

Wyandanch

Community Advisory Board

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Upcoming Events

June 17th : Community Clean Up with the Earth Rangers

July 17th: Long Island Repair Cafe

June 23rd: Wyandanch Memorial High School Graduation Ceremony

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[NYSHECK website](#)

The Future of Wyandanch: Highlighting our Alumni



Sophia Desir

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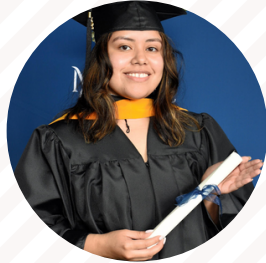
As we are well into graduation season, we would like to congratulate and highlight former Wyandanch Memorial High School alumni as they graduate college this year. Six graduates eagerly volunteered to reflect on their high school and college experiences while also providing insight for younger generations. These graduates represent only a fraction of the many shining stars in Wyandanch. They have demonstrated academic excellence and leadership while also voicing their warrior pride!

(cont on pg 2)

Featuring:



Sophia Desir
WMHS Class of 2018
SUNY Farmingdale
B.S Mechanical
Engineering Technology



Natali Amaya
WMHS Class of 2018
Mercy College
B.S: Health Science: Pre-
Physician Assistant
Studies



Samantha Chauvert
WMHS Class of 2020 -
Valedictorian
SUNY Farmingdale State
College
A.S Mechanical Engineering
Technology



Kashawn Charles
WMHS Class of 2017
Eastern Illinois University
B.A Criminology/
Criminal Justice
Division I Basketball player



Onyebuchium Nwaesei
WMHS Class of 2017
SUNY Farmingdale
B.S Computer Engineering
Technology



Rasuana Melendez
WMHS Class of 2018
Five Towns College
B.A Business
Administration



Holdy Chauvette
WMHS Class of 2018
SUNY Farmingdale State
College
B.S Mechanical Engineering
Technology
SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Q1: What are you looking forward to now that you have graduated with your degree?

SOPHIA: I look forward to taking some time off to travel, and eventually starting my career.

NATALI: I will be working full time at a Psychiatrist office.

SAMANTHA: I look forward to taking some time off to travel, and eventually starting my career.

HOLDY: Now that I've graduated with my degree in Mechanical Engineering, I'm looking forward to graduate school.

ONYEBUCHIUM: Now that I have my degree, I'm looking forward to applying my knowledge gained throughout this time to achieve success.

RASUANA: Honestly, I've just been going with the flow and it's been working out for me. But I'm excited to start some business endeavors of my own and keep going up from there.

KASHAWN: I plan on entering law enforcement, but I'm not sure if that will take place in or out of NY.

Q2: What are your plans for the future? Will you be entering the workforce, or potentially pursuing another degree?

SOPHIA: At the moment, I do not have any major plans for the future in terms of career or pursuing another degree. I am currently riding the wave of life and seeing where it takes me.

NATALI: Take two years off from school to save up for PA school and then pursue my Masters of Physician Assistant Studies.

SAMANTHA: I'm working towards a higher degree. Currently my bachelor's. At the moment, I'm not looking for a full-time job due to school but something part-time or even in the summer to gain experience for future more permanent jobs are on my radar.

HOLDY: My plan is to improve my resume by volunteering, shadowing, and doing research. I also plan on pursuing a degree in medicine.

ONYEBUCHIUM: Currently I am trying to get a job in the field of software engineering and will most likely be pursuing a Master's degree in Programming.

RASUANA: I currently work a full-time job but I do plan to return to school for my MBA.

Q3: What do you miss most about high school?

SOPHIA: I miss the after school life/class sessions with Mr. Nieto.

SAMANTHA: I honestly miss some of my teachers and the different clubs I was a part of in school. Mainly being one of the boys track managers, that was one of my best high school experiences.

HOLDY: I miss having the competitive environment that me and my classmates used to create.

ONYEBUCHIUM: What I miss most about High School is the compassion from the teachers who wanted their students to succeed. The teachers in Wyandanch Memorial HS were always available to help their students achieve greatness.

RASUANA: Honestly I miss the community. High school was an interesting phase in my life, and I've met so many different people. A lot of those people I still communicate with today.

KASHAWN: I miss my friends mostly.



These are a few of the Wyandanch Alumni. These 2022 graduates have received either their associate's, bachelors, or masters degrees.

Quanel Robinson	Kerith Paschall
Taejonea Marrow	Natali Amaya
Kashawn Charles	Sophia Desir
Onyebuchim	Samantha
Nwawsei	Chauvert
Juan Lopez	Erica Carranza
Taurean Portwine	Holdy Chauvette

Q5: Do you plan on staying within the Wyandanch Community ?

NATALI: I do plan on staying in the Wyandanch community for the time being, as my parents will still be helping me finish school in the future and they would want me to save up. I still have time to think of where I plan to go in the future.

SAMANTHA: For now, yes, I am continuing to stay within the Wyandanch community. I still have time to think of where I plan to go in the future.

HOLDY: I no longer live in the Wyandanch but I still feel like I'm a part of the community since I go to church there and participate in multiple activities there.

ONYEBUCHIUM: I currently live with my parents in Wyandanch and hope to be more active member within the community now that I have completed school.

RASUANA: As much as I've grown attached here, I plan to move sometime in the future. I love NY in general but it won't be my home for long. I might consider moving back in the further future but as I said, I'm just going with the flow.

Q4: Do you have any advice for younger generations? Did mentorship / a sense of community play a part in your success?

NATALI: College isn't for everyone, look at the different career options that are out there and if you're interested in one you should intern or shadow in that field before you pursue it

SAMANTHA: My advice to younger generations would be to reach out to others. Joining a club or talking to people in your field is a great way to get help if you don't understand what's going on. It also helps when it comes to finding info about jobs, internships, or research opportunities. Even if it's a little scary, you'd be surprised how many people may seem like they have everything under control but are probably just as confused as you are, but the information they can give you or help you out with can be useful.

HOLDY : My advice for the younger generation is to focus on your education and get your degree. It will be all worth it. Mentorship has played a big part in my life and school. No one knows everything, it's always great to have someone that has more experience in life than you to guide you.

ONYEBUCHIUM: My advice to the younger generation is to write down your goals and place them somewhere you'll always see, so that you will constantly be reminded of what you are working towards.

RASUANA: All I could really say is chase your dreams. Don't feel pressured to go down a path that you don't believe is for you. I think it's important to invest in yourself to achieve what you want in life. The rest will follow, depending how bad you want it and how much you work towards it. I did have a few mentors, their advice helped and guided me through a lot of obstacles and hardships.

Q6: What was the transition from high school to college like ? Are you prepared to transition from college to the real world ?

SOPHIA: The transition from high school to college was not as bad as I expected, but the 8 AM classes were brutal. I am not too sure if I am ready to transition to the real world, but, as I stated before, I am just seeing where life takes me. And hopefully, it is somewhere good.

NATALI: The transition from high school to college wasn't hard but adjusting to the amount of freedom one is given in college was weird at first. I wasn't sure what to do with that kind of freedom but eventually as time goes on you figure out how to manage yourself properly.

SAMANTHA: I would say my transition from high school to college went very smoothly. To me college feels very similar to high school except that now you're surrounded by people who are actively paying to be here and are more willing to put the work in to pass their classes. I'm not entirely sure if I'm prepared to transition into the real world at the moment. I still don't know what to expect. Although I think that's how it is usually. You can research and try to figure out as much as you can what to expect, but there's always going to be something that is unexpected. It's okay to not fully know what to expect as you'll learn as you go.

HOLDY: My transition from high school to college was as smooth as can be thanks to my teachers. No one is ever ready until you get to the real world, but I believe I'm very equipped for the real world. Thank you to my high school education, my parents, my college education and my mentors.

ONYEBUCHIUM: The transition from HS to college took some adjustment, but luckily I was able to do something called a summer bridge program which introduced me to the campus and other students also attending college for the first time and helped me come into school without knowing anyone. This doesn't prepare for the real world though. The real world has a lot of unpredictable aspects but learning to do things on your own helps you process things by yourself.

RASUANA: The transition was a little easy besides adjusting to the new schedules. Time management is important in college and that's something I had to learn quickly. Honestly, I don't feel much of a transition from college to the real world. I was already working a full time job, now it's more like I don't have to worry about homework at the end of the day.

Meet Malasher Johnson, Wyandanch Leader

- Tara Lauther, LIU Post, Wyandanch CAB member,
Huntington Breast Cancer Action Coalition Assistant
Project Coordinator

Malasher Johnson is an alumna of Wyandanch High School from the Class of 2018. She is majoring in bioscience and minoring in English at Farmingdale State College (FSC). She will be graduating in the class of 2022 and plans to apply to PA school and become a Physician Assistant. Malasher reflected on the impact of her participation in Smart Scholars and Youth Leadership Caucus, where she learned how to organize events together, and how to present herself in a professional way.

“I learned how to go after what I want and stay on top of my own stuff.”

After participating in Smart Scholars- a program for Wyandanch High School students to take Saturday classes at FSC- Malasher walked away with a semester's worth of credits. Malasher was a RAM scholar at FSC: a member of the RAM leadership program, a research mentorship program for students who would not graduate within four years. Malasher has worked on many different research projects. One of the research projects worked with Girls Inc and focused on the effectiveness of their curriculum with young ladies from underprivileged backgrounds. The research conducted focus groups with these girls to assess if their curriculum was helping them in academic and nonacademic settings.

Malasher speaks passionately about the need for equitable access to environmental sustainability. She works with the Earth Rangers and took part in a research initiative looking into waste in Wyandanch.

“We started by tracking what people were doing in Wyandanch. We had data collectors go out and track if people were using the recycling bins and what days they were using them. We worked on how many trash cans each household was putting out. This was difficult because we don't know how many families are in one single family home in Wyandanch. It was also difficult for families to get recycling bins because it was usually one per house.”



Their research revealed that a lot of people were not using recycling bins and they soon realized this was a matter of accessibility.

“You have to go to town to get a recycling bin. So we set up a service where people could call us.”

There was also a deficit in information available to people. The Earth Rangers made door hangers with information about what to recycle. They also released calendars with the recycling schedule. Supplying information to individuals empowers them to take action. Some people simply need the resources to get started.

Malasher believes growing up in Wyandanch helped her grow into the woman she is today. When speaking of Wyandanch, she reflects on the strong sense of community that embraced her growing up.

“When I was younger I was able to do a lot: I would be doing homework in the car while my mom would drop me off to meetings for other things. I had people willing to help. When I did a fundraiser for the National Honors Society (NHS), the NHS found a hot chocolate maker at Sam's Club. I didn't have a Sam's Club card to use. But, I was able to call around and use someone else's Sam's Club Card!”

Malasher had a great network of people to rely on and states that she could not have accomplished all of the things she did without that support.