

# Joanna A. Sanchez

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## EDUCATION

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**University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign** **Start from August 2023**  
*Undergraduate Student at the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, School of Molecular & Cellular Biology*

**Waubonsee Community College** **August 2017 - August 2022**  
*Associate in Applied Science*

**East Aurora High School** **August 2013 - May 2017**  
*Graduated with honors*

## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENT

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**Academic Support Paraprofessional Tutor (biology/anatomy)** **Spring 2023**  
*Waubonsee Community College*

- Providing subject matter expertise and serving as models for students in the techniques, strategies, attitudes, and beliefs of successful learners
- Reviewing class material, discussing problems, reviewing tests, or working on solutions to problems
- Facilitating individual and small group tutoring sessions, and classroom visits

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Student Researcher at Waubonsee Community College** **Fall 2022 - Present**  
Advisor: Professor Sheela Vemu

- Leading the study of the immunogenic regions on the spike glycoproteins of the SARS-CoV-2 variants using the web-based bioinformatics platform Immune Epitope Database (IEDB)
- Optimizing the target antigens' position by developing python scripts, utilizing immune epitope prediction and analysis codes, statistical interpretation of data and creating educational materials
- Mentoring students for their honors project which uses IEDB

*Jatniel Gomez and Chris Salgado (Students at Waubonsee Community College)*

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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**NIIMBL eXperience** **2023**  
*The National Institute in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals*

**First place at the Illinois Water Environment Association Student Poster Competition (Newsletter)** **2023**  
*2023 Illinois Wastewater Professionals Conference*

**The John J. Swalec, Jr. President's Achievement Award** **2019**  
*Waubonsee Community College*

**Phenomenal Woman Award** **2017**  
*"Schekeeta Hart-Burns" Boy's II MEN*

**Junior ROTC Award of Merit** **2017**  
*The Military Order of the World Wars*

## CONFERENCES

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Training the Future of the Bioeconomy: Creating Accessible Research Experiences in Protein Engineering Using the Immune Epitope Database

*Poster presentation at PEGS Boston Summit 2023 Conference - Boston, MA*

**May 17, 2023**

Mapping Immunogenic Regions in SARS-CoV-2 Variants to Understand Vaccine Design Using Bioinformatics Tools

*Podium Session at 2023 John Saragon Albazi Research and Creative Activities Student Symposium  
- Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL*

**Apr 28, 2023**

Mapping Immunogenic Regions in SARS-CoV-2 Variants to Understand PCR Assay Design Using Bioinformatics Tools

*Student poster session at 2023 Illinois Wastewater Professionals Conference - Springfield, IL  
1st place winner*

**Apr 10, 2023**

## CERTIFICATE

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**Junior Deputy Certificate**

*Kane County Sheriff's Office*

**Summer 2016**

## ACTIVITIES

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### Academic

**Student organization MEChA / President, Vice-president, Secretary**

**2019 - 2021**

*Waubonsee Community College*

- Opened a chapter at Waubonsee that advocates for Latino students on campus
- Provided resources and support for students' academic success

**Education Awareness Subteam / Student Leader**

**2017 - 2018**

- Working in ensuring Waubonsee Community College took proactive action to protect DACA/Undocumented students
- Provided interactive ally training for employees at the college, and students

### Community Services

**The Sideline Project / Co-founder**

**2019 - 2021**

- Conducted community events on mental health, academic success, and overall well-being
- Collected data on available scholarships and opportunities for students

**Student Diversity Committee / Student Leader**

**2019 - 2020**

*Waubonsee Community College*

- Curating ideas to improve students experience
- Assisted in organizing student events for Latinx Heritage month

## OUTREACH

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**Good Morning Aurora**

**2020**

- Served as a special guest to speak about my advocacy work and share my story

*Oswego High School*

- Served as a panelist for high school educators to provide guidance in supporting DACA/Undocumented students

**SKILLS**

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**Programs of Use**

Python

C++

HTML

Git

MATLAB

Mathematica

Visual Studio

Microsoft Word

Microsoft Excel

Photoshop

Google Suit

**Languages**

English - Native / Bilingual

Spanish - Native / Bilingual