

Honors Program

Jasmine Rachele

Submitted by Melanie Eckford-Prossor

Jasmine Rachele buries students alive. An Honors Program student Co-President and our 2021-22 Outstanding Student, Jasmine leads a PODS, an Honors mentorship group focused on self-discovery via nature. Burying students in sand, having them say goodbye to the parts of themselves they want to change, and helping them emerge renewed, is typical Jasmine. As Co-President, she runs our social media and marketing, despite a heavy academic load and acting in *The Wolves*. Honors faculty note that Jasmine truly forges her own educational path. An original, iconoclastic thinker, refusing acquiescence to discussions or ideas until she thoroughly considers them, she transforms all classes she attends. She's also a deeply talented writer and musician: we could not be prouder to celebrate Jasmine!

Jasmine's Words of Gratitude

I deeply appreciate this award. The Honors Program has consistently been my favorite part of Santa Barbara City College, and it has been such an honor being and working in it this year. The program is made so special by all my brilliant fellow students, our amazing professors, and a dedicated, thoughtful Director of the Honors Program. I am entirely grateful that I had the opportunity to work alongside Dr. Melanie Eckford-Prossor during her last year as Director. Although I know she will excel in her new job, the program will not be the same without her. I modeled my presidency after her, which is perhaps why I am even receiving this award. She demonstrates trust so that we, students, are involved and have a say in our education and overall experience at SBCC and in the Honors Program. She encourages us to explore and pursue new and adventurous ideas, all while keeping us in check and holding us accountable. Honors classes require a real commitment and in return are engaging and challenging in the best way possible. As an Honors student and Co-President this year, I have highly valued community and collaboration. I have loved exploring

ideas with my classmates, as well as exploring ideas and nature outside of the classroom with my Nature POD. Meaningful relationships and trust were two of the main things that came out of the year– made very easy by the array of magnificent students. Working alongside my wonderful Co-Presidents, Sage Holter and Rawle Paul has also definitely been a highlight of my year. Sage has contributed her time and wonderful ideas to the program, the Honors Magazine, and her Compassion POD, while Rawle has organized and held some great events– such as Tea With a Professor– and led the Outdoor Adventure POD. I am thrilled that two active, core members of the Honors Program and the PODS will be the Co-Presidents of the Honors Program next year, as I know they will do a fabulous job!