

# Michelle Belakh

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## PROFILE

Passionate about sociolinguistics, especially the ways language shapes inclusion, exclusion, and identity in social settings.

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## EDUCATION

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| Aug 2025 — Present   | Binghamton University<br>4.0 GPA  | Binghamton, NY |
| Sept 2021 — Jun 2025 | Stuyvesant High School<br>4.0 GPA | New York, NY   |

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## ACADEMIC INITIATIVES/LEADERSHIP

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|---------------------|---|----------------|
| Aug 2025 — Present  | Stereotypes & Stuttering Research Project, Binghamton University<br>Conducting study at the intersection of stuttering, linguistics, sports and stereotypes in collaboration. Findings are to be presented at a conference in May.                  | Binghamton, NY |
| Oct 2025 — Present  | Pipe Dream Student Newspaper Writer, Binghamton University<br>Apply linguistic analysis skills to craft persuasive opinion pieces, critically examining language, framing, and discourse.   | Binghamton, NY |
| Sept 2025 — Present | Academic Hall Vice President, Binghamton University<br>Plan, design, and execute engaging weekly academic events for 420+ students, integrating diverse learning modalities to foster critical thinking, collaboration, and intellectual curiosity. | Binghamton, NY |
| Oct 2025 — Present  | Linguistics Club, Binghamton University<br>Engage in discussions and activities centered on language structure, usage, and cross-linguistic variation.  | Binghamton, NY |

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## INTERNSHIPS

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| Jan 2026 — Present   | Gale Startup Strategic Outreach & Language Communication Intern<br>Connect YC startup founders with national hackathons by leading linguistically-informed and audience-specific outreach.  | Virtual      |
| Sept 2021 — Jun 2025 | Intern for Dr. Aleksandr Orlovskiy<br>Assist the healthcare team in admitting new patients, managing blood work process and coordinating appointments.  | Brooklyn, NY |
| Jul 2024 — Jul 2024  | Intern for State Senator Liz Krueger & State Senator Scarcella-Spanton<br>Conducted legislative research; authored healthcare policy briefs; drafted correspondence and guides on mental and reproductive health.                                   | New York, NY |
| Aug 2023 — Sept 2023 | Intern for Councilman Justin Brannan<br>Mediated with city agencies to address rat or skunk complaints, litter, overgrown weeds, and highway resurfacing requests.  | Brooklyn, NY |
| Jul 2025 — Jul 2025  | Intern for Assemblyman William Colton<br>Wrote engagement strategy on optimizing Assemblyman's social media engagement through targeted calls to action, community-driven polls, strategic hashtag usage and video clips from local service events. | Brooklyn, NY |
| Jul 2024 — Oct 2024  | TurnUp Youth Activist<br>TurnUp (largest youth-led voter registration and turnout initiative). Phone-banked 2,500+ for voter registration; drafted and sent weekly policy memos to legislators.   |              |

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 PERSONAL INITIATIVES

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|----------------------|--|--------------|
| Jun 2025 — Present   | Holocaust Testimony Preservation Archivist   | New York     |
|                      | Conduct interviews with Holocaust survivors. Recently hosted panel for survivors to share stories w/ 100+ community members.   |              |
| Jan 2011 — Present   | Rhythmic Gymnast & Stuyvesant Gymnastics Varsity Team Manager & Coach  |              |
| Sept 2021 — Present  | Forever Young Adult Daycare Volunteer  |              |
|                      | Implemented automated dashboard, cutting report prep time by 75%; used at 6 medical daycares. Created "Resilience Lexicon" (collection of 400+ Ukrainian expressions to inspire wartime hope), included in hundreds of packages shipped to Ukraine via NGO partnerships. |              |
| Jun 2023 — Jun 2025  | Stuyvesant Bridges to Hispanic Heritage  | New York, NY |
|                      | Founded and cultivated an environment where students of diverse backgrounds authentically practiced and refined their Spanish language skills.   |              |
| Sept 2021 — Jun 2025 | Stuyvesant Ukrainian Aid Committee   | New York, NY |
|                      | Founded and lead the Ukrainian Aid Committee. Hosted donation drives and fundraisers. Sent 450 items+ to Ukraine.  |              |

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 AWARDS

Rhythmic Gymnastics USA Junior Olympics Medalist and New York State Gold Medalist

Author & Publisher of *Voices Without Sound* book (Authored and published a linguistics book on sociolinguistic identity and linguistic justice, challenging ingrained ways of thinking about language, communication, and meaning; available for purchase on Amazon)

2025 Highest-scoring incoming college student in the LegalEagleBee Judicial Case Competition

U.S. Senate Youth and Government Semifinalist

Binghamton University Dean's List

Selected for Binghamton University - State University of New York's chapter of The National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS)

Linguistics Essay Selected for Publication in Binghamton's SharpurEdge Humanities Issue

Center for Applied Linguistics Weekly Meetings: "Effective Instruction for Biliteracy Development of Emergent Bilingual Students," "Exploring Humanizing Pedagogies for Multilingual Learners and their Teachers," "Upholding the Education Civil Rights of Multilingual Learners"

2025 Microeconomics UPenn Course Completion

2024 Harvard Summer School

2x National Spanish Exam Gold Medalist & National Spanish Exam Silver Medalist

2023 Certificate of Excellence in Spanish III presented by Vice Director of Stuyvesant Language Department (1 of 2 recipients)

Turnup Relational Voter Registration Initiative Award

National Merit Commended Scholar

2x AP Scholar with Distinction

Spanish National Honor Society

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 LANGUAGES

|         |           |
|---------|-----------|
| English | Ukrainian |
| Russian | Basic ASL |
| Spanish |           |