

It is with great pleasure that we write to you today to nominate Emily Starkey for the 2022 NASS John Lewis Youth Leadership Award. We believe that Emily is an excellent choice for this award because she is an accomplished, well-rounded full-time college student who leads by example and works tirelessly to contribute to and improve her community.

Emily was a 2019 graduate from Ravenna High School located in Ravenna, OH. Emily graduated with Honors as a Top 10 Senior and was third in her class with a 3.98 GPA. Outside of the classroom, she served as the Class of 2019 Secretary for four years, was a member of Student Council for four years and was elected as Vice President for two years. She also served as Vice President of the National Honor Society for two years and was a member of the Varsity Academic Challenge team. Emily played varsity soccer and softball earning eight varsity letters and eight scholar-athlete awards for academic and athletic excellence. Emily was a 2018 Buckeye Girls State Delegate and attended the week-long camp the summer before her senior year. During high school, Emily logged over 150 hours of community service at University Hospitals Portage Medical Center and volunteered at the Coleman Services Geriatric Day Center where she read and played games with the patients. During her senior year, Emily helped implement a food cupboard at Ravenna High School and coordinated donations for Ravens Packs, a program that provides weekend food for students in need.

After high school, Emily decided to continue her education at The University of Akron (UA) where she is now a Junior Honors student studying Criminology and Criminal Justice with a minor in Business Administration. During her time at UA, Emily has been actively involved in Undergraduate Student Government where she has served as the Chief Justice of the Judicial Branch for three years, where she works with her branch members to adjudicate parking appeals issued on campus. Emily serves as an Akron Delegate for the Ohio Student Government Association. She is the President of the Criminal Justice Association, Secretary of Recruitment for the UA Ambassadors, a member of the Akron Theta Circle, a member of Zips Recruiting Club, and a Spring 2022 Life as a Zip Team Member. Emily has been a student representative on both University Council and Faculty Senate which work closely with faculty and staff to address issues and advocate for change around campus. Emily is an Honors Scholar in the Williams Honors College and serves as an Honors Delegate helping with Honors activities and events. Emily was recently appointed as a student member of the Student Conduct and Community Standards Hearing Board and sits in on student conduct hearings for the university. Currently, Emily is a part of the South of Exchange Safety Project Team where she is doing research on how to keep campus safe in response to recent events that have occurred in the area South of Exchange Street. Through this project, Emily works closely with the university administration and the President of UA to implement more effective safety measures on and around campus. During her time at The University of Akron, Emily has been named to the President's List for four consecutive semesters for maintaining a 4.0 GPA and named to the Dean's List one semester for receiving at least a 3.5 GPA.