



CHANGEBUILDERS

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Four students selected as 2022 Changebuilder Scholars by nonprofit higher education coalition, Engage NJ*

At a recognition ceremony in Trenton last week, four college students from Drew University, Stockton University, and William Paterson University, were awarded the prestigious Changebuilders Scholars Award with Engage NJ. Each Changebuilder campus is allocated \$1,000 to be awarded each year.

**Antoinette Arce** graduated in January as a Public Relations major at William Paterson University. Ms Arce gave significant time to build the impact of WP's pantry. Many students shared that the groceries and supplies significantly helped them financially with remaining in college. As a Changebuilder, Antoinette has become skilled in effective communication and in leading projects. Her experiences will carry her well toward her desired career in higher education Student Affairs.

**Azra Mahisa** is a criminal justice major at Stockton University. Ms. Mahisa showed a great spirit of collaboration, hard work, and respect for those she engaged with at the South Jersey Horse Rescue. Her commitment to expertise is clearly demonstrated in her role as secretary of the Criminal Justice Society at Stockton. Azra is targeting Homeland Security to help immigrants arriving to the US.

**Betsy Essien** is a neuroscience major at Drew University. Originally from Ghana, Ms. Essien spent the last year leading both local and international community projects. Locally, Betsy tutored at the Morristown Neighborhood house and ran food donation drives. Internationally, she ran several projects in Ghana and Ukraine, including with First Love which allowed Betsy to help children who are either in hospital or without homes. Essien has become skilled in working with people from diverse backgrounds and age ranges, has developed significant project management and leadership abilities. Her love of children is reflected not only in her community projects but also in her career goal of becoming a pediatric neurosurgeon.

**Ciara Lyons** is an anthropology major and an International Relations minor at Drew University. During some of Covid's most difficult periods for many people, Ms Lyons dedicated her spare time to tackling food insecurity in Drew's surrounding communities. Also, she and members of her softball team wrote letters to isolated people in nursing homes. Ciara's interest in a future career in environmental justice drew her to the Great Watershed Association, where she developed competencies in analyzing the intersections between many social and environmental issues.



## ABOUT US

Engage NJ is a nonprofit higher education presidents' coalition representing 2-year, 4-year, public and private member institutions. Engage NJ is a collaborative force in equipping and empowering campuses to foster competencies that advance democracy and enable students to thrive in 21<sup>st</sup> century life and work.

Entering Changebuilders' fifth year, Engage NJ and our partners are dramatically increasing opportunities for college-going students of all backgrounds to develop 21<sup>st</sup> century skills while engaging with issue-driven projects in communities. To date, there have been over 5,000 students who have positively changed their communities as *Changebuilders*. For more information, or for interview, please contact executive director Dr. Saul Petersen at [saul@engagenj.org](mailto:saul@engagenj.org)

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