

# Chicopee Register

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## COMMUNITY

# A new Colleen is crowned

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Editor

CHICOPEE – On a Saturday evening that featured both triumph and heartbreak, a new Chicopee Colleen was crowned. The 68<sup>th</sup> Colleen Coronation Ball at the Knights of Columbus on Granby Road on Feb. 26 carried on a city tradition.

Ashley Terron was named as Chicopee's 2022 Colleen and will be joined on her court by finalists Brielle Los, Alivia Mendes, Morgan Patla and Chloe Pugh. A total of 14 Chicopee women aged 17-20 competed for a spot on the court.

Terron, a 20-year-old student at Holyoke Community College, was shocked to hear her name announced as the pageant's winner.

Following the event, Terron expressed her excitement; she looks forward to spending the next year alongside Los, Mendes, Patla and Pugh, as the court appears at a variety of city



2022 Colleen Ashley Terron, center, is surrounded on the right by [L to R] Brielle Los and Chloe Pugh and on the left [L to R] by Alivia Mendes and Morgan Patla. (STAFF PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI)

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## IN THE CITY

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and regional functions, including the upcoming Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade and Chicopee Day at the Big E in September. Already, the group is hitting it off.

"As soon as the top five were announced, immediately right after we went to the room, we started playing Uno together," said Terron. "I feel like we have such a strong bond already, and the entire year is going to be just like that."

Terron hopes to one day practice pediatric medicine and serve lower income communities to offer individuals better access to health care.

Joining Terron on her court is Los, an 18-year-old student at Chicopee High School. Los has her eyes set on attaining a four-year bachelor's degree in Exercise Science; she then will study to become a physician assistant. Eventually, Los plans to become a licensed personal trainer.

In the minutes following the pageant, Los described the moment as "surreal." She credited the Chicopee St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee for organizing the event and thanked all those who attended for sharing their enthusiasm.

Los encourages all young women in Chicopee to participate in the contest if it is a dream of theirs. As a court member, she is most looking forward to the March 20 parade in Holyoke.

"I'm really excited to get out there and go on the float with the girls and to go to the St. Patrick's Day Parade. I've been going since I was little so it will be nothing new, but I've always looked up to the Colleen and her court so I'm honored to actually be in it," said Los.

Also representing Chicopee High School on the court is Alivia Mendes, 17. She acknowledged that she felt the pressure of participating in the tradition but shared how she, and her fellow contes-



**Ashley Terron, center, reacts after being named the 2022 Chicopee Colleen.** (STAFF PHOTOS BY DALTON ZBIERSKI)

tants, eased their fears backstage.

"Honestly, I was a little bit nervous, and when it came to ball night, I was super nervous, but we had dance parties downstairs, we had so much fun, we all played games and we all had good conversations so it kind of calmed the nerves down," said Mendes.

Mendes aims to work professionally as a nurse, where she will give back to others and be there for those who need her support.

Representing Chicopee Comprehensive High School on the court is 17-year-old Morgan Patla. Following her graduation, she will set her focus on pursuing a career in psychology.

"Once I complete college, I hope to be a child psychologist," said Patla. "COVID really did a number on children during quarantine, and kids are suffering with mental illnesses insanely today. I just hope to be that positive person in these chil-

dren's lives."

Pugh, 17, is also a student at Comp. Being named as a court member took her by surprise; it was an honor she never expected, even while participating in the pageant.

"I really was not expecting it; I wasn't," she said.

Pugh has chosen forensic psychology as her future field. She did her best to calm her own mind when each finalist was called to the stage to answer a question regarding their future goals.

"It was so nerve-racking; I was so anxious. We don't know what question we're being asked, and there were five options; any one of them could be chosen," said Pugh.

Feb. 26 ended the two-year reign of 2020 Colleen Ava Baron and her court, which attended the coronation ball. For more information regarding the court and where it will appear in 2022, one can visit <https://chicopeespc.com/>.



**2022 Colleen Ashley Terron answers a question on Feb. 26.**

