

# MEET OUR BECKMAN SCHOLARS

Introducing our 2023-2024 cohort

**The OSU Beckman Scholars Program (BSP) is thrilled to announce our first-ever Beckman Scholars!** OSU received a highly-selective Beckman Scholars Program award in 2023 from the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation. OSU BSP is for highly motivated undergraduates in chemistry, biochemistry, biology, physiology, physics, and microbiology who are pursuing doctoral-level degrees. Scholars receive research mentorship, leadership training, and a \$21,000 award. OSU BSP will select two scholars each year through 2025.

**Adriahna Blackburn** is a rising sophomore majoring in Microbiology and Molecular Genetics with a Pre-Med concentration from Nardin, OK. Adriahna started her research journey in high school and selected OSU for its many research opportunities. She looks forward to growing as a leader and researcher through OSU BSP. Adriahna's mentor is Dr. Matt Cabeen (Microbiology and Molecular Genetics). Her project "Assessing the molecular roles of XerC and PrtR in non-canonical pyocin production in *P. aeruginosa*" aims to understand the mechanism of non-canonical pyocin production by strains of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* that are used to kill different strains of the same species. Beyond research, Adriahna is the Volunteer Chair for the Asian American Student Association and a Coordinator for Operation Catnip Stillwater.

**Nina Parvin** is a rising junior majoring in Physics and Mechanical Engineering from Beggs, OK. Nina is excited to begin her research journey as an OSU Beckman Scholar. She looks forward to expanding her knowledge of material science through research and learning from her mentor, Dr. Mario Borunda (Physics) and fellow team members. Through her project "Understanding the radiation tolerance of perovskite materials to increase their stability," Nina will perform density functional theory calculations to rate the materials' properties, such as the energy needed from radiation to damage them and the stability of defects near water molecules. Outside of research, Nina is active in the Society of Women Engineers, is a club representative for Transitioning Equity and Diversity into Engineering (TEDE) and enjoys painting and dog training.

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