



DeAnza College



**BFSA Network**

# **Black Graduation and Achievement Ceremony**

**Presented by the Black Faculty, Staff and  
Administrators Network (BFSA)**

**Friday, June 18, 2021**

**5-6 p.m.**

## BFSA Scholarships



**Abel Atnafu**  
**Academic Excellence**

Abel is a Computer Engineering student who will transfer to the University of California, Santa Barbara this fall. "I have always been in love with the idea of using computers as your canvas to explore

your creativity," he said. "As a person from a diverse background I always felt like I had so many things, ideas and perspectives to offer."



**Marcita Collins**  
**Student Achievement**

Marcita plans to transfer next spring to San José State University, where she will major in Psychology. "It is my goal to bring significant awareness to the Black

community about mental health and get rid of the stigma behind therapy," she said. "We need more of us to be able to relate to each other. My goal is to help my community heal."



**Bereket Kebede**  
**Student Scholarship**

Bereket is in her second year at De Anza and plans to study Communications after transferring to a university. "I've always been so passionate about using my voice to advocate for the Black community," she said, "so this scholarship means a lot to me!"

## Sankofa Awards



**Nicole Cain**

Nicole is a nursing student who will graduate in winter 2022. "I began my journey at De Anza in 2012, not having been in college at all," she said. "I pushed through and completed all of my prerequisites for the Nursing program by attending

school part-time while I worked full-time and cared for my children. As I pushed myself each quarter to complete my classes, my children gave me the drive and determination to fight through all of the long nights of studying by helping around the house or simply just telling me how proud they were. I am truly excited to enter a field where I will be helping people during the most rewarding and challenging times in their lives."



**Mahlet Wondmu**

Mahlet earned her nursing degree from De Anza this spring, after previously earning a business degree in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. "Shortly after graduation I moved to the United States.

My lifelong dream was to be a nurse," she said. "I have faced many challenges in pursuing my dream career, from figuring out how to raise two boys and being a supportive wife. With lots of luck and hard work I was able to graduate. I am so proud of completing the RN program and achieving the dream I had 10 years ago."

## UMOJA Awards



**Saron Gebremedhin**

Saron moved to the United States from Ethiopia as a young child. "I am a first-generation college student, pursuing a degree in Business Analytics," she said. "My favorite hobbies include painting and playing tennis."



**Abriana Holliday**

Abriana is graduating with two degrees: Law Enforcement, and Liberal Arts with a Social and Behavioral Sciences Emphasis. "I was born in San Francisco, and because of my Louisiana Creole background, I am fluent in English

and some French and hope to learn more languages throughout the course of my life. I have a love for the creative and aspirational and I hope to incorporate these sentiments into the passions I pursue onward."



**Justice Merriman**

Justice is transferring to the University of California, Irvine and will major in Sociology. "I was born and raised in San José, California," she said.

"I hope to work with students and families in the future. I enjoy connecting with nature, laughing with family, reading, artwork and creative writing."



**Falicity Mitchell**

Falicity plans to transfer to California State University, Dominguez Hills, where she will pursue a bachelor's degree in Psychology. "I was born in Los Angeles and moved around some,

but have settled here in the Bay Area since middle school," she said. "The goal I have set for my career is becoming a psychologist for preteens to young adults. When I have some free time, I enjoy singing, camping with my loved ones and reading."

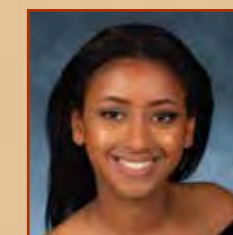
## W.E.B. Du Bois Awards



**Bereket Kibret**

Bereket will be transferring to the University of Southern California this fall. "My family and I left Gondar, Ethiopia, and moved to the United States to live a life free of persecution in 2007," he said. "Since my parents had only carried a dream

and a few hundred dollars with them into this new country, they had to work multiple, minimum-wage jobs to make ends meet. Though transitioning into a new country was extremely difficult for me, I made it my mission to excel in my academics. My ultimate goal is to pursue my passion for code by graduating with a degree in computer science and eventually becoming a full-stack developer."



**Yorsabell Wodaj**

Yorsabell plans to transfer to the University of California, Los Angeles this fall. A San José native, she wants to major in sociology, to gain a better understanding of how society works, and eventually

become a psychiatrist to help address mental health issues and support young people, especially those in the Ethiopian community.



– **Congratulations to the Class of 2021** –

**Abel Atnafu**  
**Stephanie Castaneda Navas**  
**Marcita Collins**  
**Khari Crawford**  
**Yidinekachew Dagne**  
**Betelihem Demissie**  
**Filmon Estifanos**  
**Chiki Fleischman**  
**Angel Garcia**  
**Saron Gebremedhin**  
**Abriana Holliday**  
**Justice Merriman**  
**Falicity Mitchell**  
**Sarobidy Vanessa Ranarison**  
**Jaye Reinman**  
**Aysha Saipaia**  
**IsaNoor Seale**  
**David Sires**  
**Imani Sires**  
**Ethan Thompson**  
**Chiana Vinegar**  
**Sahara Williams**  
**Erica Wiltz**  
**Yorsabell Wodaj**  
**Mahlet Wondmu**  
**Eyoel Yimer**



**Program**

**Welcome**

**Derrick Felton**  
*Vice President, BFSA*  
*Instructor, Psychology; Counselor, Psychological Services*

**Video Hug**

**Black National Anthem**

*“Lift Every Voice and Sing”*

**Greeting**

**Dr. Melinda Hughes**  
*President, BFSA; Faculty Assistant Director, EOPS*

**Introduction of Featured Speaker**

**Derrick Felton**

**Featured Speaker**

**Dr. Lloyd Holmes**  
*President, De Anza College*

**Scholarship and Awards Presentation**

**BFSA Scholarships**  
**DuJuan Green**  
*Instructor, Administration of Justice*

**W.E.B. Du Bois and Sankofa Awards**  
**Pauline Wethington**  
*Counselor and Instructor*


**Umoja Scholarships**  
**Maurice Canyon**  
*Counselor and Coordinator, Umoja Community*

**Presentation of Graduates**

**Dr. Michele LeBlue-Burns**  
*Dean, Student Development and EOPS*

**Closing Remarks**

**Derrick Felton**





**Thank You to Our Donors**

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**Special Thanks To**

**De Anza College Administrators  
Office of Communications  
Office of Financial Aid**



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