

Brayan Ruiz Lopez '24



Brayan is serving St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM) as the Student Trustee for the 2022-2023 academic year and is passionate about helping fellow students succeed in their academic, personal, and professional pursuits. As a DeSousa-Brent scholar, he is an active SMCM community member and is pursuing a degree in Neuroscience.

Brayan's leadership and dedication to empowering student success led to his appointment as the Co-Chair of the 2022 Strategic Planning Committee *Pillar B: Empower All Students for Success*. The committee is focused on identifying individualized measures of success that consider the diverse population of students at SMCM. Brayan has emphasized the importance of institutional support that is personalized, flexible, equitable, and inclusive to help students achieve their academic and personal goals.

Brayan is a McNair Scholar working alongside scholars nationwide to identify ways to increase the number of first-generation, low-income, and/or underrepresented students in Ph.D. programs.

He is a member of the prestigious National Society of Neuroscience (Nu Rho Psi) and is doing extensive research on the molecular mechanisms involved in neurogenesis under the guidance of Dr. Latchney, a Biology and Neuroscience faculty member at SMCM. Brayan joined the St. Mary's Research Fellows in 2022 and has represented St. Mary's in conferences at the University of Maryland and the global professional Society of Neuroscience (SfN) at Washington, D.C.

Outside of his academic commitments, he has been involved in various clubs and organizations on campus. He served as the president of the PreHealth Club, which aims to help students prepare for careers in healthcare. He is a member of the student investment group and the Asian Pacific-Islander American Club. He also coordinates the Peer Academic Success Strategies (PASS) Specialists at the Office of Student Success at SMCM, where he helps students navigate academic challenges and achieve success. Additionally, Brayan has contributed to organizing the Southern Maryland Brain Bee event, which aims to promote interest in neuroscience among high school students in the region.