



**Cornell University**

**Cornell Health**

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**Mathew Kleiner “Create Change: Health Leadership Award”  
2026 Awardees: Emily Lui ’26 and Anya Gowda ’26**

Cornell Health is pleased to announce Emily Lui ’26 and Anya Gowda ’26 as recipients of the 2026 “Create Change: Health Leadership Award.” This award honors the legacy of Mathew A. Kleiner ’93 by recognizing and rewarding the vision and personal investment of time and energy that effective leadership requires. Each year, outstanding Cornell University students are nominated for their commitment to create change that will enhance the health of the Cornell community, as Matt did as a student leader during his years at Cornell.

Emily and Anya were nominated for the award by Antonia Pellegrini, Health Initiatives Coordinator in the Skorton Center for Health Initiatives at Cornell Health, for their noteworthy contributions to increase sexual violence resistance and reduce hazing on our campus, thereby creating a safer environment for students to study, socialize, and work. We want to recognize that in addition to their collaborations with the Skorton Center for Health Initiatives, Emily and Anya were also deeply involved in health promotion efforts off campus, in the Ithaca community, and beyond during these past two years.

As skilled facilitators, Emily and Anya were critical drivers to successfully re-launch “Flip the Script” with EAAA®, a small-group, evidence-based sexual assault resistance program designed specifically for self-identified women in their early years of college. Based on results from the 2025 Cornell Survey of Sexual Assault and Related Misconduct, 15% of respondents reported experiencing nonconsensual sexual contact since entering Cornell. Among Cornell undergraduate women, 35% reported experiencing nonconsensual sexual contact. Among incidents reported, most occurred in campus-affiliated settings such as residence halls and fraternity houses. According to the SARE Centre where the program originated, EAAA is the only program currently available that been shown to significantly reduce the incidence of rape and other forms of sexual assault with sustained effects for at least two years. The initiative to bring this program to our campus is one critical piece of our university’s comprehensive public health approach to address the high incidence of rape and other forms of sexual violence in our community. Anya and Emily completed rigorous training—approximately 90 hours—in order to effectively and successfully lead two of the program cohorts in Spring Semester, 2026, helping to lay the groundwork for expanding the program for the coming academic year.

In Fall Semester, 2025, Emily and Anya also took on a semester-long project through the MPH course VTPEH 6183, *Public Health Practice – Monitoring, Evaluation, and Quality Improvement*. They partnered with Skorton Center staff and fellow students to develop an outcome evaluation plan for a proposed intervention designed for groups found responsible for violating Cornell University’s hazing policy.



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Their work provided the Skorton Center with a robust, Theory of Change–based framework outlining short-, medium-, and long-term outcomes to assess the intervention’s impact on future Cornell students. Their ability to identify meaningful indicators of success and develop thoughtful data collection tools demonstrated both intentionality and care throughout the project. The Skorton Center greatly values the leadership demonstrated by the students in the Fall 2025 VTPEH 6183 class and intends to pursue opportunities outlined in their evaluation plan to further support students within groups found responsible for hazing at Cornell.

Emily and Anya have clearly made meaningful contributions to the Cornell student experience during their short time on campus, and their efforts will continue to positively impact the well-being of Cornell students for years to come. It is for their leadership and dedication to make Cornell a healthy educational environment that we proudly award Emily Lui ’26 and Anya Gowda ’26 with the 2026 Mathew A. Kleiner ’93 “Create Change Award.”