

## **2019 The Undergraduate Award for Excellence in Chemistry – *Melisa Paslı***

In her personal statement, Melisa Pasli explains her unusual circumstance of moving back to her birth country, Turkey from United States when she was twelve years old. Although she is a Turkish-American, she faced and had to work hard to overcome difficulties with language skills, cultural differences, and unfamiliar circumstances during her secondary school years in Turkey. She describes how she met the challenges and gained the strength to grow and succeed academically. She is currently a senior, ranked as number one student in her class, across all majors, at North Carolina State University.

Melisa has devoted her time to a number of research projects both at NCSU and Colorado School of Mines. Her research spans the areas of industrial chemical research as well as biomedical research. Apparently, Melisa worked as an intern at Colorado School of Mines.

Her nominators write about Melisa's determination, and maturity. Along with her academic excellence, Melisa discusses her experience as a tutor at NCSU, volunteering at the Duke Cancer Center and even with Alzheimer patients. Melisa is definitely a multi-talented, goal oriented, yet very personable and inquisitive young woman.