Meyer

#### Salutatorian

University of Texas - Psychology



Most Influential Educator

James Nelson - Iowa Colony High School

Mr. Nelson chose the perfect career. He's the epitome of an educator. Every discussion we had leaves me with something new. If I ever want to learn chess, discuss philosophy, fight a bear, improve my diction, put my ashes into a sword, make balloon animals, or simply enjoy a good book, I know Mr. Nelson will help me. He's been an exceptional mentor, and I'm forever grateful to have been his student.



Most Influential Educator Dr. Jay McLeeland - St. Edward's University - Computer Science

Although my time at Iowa Colony High School has been brief, Dr. McLeeland has had a significantly positive influence on not only my academic ability, but my character as well. I deeply appreciate how much he cares about his students and our education. Simply put, he is one the best teachers I have ever had.

# Evelyn Baiju University of Houston - Pre Nursing



Most Influential Educator Kristen Meyer - Iowa Colony High School

Mrs. Meyer has always there for me and her dedication to teaching amazes me. She is always ready to help her students and ensure they are successful. She is never one to give up on any situation and I admire that about her. She helped me learn perseverance and self-confidence. I love her deeply and I will always remember her and the impact she had on me.

#### Semaaj Outlaw

University of North Texas - Cyber Security



Most Influential Educator
Patricia Coleman - Nichols-Mock Elementary

When I think of the word "teacher," I think of a person who possesses a desire to see a student develop a love of lifetime learning. When I think of Ms. Coleman, I see a lady who gave her all for her students. Her care for her students started in the classroom and went beyond. She showed me how to believe in myself, helping me see my potential in both academics and character.

#### Tairus Boteros

University of Houston - Biology



Most Influential Educator Shiny George - JB Hensler College & Career Academy

Mrs. George is my teacher, but she is much more than that. She's a mentor, an encourager, and honestly very motherlike. She always has guidance and advice ready, even when you don't realize you need it. Whether it's school or life in general, she'll have your back with a whole lot of heart. Her support is something that I will be grateful for throughout my life and appreciate the memories we made my senior year.

#### Simone Camaso

University of Houston - Biology



Most Influential Educator
Latocia Evans - JB Hensler College & Career Academy

Mrs. Evans helped guide me and my classmates to becoming a Certified Medical Assistant. She helped me learn to love the medical field and all of its aspects, especially during clinicals. Not only that but she is very sweet and funny and helped to lighten the mood of a stressful day. Thank you Ms. Evans for a great senior year!

# Day Castro Michigan State University - Biology



Most Influential Educator Dr. Michaela Bratsch - Iowa Colony High School

Dr. B always challenged me, believed in me, and wanted the best for me. She is not only an amazing teacher but also someone you can talk to and count on for honesty and a good laugh. I enjoyed Dr. B as my teacher - she truly made an impact on my life.

#### Matalie Mietes-Geren

University of Nebraska-Lincoln - Microbiology

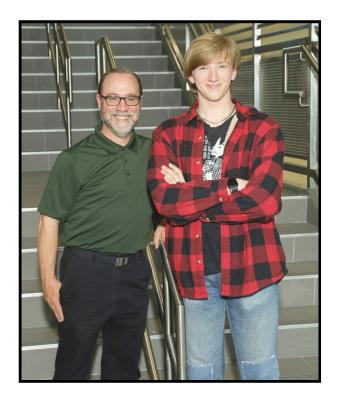


Most Influential Educator Kyle Winn - Iowa Colony High School

Mr. Winn is someone that I believe will always have an impact on my life. He showed me the importance of stopping at nothing to reach my goals. Mr. Winn helped me see the truths about myself and taught me how to find the incentive to work hard and succeed. For that, I am forever thankful.

#### Eli Vrubel

University of Texas San Antonio - Architectural Engineering



Most Influential Educator Ronnie Franklin - Alvin High School

Mr. Franklin was my architecture class teacher. I really liked his class because he made it really interesting. During my sophomore year, I knew I wanted to do Engineering but I was still trying to figure out which branch. While taking his class I realized I wanted to do architecture. The way he taught really made the class fun and I enjoyed it because he was always so joyous and happy.

#### Tosselyn Ramos

Alvin Community College - Medical Sonography/Health Science



Most Influential Educator Maria Carlo - Iowa Colony High School

Ms. Carlo sets the perfect example of someone who is an inspiration, a mentor, and a hard working, creative educator. I am proud to say that she helped mold my creative mindset and inspired me to look beyond what is set in front of me. Ms. Carlo will always be greatly appreciated for her extraordinary efforts, positivity, and thoughtfulness.

## (Amari Smith

Texas A&M University - Psychology/Pre-Nursing



Most Influential Educator Brittany Lane - Iowa Colony High School

Mrs. Lane has been a great coach to me these past three years. She showed me how to better myself not only as a dancer but also a leader. Through the laughter, the joy, the sorrow, and the rough times, she has always been there for not only me also the team. I appreciate her for these amazing past three years and wish her the very best.

#### Omri Denique Brooks

University of Texas - Textiles & Apparel



Most Influential Educator
Tiffany Wright-Pickrom - Iowa Colony High School

Mrs. Pickrom has been an inspiring fashion practicum teacher who nurture my creativity and confidence. Her encouragement made every project feel possible, and her passion pushed me to grow. I'm proud to continue my journey at UT Austin. Because of her, I'm confident that my gifts and abilities will contribute to global sustainability and technological advancement in the fashion industry and beyond. Thank you, Ms. Pickrom. I appreciate you.

# Destiny Mays University of Houston - Chemistry



**Most Influential Educator** Rachel Easley - Iowa Colony High School

Coach Easley is more than just my former cross country coach. She's always warm, kind, and easy to talk to. I can trust her and talk to her about anything. She's someone who truly cares about and supports her student athletes. Coach Easley has made a big impact on my life, and she's one of my educators I know I'll stay in touch with after high school.

# Miranda Wylie Alvin Community College - Criminal Justice



Most Influential Educator Ramona Webb - Iowa Colony High School

Although I haven't known Ms. Webb very long, she has undoubtedly left an impact on my life. She is kindness made manifest. She not only has she gone out of her way to make me feel welcome, she made me feel that I belonged. She always spoke to everyone not as a superior, but as an equal. Her unwavering compassion and commitment to lowa Colony students alone deserve this recognition tenfold.

### Alan Moreno

Alvin Community College - Business Administration



Most Influential Educator Christopher Sheldon - Iowa Colony High School

I met Mr. Sheldon for the first time almost exactly two years ago during UIL competition. From the moment I met him, I could tell he was different from other teachers. He is a passionate and kind man, and I only wish I could have spent more time with him in my three years at Iowa Colony High School.

# Mia Le University of Houston - Nursing



**Most Influential Educator** Sarah Higby - Manvel High School

Teachers constantly have obstacles but Mrs. Higby showed me that being an educator not only means teaching students, but connecting and being a family. She also taught that not everyone is going to have a good day, but communicating and being present in peoples lives helps relieve the stress. She always teaches with a beaming smile and a personality that puts students in a good mood.

# Darynn Chan Alvin Community College - General Studies



Most Influential Educator Laura Hoffmann - Iowa Colony High School

I remember that Ms. Hoffman once told me I had what it takes to be one of the top ten students in my class. I really wasn't trying for a high placement but her comment inspired me to put more effort into my studies. I didn't want to let her down so I tried harder. I appreciate her seeing the potential in me that I didn't see in myself. Thank you Ms. Hoffman

## Kori Howard-Muhammad

Howard University - Architectural Engineering



Most Influential Educator Lisa Staup - Iowa Colony High School

Before having Mrs. Staup as a teacher, I only knew her as lowa Colony's Academic UIL Coordinator. It wasn't until I was a student in her class that I developed an admiration for her work ethic, passion for education, and attentiveness to her students. Having her as a coach was like the cherry on top! She has continuously poured out her grace, time, and support. I will forever carry her with me.

#### Hannah Lane

Texas A&M University - Chemical Engineering



**Most Influential Educator**Dalan Tran - Iowa Colony High School

Mrs. Tran was my AP Biology teacher in my junior year and she was one of the sweetest teachers I ever had. She was very encouraging and always allowed us to do corrections on any test, which was very helpful. When she was out to have her baby, she made sure that all of her students were on the track to make good grades. In my senior year she was extremely helpful with my college applications. Any time I emailed her asking for help with a letter of recommendation she was glad to help and I'm very grateful for that.

#### Tosue Garcia

Texas A&M University - Finance



**Most Influential Educator** Edward Garcia - Iowa Colony High School

Coach Garcia was my APA Precalculus teacher. He had a joyful personality and a dedication to teaching that is admirable. His ability to simplify difficult concepts and his enthusiasm for mathematics made me really enjoy his class.