



Editor: Rachel Baugh

Photo Credit: Erin Smith

Happy Holidays from Aspirnaut™

We have extraordinary successes from 2024 to share. While holiday lights twinkle outside, something even more magical glimmers in the aspirations and dreams of our students. Your support helps make dreams come true!

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QuestBridge Finalists and Matches

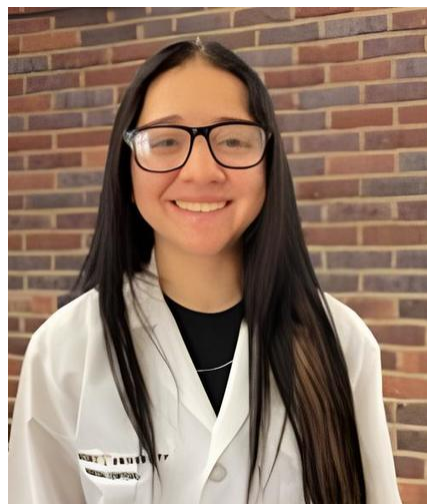
In an unprecedented result for Aspirnaut™, **SIX** Aspirnaut™ Lu-Springer Research Scholars were selected as Questbridge National College Match finalists. Congratulations to **Fadumo Ahmed, Paden Bennett, Angel Chang, Abbie Grant, Emmanuel Rodriquez, and Raymond Zhang**. And, **THREE** of these students matched!! QuestBridge connects exceptional youth to selective colleges or universities and provides full, four-year scholarships plus expenses to QuestBridge college partners.

- **Fadumo Ahmed** is a 2024 Aspirnaut™ participant from Lewiston, Maine, and matched at **Johns Hopkins University**.
- **Paden Bennett** is a 2024-2025 member of the Aspirnaut™ Chemical Biology Lab at Wynne High School. Paden is from Wynne, Arkansas, and was a **QuestBridge National Match Finalist**. She received an offer of admission at Case Western Reserve University and awaits other decisions.

- **Angel Chang** is a 2024 Aspirnaut™ participant from Saint Paul, Minnesota, and is a **QuestBridge National Match Finalist**. She received several admission offers and awaits other decisions.
- **Abbie Grant** is a 2024 Aspirnaut™ participant from Burlington, Vermont, and is a **QuestBridge National Match Finalist**. She awaits decisions from multiple universities.
- **Emmanuel Rodriguez** is a 2024 Aspirnaut™ participant from Houston, Texas, and matched at **Vanderbilt University**.
- **Raymond Zhang** is a two-time Aspirnaut™ participant and a member of the 2024-2025 Aspirnaut™ Chemical Biology Lab at Wynne High School. He is from Wynne, Arkansas, and matched at **Vanderbilt University**.



Fadumo Ahmed
Lewiston High School
Johns Hopkins University



Paden Bennett
Wynne High School
QuestBridge Finalist



Angel Chang
Hmong College Prep Academy
QuestBridge Finalist



Abbie Grant
Burlington High School
QuestBridge Finalist



Emmanuel Rodriguez
YES Prep West High School
Vanderbilt University



Raymond Zhang
Wynne High School
Vanderbilt University

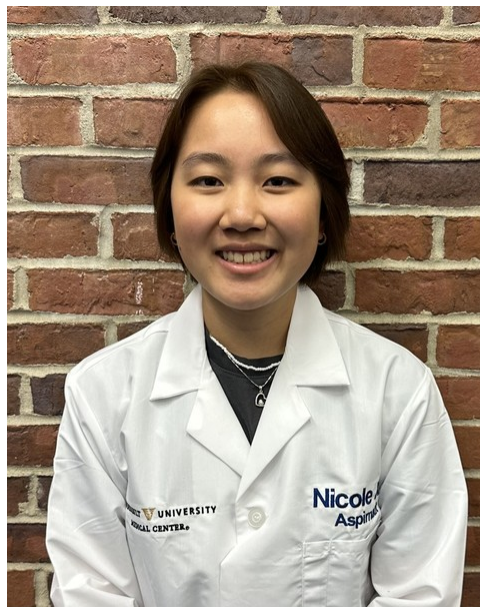
College Early Acceptance

Congratulations to **Evelyn Prudenciano** and **Nicole Xie**, who received notification about early college acceptance. Evelyn was a 2024 Aspirnaut™ participant and was accepted to **Johns**

Hopkins University. Nicole was a 2023 Aspirnaut participant and was accepted to Vanderbilt University.



Evelyn Prudenciano
YES Prep West High School
Johns Hopkins University



Nicole Xie
Burlington High School
Vanderbilt University

December College Graduations

Congratulations to **Mariham Mousa** and **J'Kayla Thomas**!

- **Mariham Mousa** was a 2019 Aspirnaut™ participant and graduated from Lipscomb University with degrees in biology and philosophy and a minor in chemistry.
- **J'Kayla Thomas** was a 2019 Aspirnaut™ participant and graduated from the University of Central Arkansas with a degree in computer science.



Mariham Mousa
Lipscomb University



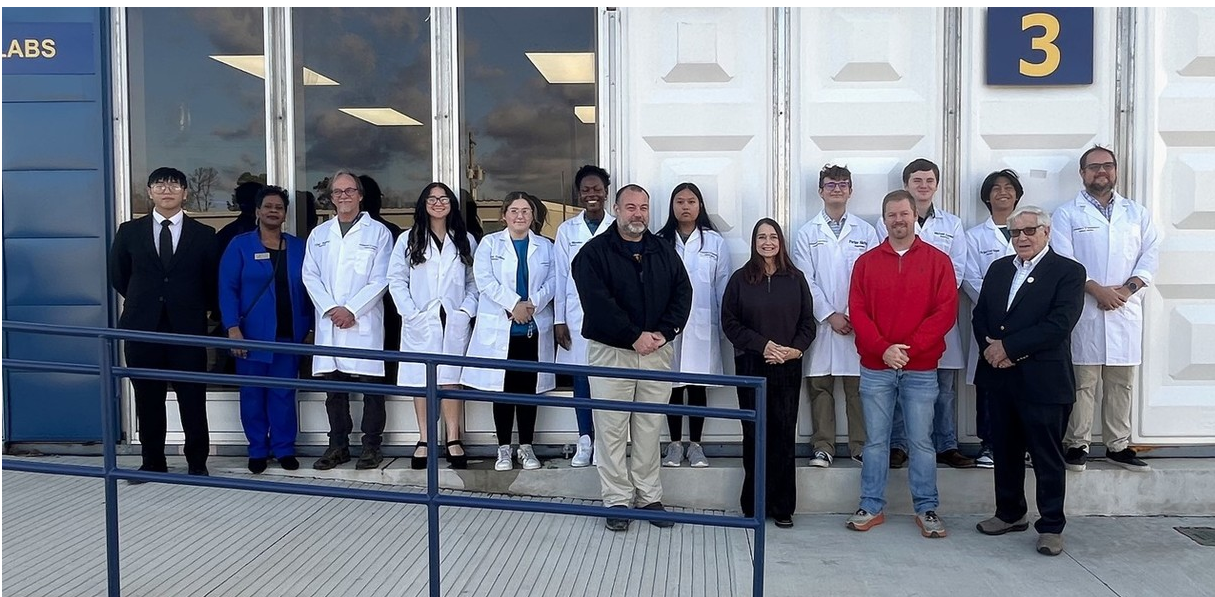
J'Kayla Thomas
University of Central Arkansas

UPDATE: Aspirnaut™ Discovery Science Pipeline in the Arkansas Delta

On December 18th, 2024, members of the Aspirnaut™ Chemical Biology Lab at Wynne High School received their white coats. Members of the lab were joined by family, science teachers Clay Spann and Adam Goins, district superintendent Dr. Kenneth Moore, high school principal Dusty Meek, federal programs director Dr. Sandra Smith, gifted and talented coordinator Holly Melton, and co-founders Drs. Billy and Julie Hudson.

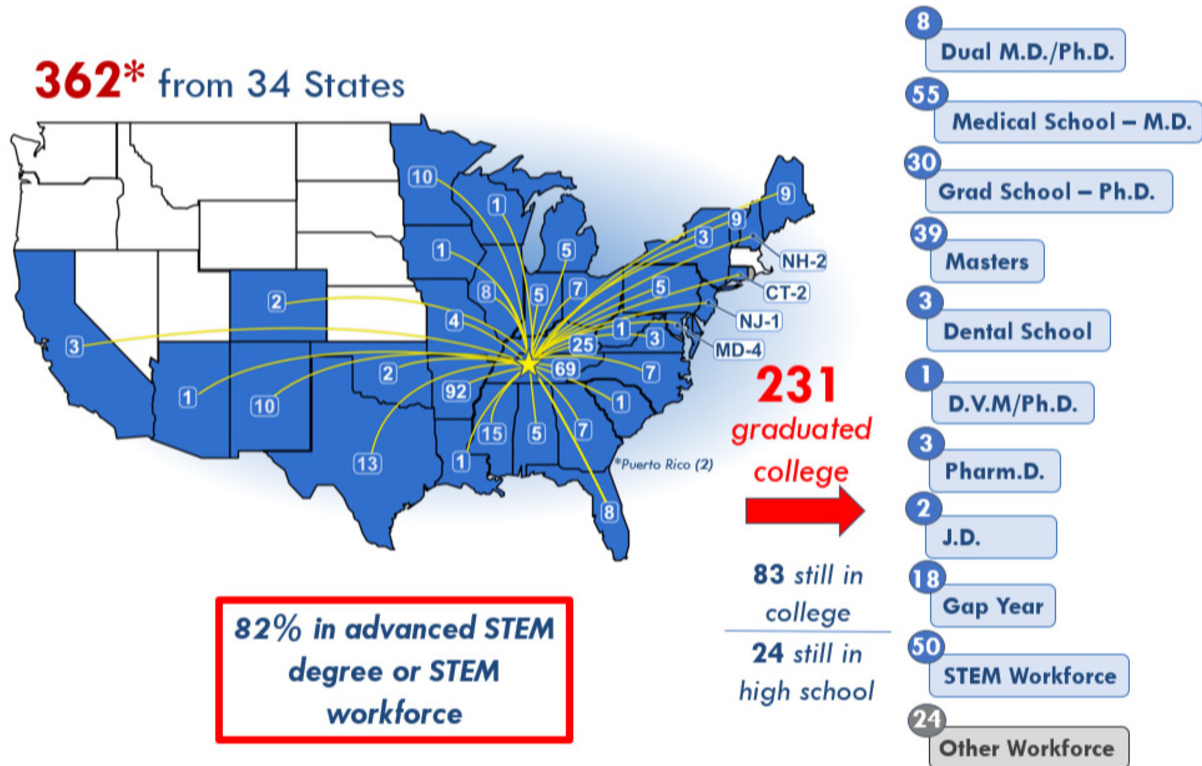
Students and teachers engage in discovery science on diabetes in collaboration with scientists from Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Students enroll in a weighted course in chemical biology at the school as part of the experience. Through donor support, the lab is equipped with state-of-the-art technologies.

Congratulations to all 14 students who are part of the inaugural research team!



2024 Review : Updated Data

16 YEARS OF SUCCESS



2025 Application is OPEN! **Deadline: January 15, 2025**

We are accepting applications for Lu-Springer High School Research Scholars and Undergraduate Aspirnaut™ Summer Research Internships. Recruitment of participants includes those from rural areas and those who identify as underrepresented in the biomedical, clinical, behavioral and social sciences. We are looking for students who have achieved excellent grades and test scores in math and science and who have demonstrated a commitment to pursuing a career in a STEM field.

To learn more about the high school program, Click [HERE](#)

To learn more about the undergraduate program, Click [HERE](#)

Social Media

We are increasing our presence on social media to keep you updated on all things Aspirnaut™. Be sure to follow Aspirnaut™ on Facebook and Instagram.

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If you are interested in getting involved or sponsoring an Aspirnaut™ experience, please contact Rachel Baugh at rachel.baugh@aspirnaut.org.

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