

**CULTURE CONNECTOR
& YOUTH ADVOCATE**

CAROLINE PRAVEEN

As the founder and CEO of the Fluency Forward Foundation, Caroline Praveen supports Pittsburgh's refugee and immigrant children by teaching conversational English and aiding in cultural assimilation, building deep personal connections with students.

She co-organized a charity event celebrating Indian culture that raised \$4,000 for rural education in India and collaborates with local immigrant organizations to teach language skills while fostering cultural pride.

Caroline serves as the President of HOSA and captain of the Debate team at South Fayette High School. She authored *Our Colorful Garden*, a children's book celebrating diversity, which she donated to refugee children through her nonprofit.

As a certified EMT, she provides culturally sensitive care to patients, and as an accomplished biomedical researcher, she has presented on Dry Eye Disease and Global Neurodegeneration at national conferences and for Johns Hopkins University.

Driven by her passion for medicine, advocacy, and cultural understanding, Caroline plans to create lasting change by serving refugee populations.

CLASS OF 2025



EMPOWERING NEURODIVERSE COMMUNITIES

18
UNDER
EIGHTEEN

Presented by:



NANDANA MENON

Empowering neurodiverse communities, Nandana Menon leads the Autism Unity Initiative (AUI), a nonprofit providing vital resources and support to individuals with autism and their caregivers. The AUI website features over 100 credited articles and workshops that have reached more than 2,000 caregivers.

Nandana also leads the Spark App and CGI Autism Development project in partnership with the University of Pittsburgh and UPenn's Graduate School of Education, with a new app set to launch in September 2024.

Through a Bank of America internship, she developed a sensory-modified program at the Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium, benefiting 200,000 neurodiverse children annually, and co-created the Blue Envelope Program with U.S. Rep Chris Deluzio and Senator Bob Casey to improve autism-law enforcement interactions.

She serves as President of the National Honor Society, School Board Student Representative, and leader of the Technology Student Association.

Nandana was selected for the Bank of America Student Leaders Program from over 7,000 applicants and is a Certified EMT as well as a member of the Disney Dreamers Class of 2024.

Her research, including co-authoring articles with the University of Pittsburgh and Magee-Womens Research Institute, has been presented at various conferences.

Through her dedication and leadership, Nandana continues to foster meaningful change and advocacy for the autism community.



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