



2022

KENAN INSTITUTE STUDENT AWARDS

APRIL 28, 2022 • 4PM - 5:30PM

KENAN CENTER LOUNGE
300 KENAN CENTER DRIVE
CHAPEL HILL, NC



▶ kenaninstitute.unc.edu

15th ANNUAL KENAN INSTITUTE STUDENT AWARDS

Welcome to the 15th Annual Kenan Institute Student Awards. We are here to honor outstanding students who excel in the areas of leadership, research, policy impact and service. For their achievements, students will receive:

- Thomas A. and Yolanda Kaye Stith Leadership Award
- Rollie Tillman Outstanding Achievement Award
- John Kasarda Research Excellence Award
- James 'Jim' Johnson Policy Impact Award
- Frank Hawkins Kenan Distinguished Scholar Medal

Our aim is to recognize students who have exhibited outstanding service and commitment by exceeding expectations during their tenure at the Kenan Institute and Kenan-Flagler Business School.

Thank you for joining with us to celebrate students who exemplify Kenan-Flagler's core values of excellence, leadership, integrity, inclusion, community and teamwork, as well as those who advance the mission and vision of the Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise.

APRIL 28, 2022

Welcome & Opening Remarks

4:00 - 4:15 PM

Dr. Kim Allen

Kenan Scholars Director

Dr. Greg Brown

Director, Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise

Recognition of Special Guests

4:15 - 4:25 PM

Dr. Kim Allen

Kenan Scholars Director

Presentation of Awards

4:25 - 4:55 PM

Dr. Kim Allen

Kenan Scholars Director

Shannon Harris

Assistant Operations Director

Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise

Awards

Thomas A. and Yolanda Kaye Stith Leadership Award

Rollie Tillman Outstanding Achievement Award

John Kasarda Research Excellence Award

James 'Jim' Johnson Policy Impact Award

Frank Hawkins Distinguished Scholar Medal

Closing Remarks

4:55 - 5:05 PM

Gino Esposito

Kenan Scholar '21 & KFBS MAC '23

Mike Norona

Kenan Scholar Mentor & Retired Fortune 500 CFO

Acknowledgements

5:05 - 5:15 PM

Dr. Kim Allen

Kenan Scholars Director

2022 Award Winners



Samuel 'Sam' Wilkes
Thomas A. and Yolanda Kaye Stith Leadership Award

A graduate of Buford High and Clemson University in South Carolina, Sam is described as a person of deep integrity and intellect, one who is eager to use his talents to help others thrive. His scholarship is likewise described as impeccable and his technical expertise cutting edge and highly practical.



Anna Manocha
Rollie Tillman Outstanding Achievement Award

From Cary, North Carolina, Anna says that she loves to be challenged and is dedicated to constant improvement. She'll be graduating in May, completing her studies in business administration, Spanish for the Business Professions, and Entrepreneurship.



Loren 'McCauley' Palmer
John Kasarda Research Excellence Award

From Denver, North Carolina, McCauley is a self-described learner, creator, and traveler. She'll be graduating in May, completing her studies in business, computer science, and entrepreneurship.



Gabriela 'Gabby' Goodman
James 'Jim' Johnson Policy Impact Award

From Greensboro, North Carolina, Gabby recalls her elementary school teacher showing the class a picture of past presidents. She was struck by only seeing men. Since then, she's been both inspired and frustrated by women's representation in politics—inspired by their tenacity and frustrated with the system they're forced to work within.



Paige Murray
Frank Hawkins Kenan Distinguished Scholar Medal

From Waxhaw, North Carolina, Paige is a firm believer that leadership and serving the greater public good are the foundation of a successful business career. She'll be graduating in May, completing her studies in business administration and public policy. Paige maintains professional interests in marketing, management, and social, environmental and public health

AWARD DESCRIPTIONS

Thomas A. and Yolanda Kaye Stith Leadership Award

The Thomas A. Stith III and Yolanda Kaye Stith Award for Leadership is given to an exceptional graduate student who has demonstrated outstanding scholarship and exemplary leadership. Awardees will prioritize morality, demonstrate integrity both inside and outside of the classroom, embody a tenacious and resilient spirit, and maintain a relentless pursuit of excellence. The selected student must show a clear commitment to leadership, academic achievement, entrepreneurship, community service, and passion for economic growth throughout the state of North Carolina and beyond. They should also be thoughtful, compassionate, and consistently demonstrate a willingness and desire to go above and beyond the call of duty. Named for the founder of the Kenan Institute's award winning, economic development center, NCGrowth, and his wife, the former Vice-Chair of the North Carolina Industrial Commission, this award commemorates The Stiths' commitment to academia, entrepreneurship, and service. Any graduate student who has contributed significantly to the Kenan Institute or its affiliated centers are eligible for this award. Non-UNC graduate students are also eligible.

Rollie Tillman Outstanding Achievement Award

The Rollie Tillman Outstanding Achievement Award recognizes an exceptional undergraduate student who has made a significant impact on the Kenan Institute through work on projects and participation

in various activities that drive the Kenan Institute's mission and positive impact UNC and the larger university community. The award is named in honor of the late Dr. Rollie Tillman, UNC Kenan-Flagler professor emeritus of marketing and the institute's first director. The selected individual demonstrates the Kenan Institute's commitment to Putting Knowledge to Work and exemplifies Kenan-Flagler's core values of excellence, leadership, integrity, inclusion, community, and teamwork. The award is open to any graduating undergraduate student working at the Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise and its affiliated centers.

John Kasarda Research Excellence Award

Dr. John Kasarda is recognized as the longest-serving director of the Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise. Under his leadership, the Kenan Institute was named the world's top air logistics educational institution by the International Air Cargo Association. Dr. Kasarda currently serves as the president and CEO of Aerotropolis Business Concepts, LLC. He is also president of the Aerotropolis Institute China and editor-in-chief of Logistics, an international scholarly journal. He has conducted extensive work in the field of aviation infrastructure, business competitiveness, and sociology and was awarded the title of Kenan Distinguished Professor of Strategy and Entrepreneurship. His accomplishments include selection as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science for his research on airport-driven economic development. Because of his notable accomplishments

AWARD DESCRIPTIONS

as a scholar, leading the way in cutting-edge research at the intersection of business and aviation, this award named after Dr. Kasarda celebrates a graduating undergraduate Kenan Scholar who has achieved excellence in research.

James 'Jim' Johnson Policy Impact Award

Dr. Jim Johnson is the William R. Kenan Jr. Distinguished Professor of Strategy and Entrepreneurship and director of the Urban Investment Strategies Center at the Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise. In 1992, the Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise created the Urban Investment Strategy Center. In growing the center, Dr. Johnson began working with the Durham Public School System, establishing programs for teens in Durham's distressed neighborhoods, leading midnight basketball initiatives and shepherding students through high school graduation and, for many, on to college. In 2009, Dr. Johnson helped launch the Global Scholars Academy, an independent school in Durham. He believes that the greatest gift we can give to the next generation is a quality education. Dr. Johnson's vast and impressive body of research assesses demographic and economic trends in order to prescribe policy that leads to prosperity for the urban disadvantaged. His work includes examining the causes and consequences of growing inequality in American society, particularly as it affects socially and economically disadvantaged youth; entrepreneurial approaches to poverty alleviation, job creation, and community development; inter-ethnic minority conflict in advanced industrial societies; and

business demography and workforce diversity issues. His current research focuses on how the world's rapidly aging population is dramatically transforming social, economic and political institutions. Dr. Johnson regularly lends his expertise at congressional hearings and audiences at the U.S. Department of State and the National Conference of State Legislatures. In recognition of Dr. Johnson's contribution to addressing disparities in American society, this award recognizes an undergraduate Kenan Scholar whose work and commitment are poised to shape changes in policies, programs, and practices aimed at alleviating disparities and improving people's lives.

Frank Hawkins Kenan Distinguished Scholar Medal

The Kenan Family has had an enormous impact on the campus of the University of North Carolina, the UNC system and throughout North Carolina and beyond. Frank Hawkins Kenan made significant and lasting contributions as a businessman and public servant. His devoted wife, Mrs. Elizabeth "Betty" Price Kenan lovingly upholds his commitment to the entrepreneurial spirit and service to the University, our state and beyond. To honor her late husband's legacy, vision and commitment to the betterment of North Carolina, Mrs. Kenan has established the Frank Hawkins Kenan Distinguished Scholar Medal. The Frank Hawkins Distinguished Scholar Medal recognizes a graduating undergraduate Kenan Scholar for their integrity and distinguished service to the Kenan Scholars Program.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to...


The Kenan Family and Dan Drake for their unwavering commitment to the fulfillment of Frank Kenan's vision that the Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise be a place of learning that brings together business leaders, academic researchers, and policymakers to help solve some of societies complex challenges. The Rollie Tillman Outstanding Achievement Award and the Frank H. Kenan Distinguished Scholar Medal reflect those commitments to foster the growth and development of socially minded future business leaders.

Kara Stith for her brilliant idea and Mark Little for championing that idea to honor the groundbreaking contributions of Thomas A. Stith III and Yolanda Kaye Stith to the Kenan Institute and the state of North Carolina.

North Carolina Governor James G. Martin for his generous gift in support of the Thomas A. and Yolanda Kaye Stith Award.

The affiliated centers of the Kenan Institute for providing opportunities for student learning and professional development. These include the Center for Sustainability, CREATE, Rethinc. Labs, Center for the Business of Health, Entrepreneurship Center, Leonard W. Wood Center for Real Estate Studies, UNC Tax Center, Institute for Private Capital, and Urban Investment Strategies Center.

Mike Norona for his dedicated mentorship to Kenan Scholars. Mike generously provides guidance and advice and extends his influential networks and connections to Kenan-Flagler students.



The Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise develops and promotes innovative, market-based solutions to vital economic issues. With the belief that private enterprise is the cornerstone of a prosperous and free society, the institute fosters the entrepreneurial spirit to stimulate economic prosperity and improve the lives of people in North Carolina, across the country and around the world.



▶ kenaninstitute.unc.edu