

## Honors Program

Selected Student: Zoe Donnenfield

Submitted by: Melanie Eckford-Prossor

The Honors Program celebrates Zoe Donnenfield. Zoe's dedication to the Honors Program and to our local environment exceeds her excellent record as a student. Zoe's unconventional path to school includes two years working as a professional ballet dancer, which she left to stretch her mind in college. At SBCC, her desire to embrace criticism and persist with difficult material makes her a standout student. As one of three Honors Program Co-Presidents, Zoe admirably led her student mentees, gathering them pre-COVID for tree plantings and now guiding them through a novel about trees. That adaptability, that dedication to the lives of others, that focus on actions that improve the world typifies Zoe. Honors has not a doubt that she will continue to hone and deepen her considerable abilities.

### Zoe's Words of Gratitude:

I am so humbled by this award. I have loved my time here at CC, and it was especially rewarding due to the Honors Program. I admire the commitment of the Honors students, their passion to learn, and support they have for each other in this incredible academic program. I am so proud to have had the opportunity to represent those students as one of the Honors Co-Presidents. I'd also like to thank Professor Melanie Eckford-Prossor, because as the Honors Program Director (my boss) and professor, I have gained not only so much more knowledge, but a lifelong mentor. She always says "Honors students aren't born, they decide when they want to do more." This is why the motto is "Expect more. Be more." I didn't know if I had what it took to be an Honors student, but I'm so glad I pushed myself to join despite my reservations and doubts in myself. I would not have had as great of a college experience, had as many opportunities, or made many of the life long friendships I have now, had it not been for Honors.

The Honors program is so much more than an academic organization offered at CC, it's a place to grow, connect, question, and push conceptual boundaries. But most importantly, it's a community, and it's one I am beyond grateful to have been a part of.