

For Immediate Release

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The Connecticut Chapter of the American Institute of Architects Announces the 2025 Rising Black Architectural Student Scholarship Awardees

(New Haven, CT, August 4, 2025) The Connecticut Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA Connecticut) recently announced four recipients of the 2025 Rising Black Architectural Student Scholarships.

The scholarship program was developed to grant scholarships to deserving Black/African American students pursuing degrees in Architectural Programs and provide opportunities for more diverse voices across the entire architectural, engineering, and construction industry.

According to the 2020 census, nearly 11% of Connecticut's population identify as Black/African American. Of the 4,641 licensed architects in the state, fewer than 30 are of Black or African American descent. In developing this program, it is our hope that it will also incentivize the recipients to begin their architectural careers in the state of Connecticut.

2025-26 Awardees



Eden Edghill, Wentworth Institute of Technology

Eden Edghill is a graduate student at the Wentworth Institute of Technology. Over the past three years, Eden has worked at a small architectural firm in Cambridge, MA, alongside undergraduate studies—an experience that provided meaningful insight into the professional practice of architecture. Through four years of undergraduate education and studio coursework, Eden developed a strong creative foundation grounded in practical design knowledge.

More recently, Eden joined an interior architecture and design firm in Providence, RI, further expanding their understanding of the field from an interior perspective. For the master's thesis, Eden plans to continue focusing on residential design while exploring the potential of non-traditional manufacturing techniques, such as CNC milling, to enhance both design and construction efficiency.



Jephthe Labonte, University of Hartford

Jephthe Labonte is a rising third-year architecture student with a deep passion for design that began during freshman year of high school. Inspired by the transformative power of architecture to shape the built environment, Jephthe has pursued this interest with dedication and purpose.

As a first-generation college student from an immigrant household, Jephthe is driven by a strong desire to honor their family's sacrifices through both academic and personal achievement.

Jephthe is continuing the journey toward a Master of Architecture, with the long-term goal of becoming a licensed architect. Along the way, involvement in organizations such as the Honor Society and the NAACP has helped foster leadership skills and a commitment to community. Jephthe is honored to receive this scholarship and looks forward to the opportunities that lie ahead.



Johnathan Lyn, University of Hartford

Johnathan Lyn is a dedicated and versatile emerging professional with hands-on experience in both the architecture and construction industries. His academic journey reflects a strong commitment to becoming a well-rounded designer, combining rigorous coursework with practical application. Johnathan earned his Bachelor of Architecture and Technology (Magna Cum Laude) from the University of Hartford, where he is currently enrolled in an accelerated Master of Architecture program. His academic excellence is recognized through numerous honors,

including the President's List, Dean's List, Honor Roll, and membership in the Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society.

Originally from Jamaica, Johnathan graduated from St. George's College in Kingston, where he was awarded the physics prize. His discipline and determination extend beyond academics—he is an award-winning swimmer and triathlete who has represented Jamaica in both sports on the international stage.

Professionally, Johnathan has held roles that span architectural design and construction management. His experience includes serving as a Project Management Intern at Consigli Construction (2024), an Intern at Virtuoso Architect Ltd (2021), and a Project Officer at ADON Solutions Ltd (2020–2021). These roles have sharpened his project coordination skills and deepened his understanding of the built environment from multiple perspectives.

Johnathan's achievements have been recognized with several prestigious awards and scholarships, including the UH President's Scholarship, the Mirsky Scholarship, the Rising Black Student Architect/Designer Scholarship (2024–2026), and the Fredrick J. Mahaffey Memorial Architecture Scholarship (2025). He also holds OSHA 10 Certification, further demonstrating his readiness for real-world challenges in the field. Known for his time management, adaptability, and collaborative spirit, Johnathan continues to grow as both a student and a leader in the architectural profession.



Isaiah Solis, Pratt Institute School of Architecture

Isaiah Solis is a rising fifth-year student at Pratt Institute's School of Architecture. Originally from Danbury, Connecticut, Isaiah attended Henry Abbott Technical High School, where he studied Mechanical Design and Engineering Technology. There, he developed a strong foundation in design principles and fabrication processes. While he appreciated the precision of technical drafting, Isaiah sought a more expansive and expressive design discipline—which led him to architecture.

At Pratt Institute, Isaiah found an environment that nurtured his multidisciplinary interests. Immersed in an art and design culture, he began exploring adjacent fields such as digital fabrication, industrial design, interior design, experiential design, film, graphic design, and technology. His diverse skill set and collaborative mindset have enabled him to work across disciplines, supporting peers and professionals in realizing a wide range of design projects.

Isaiah's academic and professional experiences have placed him at the intersection of creativity and technical expertise, where he thrives. He is deeply grateful for the support of his community and the recognition and sponsorship provided by AIA Connecticut, which continues to propel him forward in his architectural journey.

About AIA Connecticut:

AIA Connecticut, a statewide chapter of the American Institute of Architects, serves the architectural profession, encourages design excellence, and works to improve society through a concern for the quality of the built and natural environments. Members commit themselves to the highest standards of practice and code of ethics that addresses responsibilities to the public, clients, the building industry, and the art and science of architecture.

AIA Connecticut serves as a resource to architects and the public. Its membership of over 1,500 is comprised of architects, associates working towards licensure, students, and professionals in affiliated fields.

For more information, visit AIA Connecticut's website at www.aiact.org