

# ACADEMIC SUCCESS INITIATIVES

**One Goal. Many By Your Side.**



Welcome to the Academic Success Initiatives (ASI) quarterly newsletter. We hope this communication will help spread the word about our work to support students and faculty. There are many of us in ASI, but our goal is the same – successful student outcomes.



## WHAT'S NEW?

### Save the Date: VA Intern Day!

**July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025:** Join the Monarch Internship and Co-op Office as they celebrate the achievements of their amazing employer partners and Monarch Interns. You are invited to:

- Grab a bite
- Tour MICO's New Office
- Check out the NEW Professional Attire Wardrobe (PAW)
- Network and connect with peers and employers
- Get professional headshots and event photos
- Meet MICO's new office staff members
- Learn how to engage with MICO for future opportunities

**Read more about MICO on page three or their website.**



### Academic Success: First Summer Retreat

After a full year with the University, AVP **Dr. Amy Johnson** continues to dedicate her efforts to advancing Academic Success goals in alignment with the university's strategic plan, enhancing and promoting the unit's identity and expertise across campus, and creating internal cohesion between Academic Success teams.

In May, faculty and staff participated in the first of two working retreats. Teams participated in interactive activities, presented discussion topics, and considered future important changes for the upcoming academic year.



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# STUDY ABROAD

The Office of Study Abroad is dedicated to offering and supporting quality, academically rigorous, and diverse education abroad programs and services for ODU students.

## STUDY ABROAD SPOTLIGHT



**Samuel H.**

*Economics & Finance Major*

### Samuel's Program in Colchester, United Kingdom

#### Why Study Abroad?

"Studying abroad is a great opportunity to travel the world and actually live rather than visiting another country! You get to see and experience new cultures and environments that you cannot find in the states."

#### What was learned through the experience?

"I've learned a ton of European history through speaking to natives in various different countries. I learned about cultural norms in France, Spain, the UK, Italy, and Estonia."

#### What did you get out of it?

"What I got out of my study abroad experience was living out my dream of traveling the world and meeting new people from different countries."

Read more on the [Study Abroad Testimonials Website!](#)



#### MONARCH PAUSE

**Reason #5 to Study Abroad: Learn to Communicate Across Cultures.** In today's increasingly global society, it's important to possess the skills to communicate across cultures. This means understanding more than just a different language, just like Samuel experienced in Europe. ***See more on the [10 Reasons to Study Abroad ODU Webpage.](#)***



# MONARCH INTERNSHIP & CO-OP OFFICE

Welcome to ASI, New Monarchs!



**Kathy Mosier**

**Assistant Director, Monarch Humanities Internship Academy**

Kathy is excited to be working with students to find meaningful internships through MICO. After earning a B.A. in Art History from Hiram College and MS in Information Systems from Drexel University, Mosier's own career working in art museums started with a summer internship at the Smithsonian Museum of American Art. She's been in the area for over twenty years with her family, and most recently taught at the Governor's School for the Arts teaching Art History and Fine Art Studio classes. When not on campus, you can find Kathy at her easel happily drawing or painting a portrait of someone's favorite fur-baby.



**Amber Williams**

**Internship Engagement Specialist**

Amber is a proud ODU alumna, holding a Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences with a minor in Spanish. She also earned her Master of Business Administration from Regent University. Amber is the founder of Nutrition Ambition, LLC, and brings over 13 years of experience in leadership and training development.

## Monarch Internship Staff on the Move!

This academic year has been marked by successful internship initiatives under the leadership of MICO Executive Director, **Dr. Barbara Blake**. Coupled with the excitement surrounding our upcoming office move from 1000 Webb Center to 1007 Webb Center, the MICO/MHIA team is well-prepared for continued and expansive growth as part of Old Dominion University's mission to pursue excellence.

## MICO is Here to Serve!

### UNIV 68 and GRAD 668

UNIV 68 AND GRAD 668 are 0-credit internship courses that allow undergraduate and graduate students to gain work-based learning experience related to their major or career interests. Approved by MICO, these courses help students receive official internship recognition on their transcripts.

### Services At a Glance

- **Connect with an advising director** to get set up with an internship, apprenticeship, or co-op.
- **Professional Attire Wardrobe (PAW):** Access professional clothing for ODU students at no cost.
- **Enactus:** Monarch entrepreneurship support and guidance.
- **Internship courses** that grant transcript recognition.

Read more on the [Monarch Internship and Co-op Office website](#) or check out their newsletter, the Monarch Intern Insider!



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# TRIO PROGRAMS

## TRiO STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

### TRiO SSS Wraps Up a Semester of Empowerment and Celebration

This spring, **TRIO Student Support Services (SSS)** continued its mission to empower first-generation, income-eligible, and students with disabilities through impactful programming, individualized support, and meaningful community engagement.

TRiO proudly connected with nearly **50 families** during Admitted Students Day, sharing the many resources TRiO offers to help incoming Monarchs thrive from their very first day on campus.

### A Highlight of the Season - Go Emily!

A highlight of the season was seeing Academic Counselor **Emily Harmon** honored with the Social Butterfly Award at the Academic Success Center's End-of-Year Celebration. The award recognized her ability to build strong, collaborative relationships across the ODU community in service of student success.

Emily also represented TRiO at the university's Career Summit, co-leading a dynamic session titled "In the Name of Student Success: Recognizing the Power of Connections in Action." The session engaged nearly 20 attendees and encouraged ODU colleagues to strengthen employer partnerships and enhance career development in their departments.



As the semester came to a close, TRiO celebrated its graduates in style, hosting a senior photo session for SSS participants and an End-of-Year Pool Party to honor their achievements. Between spring and summer, **30 TRiO SSS students** will graduate, continuing the proud legacy of student success and upward mobility.



Throughout the spring semester, TRiO Academic Counselors held more than **600** individual meetings with **210** students, offering personalized support in academics, financial planning, graduate school prep, and career development.

We are also thrilled to recognize TRiO participants **Ammar Shamsher, Teresa Mitchell, Maria Ashimi, Brianna Batichon,** and **Drayanna Foxrun** for their outstanding work and accomplishments.

Read more on the [TRiO SSS website](#) and the [TRiO TimeSSS newsletter](#)!



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## Congratulations! Big UB Accomplishments!

Congratulations to **Adrian Eldridge**, UB's Social Media Manager and Upward Bound Scholar **Andrew Hawks**! Adrian graduated this spring with her Bachelor's degree, and is also a first-gen college student and TRiO SSS participant. Andrew was recognized at the Black Kids Rock Image Awards! Furthermore, at the UB End-of-Year Recognition Ceremony, UB seniors were collectively awarded scholarships totaling nearly \$70,000!

In addition to celebrating student accomplishments, Upward Bound hosted a two-day academy that engaged students in a variety of enrichment activities and allowed them to connect with peers and faculty.

**Read more on the [TRiO Upward Bound Website](#).**



## TRiO MCNAIR PROGRAM

### Scholars, Leaders, and Change-Makers

Congratulations to all of the McNair graduates! The McNair Scholars Program writes, "Your dedication, research, and resilience have paved the way for what's next - and we can't wait to see you soar in graduate school and beyond. You are the scholars, the leaders, and the change-makers we've been waiting for."

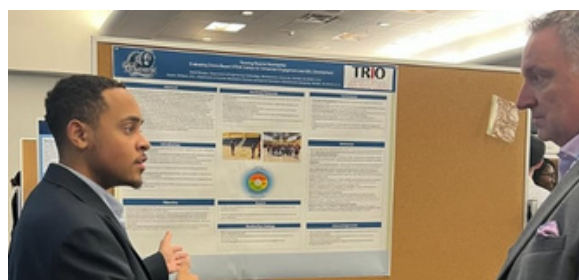
#### MCNAIR GRADUATES

- Dejaune Thompson
- Jayla Dahlberg
- Kieaira Harris
- Nana-Serwaah Nyannor
- Portia Stokes
- Rha'zia Dawson
- Talia Polega

### Research in Action

McNair Scholars showed up and showed out at the VA McNair Scholars Research Symposium and the ODU Knowledge & Creativity Expo, presenting their cutting-edge research, making powerful connections, and representing the future of graduate education with pride.

**Read more on the [McNair Program's Website](#).**



# ACADEMIC INNOVATION & LEARNING SUPPORT

## EPORTFOLIO & DIGITAL INITIATIVES

### ePortfolio Studio Moving Online for the Summer

The ePortfolio Studio is available to meet with students **online only** for the summer. For questions, scheduling appointments, and more information, visit the [ePortfolio Studio website](#) or email [eportfolio@odu.edu](mailto:eportfolio@odu.edu).

## ODU FIRST STAR ACADEMY

### First Star's Sneaker Ball

In honor of Foster Care Awareness Month, **First Star ODU Academy** hosted the Independent Living Sneaker Ball at ODU's Webb Center.

This event invited guests to come dressed from denim to formal, just as long as they wore their favorite pair of sneakers! First Star celebrated Foster Care Youth, community partners, and the Norfolk Department of Human Services through music and food, awards, and fun activities. The Sneaker Ball also marked the third anniversary of First Star and the City of Norfolk's partnership to uplift and support Foster Youth.

Congratulations to the First Star ODU Academy's Director, **Alexia Hargrove**, and Hargrove's team of interns and volunteers for putting together an amazing celebration!

Learn more on the [First Star ODU Academy website](#).



## ACADEMIC INITIATIVES

### Learning Communities are hiring for Peer Mentors!

Learning Communities are hiring for Peer Mentors! Students must be a sophomore or above with a 2.5 GPA or higher and interested in guiding incoming students in their transition to the university. Peer Mentors receive a \$1,000 award and the opportunity to develop leadership, communication, and mentoring skills. Positions are still available in multiple areas. Apply today!

**For questions, contact [impact@odu.edu](mailto:impact@odu.edu) or [livinglearning@odu.edu](mailto:livinglearning@odu.edu)**



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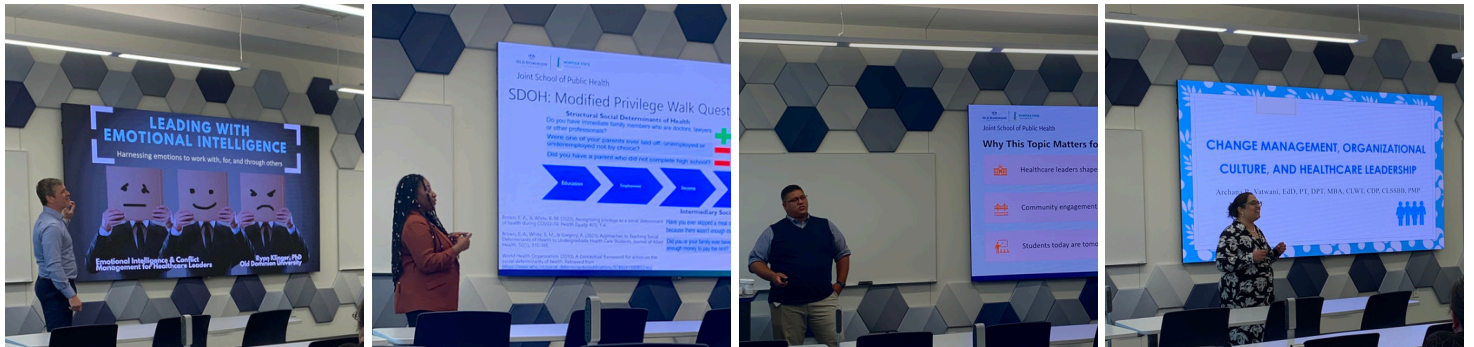


# ANNUAL CAMPUS THEME

**Annual Campus Theme (ACT)** is a multi-disciplinary campus initiative that aims to encourage discovery, growth, and engagement in today's national and global conversations. ACT combines academic courses, public lectures and exhibits, film showings, and other events to engage faculty, staff, students, and the community in a collective learning experience about a timely, relevant issue. See more on the [ACT website](#).

## Transitions: Our Experiences, Development, and Adaptation

The 2024-2025 [Annual Campus Theme](#) focused on Transitions: Our Experiences, Development, and Adaptation. Transitions explores the many shifts that occur through personal, professional, or social experiences, and can be viewed from many disciplines and perspectives.



**Maria Kronenburg, Ph.D., MBA**, Program Director and Clinical Associate Professor of Health Services Administration with the **ODU Joint School of Public Health** coordinated a workshop series on **Healthcare Leadership to Develop Healthy Communities**.

The workshops were open to faculty, staff, students, and community members and held over two days in April. Participants gained knowledge and skills related to increasing emotional intelligence, change management, understanding the social determinants of health, and community organization collaboration. The goal of the workshops was to assist participants in developing leadership competencies to build healthy communities and reduce health disparities.

### Sessions included:

- ***Change Management, Organizational Culture and Healthcare Leadership***
  - Speaker: **Archana Vatwani**, PT, DPT, EdD, MBA, Graduate Program Director, Doctor of Physical Therapy, Ellmer College of Health Sciences
- ***Emotional Intelligence & Conflict Management for Healthcare Leaders***
  - Speaker: **Ryan Klinger**, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Management and Director of the ADP Human Capital Management Academy, Strome College of Business
- ***Understanding the Social Determinants of Health to Improve Healthcare Leadership***
  - Speaker: **Elizabeth A. Brown**, Ph.D., MPA, CPH, Director BSPH Public Health Program, Joint School of Public Health
- ***Improving Healthcare Leadership with Community Engagement***
  - Speaker: **Brett Sierra**, DHSc, MPH, Assistant Professor, Joint School of Public Health

# FIRST & SECOND YEAR SUCCESS INITIATIVES



See more pictures and videos like this on our Instagram @oduacademicsuccess

Reach out to [academicsuccesscenter@odu.edu](mailto:academicsuccesscenter@odu.edu) for future posts and collaborations on social media!

## First Sophomore Celebration!

The **First and Second-Year Success Initiatives Team** hosted their first Sophomore Celebration in April! The event was held to congratulate sophomores on making it halfway through their college experience and to connect them with experiential learning opportunities for transitioning into upperclassmen.

Special programs and offices, such as **LeADERS**, the **Center for Career & Leadership Development**, the **Monarch Internship and Co-op Office**, and **Study Abroad** attended to encourage students to explore opportunities available to them.

Students connected with fellow peers, enjoyed food and ODU swag, and had the chance to win a raffle!

**Thank you to all teams and offices that collaborated to bring this fun celebration to life!**

Learn more on the [First and Second-Year Success Initiatives website](#).



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# COLLABORATIONS

## MHIA and LeADERS Collaborate to Celebrate Students

Congratulations to the **Monarch Humanities Internship Academy** and **LeADERS**, who combined ceremonies to showcase MHIA Interns' ePortfolios and recognize graduating LeADERS! Both events were well attended by students, family, and faculty. The MHIA ePortfolio Showcase was opened by its Assistant Director, **Dr. Michael Thompson**, who emphasized the importance of work-based learning, MICO's role in facilitating student participation, and the hard work of supporting ODU faculty and staff.

**Provost Brian Payne** also spoke at both ceremonies to highlight the value of high-impact practices – such as internships, ePortfolios, and more – on students' academic and professional experience.

**Dr. Lannah Stafford**, Director of High Impact Learning Initiatives, opened the LeADERS medal ceremony by expressing how special the program and its students are. To earn a LeADERS distinction, students must complete at least three high-impact practices and highlight them in a comprehensive ePortfolio.



Keynote speaker, **Dr. Orlando Ayala**, Professor and Director of Engineering Technology and the Office of Undergraduate Research, congratulated all LeADERS and MHIA Interns, reviewing all the important skills students learned throughout their programs and college career. Dr. Ayala ended his address by empowering students to say yes to challenges, maintain a growth mindset, and continuously build resilience through difficult times.

**Josie Momberger**, Assistant Director of High Impact Initiatives, introduced all student recipients, both in-person and at a distance. Recipients were awarded a medallion to wear with their graduation regalia.

A special thank you from both MICO and LeADERS to all of the ODU faculty and staff who made this event so successful!

Visit the [Monarch Humanities Internship Academy website](#) and the [LeADERS website](#) to learn more about each program.

# TUTORING CENTRAL

ODU has over 12 different tutoring centers across campus supporting hundreds of undergraduate courses and employing dozens of undergraduate peer tutors.

**Academic Success Initiatives** collaborates with all tutoring centers to discuss, coordinate, and evaluate efforts related to formalized tutoring services for students at Old Dominion University with the common goals of supporting student learning in the classroom, improving students' academic performance in challenging courses, and increasing student retention.

For a complete listing of centers and supported courses, please visit the [ODU Tutoring website](#).

## NEED TO KNOW: SUMMER TUTORING

*Tutoring Centers are open during the summer! Read below for more information on availability, supported courses, and open hours.*

### Chemistry Success Center

Summer Tutoring is available May 19<sup>th</sup> – August 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### First Session

**Courses:** CHEM121/122N

**Hours:** TR 2 – 4 PM

**Courses:** CHEM211/212

**Hours:** TR 4 – 6 PM

#### Second Session

**Courses:** CHEM123/124N

**Hours:** TR 2 – 4 PM

**Courses:** CHEM213/214

**Hours:** TR 4 – 6 PM



### Language Learning Center

Summer Tutoring is available **ONLY** Online/Remote.

#### Supported Courses

**German** 101, 102, 495

**Japanese** 111, 396

**Spanish** 101, 102, 201, 202, 495

Visit the individual Tutoring Centers' websites for scheduling and more information. This information is subject to change.

### Computer Science Tutoring

Summer Tutoring is available May 19<sup>th</sup> – August 8<sup>th</sup> in-person and online.

**Monday & Friday:** Closed

**Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday:** 1 PM – 6 PM

### The Writing Center

Summer Tutoring is available May 13<sup>th</sup> – August 9<sup>th</sup> and **ONLY** Online.

**Monday:** 10 AM – 7 PM

**Tuesday:** 10 AM – 2 PM;

3 PM – 7 PM

**Wednesday:** 10 AM – 5 PM

**Thursday:** 10 AM – 3 PM

**Friday:** 12 PM – 5 PM

**Saturday:** 2 PM – 7 PM

**Sunday:** 1 PM – 6 PM



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# ADVISING AVENUE

## Rooted, Ready, and Resilient: Empowering Advisors to Lead Through Uncertainty

**Reneldo Randall**, Director of Advising for the College of Sciences, was the Keynote speaker for the **Virginia Association of Colleges and Employers (VACE) 2025 Conference** and the **NACADA Carousel of Growth Empowering Advisors in the City of Light**. Here's more about his experience speaking at NACADA!

"In my keynote address, I aligned with the conference theme, "Carousel of Growth: Empowering Advisors in the City of Light," by exploring strategies to strengthen advisor development and effectiveness. Drawing from my background as a higher education administrator with extensive experience in leadership and change management, I discussed how advisors can be empowered to navigate institutional shifts and champion a culture of adaptability and excellence.

I shared practical methodologies and insights that emphasized innovative practices, collaborative leadership, and strong communication – key tools for supporting both advisor growth and student success in a constantly evolving educational landscape."



## Congratulations, Tanisha!

**Tanisha Bradley**, Director of Advising for the College of Arts & Letters, was awarded the **Janet A. Katz Outstanding Service to the College Award for the College of Arts & Letters!**

According to the Arts and Letters Awards website, the award recognizes individuals that "have helped to carry out the mission of the College without regard for recognition or reward. They also embody the principles of collegiality and civility. This award can be given to acknowledge an exceptional accomplishment or to honor someone for constant and steadfast dedication to the College."

**Read more on the [College of Arts & Letters Awards website.](#)**



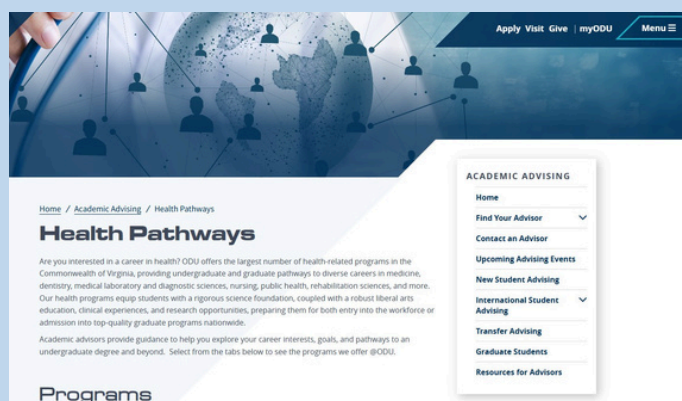
# ADVISING AVENUE

## Health Pathways: Paving Ways to Degrees

Many students come to ODU to pursue nursing, medicine, or physical therapy but aren't aware of the broad array of health-related careers available to them. There are many in-demand careers where there is a critical workforce shortage and great need to educate and train the next generation of health professionals. Clinical programs such as medicine, physician assistant, physical therapy, nursing and dental hygiene have competitive admission due to limited spaces. This means that students often need to explore major options and choose a parallel plan major.

To help students navigate these opportunities, **Leanne White**, Director of Advising for Virginia Health Sciences, in collaboration with **Reneldo Randall**, Director of Advising for the College of Sciences, developed the new Health Pathways Page.

The goal of the Health Pathways page is to expose prospective and current students to the wide array of health-related opportunities available to them.



**Health Pathways** shows students health related opportunities at the baccalaureate, masters, and doctoral level and highlights programs based on specific interests in...

- **Clinical patient contact:** dental hygiene, nursing, nuclear medicine technology
- **Laboratory/research experience:** medical laboratory science, biomedical sciences, environmental health, public health
- **Health administration and public health opportunities:** epidemiology, environmental health, health education, promotion, policy, and research
- **Pre-clinical programs which serve as a foundation for advanced practice degree:** medicine, physician assistant, and physical therapy, and also highlight lesser-known clinical professions such as occupational therapist, pathologists' assistant, and surgical assistant. Health pathways also highlight opportunities to pursue research such as in epidemiology and public health, and in molecular diagnostics which is on the cutting edge of cancer research.

ODU also offers many special opportunities for early or guaranteed admission to health programs at the undergraduate and graduate level, including VHS's own Eastern Virginia Medical School.

Visit the Health Pathways page and EVMS page for more information and special opportunities.



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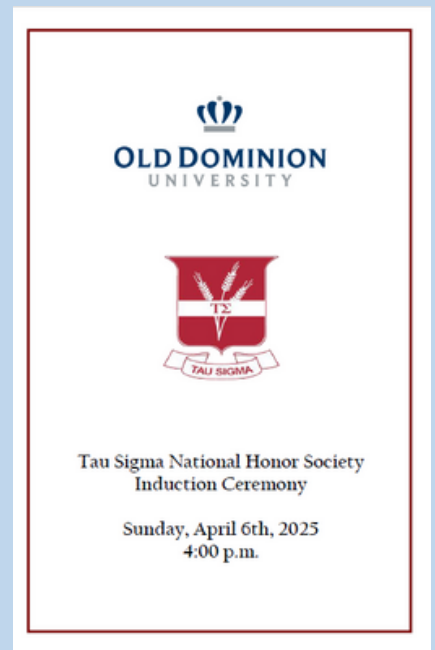
# TRANSFER INITIATIVES



**Tau Sigma Members Induction Ceremony**

## Spring 2025 Highlights!

- **630+** Student contacts via the [transfercenters@odu.edu](mailto:transfercenters@odu.edu) hotline
- **410+** Pre-transfer student appointments
- **45** Transfer program pathways created
- **56+** transfer students attended the Spring Transfer Tuesday!
- **198** new Tau Sigma members inducted this semester!



**Student Coin Toss during Student Success Week**



**Transfer Tuesday Give Away!**

**To learn more about Transfer Initiatives, the Transfer Center, and Tau Sigma, visit the [Transfer Initiatives website](#).**



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# STUDENT WORKER SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to all ASI Student Workers that Graduated!



## TRIO

Adrian Eldridge

## TRANSFER INITIATIVES

Trevor Holmes

## EPORTFOLIO

Stacey Nkwadi    Ta'Niyah Turner

## FIRST STAR ODU ACADEMY

Dietrick Louis    Marney Doyle



## ADVISING ADMINISTRATION

Samantha Rapacon

## FIRST & SECOND YEAR STUDENT SUCCESS

Ahmed Alasiri

Caroline Bunting

Aidan Blanco

Rayonna Murray

## MONARCH INTERNSHIP & CO-OP OFFICE

Nariyah Moore

Seth Smith



Thank you for your dedication to student success!

## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

### Brock Environmental Center - Chesapeake Bay Foundation



For the past several summers, the **Brock Environmental Center**, located at Pleasure House Point in Virginia Beach, has been the host location for the Academic Success unit's all-staff retreats.

Nestled along the Lynnhaven River, the Brock Center is an innovative example of an environmentally-sensitive and smart building that serves as the hub of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Virginia Beach environmental education programs.

This **July** the Academic Success teams will retreat again to the Brock Center to collaborate and plan activities, programs, and events for the upcoming academic year. To learn more about this facility and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, visit the Brock Center [website](#).



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# FEATURED EVENT

## ASI End-of-Year Celebration!

ASI faculty and staff gathered to recap another year of striving to serve ODU students and support academic success. The party was centered around a travel theme, with the tagline **"Our Staff is First Class!"**

AVP **Dr. Amy Johnson** opened the celebration, highlighting the hard work and dedication of the ASI staff. Afterwards, Executive Director of AILS and Operations Coordinator, **Marissa Jimenez**, recognized graduating student workers and superlative winners individually, thanking them for their contributions to student success and the special spirit they bring to ASI. The celebration concluded with food, "Around the World" trivia, and socializing.



## Superlative Winners

As part of the celebration, staff were able to vote for office superlative winners. Superlative Winners earned ODU swag and a certificate of appreciation.



### **Closet Hero**

Roberta Heggie

### **Fashion Icon**

Josie Momberger

### **Email Vigilante**

Rob Batchelder

### **Squirrel Award**

Tara Hillman

### **Trailblazer Award**

Stephanie Fahey

### **Most Dependable**

Staci Kohen  
Kerri Svoboda-Musick

### **Dedication Champion**

Chris Ricks

### **Most Promising Leader**

Liz Hudy

### **Plant Parent Extraordinaire**

Megan Mize

### **Social Butterfly**

Tamara Barnes

Emily Harmon

### **Vampire Award**

Hayden Cunningham

Brita Tomassoni

### **Most Likely to Brighten Your Day**

Francesca Santos  
Christine Woods

## OUR MISSION

*Housed inside the Student Success Center, Academic Success Initiatives (ASI) empowers learners to thrive academically, personally, and professionally. Academic Success Initiatives provides an inclusive environment dedicated to building authentic relationships and community, fostering meaningful learning experiences, and collaborating with learners as they pursue their passion and purpose.*

*In keeping with the mission of the University, Academic Success Initiatives advocates for all Monarchs and actively supports their pursuit of excellence at ODU and beyond.*

To learn more about Academic Success Initiatives or have ideas for future collaborations, please contact Krizia Gozo at [kgozo@odu.edu](mailto:kgozo@odu.edu).



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