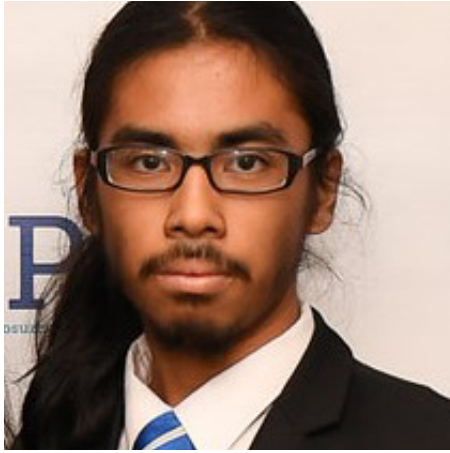




2021 High School Graduates

NJ LEEP Class of 2021



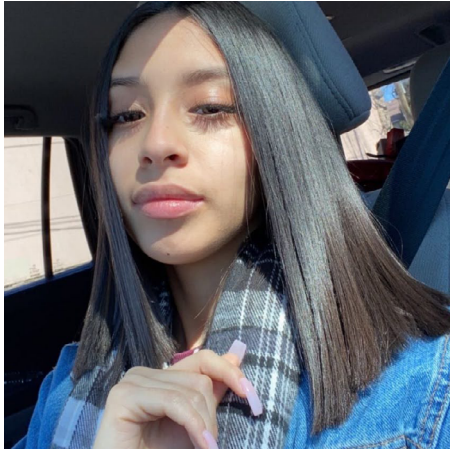
Janic Aguirre, Yale University

"NJ LEEP has helped me develop a stronger academic voice. Through NJ LEEP, I gained confidence in reading and writing, which will help me in every situation I will come across."



Anthony Apantenco, Syracuse University

"At the start of high school, I feared failure. Through NJ LEEP, I learned that failure is part of the process of growth. My peers and I learned to step out of our comfort zone and accomplish our own goals. I am confident that the skills I have gained have successfully prepared me for college, work and life."



Alexandra Barbaran, Rutgers University-Newark

"I am different from when I started because I have developed a professional and mature side of myself. I will not give up on my future goals and I am not afraid to speak publicly or to others."



Beatriz Blanco, Wake Forest University

"NJ LEEP has given me more confidence. I am someone that my younger self can be proud of. The community is my favorite part because it made me feel welcome and like a part of a family."



Carla Blanco, Wake Forest University

“My favorite thing is the people and environment at NJ LEEP, which helped me to push myself out of my comfort zone. Because of NJ LEEP, I got into my top choice college!”



Daniela Calderon, Montclair State University

“NJ LEEP helped me grow by pushing me to challenge myself no matter where I am at in life. Because of NJ LEEP, I will be going to Montclair State University on two great scholarships!”



Leonardo Cruz, College of the Holy Cross

“While I’ve always held the potential to achieve greatness, NJ LEEP has helped pave the path to success. The community we have created is beyond a group of friends with similar goals. We are a family in pursuit of success.”



Leina Delma, Rutgers University-Newark

“NJ LEEP helped me become more resilient. My favorite thing about NJ LEEP is that we are such a community. The staff care a lot for us.”



Lucas Estevis, Rutgers University-Newark

"Because of NJ LEEP, I learned how to tackle real world problems. My favorite thing about NJ LEEP is the family I have built here."



Troye Fernandez, Middlebury College

"NJ LEEP gave me the support system I needed to drive myself forward. Because of NJ LEEP, I am going to the college of my dreams."



Nicole Giao, Drew University

"I wouldn't be who I am today without them. NJ LEEP has helped me grow in such a beautiful way. NJ LEEP and its community of people introduced me to a whole new world. A world where there are people who care about us and want to see us succeed. This community showed me the importance of SELF and gave me the space to be just me. And I could never thank them enough."



Richard Gual, Jr., The College of New Jersey

"My favorite thing about NJ LEEP is how they have become my second family. They helped me learn how to be more open and how to voice my opinion."



Ramon Jack, Drew University

"Sophomore year, I met someone special, my Mentor Steve. Words simply cannot express my deepest appreciation to him for always encouraging me, calling me, giving me advice, and directing me in the right path. He helped me grow into my potential and I would not be where I am today without him."



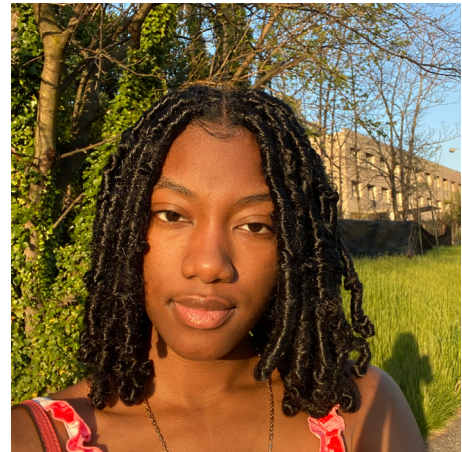
Cedric Jeudy, Rowan University

"NJ LEEP helped me learn how to speak confidently. My favorite thing about NJ LEEP is the sense of family and community that is present whenever I am in the building."



Shantreea Johnson, Bowie State University

"NJ LEEP has helped me grow by teaching me how to network and enhance my communication skills. I am more confident when I introduce myself, especially when I am telling others about my skills and goals."



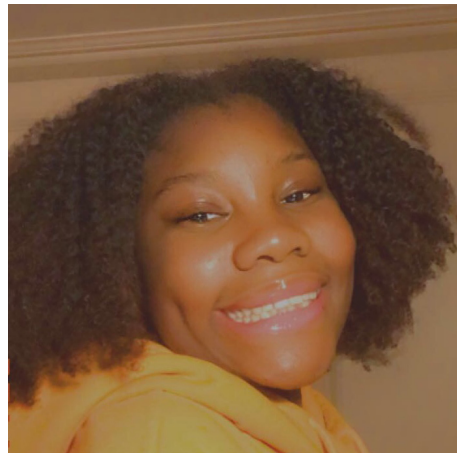
Asianna Kennedy, Boston College

"NJ LEEP's immense support has helped me blossom into a confident, intelligent Black woman. I can compare my growth to the growth of a plant. When I started, I was merely a seed. With positive support and everlasting love, I continued to grow. As I sprouted, I was introduced to more opportunities and resources that enabled me to blossom. Because of NJ LEEP, I can proudly say that I will be a successful young lady."



Jason Kusi, Marymount University

"NJ LEEP helped me overcome my fear of college through instilling hard work and dedication. Because of NJ LEEP, I am able to say that I am ready for college!"



Ashley Lindore, William Paterson University

"Because of NJ LEEP, I am able to speak in a public setting and I am comfortable networking. My favorite part of NJ LEEP is the bonding experiences we have every year to feel closer to my peers and the staff."



Alisson Lopez, Rutgers University-Newark

"Because of NJ LEEP, I am more confident about my future. I have a support system and I do not have to struggle alone. The support of the staff was pivotal in my growth throughout high school. I learned how to respect myself and the world around me thanks to the many mentors I've had. The community is truly wonderful. We all blend together to create a welcoming and loving environment."



Cielo Marrero, Monmouth University

"NJ LEEP helped me mature in every way possible. They have been a helping hand through the whole high school experience. Because of NJ LEEP, I will be the first one in my family to graduate from college in the US."



Cларыssa Martinez, The College of New Jersey

"NJ LEEP helped me in so many ways to become the young lady I am today. My favorite thing was being able to intern at major companies. These internships taught me how to network, learn about the legal field, and practice legal research. I am that generation that will influence and change the world!"



Daniela Montero, The College of New Jersey



Alyssa Morales, Lehigh University

"Because of NJ LEEP I no longer limit myself or my aspirations because of what might happen. They helped me realize that my dream of becoming a social justice lawyer is possible. My favorite thing is the community because no matter what, academically or personally, I can always rely on them to help me pick myself back up."



Nancy Oliveira, Drew University

"Throughout the past few years I have had the privilege of knowing and developing strong bonds with the most amazing, determined and brightest individuals who constantly inspire me to become a better version of myself. By being a part of this family, I have seen my colleagues flourish and achieve greatness. Because of NJ LEEP, I am now determined to inspire and help others."



Victoria Reghitto, Kean University

“My favorite part of NJ LEEP are the people who are always there for me if I ask for help.”



Leah Rego, Rutgers University-New Brunswick

“NJ LEEP students understand each other’s struggles, and are close because of it. It not only makes students feel as though they’re in a comfortable environment, but in an environment where they can be happy and bond with students with similar interests. Because of NJ LEEP I know that I will succeed.”



Yasmin Rodriguez, Rutgers University-Newark

“NJ LEEP has helped me find my voice. I am able to motivate myself to achieve what I thought I was not capable of. Because of NJ LEEP, I believe I can succeed. We are all one huge family and I wouldn’t ask for anything else.”



Liliana Sanchez, Harvard University

“As a young, Hispanic woman in this society, I am often told words of doubt. NJ LEEP taught me to pay no mind to those stereotypes and to forge a path for which I can succeed. They helped me believe in myself. NJ LEEP works tirelessly to make sure that students have everything we need to succeed.”



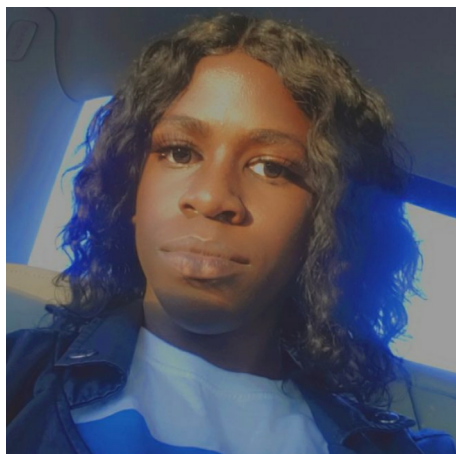
Gary Sancho

"Everyone here is like a family and we help each other out. When I first started I wasn't motivated. I was struggling in my classes, especially in grammar and English. I have matured as a person and NJ LEEP helped show me the potential I have. Because of NJ LEEP I will be successful in the future and I will give back to the NJ LEEP community all they have given me."



Elizette Santana, Williams College

"Because of NJ LEEP, I have been able to achieve many of the things that I thought were unattainable for me. Whether I was having academic or personal problems, I always knew that there would be someone at NJ LEEP who I could talk to and find the much needed support I was looking for."



Courtnee Simpson, The College of New Jersey

"NJ LEEP has helped me grow by allowing me to improve my writing and public speaking skills, and allowed me to understand what career path I want to pursue. I am grateful to have been part of a new supportive family. NJ LEEP has and continues to set students up for a better future."



Camila Villa, The College of New Jersey

"I have more confidence in myself than before. NJ LEEP helped me learn that I am a strong woman and can accomplish whatever I put my mind to."

Get Involved!



Help students revise or create resumes
and prepare for interviews

Speak to students about your career

Coach debate students to prepare them
for their oral arguments

Hire our alumni

Serve as an Attorney Mentor

Host students at your office

njleep.org/volunteer

Stay Connected!

Check out the videos below to learn more about the amazing people in our community!



N 2020 Stories - Nadirah

2020 Stories:
Meet Nadirah



N NJ LEEP Students Share their COVID-19

NJ LEEP Students Share
COVID-19 Stories



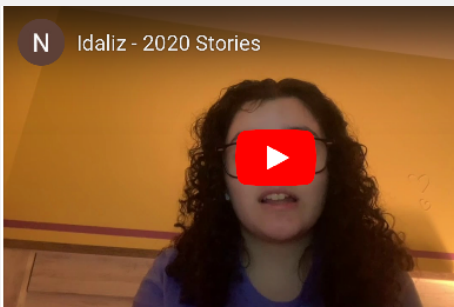
N 2020 Stories - Meet Jeffrey

2020 Stories:
Meet Jeffrey



N Why I Give

2020 Stories:
Why I Give



N Idaliz - 2020 Stories

2020 Stories:
Meet Idaliz



N 2020 Student Stories - Cielo

2020 Stories:
Meet Cielo