



| University of New Haven

HENRY C. LEE COLLEGE OF  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND FORENSIC SCIENCES



January 10, 2025

Dear Samanta Villa,

On behalf of Tow Youth Justice Institute, we are thrilled to congratulate you on being selected as the recipient of the Diane Sierpina Award for Passion in Youth Justice Reform this year.

Your dedication to youth justice reform, as reflected in your academic focus and extracurricular involvement, sets you apart as a leader and advocate for meaningful change. Your commitment to advancing youth justice, combined with your strong academic standing and engagement in the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention curriculum, is inspiring.

The selection committee was deeply impressed by your thoughtful personal letter, compelling recommendation, and impressive resume, which collectively underscores your passion for making a difference in the lives of young people. This award celebrates your exceptional drive and the impact you are poised to have on the field of youth justice reform. Your aspiration to attend law school at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and participate in their Juvenile Justice Clinic further solidifies your determination to turn your passion into practice. This next step in your journey promises to deepen your ability to serve as a champion for youth rights and reform.

Congratulations again on this well-deserved recognition. We are excited to see the incredible contributions you will continue to make, both in your academic pursuits and as a champion for youth justice reform. We will be reaching out to you soon to set up a meeting with Diane Sierpina who is excited to meet you!

Congratulations again and please feel free to reach out if we can support you further on your journey.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Erika Nowakowski".

Erika Nowakowski