

MIT's STARS program aims to expand access to information about MIT's academic opportunities for students from rural and small-town backgrounds



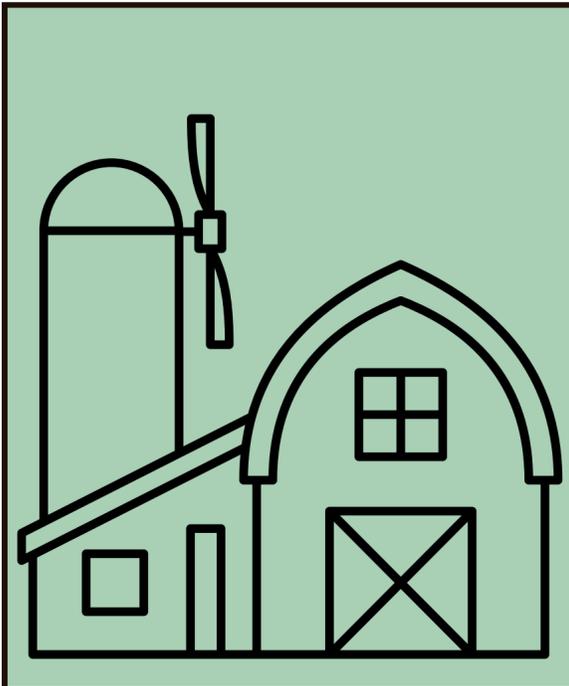
Small-Town & Rural Students (STARS)

Resources

- starscollegenetwork.org
 - STARS College Network
- starscollegenetwork.org/member/massachusetts-institute-of-technology
 - MIT's involvement in STARS
- mitadmissions.org/landing/stars
 - STARS @ MIT Landing Page
- mitadmissions.org/apply/prepare/college-access/
 - Preparing for College @ MIT

Our Initiatives

- Student and Counsellor Fly-in Programs
- Admissions Panels
- Webinar Series
- Campus Preview Weekend Events
- Training, Development, and Outreach Initiatives



“Celebrate that part of your identity, but also embrace everything your new environment has to offer.”



Our 14 Ambassadors for the 2025-2026 school year are from 13 different states!! Their hometowns range from < 1,000 to 75k people. In comparison, San Francisco has a population of over 800k!

MEET THE AMBASSADORS!



Claire Southard

Major: Masters in Music Tech
Hometown: Cape Girardeau, MO

- Teaching Assistant
- Mock Trial
- Wind Ensemble
- Tour Guide

Potato Preference:

Sweet Potato Fries

Favorite MIT Memory:

Playing the piano in the Amazon Rainforest with the MIT Wind Ensemble!

Ellie Bultena

Major: EE + Linguistics (2026)
Hometown: Sublette, KS

- Laptop Ensemble
- Voltage
- Asian Dance Team

Potato Preference:

Aloo Gobi

Favorite MIT Memory:

Interning in Singapore with the MIT Science and Technology Initiative (MISTI)!



Ethan Nguyen

Major: CS, Econ, Business (2026)
Hometown: Farmington, NM

- MIT Men's Tennis
- Undergrad Economics Association

Potato Preference:

Baked Potato

Favorite MIT Memory:

Ring delivery with the Class of 2026, where we received our class rings to mark our MIT halfway point!

Hannah E Rose

Major: Earth & Planetary Science (2026)
Hometown: Coleman, TX

- Men's heavyweight crew
- Orientation Captain
- Pre-Law Society
- Mock Trial

Potato Preference:

Twice-baked potato

Favorite MIT Memory:

Traveling to Providence, Rhode Island and New Rochelle, New York with the Mock Trial team!



Haylea Brock

Major: Environmental Engineering (2027)
Hometown: London, KY

- Terrascope
- Dormitory Council
- Undergrad Association
- Model United Nations

Potato Preference:

Cast-iron fried potatoes

Favorite MIT Memory:

Going to the Esplanade playground with my living group!

Josh Nix

Major: CS & Math (2027)
Hometown: McAlester, OK

- Global Platinum Securities
- Latte Lab
- Phi Kappa Theta

Potato Preference:

Potato Wedges

Favorite MIT Memory:

Spending time with my fraternity at Cape Cod as one of my early outings freshman fall!



Kelsey Woods

Major: CS, Neuroscience, Business (2027)
Hometown: Albany, GA

- Society of Black Engineers
- Black Women's Alliance
- Black Students Union

Potato Preference:

Waffle-cut fries

Favorite MIT Memory:

Attending the two-episode premier event of the Percy Jackson TV series with the Black Women's Alliance!

Kiyoko Hayano

Major: Mechanical Engineering (2028)
Hometown: Powell, WY

- Video Game Orchestra
- Symphony Orchestra
- Wind Ensemble
- Rowing Club

Potato Preference:

Hash Browns

Favorite MIT Memory:

Performing with the Video Game Orchestra at a local porchfest, where we played live mario kart music along to a tournament!



Lanie Dela Pena

Major: Biomedical Engineering (2027)
Hometown: Kingman, AZ

- Assistive Technology
- Undergraduate Association
- First-Gen Low-Income (FLI)
- Associate Advisor

Potato Preference:

In-N-Out Fries

Favorite MIT Memory:

Going to Puerto Rico on spring break for my Terrascope mechanical engineering class!

Lucas Bautista

Major: CS w/ Engineering (2026)
Hometown: Arvin, CA

- Undergraduate Math Association
- web.lab
- Mariachi

Potato Preference:

Potato Wedges

Favorite MIT Memory:

Eating homemade KBBQ with Web Lab staff on retreat!



Ridhima Singh

Major: CS, Econ, Finance (2027)
Hometown: Farragut, TN

- Alpha Chi Omega (AXO)
- South Asian Association
- Undergrad Econ Association
- Tour Guide

Potato Preference:

Waffle-cut fries

Favorite MIT Memory:

Volunteering at the Boston Marathon with my sorority from 4am-10am, then exploring the city and watching the race!

Samantha Phillips

Major: Chemistry (2027)
Hometown: Acton, ME

- Associate Advisor
- Metropolis
- Outing Club
- UROP

Potato Preference:

All of them!

Favorite MIT Memory:

Going ice skating!



Sara Nath

Major: CS & Neuroscience (2028)
Hometown: Union, KY

- Admissions Blogger
- DanceTroupe

Potato Preference:

Waffle-cut fries

Favorite MIT Memory:

Late night talks with roommates!

Truman Remenicky

Major: Physics + Mechanical Engineering (2028)
Hometown: Brewerton, NY

- Swim/dive team
- Roboteam
- Lecture Series Club
- Roadkill Buffet Improv

Potato Preference:

Potato Wedges

Favorite MIT Memory:

Going to Florida with the swim and dive team for our training trip!

