As a Senior in the Decker School of Nursing, Melissa Mendoza strives to become the best nurse she can be. To Melissa, nursing is a perfect combination of science, and the ability to care for others in need. What cemented her decision to pursue a career in nursing was her interaction with nurses during a family hospital visit. Due to this experience, Melissa cannot envision a future without helping individuals through difficult situations.

When reflecting on her journey, Melissa never thought she would be so involved. Binghamton has provided Melissa the opportunity to do research, teach children about asthma, be a Resident Assistant, and create support systems for students in need. As Co-Founder and now Advisor of the Mary E. Mahoney Nursing Support Group (MEM), Melissa aims to help students find the resources, and confidence to succeed in the Decker School of Nursing.

One of Melissa most rewarding experiences was receiving Honorable Mention for the President’s Award for Undergraduate Student Excellence. This award is given to students who enrich Binghamton University through their stellar academic, leadership and community contributions. To Melissa, the award was recognition for the ample amount of time and effort Melissa put forth into her education. It also helped her realize that her journey would have not been possible without the support from friends, family and SSS staff.

Melissa has two messages for her fellow SSS peers. First, to always ask for help. Utilizing the resources provided such as counselors, peer mentors, and tutoring have helped her be successful at Binghamton University. Secondly, that there are times that you may struggle during your journey in college. What is important is to push through these troubling times and work towards your goals. By focusing on the goals you set out to achieve, it makes the temporary struggle worth the time, energy and stress. Please congratulate Melissa as our first Student Spotlight award winner. Congratulations Melissa!