

CEW+ LEADERS

Potential made possible.



49th Annual Scholarship Awards | 2019-20

CELEBRATING 49 YEARS OF AWARDING SCHOLARSHIPS

CEW+ would like to thank Deborah and Michael Tirico for generously underwriting the cost of this booklet.

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Tiffany Marra, PhD, Director
CEW+, University of Michigan

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President Emeritus, University Musical Society
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Tiffany Marra, PhD

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Khalilah Burt Gaston
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** in memoriam*

CEW+ Scholarship Program

Commemorating 49 Years of Supporting Women and Nontraditional Students' Educational Dreams

CEW+ empowers women and underserved individuals in the University of Michigan and surrounding communities by serving as an advocate and providing resources to help them reach their academic, financial, and professional potential.

The History

CEW+ was founded in 1964 (then called the Center for the Continuing Education of Women) to address barriers that kept women from successfully pursuing degrees and careers. CEW+ quickly discovered that traditional financial aid was dependent on full-time enrollment – an impossibility for many women at that time, regardless of their ambition, intelligence, and ability to succeed.

CEW+ founder, Jean Campbell, and her staff responded to the financial need many women faced by designing an innovative scholarship program focused on women, raising an initial \$7,500 in private donations. The first scholarships were awarded in the fall of 1970 to mark the 100th anniversary of women being admitted to the University of Michigan.

In 1990 the Margaret D. and Harry A. Towsley Foundation's \$1 million endowment to the program greatly expanded the number of scholars CEW+ can support each year. CEW+'s scholarship program continues to grow as many other generous individuals and organizations provide funds for more than 70 scholarships.

CEW+ joins with all of our generous donors in celebrating over 1,800 scholars and fellows who have received support since the program began. By connecting private resources with scholars' intelligence, motivation, and effort, CEW+ helps to transform individual lives which in turn helps families, workplaces, and communities.

Continued on the next page

The Scholars

CEW+ Scholars come from a variety of graduate and undergraduate programs on the Ann Arbor, Dearborn, and Flint campuses. They are students who have experienced an interruption in their education, who are underrepresented in STEM fields, or who are providing significant care for a minor, older adult, or disabled adult. CEW+ Scholars show remarkable resilience as they juggle the demands of an elite institution with existing family and work responsibilities. Some are returning to college after time away to raise a child or care for a family member, many have worked multiple jobs to save for college, and others have traveled to the U.S. in pursuit of educational opportunities.

Despite strong academic records, impressive accomplishments, and defined goals, many scholars experience significant financial barriers to their success. Much like the original scholarship recipients of the 1970s, these bright, determined students have overcome daunting obstacles to pursue their educational dreams. CEW+ Scholarships provide the necessary boost for them to successfully complete their degrees and make an impact in their fields of study.

Today, we celebrate a rich partnership between the University community, our generous supporters, and CEW+ staff. We join the scholars, their families and friends, and their academic advisors in expressing our deepest admiration and best wishes for their success at the University of Michigan.

Congratulations 2019-20 Scholars!

The CEW+ Scholar Success Fund

CEW+ Scholars often tell us, it's more than just the scholarship that makes the difference in their academic careers. The customized support CEW+ provides to scholarship applicants and awardees is just as important as the funding. With this wisdom in mind, we created the Scholar Success Fund so CEW+ Scholars can engage in a variety of programs and services that will help them expand their network, access resources, and be successful at the U-M and beyond.

The Scholar Success Fund supports...

- Assistance with scholarship applications and financial aid
- Programming and events tailored for nontraditional students
- Dedicated staff members who create programs and outreach to meet the emerging needs of the CEW+ Scholar Community

Since creating this fund, CEW+ supporters have recognized its importance and generously answered the call. Their foresight continues to ensure that all CEW+ Scholars can thrive – both during and beyond their award year. On behalf of all our scholarship recipients, we want to thank every donor who has prioritized the academic careers of CEW+'s impressive scholars. Your support helps validate scholars' goals and abilities, and enhances a sense of belonging at the University of Michigan.

Through the Scholar Success Fund, we ensure that every scholar is able to reach their full potential and embrace a sense of purpose and belonging as a student and beyond. Together, we create a vibrant community more powerful than any individual.

If you are interested in learning more about funding a scholarship and the Scholar Success Fund, please contact Alicia Marting at amarting@umich.edu or 734-764-7258.

Thank you.

The Scholarships

GAIL ALLEN SCHOLARSHIP Recipient: Michelle McClellan

In memory of their daughter Gail, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Allen established the Gail Allen Scholarship in 1997 with their family and friends. Gail was the 1995 CEW+ Dorothy Gies McGuigan Scholar whose goal was to become a teacher who would “engage high school students to think critically about our society and help young women find their voice.” Gail’s excitement for studying history and women’s studies at the U-M was interrupted by illness, but she persisted and earned her master’s degree and teaching certification. She was pursuing further studies in history at the time of her death. Gail’s scholarship is awarded annually to recognize women who are returning to complete an undergraduate or graduate degree at the U-M. To honor Gail’s interests, preference for this scholarship is given to women enrolled in history, women’s studies, or related fields.

AAUW-ANN ARBOR BRANCH: USED BOOK SALE SCHOLARSHIP Recipient: John Lankeu Muteleu

This endowment was established by a U-M alumna to honor the American Association of University Women-Ann Arbor’s book sale legacy and commitment to scholarship funding. In 1990, the Ann Arbor branch created this annual scholarship to support individuals returning to school to complete their degrees at the undergraduate and graduate level. Money is raised by the dedicated member volunteers who facilitate the annual AAUW used book sale, a 100% recycling project. AAUW is a membership organization that promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive social change.

AAUW: MARY ELIZABETH BITTMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP Recipients: Kerrigan Fitzpatrick, Cari Griffin

In 2006, the American Association of University Women joined with the Bittman family to establish the Mary Elizabeth Bittman Scholarship. A member of AAUW for over 50 years, Elizabeth was an Honorary Life Member–Ann Arbor Branch. She was also a 70-year resident of Ann Arbor, active in both business and community activities. Despite economic difficulties, Elizabeth graduated from the U-M in 1941 with a degree in political science—at a time when a college education for women was less common than it is today. In honor of Elizabeth’s belief that, “an education is something that can never be taken away,” this scholarship is designed to help women and underserved students whose studies have been interrupted to complete degrees in their chosen fields.

CHRISTINE KAHAN BLACK SCHOLARSHIP Recipient: Nasr Abdo

The Christine Kahan Black Scholarship is the first CEW+ Scholarship ever established as a Christmas present! Chris Black has had a lifelong commitment to higher education, advancement for women, and equity of opportunity. As a highly respected administrator and innovator in Research Development Support at the U-M Medical School, Chris is a teacher/mentor for researchers as they develop and fund their projects. She specializes in helping young faculty—many of whom are women—develop projects and win their first grant from the National Institutes of Health. Early in her career, Chris developed award-winning videos to inspire young women to pursue careers in science and technology. She’s done similar work for students with disabilities, and, with her husband, supports scholarships for students with physical challenges through the Ann Arbor Community Foundation as a memorial to their son, Burt. Now, to honor Chris and her career spent helping people meet their potential to do great things, Chris’s husband, Herb Black, established the Christine Kahan Black Scholarship. He presented it to her on December 25, 2013.

JANE AND BILL BLOOM SCHOLARSHIP Recipients: Lucero Castillo, Johnna Swartz

In 1964, when Jane Bloom walked through the doors of the newly opened CEW+ (then called the Center for the Continuing Education of Women), she was only the second person to seek assistance. Her affiliation with CEW+ began then - when Jane was a forty-year-old mother of ten and Ann Arbor-area chicken farmer - and it continues to this day. With perseverance and determination, and help from CEW+ along the way, Jane Bloom completed both an undergraduate and a medical degree at the U-M and had a distinguished career as a physician. Throughout it all, Jane’s husband Bill, who died in 2011, was a supportive partner. Together they established a scholarship endowment with the intention of fully funding tuition for a CEW+ Scholar; their scholarship was awarded for the first time in 2008. With their scholarship for an undergraduate on the Ann Arbor campus, Jane and Bill send a message to all future recipients to “aim high, raise your sights, and stick with it for a rewarding life.”

RUTH JEANETTE BUTTREY SCHOLARSHIP Recipient: Mykel Dolinski

The Ruth Jeanette Buttrey Scholarship was created in 2004 by her granddaughter, Stephanie Buttrey. It honors Ruth Buttrey, who filled her life with learning and adventure. An early proponent of women's education, Ruth studied at a teacher's college as well as at the New England Conservatory and the Chicago Musical College. She then worked with a company in Chicago that sent representatives throughout the country with scripts and costume trunks to produce shows for local organizations using local talent. While traveling, she met Ted Buttrey in Havre, Montana, who volunteered to be in one of her shows. A few years later during the depression, Ruth wrote her own show and sent her own producers through the northwest, earning welcome income for the family during those difficult days. In the late 1930s they moved to Texas where Ted oversaw the growth of Buttrey Stores, Inc. Throughout her life, Ruth supported various women's groups, especially as an active participant in the PEO Sisterhood. Ruth and Ted also endowed many scholarships in his home state of Montana. CEW+'s Ruth Jeanette Buttrey Scholarship recognizes an outstanding undergraduate on the Ann Arbor campus, with a special focus on the fields of business and engineering.

JEAN W. CAMPBELL SCHOLARSHIP Recipient: Juri Sanchez

Established in memory of Jean Campbell, this scholarship honors her lifetime of work dedicated to the service of others. Encouraged by her parents' commitment to community involvement and achievement, Jean flourished in her efforts to ensure that those around her had the opportunity and resources to live up to their potential, a trait she lovingly passed to her three children. Serving as a founding member, and then as the first director of CEW+, Jean contributed immeasurably to CEW+'s growth and reach, raising the funds necessary to create the Center's scholarship program in 1970. Known nationally for promoting research on women's education and her pledge to improve the lives of women and underserved populations, Jean was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws Degree alongside former President Obama in 2010. She was devoted to her family, her husband and three children Bruce, Joan, and Carol. This scholarship, established by Tim Williams in memory of his late wife and Jean's daughter, Joan, and in honor of Jean's lifetime of accomplishments, will continue Jean's legacy of supporting women and underserved students at the U-M.

COLLEGIATE SOROSIS FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP Recipient: Vanessa Mayesky

The Sorosis Corporation, composed of alumnae of Collegiate Sorosis, established a foundation to support sorority members in need of financial assistance in order to remain at the U-M. With the closing of Collegiate Sorosis, the alumnae voted to make foundation funds available for women's scholarships through CEW+, thereby continuing their encouragement of women scholars.

LUCILE B. CONGER ALUMNAE GROUP SCHOLARSHIP Recipient: Shannan Butler

Established in 1990, the Lucile B. Conger Alumnae Group Scholarship provides funding for undergraduate women. The Lucile B. Conger Alumnae Group was one of thirty-two U-M alumnae organizations nationwide. From 1947 to 2016, the Conger organization was involved in raising funds to provide scholarships for women to attend the U-M.

MOLLY H. DOBSON SCHOLARSHIP Recipients: Sadye Belcher, Amanda Neal, Emma Thompson

Created in 1992, the Molly H. Dobson Scholarship supports women returning to school to complete undergraduate degrees. These scholarships recognize women who have shown creativity, persistence, and dedication while striving to complete their education. The scholarships were created through the generosity of Molly Dobson, a dedicated emerita member of the CEW+ Leadership Council and an active volunteer in the University and larger Ann Arbor community. Molly created these scholarships because she believes in the value of education. They are designed to be flexible because she knows that deserving women have different educational needs and goals.

ROBERT BRUCE DUNLAP MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP Recipient: Carri Shafley

This scholarship was established in 2006 in memory of Robert Bruce Dunlap. Robert was a long-time University employee, first at the University Hospital and later at the School of Dentistry, and an even longer-term sometime patient at the University Hospital. As a professor's son, he was well imbued with the importance of education and the necessity of helping students further their education. Because of Robert's long association with the University Hospital and his gratitude to all members of the medical teams, it is appropriate that first preference be given to an Ann Arbor campus undergraduate student pursuing a career in a health-related field.

ELIZABETH M. DUSSEAU SCHOLARSHIP *and* **MARGARET DUSSEAU BREVOORT SCHOLARSHIP**

Recipients: Alison Bressler and Louise Ashwell

The Elizabeth M. Dusseau and Margaret Dusseau Brevoort Scholarships, established in 2013, were endowed in the estate of Elizabeth Dusseau, who died in May 2012 at the age of 101. Elizabeth Dusseau earned her bachelor of arts and master's degrees in public health from the U-M, and became an expert in parasitology. After many years of dedicated service to the University, Ms. Dusseau was promoted to assistant professor, a rank she held until she retired in 1978. Margaret Dusseau Brevoort began her long career as a social worker in Ann Arbor. However, she spent most of her professional life in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as the executive director of Milwaukee Psychiatric Services Agency and a renowned and early proponent of social work education. Elizabeth Dusseau chose to endow these scholarships in her name and that of her sister to honor their upbringing. Born in Monroe, Michigan, to a family that highly valued education for both male and female children – at a time when such a belief was somewhat radical – their family's commitment to women's rights was deeply ingrained. It is no surprise that Elizabeth and Margaret made their marks upon the world. When possible, Elizabeth's CEW+ Scholarship will be awarded to a woman in the field of science, and Margaret's will go to a woman in the field of social work.

MARGARET E. GNEGY SCHOLARSHIP FUND Recipients: Shireen Ashkar, Ana Imam

Dr. Carol Stratford received a CEW+ Scholarship in 1980 while pursuing her PhD in pharmacology at U-M, and is the first CEW+ Scholar to pay it forward through an endowed CEW+ Scholarship. After earning her PhD she went on to complete her law degree as a mother in her forties. Carol established this fund to provide support to women and nontraditional graduate students pursuing degrees in the sciences. Naming this scholarship fund for Professor Margaret (Peggy) Gnegy, Carol honors her longtime friend, who provided thoughtful guidance and encouragement during and after Carol's time as a U-M student. Peggy was the first female instructional-track faculty member of the Department of Pharmacology at the U-M Medical School and served as a committed teacher and mentor to many. Focusing her efforts on providing strong and caring guidance to women students and faculty, she mentored fifteen female doctoral students, six female postdoctoral students, and continues to mentor to this day. Peggy has served as Chair of

the Graduate Program of the Department of Pharmacology for 20 years and won the Rackham Distinguished Graduate Mentoring Award in 2009. Carol's hope is that recipients of this fund will be inspired by Peggy's role as a trailblazer for women in the sciences.

BETH HALLORAN SCHOLARSHIP Recipient: Sally Al-Banna

One of the U-M's most admired fundraising leaders from 2001-2011, Beth Halloran is now a senior executive at St. Catherine University. From 2005-2008, she served as Development Director at CEW+. Her energy, focus, intelligence, and integrity not only generated fundraising success, but also nourished lasting relationships with CEW+ donors. Two of those donors, Molly Dobson and Connie Dunlap, connected with Beth in a special way and deepened their friendship even after she left Ann Arbor. In 2013, Connie and Molly collaborated to endow a new CEW+ Scholarship in Beth's honor. The Beth Halloran Scholarship is to be awarded annually to students whose academic careers have been interrupted, and/or who are the primary parent responsible for minor dependents.

JOAN P. IRELAND SCHOLARSHIP Recipient: Leah Squires

Like many of today's CEW+ Scholars, Joan Ireland was a nontraditional student. After raising her children in the Midwest, she moved to California and returned to school to pursue graphic design. When she met her husband, Everett, they discovered that they had both been students at the U-M at the same time, but had never met one another. Out of gratitude to the U-M, and their lifelong enthusiasm for learning, Joan and Everett Ireland both established Michigan scholarships as part of their estates. Joan Ireland passed away in 2014, and her bequest established the Joan P. Ireland Scholarship in perpetuity at CEW+. The Joan P. Ireland Scholarship will provide support to deserving women students, undergraduate or graduate in any field, who need financial assistance in order to pursue a degree.

BEATRICE KAHN SCHOLARSHIP Recipient: Michael Meza

Beatrice Kahn began graduate work in the early 1950s, about 10 years before CEW+ was created. She was then the busy mother of three young daughters and eager to prepare for a career in her newly chosen field of social work. Her entry into the MSW program was hastened

by her husband's unexpected cancer surgery; she was concerned that she might become the sole or primary support of her children. She completed her degree in social work and went on to 29 years as a gifted therapist and marriage counselor at Child and Family Service. Her own experience and her long friendship with Jean Campbell and other CEW+ leaders made Beatrice Kahn a dedicated and enthusiastic supporter of the Center. Beatrice died in November 2012 at the age of 94. Her late husband, her family, and her many friends established the Beatrice Kahn Scholarship at CEW+ in her memory.

ELSIE CHOY LEE SCHOLARSHIP Recipients: Sally Clegg, Jennifer Cresswell, Jennifer Peters, C.J. Severn

The Elsie Choy Lee Scholarship assists women and underserved students pursuing their own work in art, writing, or music. It is also given to students researching creative women who have struggled to find their own voices within these fields. The cultivation of creativity was a vital part of Elsie's search for life's purpose and meaning. In "Art in My Life," a talk Elsie gave in 1991, she said: "Literature, art, and poetry have been my friends all my life; they are my media of expression in good times and bad. Looking back, I can say that these arts not only enriched my life, they have helped me regain part of my health." Elsie advocated for making known the unheard voices of women in the arts in world cultures throughout time. Her eight-year research on an 18th-century Chinese woman poet resulted in *Leaves of Prayer: The Life and Poetry of a Farmwife in Eighteenth-Century China* (The Chinese University Press of Hong Kong, 2nd ed., 2000). The Elsie Choy Lee Scholarship was established in 2001 by her husband, the late Joseph T.A. Lee, with the support of family and friends.

SARAH WINANS NEWMAN SCHOLARSHIP Recipient: Grace Han, Jennifer Hopson

The Sarah Winans Newman Scholarship, created in 2001, provides financial support to undergraduate, graduate, and professional women pursuing degrees in biological and biomedical sciences and related fields, demonstrating financial need, and showing promise of academic merit. Dr. Newman most recently served as Associate Dean of the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies and, from 1970 through 1996, was a professor in the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology at the U-M Medical School. A long-time volunteer and friend to

the Center, Sarah recognizes the contributions CEW+ makes to the University community and is pleased to continue her commitment to the education of women.

MARY LUCILLE RANDOLPH AND LEA KING DEAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP Recipient: Adriana Ponce

The Mary Lucille Randolph and Lea King Dean Memorial Scholarship was established to support undergraduate or graduate student caregivers. Susan E. Randolph, a 1969 graduate of the U-M, and Arnold Y. Dean, her spouse, along with their family have endowed this scholarship in memory of their mothers – Lea King Dean and Mary Lucille Randolph – brave women who strove for a better life for their children.

MARY MALCOMSON RAPHAEL SCHOLARSHIP Recipients: Stacey Bishop, Jozet Channey, Ai Binh Ho, Chelle Jones

The Mary Malcomson Raphael Scholarship was established in 1985 for women graduate students in a humanities or social science field in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. The scholarships are awards of distinction presented to women held in the highest esteem by their faculty. The scholarships are provided through an endowment established by the late Margaret Earhart Smith in recognition of her friend Mary Malcomson Raphael, a singularly resourceful and creative woman who “had a gift for evoking power in people above and beyond their ordinary capacity.”

LINDA J. RIDER SCHOLARSHIP Recipients: Amber Huyghe, Iman Mohamed

This scholarship in celebration of Linda J. Rider was established by her family in 2004. When Linda enrolled at the U-M at the age of 41 to earn her bachelor’s degree, she was a professional writer, editor, photographer, and single mother. To honor her accomplishment of earning an undergraduate degree as a nontraditional student, the Linda J. Rider Scholarship is awarded to women who need financial assistance to return to college later in their lives.

RETIREMENT INCOME SOLUTIONS SCHOLARSHIP Recipient: Akin Olumoroti

This scholarship is made possible by a gift from local financial advisory firm, Retirement Income Solutions, Inc. (RIS). RIS Managing Partner Todd Kephart said the decision for RIS to support a CEW+ Scholarship was clear, “We all believe strongly that education holds the key to a better

life and have seen that play out in our own families and communities. And many of our clients work in higher education, so this scholarship was a natural extension of the work we do.” RIS Scholarships have also been created at two other outstanding local organizations, Girls Group and the Ann Arbor Rotary Club.

HELEN HUFF SHELL SCHOLARSHIP Recipient: Ivy Wei

The Helen Huff Shell Scholarship was established in 1982 by Helen when she retired from her distinguished career in personnel management. Throughout her career, Helen diligently sought to enhance the status of women in the workplace. Her scholarship recognizes that commitment to women in business or the professions.

MARGARET DOW TOWSLEY SCHOLARSHIP Recipients: Jennifer “Gigi” Burkey, Alecia Dillon, Christina Gainer, Kierra Gray, Pusparanee “Anne” Hakim, Stephanie Hall, Katie Marquez, Claire Myers, Janelle Nystrom, Heather Popkey, Tasneem Pota, Katie Revelle, Camille Rice, Ryan Ruggiero, Raquelle Seda, Nicole Stuckey, Quantanise Williams

The life and work of Margaret Dow Towsley has opened countless doors for women and children and immeasurably improved the life of the Ann Arbor community. After completing a bachelor’s degree at the U-M and a master’s degree at Columbia University Teachers College, Margaret Towsley taught preschool at the University School in Ann Arbor, married pediatrician Dr. Harry Towsley, and started a family. A neighborhood summer playgroup in her home became the Children’s Play School, which thrived for more than 53 years. Margaret was one of the first persons in Ann Arbor to acknowledge the special needs of children and working mothers, and her leadership helped inspire and shape the Perry Nursery School. An early believer in equal access for women, Margaret was a major force in creating a gender-integrated Ann Arbor YMCA. When women and their organizations needed a home of their own, she helped establish the Women’s City Club. An active political leader, she became the first woman elected to the Ann Arbor City Council. Those who knew Margaret Towsley describe her as a woman devoted to her family and as a mother who fostered in her five daughters an independence of spirit and a confidence to reach for their own stars. Her quiet and sustained support nourished the CEW+ Scholarship Program since its founding. Returning women students have benefited in untold ways from her faith in the Center and her belief in educational opportunities for women. Indeed,

Margaret Towsley always acted upon the premise that, given support and nurturing, all people can achieve their dreams.

IRMA M. WYMAN SCHOLARSHIP Recipients: Arianna Bressler, Georgina Brown, Antoinette Danku, Reena Dhankani, Emily Grim, Grace Hanks, Tara Janetzke, Allison Kench, Katherine Martin, Phoebe Miller, Himaja Motheram, Alison Naif, Diana Nunez, Julia O'Sullivan, Corrine Tessin, Amber Uptergrove, Jiazhen Yang

The Irma M. Wyman Scholarship provides support for women and underserved students in engineering, computer science, and related fields, on either the undergraduate or graduate level. Criteria for selection also include merit, promise of future contributions, and life circumstances. Irma was a 1949 graduate of the College of Engineering at the U-M, one of two women in her class. She became involved with the computer industry in its early stages and rose to become the first female vice president at Honeywell, Inc., then a Fortune 100 company. After retirement from the corporate world, she served 10 years as Archdeacon of the Diocese of Minnesota. Having benefited during her education from both the financial and psychological support of a Regents Scholarship, she established the Irma M. Wyman Scholarship in 1996 to provide a similar boost to others. Irma passed away in 2015 at the age of 87. CEW+ is proud to continue her legacy.

PETER AND ZDRAVKA ZDRAVKOVSKI SCHOLARSHIP Recipients: Kanchan Swaroop

This scholarship is made possible by a gift in honor of Dr. Smilka Zdravkovska's parents: Peter Zdravkovski, who championed education, including women's education and the education of his daughter in particular; and her mother, Zdravka Zdravkovska, who earned a degree late in life as a nontraditional student. Inspired by her parent's example, Dr. Zdravkovska established this scholarship to support graduate students returning to school and/or graduate student parents.

The 2019-20 Scholars

Nasr Abdo Christine Kahan Black Scholar



Nasr Abdo is pursuing his master's degree in teaching Arabic as a foreign language. He plans to earn his PhD in education to achieve his goal of becoming a university professor. Ultimately, Nasr will use his PhD to share the knowledge he has gained with those around him. He says, "I believe a successful person is someone who always gives back to his community, helps those who did not get the same chances he got, and does his part in building a peaceful, diverse, respectful community."

Growing up amidst the civil war between the north and south of Yemen, Nasr learned to value how important mutual understanding is between those with differing opinions, backgrounds, and points of view. Nasr realized that he could help facilitate compromise by gaining the proper skill set through higher education. He intends to use his degree to help rebuild peace in conflict zones like Yemen and says, "I have always believed in education as an answer to the struggles of my community and my country."

Recognizing how much of a sacrifice he is making to pursue higher education as a husband and father, Nasr is more determined than ever to succeed. In fact, he is recognized as someone who is "hardworking, follows through with what he proposes, and does not give up on goals which he sets for himself."

CEW+ looks forward to Nasr's fruitful future in restoring peace through mutual understanding and respect and names him the Christine Kahn Black Scholarship recipient.

Sally Al-Banna Beth Halloran Scholar



Sally Al-Banna had high educational goals when she was awarded a national scholarship to cover her undergraduate studies in Yemen. Though her excitement diminished when her funding was revoked based on nepotism and her gender, she never lost her passion to learn. In fact, this roadblock only strengthened Sally's passion to motivate and empower young girls and students from diverse social classes to have access to quality education.

Sally earned her bachelor's degree at the University of Aden while working as a tutor to cover her educational expenses. During this time, she improved her English speaking skills and began working as a part-time ESL teacher.

Sally realized that if she was to achieve her goal of teaching in a university, she would have to pursue a graduate degree. She is currently earning her master's degree in educational studies and participating in the Teaching and Learning program as she prepares to teach Arabic at U.S. universities.

Ultimately, Sally's goal is to earn her PhD and improve training for urban and rural school teachers globally. She says, "I would love to support girls' education in conservative societies." Known as a "gentle force of nature," she is recognized for her ability to "juggle and balance being a parent, a student and a recently married spouse – all in a new country – with dexterity and aplomb." With her drive and commitment, Sally is sure to make a lasting impact in the field of education.

CEW+ is inspired by Sally's dedication and names her the Beth Halloran Scholarship recipient.

Shireen Ashkar Margaret E. Gnegy Scholar



Shireen Ashkar spent most of her life living in the West Bank of the Palestinian territories, an area embroiled with political unrest and conflict. As a result of these conditions, she often spent multiple hours a day commuting to and from Birzeit University in pursuit of her education. Despite the many obstacles in her way, she earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry and a master's degree in applied chemistry, and was accepted to the University of Michigan where she is now pursuing a second master's and a PhD in medicinal chemistry. Becoming a mother during her time in the program, Shireen has successfully balanced the responsibilities of graduate school

as well as childcare. She is known as an "exceptionally hard-working student, enthusiastic about research and its applications in improving human health around the world."

Currently focusing on antibiotic drug discovery, Shireen's dissertation centers on the treatment of tuberculosis, an infectious pulmonary disease that kills millions of people every year. In the pursuit of developing novel drugs to treat the disease, Shireen is focused on ensuring the medicine is accessible to those who need it. "This is a major factor in developing effective therapeutics; not only must they be potent in eliminating disease, it is also essential that the people who need such treatment can actually afford it," she says.

CEW+ applauds Shireen's dedication to both motherhood and medicinal chemistry and names her a Margaret E. Gnegy Scholarship recipient.

Louise Ashwell Margaret Dusseau Brevoort Scholar



Louise Ashwell is earning a master's degree in social work at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. For the last four years, Louise has worked in the gender-based violence field, where she has learned firsthand how little emphasis is placed on community-based violence prevention programming. She says, "Three years as a frontline support worker within London's most disadvantaged neighborhoods has exposed me to a staggering number of abuse survivors, as well as how cultural considerations and psychological stressors impact communities' collective self-esteem and perceptions of violence." She is committed to using her experience working on the frontlines

of gender-based violence to build a career creating safer futures for women and girls.

Upon earning her degree, Louise plans to collaborate on research projects with leaders in the violence prevention field, and use the knowledge she acquires to evaluate the impact and efficacy of programs on those they serve. She will also make it a priority to ensure that valuable interventions become available to the masses, and that dated ways of thinking and operating no longer hinder innovation in this field.

Inspired by her grandmother's words, "you can't wait for things to happen to you, you have to get them for yourself," Louise intends to pay her good fortune in life back through her work. During the summer of 2019, Louise began working with Médicos del Mundo as a senior EU aid volunteer. As she develops guidelines for the organization on gender-based violence and delivers training to staff, she is improving skills she will draw from in her future work.

CEW+ is thrilled to support Louise on her journey and names her a Margaret Dusseau Brevoort Scholarship recipient.

Sadye Belcher Molly H. Dobson Scholar



Sadye Belcher knows that we are not defined by our failures, rather by what we learn from them. Due to a difficult childhood, Sadye learned from an early age to be independent and self-motivated, and was able to draw on those skills as an adult when faced with the struggles of being a new parent trying to get an education. After failing a semester and wondering if she could ever bounce back, Sadye decided to shift her focus and energy not only to parenting and her education, but also her mental health. She has since made the Dean's list, identified a passion for teaching, and returned to the workforce. She credits the University of Michigan-Flint faculty as one

of the reasons she's made it to where she is today.

Sadye says her vision for success includes, "being able to know that my daughter is happy and to be a constant in my students' lives." She recognizes how pivotal the support of teachers has been in her journey to earn her bachelor's degree and a teaching certificate, and hopes to provide the same encouragement to her students one day. Eventually, she would like to move into education reform in an effort to create a better future for her daughter and all children. One of her professors has said that "Sadye will undoubtedly have a bright future in education because she consistently exhibits keen intellect, personal efficacy, and an unquestionable work ethic." As she nears the end of her program, she looks forward to the opportunity to change lives for the better.

CEW+ is inspired by Sadye's determination and names her a Molly H. Dobson Scholarship recipient.

Stacey Bishop Mary Malcomson Raphael Scholar



While her path to earning a PhD was anything but linear, Stacey Bishop's unique experiences leading to graduate school continue to inform her current work. As a first-generation college student pursuing a PhD in history, her research aims to "show the material, cultural, and economic forces that have produced poverty amidst wealth."

As a teenager, Stacey was living on her own and unsure of her future. She spent much of her late teens and early 20s traveling, a time she considers an education in and of itself. Experiencing firsthand some of the poorest parts of North America, she learned how the circumstances people were born into, rather than individual failings, set the direction of their lives and affect their well being. At the age of 25, and after a few false starts in higher education, Stacey re-committed herself to earning her bachelor's degree and subsequently secured a scholarship to complete her master's in history. Known as "an extraordinary graduate student, one who combines an exemplary work ethic and all-around brilliance with an idiosyncratic and theoretically sophisticated vantage point," Stacey intends to bring historical work within the academy into the public sphere.

Her current scholarship has two main goals. First, Stacey plans to trace the development of urban poverty in San Francisco and Vancouver as these cities made the shift to financialized economies within the global flows of the Pacific Rim. Second, her work identifies how city officials, the police, public health officials, and social workers in Vancouver and San Francisco managed, explained, and pathologized the growing numbers of the unemployed urban poor in these now wealthy and seemingly progressive cities.

CEW+ is inspired by Stacey's journey and aspirations and proudly names her a Mary Malcomson Raphael Scholarship recipient.

Alison Bressler Elizabeth M. Dusseau Scholar



For as long as Alison Bressler can remember, she has always had a passion for science. That interest carried her through high school, bachelor's and master's degrees, and now drives her pursuit of a PhD in resource ecology and management. Though Alison faced numerous personal challenges and obstacles over the last four years, it hasn't stopped her from achieving significant accomplishments. During this time, she is proud to have earned her master's degree, published two papers, presented at national conferences, passed her preliminary exams, and defended her dissertation proposal, which focused on farmers and nutrient management on farms in the Midwest.

In her PhD research, Alison is studying how farmers manage biodiversity on their land to reduce the negative consequences of industrial farming and to produce sustainable and reliable agricultural systems. Her vision of success is to help farmers access the tools necessary to produce nutrient-rich soil, earn a living, and grow nutritious food for the masses. Ultimately, Alison's mission is to "replace our broken industrial agriculture system with regenerative agriculture that restores soil health and supports ecosystems, while supplying nutritious food to people."

Lauded for "her hard work ethic, her ability to follow through on all tasks that she takes on, and her strong attention to detail," Alison is sure to find success in her endeavors. As she looks to the future, she will continue to recruit students to the field of agroecology to further this important work.

CEW+ applauds Alison's persistence and names her the Elizabeth M. Dusseau Scholarship recipient.

Arianna Bressler Irma M. Wyman Scholar



Arianna Bressler learned the importance of teamwork and found her love of mechanical engineering in high school while participating in the FIRST Robotics Competition. She always prioritized doing well in school, but this experience opened her eyes to how rewarding and inspiring it could be to encourage a small group of peers to work together and stay committed. She rose through the ranks, starting as a team member, then becoming head mechanic, eventually serving as team captain, which solidified her higher educational goals.

As she pursues her bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, Arianna is actively involved with the Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) program at the University of Michigan, as well as the Society of Women Engineers (SWE). She credits these organizations with helping her to shape her future career aspirations as well as providing her the skills to seek these roles. In the future, Arianna would like to make an impact on the world through her work and will pursue a career in the nonprofit sector. Ultimately, Arianna would like to work for Stryker, a company focused on designing equipment to help others.

Recognized for her "insights, the depth of her questions, and most of all her admirable work ethic," Arianna is poised to make a significant impact upon her graduation. As she nears graduation, she will seek internships through her involvement with SWE to gain knowledge and prepare for her career.

CEW+ supports Arianna's vision and names her an Irma M. Wyman Scholarship recipient.

Georgina Brown Irma M. Wyman Scholar



Georgina Brown was raised in Jamaica by parents who came from financially deprived backgrounds. She dreamed of becoming a doctor, but sometimes worried that dream would never come true. Multiple times financial constraints kept her from pursuing her education, though nothing extinguished her drive to graduate medical school. Even when a car accident left her injured, the excellent medical care she received only fueled her more. She says, "I believe that education is for service," and that "my success is measured on how much growth I can instill in someone's life."

Currently pursuing her bachelor's degree in molecular biology and biotechnology, Georgina has her sights set on medical school at the University of Michigan. Looking back on the times that Doctors without Borders visited her rural community, she too intends to provide healthcare to the underserved in the U.S. and around the globe. Georgina is heavily involved in the Flint community. She volunteers at the North End Soup Kitchen, Eastern Michigan Food Bank, McFarlan Nursing Home, and participates in the Safety Awareness March. She believes in the potential of the Flint community and is happy to contribute to its growth.

Georgina is a research assistant for the Molecular Biology and Physical Therapy departments at UM-Flint, has taken a year-long position with the Michigan Medicine Department of Psychiatry at Hurley Medical Hospital Emergency Department, and is also conducting cancer research. Georgina is recognized for her "academic ability, compassion, persistence, stamina, and intellectual curiosity."

CEW+ is inspired by Georgina's commitment and tenacity and names her an Irma M. Wyman Scholarship recipient.

Gigi Burkey Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar



Jennifer “Gigi” Burkey is a mother of four pursuing her master’s of science in midwifery and looks forward to graduating with her cohort in May of 2021. Gigi’s path in higher education has been riddled with obstacles that have challenged her and altered her timeline, but her desire to graduate has never diminished. Raised by a family of women who worked as labor and delivery nurses, she developed an interest in the field of women’s health from a young age. Though two decades have stood between Gigi and the completion of her master’s degree, she is as determined as ever to cross the finish line.

Gigi draws inspiration from her spouse and family, and she appreciates their moral support and encouragement. In addition to the support from her family, she works alongside a group of midwives who are all invested in her success. Amongst these peers she is known for her “compassionate care of our families, her curiosity and eagerness to learn, and her dedication to moms, partners, and infants.”

After graduation, Gigi seeks to impact patients on a personal level through highly skilled, evidence-based, and compassionate care. She anticipates making an impact on her community by providing a full range of primary health care services to women from adolescence through menopause. Gigi is thrilled to be overcoming the challenges of her past to achieve her dream of becoming a midwife.

CEW+ commends Gigi’s persistence and names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship recipient.

Shannan Butler Lucile B. Conger Alumnae Group Scholar



Shannan Butler is a proud mother, wife, and nurse, pursuing her master's degree in nursing at the University of Michigan-Flint. As a nurse in a small town in northern Michigan, she provides geriatric care in her community. In addition to her passion for serving the elderly, Shannan volunteers at a local free clinic to assist those living in poverty. Shannan hopes to improve the resources available to those living with mental illnesses. She says, "This subject affects me on a personal level" and she "would like to increase health care options for this group as well as decrease the stigma attached to mental illness."

Though Shannan has faced many challenges on her path to higher education, including earning her RN license as a single mother of two, she has remained committed to nursing. Through hard work and determination, she received a series of promotions and is now the assistant director of nursing at a long term care facility. Shannan believes that while she is gaining valuable tools and resources in school, much of her education comes from her daily work and experiences. Attending the University of Michigan, where her grandfather earned his M.D. years ago, is something Shannan considers a great privilege. She has many supporters, including her professors who have said, "when Shannan completes this goal, she will add expertise that is highly needed in northern Michigan."

CEW+ appreciates Shannan's commitment to her community and names her the Lucille B. Conger Alumnae Group Scholarship recipient.

Lucero Castillo Jane and Bill Bloom Scholar



When Lucero Castillo lived in Guatemala, she was unable to complete her education due to financial hardship. Four years ago she moved from Guatemala to Michigan, and in less than one year she learned to speak English and enrolled at the University of Michigan. She says, “had I not grown up poor in Guatemala, I may have never fought so hard to become a leader and best.” As a first-generation, full-time student and mother to a son born in May of 2019, she credits her strong Christian faith and relationship with God for her strength and perseverance. Though being a mother and student is challenging, Lucero hopes to set a good example for her son to

follow in her footsteps and earn a college degree.

Currently pursuing a bachelor’s degree in dental hygiene at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry, she will measure her success on the care she provides her patients and community. Sharing knowledge of the importance of good oral health with her family members and patients is something she considers very rewarding. Lucero’s commitment has not gone unnoticed, and she is known among her instructors for the fact that “her strong work ethic and passion to become a dental hygienist are second to none.” Lucero has come so far in these last four years and will undoubtedly have a lasting impact on her community.

CEW+ is inspired by Lucero’s persistence and names her a Jane and Bill Bloom Scholarship recipient.

Jozet Channey Mary Malcomson Raphael Scholar



Jozet Channey is earning her PhD in education and psychology and is thankful for those who supported her on the path to where she is today. Finding out she was expecting a child as she was on track to graduate from the University of Michigan with a 4.0 GPA was a scary but pleasant surprise. She looked forward to being a parent, but was conditioned to believe that she could either be a mother or a scholar, not both. With encouragement, Jozet chose to prove that stereotype wrong and not only earned her bachelor's but also her master's degree.

As a wife and mother of three pursuing a PhD, Jozet is faced with the financial constraints that accompany childcare and commuting to campus, but she is undeterred by these challenges. She is recognized for being "incredibly bright and hardworking with outstanding critical thinking and analytic skills."

Jozet's research focuses on the relationship between a teacher's held beliefs about the causes of race and wealth-based gaps and their teaching practices. She says, "the perspective taken by teachers may result in them being more or less inclined to exercise teaching strategies deliberately aimed at eradicating achievement inequalities." Jozet envisions her cutting edge research improving the training of future teachers as well as providing the foundation for professional development workshops for current educators. She believes that this work will help in identifying the barriers teachers face when addressing educational inequalities.

CEW+ values Jozet's persistence and names her a Mary Malcomson Raphael Scholarship recipient.

Sally Clegg Elsie Choy Lee Scholar



Sally Clegg is pursuing her master's degree in fine arts at the University of Michigan Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design. While eight years separated the completion of her bachelor's degree and the pursuit of her master's degree, her dedication to art has never waned.

During the time between her undergraduate and graduate studies, Sally overcame significant challenges by learning to tap into existing networks and draw strength from community. As she opened her life and her art practice to collaboration and support, she found her footing as an emerging artist.

She received awards, including a prestigious fellowship from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and exhibited artwork nationally and internationally, including a solo exhibit at the University of Massachusetts. These opportunities led to her choice to take the next step in her career: pursuing her MFA.

Sally demonstrates her belief in the power of community through her work with undergraduates as a Graduate Student Instructor. She has a particular interest in supporting students who are using art to process trauma and life's challenges. Because of this, Sally is known as "knowledgeable, capable, friendly, helpful, and respectful of artists' needs." As she looks to her future, she is committed to service through teaching as well as the growth and evolution of her art practice.

CEW+ supports Sally's commitment to art and artists and names her an Elsie Choy Lee Scholarship recipient.

Jennifer Cresswell Elsie Choy Lee Scholar



Jennifer Cresswell is a mother of two and the first woman in her family to attend college. Her path to higher education has not been linear. She attended four colleges over the course of 15 years to obtain her bachelor's degree, but her dedication to singing has always encouraged her to continue. Due to the high cost of living in Ann Arbor, Jennifer currently commutes 15-20 hours a week, yet still remains committed to achieving her goals. She says, "my persistence and commitment to my education stems from a place of responsibility and obligation to both my children and to everyone who has extended a hand and believed in me throughout my educational journey."

After earning her bachelor's degree, Jennifer immediately sought her master's degree in music, graduating with a 3.9 GPA. Since then, she realized that to achieve financial stability, she would need to earn her Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA). As she plans to reach beyond the basic requirements of her program, Jennifer intends to benefit as much as possible from every opportunity available to her. Her dedication has not gone unnoticed as she is known amongst her professors as "a first-rate powerhouse of a singer," whose "commitment to her art is unquestionable, and the results are often astounding."

In the future, Jennifer intends to secure a full-time, tenured job at a university that will provide stability for her family.

CEW+ admires Jennifer's dedication and persistence and names her an Elsie Choy Lee Scholarship recipient.

Antoinette Danku Irma M. Wyman Scholar



Antoinette Danku is pursuing her PhD in neuroscience. Growing up, she and her family faced many challenges. It took her 17 years to earn permanent resident status in the United States, making it difficult for her family to fund her and her brother's college tuition. These obstacles only made Antoinette more determined to persist, and she graduated summa cum laude and set her sights on the University of Michigan.

As a black woman in the field of biomedical science, Antoinette acknowledges that she doesn't see many professors that look like her. She intends to become a professor herself, and knows that she will continue to come up against implicit bias and institutional racism as she pursues her dream. Antoinette refuses to let that slow her down and says, "I want young girls of color to see me as a prominent professional in the field of neuroscience and know that not only is it possible but that they can also raise the expectations others have for them."

In the future, Antoinette intends to lead a team of individuals focused on unveiling the mechanisms behind cognition, study prominent neurodegenerative disorders, and explore the mysteries behind how the brain ages. She will seek research positions with the National Institute for Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS). Antoinette is recognized as someone who is "extremely bright, highly motivated, and has excellent 'hands' for neuroscience research."

CEW+ applauds Antoinette's aspirations and names her an Irma M. Wyman Scholarship recipient.

Reena Dhankani Irma M. Wyman Scholar



Reena Dhankani is pursuing her bachelor's degree in computer science and engineering at the University of Michigan. Reena was born in India and grew up all over the world. She has traveled to over fifteen countries and this wide exposure has endowed her with a keen social and global consciousness. In Saudi Arabia, she was disappointed to see that many of her female peers had been conditioned to be passive about their education, and encouraged her classmates to join her in their local Toastmasters Club. She closely mentored them, helped them with speechcraft, and motivated them to become active participants. As a result, many of these young women

overcame their passivity and became more involved inside and outside of their communities. She empowered her peers and increased participation in her Toastmasters Club, which has helped in the creation a thriving community of young leaders. Reena says, "In a world riddled with stereotypes and inequality, the realization among people, especially girls, that our voices and opinions matter, is of immense gravity."

As she earns her degree, Reena is inspired by intelligent decision making. She says, "It is the engineering of that *almost-absent* ambiguity that fuels my passion for programming." She is seeking research opportunities in artificial intelligence in the upcoming year, with the intention of building a strong technical footing to assist her goal of solving world issues through technology. Reena also hopes that through her involvement with the Women in Science and Engineering Residence Program, she will inspire more young women like herself to pursue computer science and engineering.

Reena is commended for her hard work and recognized for her ability to "not only have a positive impact within her own field but also on others that she crosses paths with over the span of her career."

CEW+ is pleased to name Reena an Irma M. Wyman Scholarship recipient.

Alecia Dillon Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar



Alecia Dillon is a first-generation college student earning an executive master's degree in business administration (EMBA) at the University of Michigan Ross School of Business. Growing up, Alecia loved playing sports with her dad and credits this bonding time for her desire to be a student-athlete. Her passion was so great that when her family experienced financial strains, she took it upon herself to earn the money to pay for her uniforms and to travel with her teams. She carried this love of athletics with her to college where she ran track while earning her bachelor's degree in accounting.

As she pursues her graduate degree, Alecia is determined to seek employment in a top leadership role within intercollegiate athletics. She says, "being a former student-athlete myself, I want to lead an organization that impacts and enriches student-athletes not just on the field or in the classroom, but in all facets of life." With the field of college sports being largely male-dominated, Alecia hopes to bring new ideas and change the organization for the better. She intends to gain knowledge and insight from her program that will enable her to spearhead organizational change and serve as a strong female leader in the industry.

Alecia is known for her "unique combination of very strong technical skills in the accounting and finance area and excellent interpersonal and communication skills." She often uses these skills as a mentor in the formal mentorship program she helped create within the Intercollegiate Athletics Management Business Association.

CEW+ supports Alecia's fresh perspective and names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship recipient.

Mykel Dolinski Ruth Jeanette Buttrey Scholar



Mykel Dolinski knows firsthand how difficult life-threatening medical conditions can be for children and their families. Growing up, she spent countless hours beside her sister, supporting her as she dealt with the effects of osteogenesis imperfecta. Troubled by the challenges her sister faced and inspired by the excellent care she received, Mykel knew she wanted to pursue a career in orthopedics. Recognizing how many other children were living with illness, she knew that this line of work would allow her to change their lives for the better. She says, "With a biomedical degree, I hope to improve orthopedic implants for children all over the world."

Currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering, Mykel serves as a research assistant in the University of Michigan Rehabilitation Biomechanics Lab. She feels that this work is bringing her closer to her goal of improving the lives of patients living with osteogenesis imperfecta. Actively involved with the Society of Women Engineers, Mykel continues to add to her skills. Recognized as someone who "shows self-governance through a commendable work ethic that demonstrates self-management and passion," she is sure to make an impact.

Additionally, Mykel is passionate about improving healthcare in other countries and hopes that her career will improve the lives of the global population.

CEW+ commends Mykel's passion for biomedical engineering and names her the Ruth Jeanette Buttrey Scholarship recipient.

Kerrigan Fitzpatrick AAUW: Mary Elizabeth Bittman Memorial Scholar



Kerrigan Fitzpatrick is a proud single mother and a first-generation college student pursuing a bachelor's degree in psychology and a minor in education for empowerment. Growing up, Kerrigan had a difficult and unpredictable childhood. Though she eventually found the love and support that she needed, her experiences sparked a lifelong desire to work closely with others. After taking time off from pursuing a degree, Kerrigan is celebrating a strong return to higher education. She says, "personally, being a single mother and first-generation college student, I am more driven than ever to complete my bachelor's degree."

In the future, Kerrigan seeks to become a teacher and to make a difference in the field of education. Kerrigan will draw from her personal experiences as a mother to better connect with the parents of her students. Having spent time studying and traveling abroad, she looks forward to bringing a well-rounded approach to her classroom and supporting students with diverse backgrounds and upbringings.

Kerrigan's professors have praised her commitment to connecting with others, saying, "the impact a person with her passion could have on students around the globe is hard to truly measure." As she looks to the future, Kerrigan knows her education won't stop upon graduation. She believes that continuing to immerse herself in different languages, foods, and cultures will only help her to better connect with her students and their rich backgrounds and life experiences.

CEW+ values Kerrigan's commitment to a well-rounded education and names her an AAUW: Mary Elizabeth Bittman Memorial Scholarship recipient.

Christina Gainer Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar



Christina Gainer is a wife and mother of three, pursuing her doctorate of physical therapy at the University of Michigan-Flint. Christina is committed to remaining active in her children's lives as she finishes her degree, which is why choosing a part-time program was important to her. She wants to show her children "that even when the road gets tough, you keep moving and give it your all to achieve your goals." Though she knows that pursuing this career means limiting her time with her family in the present, she is confident that in the long run, she will enjoy the benefits of being able to contribute to a better life.

Through her career, Christina intends to lead by example and show the importance of giving of your time and talents to others. Her work will impact her community as she assists patients with their rehabilitation needs. Though many physical therapists turn their focus to the aging population, Christina is excited to work with children. She says, "I hope to provide the children in need of physical therapy the most optimistic and motivating environment to gain the ability to have the best childhood possible."

As Christina nears the end of her program, she is reminded of how much her hard work will mean to her family. Recognized as "an exceptional student who demonstrates academic achievement, accountability, and respect for those she comes into contact with," she is on the verge of an impactful career.

CEW+ supports Christina's determination and names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship recipient.

Kierra Gray Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar



Today, Kierra Gray is proud to be a fully realized woman who supports other women on their journeys to health and wellness. Despite her platform, her path to get here was not linear. While pursuing her bachelor's degree in women's studies, Afro-American & African Studies, and writing, she struggled with personal challenges and had a difficult time finding her purpose. The birth of her daughter changed her direction and outlook on life. Following that moment of truth, Kierra went on to earn her master's in journalism from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism.

Kierra is currently pursuing her master's degree in social work with a focus on interpersonal practice/mental health, and minoring in social policy and evaluation. She is determined to connect with women across the globe and support them on their journeys to self-discovery. In the future, Kierra intends to open a wellness center to provide a safe and therapeutic space to mothers, daughters, and other women. She will measure her success by how many women she can serve, and will continue to build effective and focused programs through evaluation. She says, "the center will target collaboration with clients and the promotion of a balance between motherhood, womanhood, and personhood, which seeks to honor and care for oneself first." With the immediate goal of serving women in metro-Detroit, Kierra has visions of expanding to serve a global community. Known as someone who is "intellectual, determined, and has a very bright future ahead of her," Kierra's passion will undoubtedly guide the women she serves into a more empowered existence.

CEW+ is excited to have a partner in Kierra and names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship recipient.

Cari Griffin AAUW: Mary Elizabeth Bittman Memorial Scholar



Cari Griffin is a hard worker and a model of perseverance. Shortly after her oldest daughter left home, Cari began pursuing her bachelor's degree at the University of Michigan, double majoring in history and English literature. As a first-generation college student with two children still at home, she knew it would be difficult, but states that "It [was] important for me as a woman, as a partner, as a mother, to achieve a goal that defines me as a person."

Shortly after Cari began her journey in higher education, her daughter gave birth to their first grandchild. Though she hoped becoming a grandmother would be a time of joy and excitement, she was saddened when that phase of life proved much more challenging. In 2016, Cari and her husband became legal guardians to her two grandchildren, vastly changing the landscape of her educational pursuits. While lovingly devoting her life to her children and grandchildren, Cari says she remains a "dedicated and enthusiastic student."

Cari's goal is to complete her bachelor's degree before working toward a PhD in history. She is said to display "the kind of curiosity and passion in her questioning and learning that we see in our finest students." In recognition of all of her hard work, Cari was awarded the Van Boven Award in April 2019, and given the opportunity to spend the summer of 2019 studying at Oxford University through the University of Michigan's Center for Global and Intercultural Studies.

CEW+ supports Cari's commitment to both her family and her education and names her an AAUW: Mary Elizabeth Bittman Memorial Scholarship recipient.

Emily Grim Irma M. Wyman Scholar



Emily Grim is pursuing her bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering, with the goal of helping humans further their understanding of the universe. As a child, Emily drifted off to sleep at night with a stack of books explaining the mysteries of the solar system on a shelf near her bed. She imagined she would one day become an astronaut, but realized with time that there were more minds focused on space exploration missions than just astronauts.

Inspired by her mother, a single parent of two who earned her bachelor's and master's degrees while working to support her family, Emily hopes to inspire other young women to pursue their dreams. As a student whose major has the lowest female to male ratio of any engineering program at the University of Michigan, she knows that this work can be intimidating. Emily says, "Engineering is for anybody, so I hope to make the profession more inclusive to women throughout my career."

Recognized for being "a shining example of leadership," and someone who "showed true integrity, hard work, and a willingness to learn," Emily made the College of Engineering's Dean's Honor List in fall of 2018. She was also elected as the volunteer coordinator at the FIRST Alumni and Mentors Network at Michigan. Passionate about motivating other women to pursue STEM careers, Emily is certain to leave a lasting impact in the aerospace field.

CEW+ is honored to name Emily an Irma M. Wyman Scholarship recipient.

Pusparanee “Anne” Hakim Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar



When Pusparanee “Anne” Hakim was growing up in Malaysia, her family relocated often due to the demands of her father’s job. She believes that this time made her a highly adaptive person, able to manage the many challenges that come with adjusting to new environments.

Her life changed completely when her husband was accepted into a PhD program at the University of Michigan. Moving thousands of miles away to a foreign country as a new mother was hard for Anne, but she says, “our trials and experiences serve as a much-needed reminder to me that with determination, life’s curveballs can indeed be turned into an opportunity for reflection and growth, both personally and academically.” After two years as a stay at home mother, Anne was accepted to the University of Michigan to achieve her goal of earning her PhD in molecular, cellular, and developmental biology.

As a mother of an inquisitive young girl, she has developed a passion for scientific engagement with school-age children. During her work as a fellow, a young girl once approached her and commented that she had never before seen a scientist wearing a headscarf like her. It was then that Anne realized the importance of representation for young aspiring STEM minds. Inspired by this encounter, she will continue her scientific communication and outreach activities through her graduate studies and beyond.

As she mentors undergraduate students, Anne is focused on a career in research and teaching and is known as a “fantastic example of a multifaceted woman in science.”

CEW+ is inspired by Anne and names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship recipient.

Stephanie Hall Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar



As the only woman in her cohort pursuing a PhD in health infrastructures and learning systems, Stephanie Hall leans heavily on the advice and support of her mentors who were also student mothers. She says, “being a mother and a student is challenging, but my children are also my greatest source of motivation.” In fact, her daughter’s premature birth and subsequent health complications inspired her career path. After leaving her job to care for her daughter, Stephanie developed a desire to improve America’s maternal and infant health infrastructure and chose to turn her passion into purpose.

She spent time volunteering for the Southeast Michigan Doula Project, a non-profit that offers support to low-income women, and began working for research investigators studying maternal health services. However, Stephanie quickly realized that in order to scale up her effort and make a larger impact she would need to seek higher education. It was then that she began pursuing her PhD in health infrastructures and learning systems with the intention of studying the implementation of maternal and health care programs for underserved families. Stephanie says, “my vision of success is to become a health research scientist at a major health care institution in order to implement and evaluate evidence-based approaches that will ultimately mitigate maternal and infant health disparities.”

Known for her ability to manage multiple projects and collaborate across disciplines, Stephanie is currently conducting a study exploring barriers and facilitators to maternal health interventions. She is working on a manuscript focused on postpartum healthcare and has several other manuscripts under review.

CEW+ is inspired by Stephanie’s commitment to ensuring better health outcomes for future generations and names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship recipient.

Grace Han Sarah Winans Newman Scholar



Grace Han does not mince words when she says, “medical school is not made for mamas.” Her life is currently a juggling act, balancing the MD program at the University of Michigan with motherhood, marriage, and home life. She says, “this reality has made me realize that part of my mission as a student and a physician must be to change this, and to speak up and advocate for change so that more mothers can bring their unique life experiences and perspectives that are often lacking in our medical training.”

Grace hadn’t always intended to pursue medicine. As a public school teacher in a high-need area, she witnessed great successes inside her classroom every day and thought she would do that work forever. Then, an unexpected pregnancy changed everything. Grace was astonished to discover that her teacher’s salary and benefits denied her access to quality prenatal care. As she stood in free and low-cost clinics surrounded by expectant mothers hoping to be seen, she began to realize how broken the system is. Recognizing how difficult it was for her to be a patient with limited resources thrown unprepared into motherhood, she intends to empower new moms and educate them about their and their children’s health.

Grace is no stranger to hard work, having won several awards as a teacher, and earning a 4.0 GPA in a rigorous 13-month post-baccalaureate program while raising her child. Known for being “professional, courteous, and hard-working,” Grace will undoubtedly have a significant impact during her medical career.

CEW+ applauds Grace’s perspective and names her a Sarah Winans Newman Scholarship recipient.

Grace Hanks Irma M. Wyman Scholar



Grace Hanks is pursuing her bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. She was actively involved in the Women in Science and Engineering Residence Program (WISE RP) during her freshman and sophomore years at the University of Michigan, which allowed her to engage with like-minded women pursuing STEM degrees and draw inspiration from their determination. It is Grace's goal to be the first woman in her family to earn a STEM degree. Through WISE RP, she served as a peer mentor, encouraging first-year students to get involved and build their networks.

Grace has always been interested in learning more about the effects human consumption patterns have on the environment and planet. She says, "I have always decided to recognize the increasing dangers of human activity rather than brush them under the table for the next generation to discover and attempt to solve." With her degree, she intends to seek employment in the renewable energy and green industry to create a better future for humankind. She would like to work with nonprofit and startup companies and hopes to work alongside GRID Alternatives, a nonprofit on campus whose mission is to build solar energy systems for families in need.

Known for being "socially savvy," Grace is commended for her communication skills and recognized as "an incredibly kind and balanced human being."

It is with great pleasure that CEW+ names Grace an Irma M. Wyman Scholarship recipient.

Ai Binh Ho Mary Malcomson Raphael Scholar



Ai Binh Ho is pursuing a PhD in English language and literature with the goal of bettering the lives of Southeast Asian American residents living in the United States. As the child of immigrants who came to the U.S. from Vietnam when she was 7, she spent years working alongside her parents in a factory after school and on the weekends. Her mother, despite chronic health issues, continues to work 12 hours a day, seven days a week. For years, Ai Binh thought this lifestyle served her family well until realizing this was simply “the demand for racialized labor under capitalism.”

As a first-generation college student, Ai Binh seeks to expand American cultural representations, highlight alternative refugee narratives, teach Asian American literature, and ensure that higher education is readily available to marginalized students. Focusing her research on the narratives of Vietnamese people with disabilities living in the U.S. and Vietnam, Ai Binh will reveal the ongoing cost of the Vietnam War, as well as the unsatisfactory living conditions in the U.S. Through mentoring and tutoring first-generation and minority undergraduate students, she hopes to call attention to the limits of the current education system and create an environment more conducive to all learning styles and backgrounds.

Ai Binh is a proud mother of two sons who is known as a “perfectionist, never content to simply write a good paper, she wants to produce scholarship that is original, inventive, and rigorous.”

CEW+ fully supports Ai Binh’s vision and names her a Mary Malcomson Raphael Scholarship recipient.

Jennifer Hopson Sarah Winans Newman Scholar



Jennifer Hopson graduated summa cum laude in 2006 with bachelors' degrees in psychology and communication. As a young mother working to support her family, she had aspirations of earning a graduate degree but chose instead to seek full-time employment and focus on parenting. For years she kept her dream alive, and when her son started college he encouraged her to go back to school as well. Though an accident threatened to postpone Jennifer's start to graduate school, with encouragement from her son, her parents, and her boss, she was able to take the plunge and begin the journey to earning her master's degree in health management and policy.

In the past, Jennifer has focused on projects in mental health, health disparities, and mental health disparities. She intends to use her degree to improve the overall health care system. She says, "Ultimately, I plan to move into healthcare management and administration in a role that allows me to advocate for and directly affect change in access and health equity." She believes that her work will impact individuals at a local level and hopes to eventually expand to the state and national levels.

Though setbacks have threatened to delay her progress, Jennifer remains committed to achieving her goals. Known as a "bright, highly motivated, intellectually curious, persevering, compassionate individual who is committed to making a difference in the lives of people," she is sure to make an impact.

CEW+ is inspired by Jennifer's continued commitment to her education and names her a Sarah Winans Newman Scholarship recipient.

Amber Huyghe | Linda J. Rider Scholar



Amber Huyghe is a proud mother pursuing dual bachelors' degrees in criminal justice and psychology. When she began her higher education journey at a local community college, she knew she wanted to follow a criminal justice path, but wasn't certain where that would take her. After attending an event discussing the harsh realities of human trafficking, Amber's eyes were opened to a world she knew little about.

When Amber was accepted to the University of Michigan-Dearborn, she realized that there were no student organizations dedicated to educating and preventing human trafficking. Amber recognized that this was an area of growth for the campus, and she established Un.Chain.ed, a student group to raise awareness amongst fellow students. Amber's commitment to the cause has not gone unnoticed, as a professor recently said, "her consciousness of the impacts of labor trafficking extends to all of her decision making, from the classes she takes to the food and clothes she buys, to where she shops."

Upon completion of her undergraduate studies, Amber will seek a master's degree and PhD. She says, "it is my future goal to publish articles, books, journals, and to complete the Viral Myth-busting website that I am working on." Amber believes that there are many misconceptions about trafficking that she hopes to dispel through her work. Though health challenges have threatened to derail her progress, she remains committed to this valuable work.

CEW+ is happy to name Amber a Linda J. Rider Scholarship recipient.

Ana Imam Margaret E. Gnegy Scholar



After receiving a heart transplant on her fourth birthday, Ana Imam was told she was a miracle. Having experienced the hardships that accompany chronic disease and the fear of organ rejection from an early age, Ana developed a desire to help those around her. Currently pursuing her bachelor's degree in pharmaceutical studies, she says, "I believe that my true, genuine goal comes from my drive to help those that were once in the same debilitating health condition as I once was."

Following her heart transplant due to dilated cardiomyopathy, Ana was taking nearly 40 medications every day. She lived in fear that if the medicines did in fact work, they could cause long-term side-effects and a shortened life expectancy. With this in mind, she knew that she wanted to complete her PharmD and eventually become involved in clinical research. She says, "I hope to contribute to advancements in immunosuppressant medication, allowing new medications to specifically suppress the immune system against the new organ implanted into the body, rather than decreasing the integrity of the overall immune system."

Recently, Ana was accepted to the UROP's Changing Gears program, which will allow her to become involved in research directly related to transplant pharmacology. With her first-hand experience in this field, a U-M faculty member has said that Ana's "own medical experiences have set her on this journey and given her a true vocation."

CEW+ is in awe of Ana's resilience and commitment to transplant patients and names her a Margaret E. Gnegy Scholarship recipient.

Tara Janetzke Irma M. Wyman Scholar



Tara Janetzke is a first-generation college student pursuing her bachelor's degree in molecular, cellular, and developmental biology. Growing up, she witnessed the harmful effects the genetic condition spinal muscular atrophy had on her family. Recognizing that this genetic disorder could someday affect her children, she knew she wanted to pursue a career that would help her to better understand and help those facing the condition.

Upon graduating, Tara will pursue a master's degree with the goal of becoming a genetic counselor and improving the lives of those struggling to process or understand their genetic disorders. She says, "After becoming a genetic counselor, I want to work with families to understand their genetic disorders or potential genetic disorders in a way that is comforting and healing for the families."

As an active member of the Women in Science and Engineering Residence Program (WISE RP), Tara connects with other women who are passionate about careers in STEM and enjoys the support they offer one another. Known as "bright and engaging and a pleasure to work with," Tara draws much of her excitement for her studies from her involvement with her peers. In her first year at the University of Michigan, Tara received excellent grades and was invited to perform research on age-related muscle atrophy in Dr. Susan V. Brooks' laboratory on campus.

CEW+ commends Tara's hard work and names her an Irma M. Wyman Scholarship recipient.

Chelle Jones Mary Malcomson Raphael Scholar



Chelle Jones is a first-generation college student pursuing their PhD in sociology. Before choosing to pursue graduate studies, Chelle spent time as a program manager for a nonprofit focused on youth leadership training and cultural exchange between the U.S., South Korea, and Japan. Today, they continue to mentor underrepresented youth as a high school debate coach, a judge at science fairs, a supporter of youth-led social justice projects, and by participating in transgender youth-led workshops.

Ultimately, Chelle would like to pursue an academic position at a university focusing on the fields of sociology, LGBTQ studies, and Korean studies. They say, "I hope to work at a university that also houses institutions that support faculty participation in mentorship programs that encourage educational attainment for first-gen, LGBTQ, and other traditionally underrepresented students like myself."

Chelle's research is inspired by their time earning an MA in Korean Studies in South Korea, studying how policies affect social and economic opportunities for women. Their doctoral research examines how LGBTQ skilled labor migrants in South Korea experience inconsistencies in their rights, contributing to our understanding of how gender, sex, sexual orientation, and nation of origin intersect to affect LGBTQ migration. Chelle is committed to the public's understanding of the law, gender, sexuality, and social change in South Korea.

CEW+ values Chelle's commitment to marginalized populations and names them a Mary Malcomson Raphael Scholarship recipient.

Allison Kench Irma M. Wyman Scholar



Allison Kench discovered her passion for making technology accessible for every person when she was in high school. As one of the few female students in a computer science program with more than one hundred male students, she often felt a sense of defeat because she was made to feel less qualified by her classmates. After identifying strong female role models in her life, Allison gained confidence and grew determined to challenge stereotypes and close the gender gap in the field of computer science. This led her to develop a nonprofit after-school program to teach young girls to code and a blog to highlight the work of college women

in STEM. Unfortunately, Allison's dreams were nearly halted when she became the victim of a trauma and was faced with the struggle of recovery. But Allison rose above her circumstances and is now grateful to speak about her experience while spreading awareness about mental health.

Currently working in the CROMA research lab developing technology to assist people with disabilities, Allison says, "I live for the thrill of problem-solving with technology and have a specific interest in productivity and accessibility." Her ultimate goal is to improve lives through innovative technological solutions, which was the focus of her 2019 summer internship at Microsoft in Seattle. Serving as a College of Engineering Tour Leader, Allison loves sharing her passion for STEM and hopes to continue to do so by teaching throughout her career.

CEW+ applauds Allison's vision and names her an Irma M. Wyman Scholarship recipient.

Katie Marquez Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar



Katie Marquez has had a desire to pursue a career in social work since she graduated high school. The summer after graduation she moved to Washington D.C. to serve as an AmeriCorps City Year member within the public school system. Inspired by her work with underserved youth, she chose to stay in the area and work in a housing project community center. Though the work was challenging, Katie found it deeply rewarding.

Currently pursuing her master's degree in social work in a micro, 12-month program, Katie is looking forward to the doors her diploma will open for her and her family. She and her husband plan on opening an immigrant resource center where they will work alongside one another in an effort to support those in need. Identifying lacking resources in Washtenaw County, their center will provide advocacy and support, legal resource referrals, help in navigating state benefits, and translation and interpretation services. Katie believes that this business will bring her family closer together and allow her and her husband, who is currently working 80 hours a week, to spend more time with their children.

Recognized for her ability to take challenges head-on with underserved children and families, including vulnerable immigrants, Katie strives for excellence. She graduated with her BSW Magna Cum Laude with a Recognition of Excellence in Spanish from Eastern Michigan University in just three years, making the Dean's list every semester. Katie currently volunteers with the Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights (WICIR) as an urgent responder to immigration crises in the area.

CEW+ admires Katie's commitment to immigrant rights and her family and names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship recipient.

Katherine Martin Irma M. Wyman Scholar



Katherine Martin is pursuing her bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering with the goal of earning her master's degree in biomedical engineering and making the world a better place. She knows that no two people are born into the same circumstances, and realizes the magnitude of the opportunities presented to her in life. Katherine was adopted into a loving family after being left outside a ballet studio with only her date of birth written on a note beside her. They welcomed her into a supportive home and community. She says, "Every opportunity I have today is because of my two families, my biological family that gave me up so that I could live a better life, and my

family that gives me love, support, and a home."

While pursuing her undergraduate degree, Katherine formed close friendships with peer mentors through her involvement in the Women in Science and Engineering Residence Program (WISE RP) and the Society of Women Engineers (SWE). She turns to these peers for guidance, support, and encouragement. Her main goal in life is to make a tangible impact on people's lives. Drawn to Engineers Without Borders (EWB), she wants to help those who need assistance but lack financial resources.

Katherine was recently given the opportunity to work in a lab conducting research in women's health and preventing birth related injuries, and her eyes have been opened to the expansive reach of engineering. Recognized as being "very courteous, trustworthy, and driven," Katherine is destined to improve the lives of many.

CEW+ is honored to name Katherine an Irma M. Wyman Scholarship recipient.

Vanessa Mayesky Collegiate Sorosis Foundation Scholar



Vanessa Mayesky is a first-generation college graduate, earning her master's degree in public administration from the University of Michigan-Dearborn, and a Rackham Professional Development Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Certificate.

Vanessa initially intended to be an English teacher, but altered her plans after taking a Literature and Social Change class. While spending the semester creating theater projects with incarcerated girls, she was reminded of the time her father spent in prison when she was a child and the effects that period had on her and her family. With this new perspective, Vanessa reached out to her father and, for the first time, was able to discuss his experiences.

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in 1997, she "was eager to start working on social justice issues," and spent two years in the AmeriCorps VISTA program to begin her career in nonprofit administration. Vanessa continued to facilitate theater workshops with incarcerated adults and youth as a volunteer of the Prison Creative Arts Project (PCAP) at the University of Michigan, where she now serves as Associate Director.

Over the course of 20 years, Vanessa worked on literacy issues in Washtenaw County, witnessing firsthand the harmful effects of cyclical poverty and low education right in the very shadow of the University of Michigan. To her, success means ensuring that all people feel welcome, which is why she intends to spend the rest of her career "making the University of Michigan a stronger community partner with a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive campus." She is known as an "excellent planner and visionary."

CEW+ is thrilled to have a partner in Vanessa and names her the Collegiate Sorosis Foundation Scholarship recipient.

Michelle McClellan Gail Allen Scholar



Michelle McClellan is a proud mother pursuing her master's degree in science in information, focusing on digital archives and library science/preservation. After earning her PhD in history, Michelle began teaching at the university level. When personal and professional challenges arose in her life, she altered her course and pursued a career working in a museum. While she was uncertain about this transition, as someone who had loved history her entire life, Michelle was also excited about the opportunity.

As she works to increase her skills in information management and archival science, Michelle aims to become more versatile within the historical resource management field. Her vision for success is to make history accessible and meaningful for everyone. She says, "I want everyday people to understand that their stories matter, that history is not just a dry list of dates and facts in some obscure textbook." Michelle understands the importance of digital tools in her field, and is focused on enhancing her technical abilities.

Adding technical skills to her resume, Michelle plans to pursue a leadership role in the public history field. Known for the fact that her "substantial analytical gifts are grounded in generosity, humanity, humility, and compassion," she is sure to make an impact through her career. Ultimately, Michelle loves history and wants to share it with others.

CEW+ values Michelle's zest for sharing her passion for history with others and names her the Gail Allen Scholarship recipient.

Michael Meza Beatrice Kahn Scholar



Michael Meza's chaotic and challenging childhood made it difficult for him to focus on school. After a false start with higher education, his life took a turn for the worse. Fortunately, Michael received assistance from a social worker who helped him become sober and inspired him to take a different path. As a recovering addict with a clear mind, Michael found a passion for school and earned a bachelor's degree in criminology and criminal justice.

Michael is currently pursuing his master's degree in interpersonal practice and mental health, and plans to advocate for those who live with mental illness. He believes that addiction is often accompanied by mental health struggles and says, "jail cells and shameful stigma do not cure addiction." Focused on helping underrepresented individuals in his community, Michael splits his time as an intern at American Indian Health and Family Services in southwest Detroit, as a detox counselor at Spera, and as a transitional housing manager at Dawn Farm. Michael knows that his master's degree will allow him to better assist the men and women of the recovering community.

As a proud father, Michael strives to set a positive example for his son as he pays forward the compassion and care he received during his time of need. He is known for working "diligently to enhance the lives of others all the while bettering himself," and is already making an impact on the lives of those in need.

CEW+ supports Michael's commitment to the health of his community and names him the Beatrice Kahn Scholarship recipient.

Phoebe Miller Irma M. Wyman Scholar



Phoebe Miller changed schools six times before high school, but moving during her junior year was particularly challenging. Her parents had recently split and she found herself in a new school district surrounded by students who didn't seem to share her enthusiasm for learning. Worried that her younger sister would be discouraged by this indifference, Phoebe set out to change the culture at her new school. Taking on leadership roles and doing her best to inspire her peers, Phoebe led by example.

She is currently pursuing her bachelor's degree in cellular and molecular biology, and she intends to earn her master's degree in biomedical engineering. From there, Phoebe will either continue to medical school and work as an oncologist or get her PhD in biochemistry or chemical engineering. If she chooses medical school, Phoebe envisions working at a children's hospital like St. Jude's or Shriners. If she takes the other route, she looks forward to creating and improving treatments, and would like to design, run, and evaluate clinical trials for a medical team. Regardless of the path she chooses, Phoebe says, "I will know that I am successful if I am able to help people and foster connections between the scientific community and the general public, as that is my ultimate goal."

Recognized for her "great deal of energy and enthusiasm which is contagious to those around her," Phoebe is destined to make an impact.

CEW+ is inspired by Phoebe's future plans and names her an Irma M. Wyman Scholarship recipient.

Iman Mohamed Linda J. Rider Scholar



Iman Mohamed is a proud single mother, pursuing a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Michigan-Dearborn. She spent two years working full-time as she attended community college and earned her associate's degree. Iman knows that she is building a brighter future for her family, despite the challenges of being a single parent and going to school.

For the past nine years, Iman has worked in educational and nonprofit settings. During this time she met countless individuals and families who were fleeing the civil war in Yemen and re-settling in Hamtramck with little to no financial or professional support. In the years she spent working in a Hamtramck school, she learned that 70% of the students were low-income Yemeni immigrants. As she learned of the struggles of her fellow community members, she set the goal of establishing a non-profit organization to support these individuals. When Iman began working at the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS), she realized the wealth of support she could make available to those who need it most.

Iman knows that her career after graduation will not only provide a better life for her and her son, but also for Yemeni immigrants. As she seeks internship opportunities, she intends to secure a position with Ernst & Young because of their well-known support of women and mothers. Known as "someone who has been able to rise up after falling multiple times and is determined to establish a brighter future for herself and her family," Iman will undoubtedly have an impact in her community.

CEW+ is thrilled to name Iman a Linda J. Rider Scholarship recipient.

Himaja Motheram Irma M. Wyman Scholar



Himaja Motheram is pursuing a bachelor's degree in computer engineering and plans to use her education to give back. She believes that learning programming has given her the foundation to build platforms that will provide mental health resources to the masses.

Living across the world from the majority of her relatives has been difficult for Himaja, especially during trying times, because family is one of the most valued parts of her life. That's why, when faced with an unexpected loss, Himaja withdrew and began to lose interest in her school work. With family thousands of miles away and no access to traditional therapy, she turned to a mobile application that helped her to persevere.

Though she abandoned a project during a time of despair, Himaja returned to it a year later and gave it new life. She re-learned HTML and CSS and built a website that would provide mental health resources to individuals like her. She says, "The way I want to use my education to give back is by creating tools that empower people to take charge of their mental, emotional, and physical wellbeing."

Himaja envisions her work impacting not only her family and community but also a global population of individuals who would benefit from keeping better track of their wellness. Recognized as "an ambitious student with broad curiosity and a strong will to explore the connections between computer science and biology-related research," Himaja is sure to leave a lasting impact.

CEW+ is excited to name Himaja an Irma M. Wyman Scholarship recipient.

John Lankeu Muteleu AAUW-Ann Arbor Branch: Used Book Sale Scholarship



John Lankeu Muteleu grew up as one of 19 children born to livestock pastoralists in the Kenyan savannah. It was difficult to attend school regularly due to frequent migration, until a volunteer teacher noticed John's penchant for learning and recommended his parents enroll him in boarding school so he could focus on his studies. Despite challenges, he excelled in his education and was accepted into the prestigious Nairobi School. Upon graduation, he earned admission to one of Kenya's top six universities where he made history as the first from his community to graduate college as well as becoming one of the seven percent of college graduates from the Maasai tribe.

Since graduating, John has co-founded a community-based organization which fundraised to make medical care and drinking water available to his community members, as well as co-founding a tourist company, an ecolodge, a horticultural farm, and a food manufacturing company. Recognizing the lack of transparent laws and processes surrounding business creation, he is now pursuing a master's degree in public policy and international economic development in the hopes of establishing more straightforward policies. As a dedicated husband and father, John says, "I will consider my life a success when I have used my positions of influence to bring more justice and equity to the less fortunate in my community."

In the future, John hopes to earn the Kajiado County Governorship which will allow him to improve access to education, jobs, and resources. Ultimately, John intends to campaign for the Kenyan Presidency, and, if elected, he will work toward creating a more equitable Kenya for marginalized citizens.

CEW+ deeply admires John's commitment to equity and names him the AAUW-Ann Arbor Branch: Used Book Sale Scholarship recipient.

Claire Myers Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar



Claire Myers understands how important and transformative access to information and the internet can be, especially in places where that access is limited by economic disparities. Four years after graduating high school, she began taking courses at a community college and participated in the UROP Community College Summer Fellowship during her time there. She completed a degree in liberal arts, graduating with honors before transferring to a four-year university where she earned her bachelor's of science in electronic media and film studies, with minors in literature and psychology. Claire graduated with departmental honors and made the Dean's list three

times. Reflecting on all the institutions that encouraged her to pursue her education, Claire realized that she wanted to become a librarian and spend her career serving the public.

Committed to addressing disparities in information access, Claire is pursuing her master's of science in information while working as a student fellow in the Library Assessment for Research and Scholarship Lab. Known as "intellectually curious and academically gifted," she is poised to make a significant impact upon her graduation. Claire says, "while my education was interrupted by periods of uncertainty, the local public library was always open to me." With a consistent focus on service, she recently began an internship at the Ypsilanti District Library where she currently works with the award-winning early literacy program *TALK: Text and Learning for Kindergarten*, which promotes activities that foster school readiness to families across Washtenaw County.

CEW+ is inspired by Claire's commitment to serving her community and names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship recipient.

Alison Naif Irma M. Wyman Scholar



Alison Naif has had a passion for learning from a young age. She credits her parents for always stressing the importance of education and has fond memories of her father reading literary classics to her and her brother before bed. Alison experienced many successes in school, yet often attributed these victories to luck rather than hard work. She didn't realize how much this attitude was holding her back until she started at the University of Michigan. As she works every day to become a better version of herself, Alison is happy to be involved with the Women in Science and Engineering Residence Program. Her involvement with this group has opened her eyes

to resources and career paths available to her and given her a support group of women equally passionate about science.

As she pursues her bachelor's degree in biology, Alison is charting the path for her future career. Though she is uncertain where she will end up, she knows she wants a career that will make a positive impact on the world. She says, "Whether it is doing research to make the next big scientific advancement, or teaching students about the sciences that I have a profound passion for, I know that I want to inspire someone the way that biology has inspired me." Known as "always respectful, polite, helpful, and trustworthy, exhibiting all the characteristics of a positive role model," Alison is sure to inspire others around her on her journey.

CEW+ is pleased to name Alison an Irma M. Wyman Scholarship recipient.

Amanda Neal Molly H. Dobson Scholar



Amanda Neal is a first-generation college student earning her bachelor's degree in sociology. She initially intended to seek an art degree but realized the cost of art school was out of her family's reach. With that in mind, she chose to enter the workforce after graduating from high school. After years of working low-wage jobs and struggling to make ends meet, Amanda once again turned to education.

Working in a nursing home sparked Amanda's initial interest in social work. As she earned her associate's degree, she also fell in love with research and writing. Inspired by challenges her family faced growing up, Amanda knew she wanted to continue her pursuit of a bachelor's degree in sociology.

When she thinks of her future, Amanda doesn't see herself leaving academia. Upon graduation, she will work toward a master's degree in social work. She plans to earn a joint PhD in social work and sociology and aspires to one day become a college professor. She says, "It is my hope that any research that I contribute to the field of sociology will be used in forming new policies that will better the lives of Americans." She believes that too often blame is placed on individuals for their predicaments, and hopes to encourage those around her to take a more compassionate approach to their interactions with others. Known for her "quiet confidence and determination," Amanda is poised to succeed.

CEW+ is pleased to name Amanda a Molly H. Dobson Scholarship recipient.

Diana Nunez Irma M. Wyman Scholar



Diana Nunez thought she had her educational path figured out, but a significant injury to her ACL altered her course significantly. As she spent months in physical therapy, working diligently to rehabilitate her knee, she became fascinated with the world of kinesiology and physical therapy. She was inspired by those around her who desired to create a better and stronger version of themselves after physically challenging procedures, and she decided to change direction.

Though she knew transitioning from the College of Engineering to the School of Kinesiology would set her back financially and mean extra years in school, she knew she was now on the right path. Diana has goals for academic, personal, and professional success. Academically, she is focused on time-management, and will work carefully to not overload herself. Personally, she is focused on following her passion, and will engage in her classes, clubs, internships, future career, and research opportunities with determination. And professionally, she is focused on pursuing hands-on experience that will make her a better physical therapist for her patients. With her bachelor's degree in movement science and minor in computer sciences, she hopes to someday perform research on ACL injuries to prevent this painful yet common injury. She says, "this research could reveal groundbreaking evidence into injury prevention and hopefully would benefit athletes around the world."

Recognized for being "the epitome of competency and professionalism," Diana is well on her way to making an impact in the world of physical therapy.

CEW+ values Diana's perspective and names her an Irma M. Wyman Scholarship recipient.

Janelle Nystrom Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar



Janelle Nystrom says, “environmental and public health speaks to me because it is not only about physical and medical wellness; it is social justice, community advocacy, conservation, and environmentalism.” As she pursues her master’s degree in environmental health promotion and policy, she anticipates continuing to medical school to treat disease while also using her public health background to advocate for policy and interventions that protect the environment and safety of communities.

Janelle didn’t always know what path she wanted to take. After earning her bachelor’s degree, she experienced a period of hardship that shook her confidence. With the support of her family and friends, she began working with children within a classroom setting. As Janelle helped them cope with their emotions and engage in problem-solving, she began to heal and look forward to a brighter future. While she was considering pursuing graduate education, Janelle took an environmental science class and developed a passion for the field.

During her time studying abroad in Ecuador, she became ill after ingesting unsanitary water. She soon learned that many of those living in the communities around her had little to no access to clean water. Inspired by this experience, she hopes to combine medicine and environmental public health to prioritize physical health, as well as community advocacy. Known for her “strong empathy and interpersonal skills,” Janelle is undoubtedly on the right path.

CEW+ applauds Janelle’s aspirations and names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship recipient.

Akin Olumoroti Retirement Income Solutions Scholar



Akin Olumoroti says, “energy is critical to the growth of a modern nation, and there is a shortage of well-thought energy policy in most countries on the African continent.” After a tragedy that took the life of a loved one because of power shortages, Akin made it his personal mission to work on innovative energy solutions. After completing his bachelor’s degree in Nigeria, he began working as a research assistant at the Center for Energy Research and Development (CERD), where his team successfully generated electricity from cow feces. While pursuing his master’s degree, his research centered on fabricating nanomaterials for energy systems.

Though Akin faced significant challenges as he prepared to pursue graduate work at the University of Michigan, he persevered and is today earning a master’s degree in public policy at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy. Akin is also pursuing a graduate certificate in science and technology in public policy (STPP). Lauded for his “insatiable appetite for knowledge,” Akin is known to have “a clear idea of where he is going in life and has enough discipline to focus on how to get there, adversities of life notwithstanding.” His goal is to combine all of the knowledge he has gained through higher education to influence public policy on the African continent, especially in sub-Saharan Africa where over 600 million individuals live without access to sufficient power. He just completed a 12-week fellowship at the Walton Family Foundation working to improve water quality on the Mississippi River Basin. Ultimately, Akin says, “I plan to explore international service opportunities with the U.S. government to influence the energy policy landscape both locally and internationally.”

CEW+ extols Akin’s vision and names him the Retirement Income Solutions Scholarship recipient.

Julia O'Sullivan Irma M. Wyman Scholar



Julia O'Sullivan never pictured herself at a big university far from her home state of New York, but when she set foot on the University of Michigan campus she knew she was home. Her parents, despite facing challenges themselves after her mom was diagnosed with a life-threatening illness, made sure that Julia felt supported in her decision. Their sacrifice keeps her focused on achieving her goals, and she feels fortunate to be where she is today.

Currently pursuing her bachelor's degree in chemical engineering with a minor in energy and science policy, Julia strives to perform both academically and in her extracurriculars. Since joining the Central Student Government, she has been able to work on projects she cares deeply for, including increasing the presence of women in science and technology careers. This work is furthered by Julia's involvement in the Society of Women Engineers.

Julia is known for her "technical skills, attention to detail, and sense of initiative," all skills that will serve her well in the field of chemical engineering. During her sophomore year, she took a public policy course that opened her eyes to environmental science and has influenced her career aspirations. She says, "I believe there is so much potential in the energy and environmental science industry," and "[my] greatest hope is to use my talents as an engineer to help remedy existing environmental issues." Julia hopes that her work as a summer intern for BP will help her to enter the energy industry after graduation.

CEW+ is inspired by Julia's commitment to her education and names her an Irma M. Wyman Scholarship recipient.

Jennifer Peters Elsie Choy Lee Scholar



Jennifer Peters is a proud mother pursuing her master's degree in fine arts at the University of Michigan. Though returning to school after a 12-year gap was daunting, she remains dedicated to changing the world of dance.

Upon receiving her acceptance from the U-M School of Music, Theatre, and Dance, she and her family relocated from New York City to Ann Arbor. Jennifer felt reinvigorated returning to the studio in an educational setting, having spent the prior years dancing, teaching Pilates, and writing. It was also during those years that she faced heartbreaking loss. She says, "I believe my experience of loss, in addition to being away from higher education for 12 years and from dance for five, lit a fire within me to persist and succeed as an MFA candidate."

Jennifer's goal is to become a dance instructor within a university setting. As part of her degree requirement, she is developing her thesis, and researching dance studio design and its effect on creativity and training. She says, "dancers spend countless hours in dance studios, so how does this place contribute to their own identity and creative process?" As her research progressed, Jennifer interviewed dancers in Costa Rica, Detroit, Massachusetts, New York City, and Spain. Though the logistics of traveling for research as a mother were challenging, she remained committed to achieving her goals. Ultimately, Jennifer would like to publish a book to strengthen the global dance community. An accomplished dancer, Jennifer graduated cum laude from the Ailey School at Fordham University, and her writing has been featured in the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's playbill for the 2018-2019 seasons.

CEW+ commends Jennifer's many accomplishments and names her an Elsie Choy Lee Scholarship recipient.

Adriana Ponce Mary Lucille Randolph and Lea King Dean Memorial Scholar



Adriana Ponce is a first-generation student parent and Latina pursuing her PhD in sociology. Though balancing schoolwork, parenting, and her dissertation can be challenging, especially as she nears the completion of her program, she is excited to soon be Dr. Adriana Ponce.

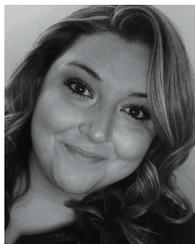
Her vision of success combines teaching and engaging in thoughtful research. Throughout her career, Adriana strives to bring a social justice lens to her work. She hopes to bring a positive change to society by mentoring other marginalized students and advocating for the diverse families she studies.

She says, “I hope to one day mentor both graduate and undergraduate students in order to propel them forward on their own academic and career endeavors.” Ultimately, she is focused on providing a better life for her family, while encouraging her daughter to follow her own dreams. Adriana has learned to be disciplined with her time to stay on schedule over the years as she became a parent during her undergraduate studies. She has also learned to engage thoughtfully with her students through teaching and develop quality research that will help extend the sociology literature. As she prepares to buckle down and finish her program strong, Adriana will focus on completing her dissertation, which centers on how parents in Michigan with child custody court orders share caregiving work.

Recognizing how difficult higher education can be for first-generation students, student parents, or students of color, Adriana hopes to serve as an example of what is possible through hard work and determination.

CEW+ applauds Adriana’s accomplishments and names her the Mary Lucille Randolph and Lea King Dean Memorial Scholarship recipient.

Heather Popkey Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar



Heather Popkey's childhood taught her empathy toward individuals and the unique challenges that others face in life. With an initial indifference toward education, Heather struggled to find a passion for her future while in high school. After completing two years of community college, she decided to take a break and reassess. It was during this time that she realized she wanted to pursue a bachelor's degree.

Heather was motivated by this new path and earned her bachelor's degree in social work from Eastern Michigan University, where she took pride in making the Dean's list and honor roll consistently. Currently a mental health case manager at Washtenaw County Community Mental Health, she does her best to take an unbiased approach to the treatment of her clients. Heather has always had the goal of working within law enforcement and the criminal justice system to address mass incarceration, the "school to prison pipeline," recidivism in jails and prisons, and to take an overall deeper dive to address issues within the system.

Currently pursuing her master's degree in social work, Heather says, "My vested interest lies within fostering positive, strong, and understanding relationships between law enforcement, corrections, and the communities they serve." Heather is known for her commitment to this community and "her dedication to not only her own education but advocating for future generations, and improving the lives of marginalized groups."

CEW+ values Heather's commitment to improving the criminal justice system and names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship recipient.

Tasneem Pota Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar



Tasneem Pota is currently pursuing a master's degree in education at the University of Michigan. Her desire to be a teacher stems from her volunteer service in the National Service Scheme, a social service program sponsored by the Indian Government. While pursuing her bachelor's and master's degrees in biology, Tasneem taught math and science to primary and high school age students at the nonprofit organization, Indian Associate for Promotion of Adoption and Child Welfare. Inspired by this experience, she sought a bachelor's degree in education and explored different teaching and learning styles.

As she ponders her future career, Tasneem's interest lies in creating a collaborative environment where students with diverse backgrounds and learning styles come together and thrive. She says, "I am interested in learning new evidence-based teaching strategies to make teaching science more meaningful and effective in a classroom." With her degree, Tasneem will be well-equipped to enhance her understanding of student learning, while identifying learning barriers and proposing effective and practical interventions to enhance learning among varying age groups. Ultimately, Tasneem intends to serve as part of a progressive educational system that empowers young minds.

Recognized for her persistence, Tasneem is known as "a confident, enthusiastic student and is diligent in her work." As she nears the completion of her program, she is poised to make a significant impact on the global educational system.

CEW+ values Tasneem's commitment to empowering young minds through education and names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship recipient.

Katie Revelle Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar



Katie Revelle is pursuing her PhD in literacy, language, and culture at the University of Michigan School of Education. As a first-generation college student, Katie is grateful for the advice and support of mentors who have guided her. Her path to higher education has not always been easy. As an undergraduate student, Katie spent a summer teaching at an orphanage in the Dominican Republic. After returning, she experienced significant health challenges that threatened to derail her academic progress. Through hard work, she was able to regain her health and complete her degree.

Katie gave birth to twin sons during the second year of her doctoral program. In addition to testing her persistence, navigating life as a mother and a doctoral student has reaffirmed for her “the importance of high-quality care and education for all children and their families.”

Over the course of her career, Katie has endeavored to help create rich and supportive learning environments for young students. Through her dissertation research, she designed a multiple case study to learn from teachers’ and students’ experiences to better support them in their work. Upon completion of her program, Katie seeks to secure a faculty teaching position within a university. From her time as an elementary school teacher on the east coast to her time spent working with a team of third-grade teachers to develop engaging and equitable approaches to instruction, Katie has amassed a wealth of knowledge to guide her in her career.

CEW+ values Katie’s commitment to education and names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship recipient.

Camille Rice Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar



Camille Rice is “determined to show others that disability does not mean inability!” As the primary caretaker for her two autistic brothers, she is proud to balance their daily lives along with her schoolwork. When an injury prevented her from continuing in higher education at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, she was eager to get back to school in a way that fit her life. Currently enrolled at UM-Dearborn, Camille is majoring in international studies and minoring in Women & Gender Studies with a focus on communication.

Camille says, “my vision for success begins with excelling within my international studies major and immersing myself in the world of multilingual business.” In the long-term, she hopes to create an inclusive space where adults with disabilities along with their family members are eligible to visit for a week of stress-free relaxation. Inspired by her family’s meaningful participation with the nonprofit resort, Give Kids the World Village, Camille envisions creating a similar retreat for adults with disabilities. She says, “this is my world’s purpose.” Ultimately, Camille would like to improve the world by making everyday spaces more inclusive. She is known as an “excellent integrative thinker who can connect course material to what she’s studied in other classes or to experiences she has had outside the classroom.”

Camille has made excellent use of her time in higher ed as a charter member of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc.-Theta Phi Chapter, and being named a 2018 UM-Dearborn Difference Maker. She has also received the Sigma Alpha Pi National Engaged Leadership Award and was one of two students inducted into the Talent Gateway 100K club.

CEW+ is inspired by Camille’s commitment to her family and her future and names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship recipient.

Ryan Ruggiero Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar



Ryan Ruggiero is determined to make a difference in the world, saying, “My goal is to contribute to uprooting the system that perpetuates racial and economic inequalities in our society.” As the first child in her family to attend college, she wasn’t sure how to navigate higher education but made sure to take advantage of nearly every opportunity along the way. Personal challenges nudged her toward the field of public service where she developed a passion over several years of study. While pursuing her undergraduate degree, Ryan spent a semester in Tanzania working with a nonprofit supporting people with disabilities, a month in South Africa

learning how to establish a nonprofit, and received funding to form an NGO partnership with a Peruvian university. While these experiences solidified her desire to solve public issues, she said it also inspired her to focus her attention to problems specific to the U.S.

After graduating, Ryan served in the Peace Corps in South Africa where she founded a nonprofit organization focused on empowering out-of-school youth, and later worked for the Federal government. Eventually, she decided to return to higher education and was accepted to the University of Michigan Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy. Today, she is pursuing her master’s degree in public policy and is a Research Assistant at Poverty Solutions, where she researches affordable housing and workforce issues in Detroit. She is focused on developing the skills necessary to work for a nonprofit organization that researches and evaluates government programs and interventions that impact those living in poverty in the U.S. Known as an “analytical thinker, a problem solver, a collaborative team player, and a model public servant,” Ryan will surely leave a lasting impact on the field of public policy.

CEW+ is thrilled to name Ryan a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship recipient.

Juri Sanchez Jean W. Campbell Scholar



Juri Sanchez is a first-generation Latinx college student pursuing her master's degree in social work from the University of Michigan. As a child growing up in a Salvadoran immigrant family, she spent summers working alongside her mother because two jobs didn't provide enough income to cover childcare. This experience solidified her desire to earn a college degree, which she knew would open more doors for her. Unfortunately, a low GPA nearly kept her from realizing that dream. Juri says, "My 2.32 GPA is a number packed with the resilience of a Latinx first-generation college student navigating a foreign system. 2.32 embodies me, continually persevering when an institutional system is telling me I am not qualified." Today, Juri holds a 4.0 GPA and is the co-founder of the First Generation Subcommittee, an organization that supports first-generation graduate students.

Pursuing a master's degree in social work, Juri will seek to end educational inequality by focusing on diversity, equity, and inclusion. She will achieve this goal through the careful examination of higher education policies, retention rates for first-generation students, curricula, and support programs intended to help students not only thrive but graduate. Juri is known as a "highly competent, committed, and hard-working student who grapples with difficult issues and materials with intelligence, enthusiasm, and verve." Ultimately, Juri hopes to empower underserved Latinx and immigrant communities to seek education in order to find solid financial, social, and political footing.

CEW+ is inspired by Juri's resilience and names her the Jean W. Campbell Scholarship recipient.

Raquelle Seda Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar



Raquelle Seda is a proud first-generation college graduate, pursuing her master's degree in public administration. Though she originally had aspirations of becoming a museum curator, significant challenges kept her from realizing that dream. What Raquelle didn't know at the time was that those roadblocks were a blessing in disguise.

After earning her bachelor's degree in history, she set her sights on graduate school. But faced with obstacle after obstacle, she began to lose hope and resigned from her job to seek clarity and reevaluate her goals in Chile. While there, Raquelle served as a volunteer English teacher and received the "Person of the Year" award in the San Antonio borough of Alto Mirador. With renewed confidence, she reflected on the ten years she had spent working and volunteering in community development and knew her future was in that field.

Today as she earns her master's degree at the University of Michigan, Dearborn, Raquelle reflects on her time spent advocating for human rights and ensuring those in her community had access to water, housing, and education. She currently works for the City of Detroit's Bridging Neighborhoods Program and plans to someday lead her own urban revitalization program in Detroit. Though earning her masters degree will mark a tremendous accomplishment in her life, Raquelle believes that graduate school is simply a stepping stone on the path to making a lasting impact on her community.

CEW+ is inspired by Raquelle's journey and her commitment to others and names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship recipient.

C.J. Severn Elsie Choy Lee Scholar



C.J. Severn has a very straightforward goal: “I want to make a difference,” she says. Though she started out in a nursing program in 1988, she didn’t complete the clinical portion of her degree, a choice she regrets to this day. She knows that graduating would have made the twenty years that followed easier, yet she has learned from both her triumphs and missteps.

When C.J. returned to higher education in 2012, nursing was no longer the path for her. Having spent a significant portion of her life as a caretaker and mural painter, she wanted to synthesize art and community service.

Choosing to earn a bachelor’s degree in fine arts with a concentration in painting and drawing seemed like a good fit for C.J. who has spent the last 5 years as the resident artist at the Flint Children’s Museum (FCM) and on the board of the local arts council. In the future, she intends to continue her work in the non-profit sector and hopes to bring art into a collaborative environment promoting educational goals.

With two daughters in college and a teenager at home with aspirations of earning her degree, C.J. does her best to lead by example. Known as someone who “has all the tools needed to be extremely successful, and is refreshingly creative,” she has much to be proud of. In fact, she has made the Dean’s list every semester she has attended the University of Michigan-Flint and is highly recommended by the chair of the art department, her professors, and the directors of the FCM.

CEW+ values C.J.’s vision for promoting education through art and names her an Elsie Choy Lee Scholarship recipient.

Carri Shafley Robert Bruce Dunlap Memorial Scholar



Carri Shafley is pursuing her bachelor's degree in nursing with the goal of serving geriatric populations, especially those with Alzheimer's disease. Her desire to serve this community began when she decided to care for her elderly grandmother rather than immediately pursue higher education. Carri believes she lacked the drive to finish her bachelor's degree when she was 18, but now, as a mother who works two jobs at two different hospitals, she is determined to cross the finish line. She says, "I believe I was meant to take the long route to finishing my degree." She hopes to inspire her daughter to know that she can achieve anything she puts her mind to.

Currently participating in the M-Connect program on campus, Carri connects with other transfer and underrepresented students at the University of Michigan. Upon completion of her degree, she intends to offer support to single mothers who also desire a career in nursing. She knows from experience how slim resources can be for single mothers returning to school, and says, "daycare is expensive and trying to find a work-school-mother balance is extremely difficult on a good day." Known for her "maturity and level of professionalism, her communication skills, and active engagement in her learning," Carri is certainly setting a good example for those who wish to follow in her footsteps. She is currently a member of the honor society, maintaining a 3.85-3.9 GPA.

CEW+ values Carri's persistence and names her the Robert Bruce Dunlap Memorial Scholarship recipient.

Leah Squires Joan P. Ireland Scholar



Leah Squires is pursuing joint master's degrees in public policy and Middle Eastern and North African area studies. She served as a volunteer with the Peace Corps in Morocco and then worked with an immigrant and refugee community agency in Portland, Oregon before returning to graduate school. Over the years, Leah has achieved proficiency in Moroccan Darija and is developing her Arabic language skills. During the summer of 2019, she was awarded the Kathryn Davis Fellowship for Peace and attended Middlebury's Intensive Arabic Summer Language Institute in California. Leah also served as a student leader and facilitator for the Ford School

of Public Policy's International Economic Development Program to Morocco during the 2019 academic year.

Leah does not yet know what career she will pursue in the future, but she knows that she will continue to bring an international and cross-cultural lens to her work. Drawing from the skills she will earn from both degrees, she will lean heavily on linguistics, excellence, strategy, and leadership, saying, "the current global political climate aches for a more humane approach." She is recognized by her advisor as a scholar who "has a deep empathic ability and sensitivity to mediating and engaging with difference."

CEW+ values Leah's unique perspectives and names her the Joan P. Ireland Scholarship recipient.

Nicole Stuckey Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar



Nicole Stuckey grew up in a bilingual region in Italy where she was exposed to multiple languages and had access to a great education. Though these circumstances set her up for success, significant challenges led her down a destructive path. As she struggled to understand her mother's health problems, Nicole grappled with depression, anxiety, and addiction. Despite these difficulties, she was able to get sober and pursue an education.

Nicole is currently pursuing a master's degree in education with a certification in teaching. She says, "the day I realized I was meant to be a teacher so I could make a difference in this world was one of the best moments of my life." She believes that although children may not always receive the support they need from their caregivers, that doesn't mean they can't find it elsewhere. With a calling to work in underserved school districts, Nicole says, "I feel drawn to the underdogs, the kids given up on by the rest of society, the ones whose circumstances are less than ideal."

Recognized for her perseverance and strength, Nicole is poised to make an impact. Though attending the University of Michigan-Flint has relocated her far from her family, she knows that these challenging times will give way to a fruitful future. While she works to build her support system in Detroit, Nicole is confident that she is right where she is meant to be.

CEW+ is proud of Nicole's hard work and names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship recipient.

Kanchan Swaroop Peter and Zdravka Zdravkovski Scholar



Kanchan Swaroop is pursuing joint master's degrees in environmental engineering and natural resources and environment. After completing her bachelor's degree in chemical engineering at the University of Michigan in 2013, Kanchan didn't anticipate returning to higher education. She began working in the industrial gas and chemicals field and was uncertain about her long term plans. Over the next five years, Kanchan worked with many customers who were implementing the latest sustainable manufacturing innovations, or at the forefront of combating climate change. During this time, she realized that with a graduate degree, she could combine her

passion for engineering, nature, and the environment and turn this work into a fruitful career.

With her future career, Kanchan hopes to take a multilateral approach to solve the problems we face with our practices and infrastructure to find appropriate solutions for all communities. She says, "although energy and water are such interdependent resources, they are often analyzed and discussed separately." She will prioritize assisting with the implementation of sustainable energy and water systems for consumers because she believes that access to these resources is a basic human right.

In her first year of graduate school, Kanchan became a Dow Sustainability Fellow, the Professional Development Co-Chair for the Graduate Society of Women Engineers, and received a career development grant through the American Association of University Women. Kanchan is recognized as "the best kind of engineer; ambitious, opinionated, empathetic, and determined to make the world a better place."

CEW+ is proud to name Kanchan the Peter and Zdravka Zdravkovski Scholarship recipient.

Johnna Swartz Jane and Bill Bloom Scholar



Johnna Swartz believes that, though “everyone is born into something,” we all have the opportunity to change the course of our future.

Growing up in a rural community in Michigan, she dreamt of leaving her hometown to explore the world, and upon graduating high school she did just that. Though excited about her future, the recession began to weigh heavily on Johnna and her new husband, and she further lost hope when he fell ill. Helping him manage his health proved challenging, but it also sparked a passion for hematology that has stuck with Johnna through the years.

With the drive to keep moving forward, she made the choice to pursue an undergraduate degree in psychology and has her sights on medical school with the goal of becoming a pediatric specialist. Johnna believes that, through research, “there is potential to discover the ‘next big clue,’ or find a cure for the incurable.” Ultimately, Johnna wants to make her two children proud and provide them a life of stability and comfort.

In May of 2019, Johnna was accepted to the Study Abroad program and given the opportunity to travel to Prague, in the Czech Republic. During this time, she studied cross-cultural psychology, furthering her passion for the field. She is said to have “demonstrated an impressive combination of tenacity, humility, flexibility, and resourcefulness that merits recognition.”

It is with great excitement that CEW+ names Johnna a Jane and Bill Bloom Scholarship recipient.

Corinne Tessin Irma M. Wyman Scholar



Corinne Tessin is pursuing a bachelor's degree in actuarial mathematics. Like many people, Corinne didn't know much about the field initially. When she began to research careers for mathematicians outside of the world of finance, she decided that a career in actuarial mathematics would be a good fit, allowing her to combine math while researching economics, programming, finance, and statistics.

Corinne's vision of success involves not only a successful career but also community involvement. After completing her bachelor's degree and passing a series of examinations, she hopes to find a fulfilling career in the Midwest, where she intends to serve on the school board in her town and participate as an active member in her church. She says, "in the future, I think it will be interesting to see how the insurance industry adapts to new changes," and she hopes to "be a part of that change and impact how the insurance industry handles it."

Corinne has been actively involved in the Women in Science and Engineering Residence Program and will serve as a peer mentor and member of the program board upon her return in the fall of 2019. Corinne is recognized for bringing "her energy and acumen to leadership and mentorship within the STEM community broadly and, more specifically, to the efforts of women to make their mark in that world."

CEW+ supports Corinne's vision and names her an Irma M. Wyman Scholarship recipient.

Emma Thompson Molly H. Dobson Scholar



Emma Thompson is pursuing a bachelor's degree in digital marketing from the University of Michigan-Dearborn. She knows the importance of having strong role models who support your dreams and visions, despite having encountered too few supportive voices when she was in school. From a young age, Emma was often told to set her expectations lower. But when, at the age of 20, Emma felt that she had lost control of her life, she made a vow to improve her circumstances to set a positive example for her son.

Now, as a mother of three young children, Emma is close to graduating. Though times have been challenging and financing school is difficult, she says, "I am too close to the finish line to turn back." After earning her degree, Emma plans to engage with individuals as an entrepreneur and small business owner, and build a network to provide tools and resources to underserved communities. She hopes that by sharing what she has learned over the years, she will prevent others from making the same mistakes she has. Recognized for being "reliable, dedicated, and eternally upbeat," Emma will undoubtedly make an impact.

In June of 2019, Emma's hard work and persistence was recognized when she was named one of Wayne Metro's Adult Believe & Achieve Award recipients. This award recognizes the achievements of outstanding clients and students for growth, overcoming barriers, and achieving success throughout the year.

CEW+ applauds Emma's hard work and dedication and names her a Molly H. Dobson Scholarship recipient.

Amber Uptergrove Irma M. Wyman Scholar



Amber Uptergrove is pursuing bachelors' degrees in psychology and cellular and molecular biology, with the goal of earning her M.D. and completing a residency in pediatric psychiatry. Ultimately, she would like to serve as a pediatric emergency physician in a hospital. She recognizes the importance of mental health in everyday life, especially when faced with trauma or a significant medical diagnosis, and she knows that finding support can play a major role in recovery. Amber says, "In a perfect world, mental health would be taken just as seriously as physical health, and referral to a psychologist or psychiatrist during prolonged hospital stays would be routine." She knows

that this is often not the case, but aims to make it a routine practice in the future.

As an active member of the Women in Science and Engineering Residence Program, Amber lives with 150 other women interested in science, technology, engineering, and math, who support each other as they pursue their interests. In her spare time, she serves as a member of the Camp Kesem University of Michigan Chapter and has personally raised over \$1,500 to send three children who have parents with cancer or who have lost parents to cancer, to camp. Amber was selected as one of 20 students to study neuroscience in Spain during the summer of 2019.

Known for her "composure, intelligence, and work ethic, Amber has huge potential to make an impact in the medical field whether it be through patient care or laboratory research."

CEW+ looks forward to Amber's bright future and names her an Irma M. Wyman Scholarship recipient.

Ivy Wei Helen Huff Shell Scholar



Ivy Wei is a first-generation Taiwanese-American pursuing dual master's degrees in business administration and behavior, education, and communications. Ivy's mother, an MFA graduate from a top university in Taiwan, was unable to transfer her skills in the U.S. and found work as a waitress. Though it was tough as a family of four living on a tight salary, Ivy says she learned the importance of caring for family, as well as education as a key to unlocking upward mobility.

While earning her bachelor's degree, Ivy worked and provided support to her younger sister. This hard work paid off when she graduated with honors with dual bachelor's degrees in economics and Chinese languages and cultures. Ivy says, "I am grateful for the lessons I have learned from experiencing adversity with my family, and I am grateful to be able to see a future that is brighter than our past."

Returning to graduate school because of her interest in environmental sustainability, Ivy hopes to use her skills to mitigate the impact corporations have on climate change. She is recognized for being "focused on a larger goal," and for possessing "a rare combination of intelligence, hard work, humble nature, and a strong understanding of business." In the future, Ivy envisions working at a top NGO such as the World Wildlife Fund, Environmental Defense Fund, or Nature Conservancy.

CEW+ values Ivy's commitment to bettering her and her family's future and names her the Helen Huff Shell Scholarship recipient.

Quantanise Williams Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar



Quantanise Williams envisions “a world where every girl and woman has access to culturally appropriate education and resources to make healthy, informed decisions about their reproductive and sexual health.” When she found out that she was pregnant with twins as a single mother, she was terrified. Though she intended to have a calm water birth, she ended up with a traumatic C-section. As a result, the experience left her feeling rushed, stressed, and uncomfortable. Today, Quantanise channels those experiences into eliminating reproductive and sexual health disparities in underserved communities.

Currently pursuing a master’s degree in interpersonal practice at the University of Michigan School of Social Work, Quantanise plans to create national and international interventions that will dramatically improve maternal and infant health outcomes. She will achieve this by promoting the expansion of insurance-covered doula services, as well as expanding access to natural and chemical-free feminine hygiene products. She says, “My degree and future service to my community will grant me a lifetime of happiness and satisfaction.”

Quantanise is a first-generation college student currently running her own business focused on reproductive and sexual health, while maintaining a 4.0 GPA as a single mother of twin girls. She is known as a “hardworking, relentless student who, with a little bit of support, is able to excel beyond measure.” Quantanise’s personal experience is sure to fuel a career that significantly impacts the lives of countless women and children.

CEW+ values Quantanise’s vision and drive and names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship recipient.

Jiazhen Yang Irma M. Wyman Scholar



Jiazhen Yang is a proud Chinese American student pursuing a bachelor's degree in actuarial math. Though Jiazhen has faced challenges and obstacles during her time at the University of Michigan, these roadblocks have pushed her to work harder than ever before and she remains confident in her abilities.

As an active member of the Women in Science and Engineering Residence Program, Jiazhen says, "the ambitious women that I interact with on a daily basis have made me want to succeed to the [best] of my abilities, and they are why I give back to the program because everyone deserves to have the opportunities that I have." Jiazhen is also involved with the Student Actuaries Club at Michigan, an organization that connects students with career fairs and social networking. Jiazhen draws from her strong support system and values the close friendships and relationships she has developed in her time at U-M. She is recognized as "an incredibly insightful student with an excellent work ethic."

As she looks to her future, Jiazhen is immediately focused on improving her math skills and growing as a person. Ultimately, she envisions beginning her career in an analytical role in the field of actuarial math or financial math. As she progresses in her career, Jiazhen intends to serve as a mentor and inspiration to other students and women of color.

CEW+ applauds Jiazhen's determination and vision and names her an Irma M. Wyman Scholarship recipient.

Thank you.

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CEW+ empowers women and underserved individuals in the University of Michigan and surrounding communities by serving as an advocate and providing resources to help them reach their academic, financial, and professional potential.



330 East Liberty Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

734.764.6005 cew.umich.edu