

### **In 7 Years, TWO President's Medalists and FIVE Dean's Medalists**

TRIO Student Support Services Veterans is a Special Program that over the last 7 years, TWO participants have been recognized with Fresno State's Top Academic Award or "TOP DOG" (#1 Top Academic Award from Undergraduate class of approximately 5,125 students)

<https://today.fresnostate.edu/fresno-state-celebrates-more-than-6000-graduates-at-2025-commencement-ceremonies/>

1. Frederick Lisitsa, President's Medalist (2025)/Dean's Medalist (2025)
2. Natalie Allison, Dean's Medalist (2023)
3. Rebekah Moses, Dean's Medalist (2022)
4. James Tovar, Dean's Medalist (2021)
5. Patrick Galindo, President's Medalist (2018)/Dean's Medalist (2018)



## Patrick Galindo, 2018 President's Medalist

"I chose to pursue the field of Social Work because, much like the U.S. Marine Corps, it is a helping profession. I figure a lot of kids out there in the community need a role model and as a social worker, our job is to alleviate problems for our clients."

**Patricio Galindo**  
2018 Undergraduate Dean's Medalist

**FRESNO STATE**  
College of Health and Human Services



## James Tovar, 2021 Dean's Medalist




*James Roger Tovar III*

### **James Roger Tovar III, Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management**


James Roger Tovar III, of Dos Palos, completed his B.S. in criminology, law enforcement and a minor in aerospace studies, with a 4.0 GPA. Tovar, who has dreamed of becoming an Air Force pilot, enlisted in the military for six years of active duty after high school. He was deployed three times between 2013 and 2016. His experience in the military motivated him to become the first in his family to earn a college degree and work toward his goal of being a commissioned officer. He attended Merced College then transferred to Fresno State where he joined the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps and served as cadet commander this year. At the University, he worked at TRIO Student Support Services — Veterans as a veteran community builder helping students like himself transition from active duty service to being a civilian college student. Tovar has earned a position as a pilot trainee in the U.S. Air Force.

# James Tovar, 2021 Dean's Medalist

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NOTICIAS

**Dean's medalist James Tovar persevered through unprecedented times**

por [María G. Ortiz-Briones](#)

mayo 17, 2021 4:11 p. m. |  [Regale el artículo](#)



James Roger Tovar III not only graduated with his bachelor's degree in criminology Saturday, May 15, but he was also selected as the undergraduate dean's medalist for the Division of Students Affairs and Enrollment Management. As a dean's medalist, Tovar was invited to do a speech which was prerecorded and was shown during the May 15 morning graduation at the university's Bulldog Stadium. María G. Ortiz-Briones [mortizbriones@vidaelvalle.com](mailto:mortizbriones@vidaelvalle.com)





## Rebekah Moses, 2022 Dean's Medalist



Congratulation to the recipient of the Undergraduate Dean's Medalist for the Division of the Student Affairs and Enrollment Management. She is graduating with her Bachelor's in health science with a focus in health administration. Originally from Firebaugh, enlisted in the military after high school in 2001. She served for 8 years as a Hospital Corpsmen 3rd Class. After her honorably discharged, she remains in the Central Valley raising four kids. Moses decides to pursue her education at Fresno City College and transfer to Fresno State in Fall 2020. While at Fresno State, Moses has been an active member of TRIO SSSV, ASL Club, and Hispanic Business Student Association. Moses maintained a 4.0 GPA her entire academic career and hopes to begin her Master's program in Fall 2022 to study public health.





# Natalie Allison, 2023 Dean's Medalist

## Dean's Medalist Recipient

*Natalie K. Allison*



Natalie has earned a bachelor's degree in speech language pathology. A veteran, Natalie joined the US Navy in 2014 as a hospital corpsman, where she underwent extensive training in three specialty schools, studying combat medicine, tactical combat casualty care, emergency medicine, nursing, surgery and preventative medicine. She graduated with honors from each program and obtained a national certification in surgical technology. After earning her associates degree from Campbell University, she was promoted to head surgical technician for oral and maxillofacial surgery at the Naval Medical Center at Camp Lejeune. Natalie was honorably discharged in March 2020 and began classes at Fresno State that fall. In addition to her studies, Natalie participated in Fresno State's TRIO Veterans program, conducted research with the California Health Collaborative and worked with Fresno State's mobile health unit, where she administered COVID-19 and influenza vaccinations. Natalie is currently studying in the speech language pathology graduate program at Fresno State and hopes to work at the Veterans Hospital in Fresno as a speech language pathologist.





## Frederick Lisitsa 2025 Undergraduate Dean's Medalist

### Frederick Mark Lisitsa, Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management



Frederick Mark Lisitsa, of Los Angeles, is a first-generation Ukrainian American and U.S. Navy veteran who earned his B.A. in psychology and minor in philosophy with a 3.8 GPA. After serving as a sonar technician aboard a destroyer — and receiving the Humanitarian Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal and Basic Training Honor Graduate Ribbon — he was medically retired for PTSD and enrolled at Fresno State through the Veterans Education Program. He was encouraged by relatives continuing their studies amid war-torn Ukraine. At Fresno State, Lisitsa was elected executive vice president of Associated Students, Inc., where he helped create a \$40,000 student research grant fund, authored key policy resolutions and launched “Campus Beautification Days” that rallied volunteers to plant nearly 175 trees and restore campus green spaces. He served as president and vice president of the Student Veterans Organization, co-founded the university's new ice hockey club and presented research on civic engagement, misinformation and AI equity at regional and international research conferences. A two-time

President's Service Award honoree and recipient of the division's Achievement of Excellence Award, Lisitsa plans to attend law school and hopes to champion the long-term success of the California State University – the nation's largest university system.




# Frederick Lisitsa 2025 Undergraduate President's Medalist

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## Psychology, speech-language pathology students selected for university's highest academic honors

Frederick Lisitsa and Elise Guerra were awarded Fresno State's top academic honors for the class of 2025.

Chosen from a group of nine Undergraduate Deans' Medalists and nine Graduate Deans' Medalists, they were surprised with the honor during the President's Recognition Reception on Thursday, May 15.

"Congratulations to Frederick and Elise for achieving such iconic levels of excellence," said Fresno State President Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval. "Their lived experiences inspired them to pursue educational paths that uplift our communities. They are shining examples of how a Fresno State degree empowers our talented students to become visionary leaders."

Lisitsa, of Los Angeles, was selected as the President's Undergraduate Medalist, the university's top honor for an undergraduate student. He earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and a minor in philosophy with a 3.8 GPA. He is a first-generation Ukrainian American and U.S. Navy veteran, executive vice president of Associated Students, Inc. and launched Campus Beautification Days that rallied volunteers to plant nearly 175 trees and restore campus green spaces.

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