

# Joanna A. Sanchez

Phone: 630-965-1376 Email: [jsanc221@illinois.edu](mailto:jsanc221@illinois.edu)  
Website: <https://joanna-sanchez.github.io/joanna.sanchez.rocha/>   
Linkedin: [www.linkedin.com/in/joanna-s-248221122](https://www.linkedin.com/in/joanna-s-248221122) 

## EDUCATION

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**University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign** **Start 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 - Present**  
*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*

**Waubonsee Students Recognized on Fall 2020 President's List** **2020**  
*Waubonsee Community College*

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

**Waubonsee Students Recognized on Fall 2017 President's List** **2017**  
*Waubonsee Community College*

<b>Phenomenal Woman Award</b> <i>"Schequeta Hart-Burns" Boy's II MEN</i>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Junior ROTC Award of Merit</b> <i>The Military Order of the World Wars</i>	<b>2017</b>

## CONFERENCES

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<a href="#">Training the Future of the Bioeconomy: Creating Accessible Research Experiences in Protein Engineering Using the Immune Epitope Database</a> <i>Poster presentation at PEGS Boston Summit 2023 Conference - Boston, MA</i>	<b>May 17, 2023</b>
<a href="#">Mapping Immunogenic Regions in SARS-CoV-2 Variants to Understand Vaccine Design Using Bioinformatics Tools</a> <i>Podium Session at 2023 John Saragon Albazi Research and Creative Activities Student Symposium - Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL</i>	<b>Apr 28, 2023</b>
<a href="#">Mapping Immunogenic Regions in SARS-CoV-2 Variants to Understand PCR Assay Design Using Bioinformatics Tools</a> <i>Student poster session at 2023 Illinois Wastewater Professionals Conference - Springfield, IL</i> <i>1st place winner</i>	<b>Apr 10, 2023</b>

## CERTIFICATE

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<b>Junior Deputy Certificate</b> <i>Kane County Sheriff's Office</i>	<b>Summer 2016</b>
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## ACTIVITIES

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### Academic

<b>Student organization MEChA / President, Vice-president, Secretary</b> <i>Waubonsee Community College</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opened a chapter at Waubonsee that advocates for Latino students on campus</li> <li>Provided resources and support for students' academic success</li> </ul>	<b>2019 - 2021</b>
<b>Education Awareness Subteam / Student Leader</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working in ensuring Waubonsee Community College took proactive action to protect DACA/Undocumented students</li> <li>Provided interactive ally training for employees at the college, and students</li> </ul>	<b>2017 - 2018</b>

### Community Services

<b>The Sideline Project / Co-founder</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducted community events on mental health, academic success, and overall well-being</li> <li>Collected data on available scholarships and opportunities for students</li> </ul>	<b>2019 - 2021</b>
<b>Student Diversity Committee / Student Leader</b> <i>Waubonsee Community College</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Curating ideas to improve students experience</li> <li>Assisted in organizing student events for Latinx Heritage month</li> </ul>	<b>2019 - 2020</b>

## OUTREACH

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### Good Morning Aurora

2020

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

### Supporting DACA and Undocumented Students Panelist

2018

*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