



Cornell University

Cornell Health

The Cerialle Center for Cornell Health
110 Ho Plaza
Ithaca, New York 14853-3101
t. 607.255.5155
f. 607.255.0269
health.cornell.edu

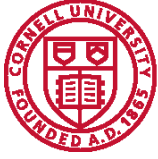
**Mathew Kleiner “Create Change: Health Leadership Award”
2026 Awardee: Rune Keresztes ‘26**

Cornell Health is pleased to announce Rune Keresztes ‘26 as a recipient 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.

Rune was nominated for the award by Florencia Ardon, Lecturer and Neurodivergent Student Support Programs Manager in the Learning Strategies Center for being a passionate and caring advocate for disabled students’ rights across campus. Their courage to speak out about their personal experiences has empowered other students to better understand their rights and feel more confident advocating for their own needs.

Requests for accommodations through Student Disability Services have risen substantially over the past decade, including several-fold increases among students identifying with ADHD and autism. These shifts likely reflect greater understanding and acceptance of neurodivergent students, as well as increased awareness of the benefits of accommodations. Students like Rune have played an important role in facilitating this cultural change by speaking openly about their diagnoses, challenges, and strengths. Through initiatives such as “NeurodiversiTea,” educational zines for Neurodiversity Celebration Week, and ongoing outreach and advocacy efforts, Rune has helped foster community, visibility, and acceptance for disabled students across campus.

This past year, Rune joined the Neurodiversity@Cornell initiative as a student staff member. However, they have supported the initiative since their first year on campus, including while studying abroad and participating in the Cornell in Washington program. In addition to their work with the Learning Strategies Center, Rune has been an active member of several advocacy groups on campus, including the Diversity Programs in Engineering Advisory Board, the Student Neurodiversity Alliance at Cornell, and the Neurodiversity Ambassadors program. As a representative for disabled student voices, they have contributed to the success of numerous events on and off campus, including the 2024 PINE Summit, the College of Engineering’s Fireside Chat Series, and the Neurodiversity Dialogues speaker series. They were also instrumental in co-designing and co-facilitating panel sessions for both Cornell’s Mini Conference on Accessibility and Inclusion and Neurodiversity Celebration Week’s Story Night.



Cornell University

Cornell Health

The Coriale Center for Cornell Health
110 Ho Plaza
Ithaca, New York 14853-3101
t. 607.255.5155
f. 607.255.0269
health.cornell.edu

Through their advocacy and community-building efforts, Rune has helped foster a campus culture in which disabled and neurodivergent students feel more seen, supported, and empowered to advocate for their needs. Their contributions have strengthened the Cornell community and will continue to positively influence students' experience on campus for years to come. It is for this leadership and dedication to creating a healthier and more inclusive educational environment that we proudly honor Rune with the 2026 Mathew A. Kleiner '93 "Create Change Award."