



**LEADERS
SCHOLARS
FELLOWS
RETURNING STUDENTS
NONTRADITIONAL STUDENTS
COMMUTERS
STUDENT PARENTS
TRANSFER STUDENTS
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
LGBTQ+ STUDENTS
STUDENT CAREGIVERS
STUDENTS OF COLOR
FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS
WOMEN IN STEM
ANN ARBOR
DEARBORN
FLINT
GRADUATE STUDENTS
UNDERGRADUATES**

CELEBRATING 52 YEARS OF AWARDING SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS. YOU BELONG HERE.

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

Congratulations to the 2022-23 CEW+ Scholars and Fellows

The 2022-23 academic year marks the Center for the Education of Women+'s full return to in-person events, including the Scholarship and Fellowship Awards Ceremony, which was last celebrated in-person in 2019. This year we celebrate 14 CEW+ Fellows and 80 CEW+ Scholars, from a variety of graduate and undergraduate programs on the Ann Arbor, Dearborn, and Flint campuses.

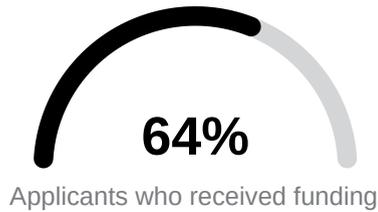
Despite strong academic records, impressive accomplishments, and defined goals, many Scholars and Fellows experience significant financial barriers to their success. Much like the original recipients of the 1970s, these bright, determined students have overcome daunting obstacles to pursue their educational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

Thank you to the sponsors, alumni, family members, community members, scholars, and fellows who are joining us for the Scholarship Awards Ceremony on November 6, 2022. In this scholarship booklet, you will find the collective scholarships and fellowship descriptions along with the scholar and fellow biographies.

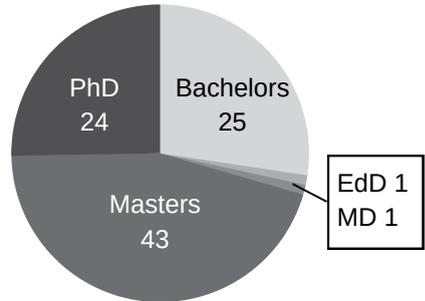


There are 94 members of the 2022-23 CEW+ Scholar Cohort, including 80 scholarship recipients and 14 fellows. Congratulations and welcome to the CEW+ Scholar Community!

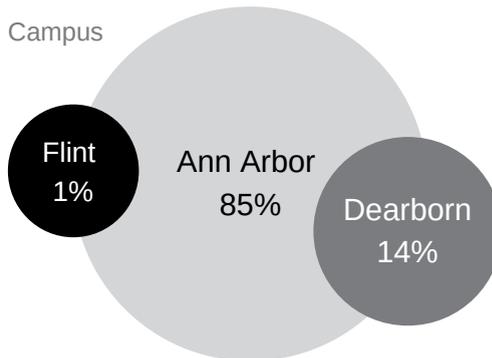
Meet the 2022-2023 CEW+ Scholar Cohort



Degree Level

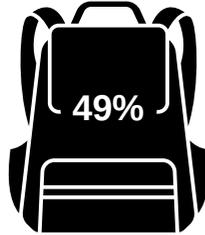


Campus

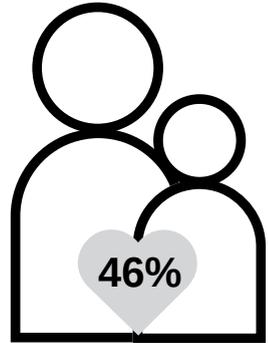


36%

First Generation
College Students



Returning to school
after a gap in education



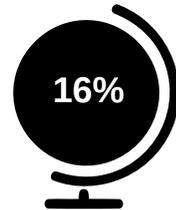
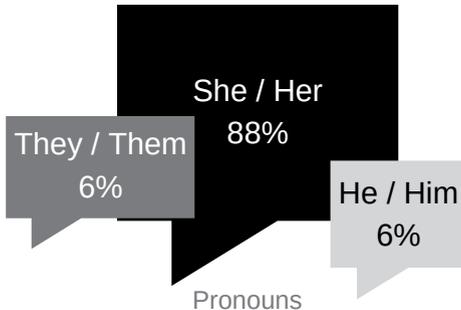
Caregiver



Pell Grant Recipients



Commuter



International Students

CEW+ Mission and History

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.

"It is one thing to believe in yourself, but it is truly rewarding to have someone else express belief in you as well. When I think about the scholarship...I am reminded that someone else is rooting for me to succeed" - CEW+ Scholar



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 spring of 1970 to mark the 100th anniversary of women being admitted to the University of Michigan.

CEW+ joins with all of our generous donors in celebrating over 2,000 scholars and fellows who have received support since the program began. By connecting private resources with scholars' and fellows' intelligence, motivation, and effort, CEW+ helps to transform individual lives which in turn helps families, workplaces, and communities.

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 for CEW+ Scholarship applicants
- Programming and events tailored for CEW+ Scholars and scholar alumni to build community
- Support for career development, networking, and advancing opportunities, offered to CEW+ Scholars and scholar alumni
- Dedicated staff members who create programs and outreach to meet the emerging needs of the CEW+ Scholars and scholar alumni
- Responsive holistic career and education during their tenure as a student and beyond

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 – as a student and beyond. 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 throughout their life. 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.

SCHOLARSHIP READERS

Debra Barksdale ('02)*
Valerie Bashaw ('92)*
Gabriella Boufford ('13, '17)
Cara Canady ('11)
Letha Chadiha ('85, '89)*
Annette Charles ('02)*
Grace Christiansen
Sarah (Rominski) Compton ('07, '15)*
Dana Levin ('05, '08, '10)*
Karen (Yaohua) Lin ('16)*
Margaret McFarland ('80)*
Leslie McGarvey ('14)*
Martha Monroe ('79, '86, '91)*
Rebecca Nadel ('05)*
Ana Ostermann ('98, '00)*
Donna Parr
Anju Paul ('12)*
Gwen Rubinstein ('91)*
Michelle Sanford ('74, '78)
Tracy Schroepfer ('96, '03)*
Nancy Sims ('09)*
Lori Wallace ('14)*

SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION COMMITTEE

Barbara Anderson
Emilia Askari ('11)*
M'Lis Bartlett ('09, '15)*
Mischa Boardman ('97, '00)
Laura Craig
Simone Dixon
Sara Goodkind ('99, '03, '05)*

Susan Gutow
Evelyn Hollenshead
LaTres Jarrett ('99)*
Caroline Lee ('88, '00)
Sharon Lobdell ('96)
Susan McCannell ('68, '69)
Ciara Merriman ('98)
Hillary Murt ('77)*
Susan Randolph ('69)
Chelsea Ransom ('13)*
Molly Resnik ('72, '74)
Becky Richardson ('18)*
Edith Sharon Thornton ('95, '01)*
Debbie Tirico
Don Vereen
Lela Weems ('91, '97)

FACILITATORS

Shareia N. Carter ('99)
Tiffany Marra ('98, '06)
Alicia Marting
Doreen Murasky ('83, '84)
Courtney Reid ('13)
Jamie Zawistowski

CEW+ FELLOWSHIP SELECTION COMMITTEE

Chris Black ('71, '74)
Angela Ebreo
Constance Flanagan ('87)*
Lee Gorman ('79, '83)
Maureen Martin ('80, '88)*
Vilma Mesa

Virginia Nelson ('74)
Robert Phinney ('10)*
Beverly Strassmann ('78, '79, '90)*

CEW+ STAFF

Gabriella Boufford ('13, '17)
Grace Christiansen
Liz DeBetta
Angela Ebreo
Iona Giddings ~
Sandra Iaderosa ('85)
Sarah Keovongsak
Erin Lane ('08)
Tiffany Marra ('98, '06)
Alicia Marting
Doreen Murasky ('83, '84)
Jessica Pelton ('22) ~
Sarah Prince ('10)
Courtney Reid ('13)
Jamie Zawistowski

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Catherine Brist
Julia McDaniel ('21)

DESIGN & PRODUCTION

Sarah Keovongsak

CEW+ LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Barbara Anderson
Christine Black ('71, '74)
Mischa Boardman ('97, '00)
Andrea Darden
Lee Gorman ('79, '83)
Susan S. Gutow
Caroline Lee ('88, '00)
Ciara Merriman ('98)
Laurita Thomas ('70)
Don Vereen

EMERITAE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Menakka M. Bailey ('78)
Lisa Baker
Nancy Barbour ('64)
Norma C. Barfield
Ellen M. Byerlein
Jean W. Campbell†
Lois P. Cohn ('54)
Julie F. Cummings
Martha Meier Dean ('75)
Beverly B. Denbo ('64)†
Anthony Derezinski ('67)
Molly H. Dobson ('44)
Carol Doll ('65)
Anne Duderstadt
Susan S. Florsheim ('64)
Geraldine B. Ford ('48)†
Tiffany Ford
Twink Frey ('61, '70)
Beverley Geltner ('67, '81)
Christine Green ('74, '85)
Matina Souretis Horner ('63, '68)
Margaret Kephart

Constance M. Kinnear ('71, '82)
Rani Kotha
Judith H. Lax ('65)
Anne Lehker ('92)
Ashley M. Maentz ('64)
William Martin ('65)
Rebecca McGowan†
Ann V. Parfet
Virginia Patton Moss
Robert D. Oliver ('94, '02)
Karen O'Neal ('63)
Lana B. Pollack ('65, '70, '71)
Sheila Potiker ('50)†
Kathleen K. Power
Mary Princing ('60, '61)
Desma Reid-Coleman ('75)
Margaret A. Rieckert†
Karla Scherer ('57)
Martha R. Seger ('54, '55, '71)†
Ann Sneed Schriber ('70)
Gil Seinfeld
Carol S. Smokler ('68, '70, '74)
Maxine J. Snider ('64)
Elizabeth Stranahan†
Alicia Torres
Nellie M. Varner ('68)
Erica A. Ward ('75)
Marina v. N. Whitman

* CEW+ Scholar Alumna
~ Temporary Staff
† In Memoriam

The Fellowships

THE MENAKKA AND ESSEL BAILEY GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP Recipients: Chloé Damon, Remy Mink, Chloe Wilkinson Menakka, (MPH '78) and Essel Bailey, (JD '69), Ann Arbor residents and business professionals, are also longtime friends and supporters of CEW+. They created the Menakka and Essel Bailey Graduate Fellowship in 2011 to enable American graduate students to study abroad—especially in South and Southeast Asia—and to do fieldwork and language study in the fields of public health, health care, and the environment.

GUTSY BROAD FELLOWSHIP Recipients: Charles Katulamu, Katherine Wright

The CEW+ Gutsy Broad Fund was established in 2018 by a CEW+ supporter who, along with her late mother, is an activist and fierce advocate for women's rights. The highest compliment one could receive from the sponsor's mother was to be called a "gutsy broad." The Gutsy Broad fellowship provides the means for graduate students who need financial assistance to study and/or conduct research about removing barriers for women and their allies in the advocacy and social change sphere. In short, this fund is meant to support "gutsy broads" and their allies in making a difference in the world.

RIECKER GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH FUND Recipients: Gwendolyn Burgess, Jun Fang, Maya Glenn, Barbara Nainiger, Sally Phipps, Lai Wo

Ranny Riecker (LLD '05), long-time friend and CEW+ Leadership Council Emetia, established the Riecker Graduate Student Research Fellowship in 2008. The fellowship supports graduate students conducting student-designed, student-conducted academic research on issues of importance to women. Dr. Riecker's gift has increased CEW+'s ability to support emerging scholars, enabling them to collaborate with, and learn from, experienced researchers.

SIMSON FAMILY GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP Recipients: Paloma Contreras Zúñiga, Audrey DeGroot, Savanna Smirnow

The Simson Family Graduate Fellowship was established in 2015 by Dr. Virginia Nelson, (MPH '74). The scholarship supports graduate students who need financial assistance to research or work abroad to enhance their educational, research, and/or career pursuits. Preferred areas of study are Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Public Health. Dr. Nelson's mother graduated from the University of Washington in 1925 and was a school teacher. While she never traveled internationally, she encouraged both Dr. Nelson and her brother to study and work overseas. She was a very independent woman who was active with women's issues in the community. Dr. Nelson's father grew up in Nome, Alaska, and also graduated from the University of Washington. He started his career as a high school teacher and later worked as a mechanical engineer. The Simson Family Graduate Fellowship was inspired by Dr. Nelson's overseas experience doing health-related work that went on to inform her personal and professional life in meaningful ways.

The Scholarships

GAIL ALLEN SCHOLARSHIP Recipient: Melika Belhaj

The Gail Allen Scholarship was established in 1997 by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Allen, with their family and friends, in memory of their daughter. The scholarship supports women who are returning to complete an undergraduate or graduate degree at the U-M, with preference given to women enrolled in history, women's studies, or related fields. Gail Allen 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." Ms. Allen'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.

AAUW: MARY ELIZABETH BITTMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP Recipient: Patrick Gallagher

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.

AAUW-ANN ARBOR BRANCH: USED BOOK SALE SCHOLARSHIP Recipient: Eun Bit Hwang

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 levels. 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.

CHRISTINE KAHAN BLACK SCHOLARSHIP Recipients: Jess Lasoff-Santos, Jennifer C. Lopez

The Christine Kahan Black Scholarship was established in 2013 by Herb Black (MBA '67) to honor his wife, Chris Black (AB '71, AMLS '74). The scholarship supports students whose academic careers have been interrupted or who are the primary parent responsible for minor dependents. Mrs. 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, Mrs. Black works as 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, Mrs. Black 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.

JANE AND BILL BLOOM SCHOLARSHIP Recipient: Savanna Clore

Jane (BS '68, MD '74) and Bill Bloom established their scholarship in 2007 for undergraduate students on the UM-Ann Arbor campus. In 1964, when Dr. Bloom first 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 Dr. Bloom was a forty-year-old mother of ten and Ann Arbor-area chicken farmer – and it continued until her passing at 98 on September 11, 2022. With perseverance and determination, and help from CEW+ along the way, Dr. Bloom completed both an undergraduate and a medical degree at the U-M and had a distinguished career as a physician. Throughout it all, Dr. Bloom's husband Bill, who died in 2011, was a supportive partner. With this scholarship, Dr. and Mr. Bloom send a message to all future recipients to “aim high, raise your sights, and stick with it for a rewarding life.”

GRACE A AND JAMES D BRUCE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIP

Recipients: Morgan Fett, Tilahun Fikadu

The Bruce Scholarship encourages students who help communities solve problems, especially through the disciplines of Art and Design; Music, Theatre and Dance; Architecture; Urban Planning; Information; or Engineering. Dr. James Bruce was a proponent and innovator in the field of adult education in Michigan. He recognized it as a critical component of democracy, stating: "If the American tradition of individual responsibility and representative government is to be restored, we have here a very real problem for education, for the direction given by education toward encouraging and assisting local communities to take the initiative in solving their own problems by democratic processes will probably be a determining factor in all that follows." This scholarship also includes mentorship and special access to technologies at the Digital Media Commons in the Duderstadt Center. The Digital Media Commons provides access to evolving technologies supported by experienced and passionate staff. The Center enables new ways to research, teach, learn, create, and explore in a student-centric environment that is interdisciplinary, inclusive, collaborative, and that promotes climate and social justice.

RUTH JEANETTE BUTTREY SCHOLARSHIP Recipient: Terra Schneider

The Ruth Jeanette Buttrey Scholarship was established in 2003 by Stephanie Buttrey (MS '77) to recognize outstanding undergraduates on the Ann Arbor campus, with a special focus on students majoring in creative and performing arts. The scholarship honors Ms. Buttrey's grandmother, Ruth Buttrey, who filled her life with learning and adventure. An early proponent of women's education, Mrs. Buttrey 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, when he volunteered to be in one of her shows. A few years later during the Depression, Mrs. Buttrey 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 Mr. Buttrey oversaw the growth of Buttrey Stores, Inc. Throughout her life, Mrs. Buttrey supported various women's groups, especially as an active participant in the PEO Sisterhood. Mrs. and Mr. Buttrey also endowed many scholarships in his home state of Montana.

JEAN W. CAMPBELL SCHOLARSHIP Recipient: Dipita Das

The Jean W. Campbell Scholarship was established in 2016 by Tim Williams in memory of his late wife Joan Campbell, and her mother Jean Campbell (LLD '10), a founding member and the first director of CEW+. The scholarship supports students whose academic careers have been interrupted, and/or students who are primary caregivers for dependents. It honors Jean's 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 on to her three children – Bruce, Joan, and Carol. 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.

CEW+ GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP Recipient: Paula Clasing

The CEW+ Graduate Scholarship was established in 2008, the result of a Presidential Donor Challenge Launched by University President Mary Sue Coleman. The Challenge made it possible for donors to increase the impact of their gift by matching a portion of their funds with a University contribution. The CEW+ Graduate Scholarship Fund supports promising graduate students, ensuring that the University will continue to attract and retain the "best of the best." With gratitude, CEW+ acknowledges the late Loretta Skewes for establishing the CEW+ Graduate Scholarship Fund, thereby enabling others to contribute and create the scholarship endowment.

AMY MECOZZI CHO AND LAWRENCE CHO FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP Recipient: Mina Hernandez Garcia

Amy (Mecozzi) Cho (MD/MBA '07), 2003 CEW+ Sarah Newman Scholarship recipient, and her husband Lawrence Cho (BS '00, MBA '07) created their scholarship in 2022 to support undergraduate or graduate students who meet CEW+'s scholarship criteria and are pursuing degrees at the Ann Arbor campus. The scholarship fund gives preference to those who are student caregivers or who are the first generation in their family to enroll in undergraduate, medical, or graduate degree programs. Amy, a practicing community emergency medicine physician, and Lawrence, a healthcare executive, reside in Minnesota where they are raising their four children. Amy is passionate about scholarship funding and shares, "It's tempting to delay your charitable giving until you feel more financially secure, but if you invest now rather than later, your gift makes a difference immediately and the benefits can compound over time, just like your investments for retirement."

COLLEGIATE SOROSIS FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP Recipients: Edith Dana, Bridget L. Moss

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: Alex Husted

Lucile B. Conger Alumnae Group Scholarship was established in 1990 and 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: Elizabeth Foster, Teaira Ross, Kelly Turner

Molly H. Dobson, (AB '44, LLD '12) established her scholarship in 1992. The scholarship supports women returning to school to complete undergraduate degrees and is intended to recognize women who have shown creativity, persistence, and dedication while striving to complete their education. Ms. Dobson, a dedicated emerita member of the CEW+ Leadership Council and an active volunteer in the University and larger Ann Arbor community, 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: Kristie Wilcox

The Robert Bruce Dunlap Memorial Scholarship was established in 2006 by Connie Dunlap (AB '46, AMLS '52) in memory of her husband. The scholarship supports undergraduate students pursuing a career in a health-related field in honor of Mr. Dunlap's (AB '46, MBA '47) long association with the University Hospital and his gratitude to all members of the medical teams. 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. Connie' affiliation with CEW+ continued until her passing at 97 in 2022.

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

Recipients: Justine D'Souza, Nikita Hahn

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. When possible, the Elizabeth M. Dusseau Scholarship will be awarded to a woman in the field of science, and the Margaret Dusseau Brevoort Scholarship will go to a woman in the field of social work. 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, she 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. Ms. 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.

MARGARET E. GNEGY SCHOLARSHIP FUND Recipient: Melissa K Zochowski

The Margaret E. Gnegy Scholarship was established in 2017 by Dr. Carol Stratford (PhD '82), who 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, and 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.

HALL-MCCANNELL SCHOLARSHIP Recipients: Jordan Power, Jess Silber-Byrne

The Hall-McCannell Scholarship was established in 2016 by Susan Hall McCannell (AB '68, AM '69). The scholarship supports students who are enrolled in the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies. This scholarship was created in honor of the numerous members of the Hall-McCannell family who have attended and/or supported the University of Michigan, including Dr. Winthrop D. Hall ('37) and Mrs. Winthrop D. Hall (Bunny Hall), Susan Hall McCannell ('68, AM '69), Melissa H. Ziegler ('72, MS '75), Elizabeth Hall McCannell ('08) and Alison Ziegler ('06, MS '12, PHD '14). Dr. Hall had three brothers who also attended U-M, as well as many cousins for a total of almost 20 alumni. The family history with the University dates back to the 1880s when Norman Buck graduated from the Law School. Education has been a key stepping stone in the lives of the Hall, McCannell, and Ziegler women and men. This scholarship is intended to help other non-traditional students achieve their academic and career goals by providing a financial helping hand. The family's desire is that the recipients, aside from their academic advancement, "pay it forward" in their lifetime.

BETH HALLORAN SCHOLARSHIP Recipient: Ellese Serena Blackmon

The Beth Halloran Scholarship was established in 2013 by Molly Dobson (AB '44, LLD '12) and the late Connie Dunlap (AB '46, AMLS '52) in honor of their friend. The scholarship is awarded annually to students whose academic careers have been interrupted, and/or who are the primary parent responsible for minor dependents. One of the U-M's most admired fundraising leaders from 2001 to 2011, Beth Halloran is now a senior executive at St. Catherine University. From 2005 to 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, including Molly and Connie.

JOAN P. IRELAND SCHOLARSHIP Recipient: Anastasia Marie

Joan Ireland (AB '53) passed away in 2014, and her bequest established the Joan P. Ireland Scholarship in perpetuity at CEW+, which provides support to deserving women students, undergraduate or graduate in any field, who need financial assistance in order to pursue a degree. Like many of today's CEW+ Scholars, Joan 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 Ireland (BSE '52), 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 both established Michigan scholarships as part of their estates.

BEATRICE KAHN SCHOLARSHIP Recipient: Rossi Clark

The Beatrice Kahn Scholarship was established in 2013 by Robert Kahn (AB '39, PhD '52) in memory of his beloved wife, along with family and friends. Beatrice Kahn (AM '40, MSW '55) 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 Services. Her own experience and her long friendship with Jean Campbell and other CEW+ leaders made Mrs. Kahn a dedicated and enthusiastic supporter of the Center. Mrs. Kahn died in November 2012 at the age of 94, followed by her husband in 2019.

CAROLINE M. LEE SCHOLARSHIP Recipient: Tiffany Staal

Caroline Lee (AB '88, MS '00) created this scholarship for graduate students from the U-M Ann Arbor campus who are pursuing a degree in public health, engineering, or subjects related to Southeast Asia including but not limited to language, culture, art, politics, or economic development. Ms. Lee, a biostatistician, serves on the CEW+ Leadership Council. Thirty years ago, when she decided to re-enter the workforce after taking time off to raise her son, Ms.

Lee participated in the CEW+ Administrative Internship Program. She is grateful to the CEW+ for the opportunity she was given as it opened doors for her to embark on her career. Ms. Lee hopes that this scholarship established in 2022 provides the kind of support that was not readily available when she was a nontraditional student returning to earn her master's and sets the student off on a path for that wonderful and meaningful career.

ELSIE CHOY LEE SCHOLARSHIP Recipients: Ebenezer Agu, Diana M. M. Guzman, Okyoung Noh, Amanda Seney

The Elsie Choy Lee Scholarship was established in 2002 by the late Professor Emeritus Joseph T.A. Lee, with support of family and friends. The scholarship supports women and underserved students pursuing their work in art, writing, or music. It is also given to students researching creative women who have struggled to find their 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).

SARAH WINANS NEWMAN SCHOLARSHIP Recipient: Chelsea Finkbeiner

Dr. Sarah Winans Newman established this scholarship in 2001 to provide 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. Sarah 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 of the Center, Sarah recognizes the contributions CEW+ makes to the University community and is pleased to continue her commitment to the education of women.

POTENTIAL MADE POSSIBLE SCHOLARSHIP Recipient: Amal Hmedeh

The Potential Made Possible Scholarship was established in 2020 by donors to CEW+, in honor of the 50th anniversary of awarding scholarships and to celebrate the legacy of our community. In 1970 the first CEW+ scholarships were awarded as expendable merit awards. Today our community has grown to over 2,000 scholars and we look forward to seeing what the next 50 years will bring. Students eligible for this scholarship have experienced an interruption in their education or are providing significant care for a minor, older adult, or disabled adult, or are underrepresented in their discipline in the United States or at the University of Michigan. This scholarship fund is for graduate and undergraduate students on the Ann Arbor, Dearborn, and Flint campuses. Students can have domestic or international status as long as they meet one of our eligibility requirements. Our scholars show remarkable resilience. 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.

THE SUSAN QUACKENBUSH SCHOLARSHIP Recipient: Jennifer Harris

Susan Quackenbush (VS '69, AMLS '75) established her scholarship in 2016 to support students whose academic careers have been interrupted, and/or individuals who are the primary parent responsible for minor dependents. Ms. Quackenbush, a two-time U-M alumna and member of the Ann Arbor recovery community, believes strongly in the power of connection and community to make an impact on a person's life. She is committed to helping support members of the University's recovery community as they pursue their Michigan degrees and work to make the next best choice in their recovery journey.

MARY LUCILLE RANDOLPH AND LEA KING DEAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP Recipient: Alexandra Judelsohn

The Mary Lucille Randolph and Lea King Dean Memorial Scholarship was established in 2017 by Susan E. Randolph (AB '69) and Arnold Y. Dean, her spouse, along with their family, to support undergraduate or graduate student caregivers. They believe that lifelong access to education enables parents to improve their lives and the lives of their children. They established the 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: Constanza Contreras Ruiz, Sam Hobson, Erin N. Johnson, Jasmine Rivera, Kari L. Sherwood

The Mary Malcomson Raphael Scholarship was established in 1985 by Margaret Earhart Smith, in recognition of her dear friend. The scholarship supports 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, who have demonstrated academic excellence and potential to make a contribution of exceptional usefulness to society. Upon establishing the scholarship, Mrs. Earhart Smith recalled Mrs. Malsomson Raphael as 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 Recipient: Noha Algaithi

This scholarship in celebration of Linda J. Rider was established by her family in 2003 to support women who need financial assistance to return to college later in their lives. When Ms. Rider 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. This scholarship honors her accomplishment of earning an undergraduate degree as a nontraditional student.

HELEN HUFF SHELL SCHOLARSHIP Recipient: Evalynn Rosado

Helen Huff Shell established her scholarship in 1982 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.

THE JANICE F. STEPHENS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP Recipient: Nathalie Jean O'Hernandez

The Janice F. Stephens Memorial Scholarship was established in 2021 by her loving family. The scholarship supports students that meet CEW+'s scholar criteria at any of U-M's three campuses, with a preference for those who had their education interrupted and community college transfers. Jan Stephens earned her BS and MA degrees in Education from U-M. She went on to devote a large part of her life to promoting learning. As an Ann Arbor special education teacher, she worked in both primary and secondary schools. Over the years, wherever parents would see Ms. Stephens, they warmly updated her about their children's success and gave her credit for the support and confidence she gave them in her classroom. She was an active U-M alumna supporting women's education and scholarships. She volunteered with CEW+, WOW (Women On the Way), and AAUW in both Michigan and Florida. Ms. Stephens attended U-M when the Michigan Union was only for men only, she worked to change those rules and knew the value of access to education for all.

MARGARET DOW TOWSLEY SCHOLARSHIP Recipients: Ebaa Al-Qouqa, Sawsan Allam, Irma Maribel Andrade Guzman, Eden Berdugo, Erin Casler, Catherine Diggs, Julia Hettich, Kimberly Heumann, Abigail Johnson, Katie Jones, Aissa Laouan Wandarama, Mary Lee, Deepika Magapu, Lubna Saleh, Brittney Smith, Jordan Stevens, Susan K. Vandersloot, Karen Yoshida Weldon

Margaret Dow Towsley established this scholarship in 1990. Her life and work have 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, Mrs. 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. Mrs. Towsley 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, Mrs. Towsley 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, Mrs. Towsley always acted upon the premise that, given support and nurturing, all people can achieve their dreams.

IRMA M. WYMAN SCHOLARSHIP Recipients: Aditi Anand, Kathryn Beeman, Cristina Castillo, Schinella D'Souza, Dalena Hoang, Guntaaz Kaur, Lacey Kirchen, Gabriela Lopez-Salgado, Montana Lyjak, Nina Makhlouf, Margaret Mutch, Alondra Ortiz Ortiz, Anna Poirier, Maryelizabeth Rojas, Morgan Vanderleest, Katie Watson

Irma M. Wyman (BS '49) established her scholarship in 1996 to provide support for women and underserved students in engineering, computer science, and related fields, at either the undergraduate or graduate level. Criteria for selection also include merit, promise of future contributions, and life circumstances. When Ms. Wyman graduated from the College of Engineering at the U-M in 1949 she was 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 to provide a similar boost to others. Irma passed away in 2015 at the age of 87. CEW+ is proud to continue her legacy.

PETAR AND ZDRAVKA ZDRAVKOVSKI SCHOLARSHIP Recipient: Sowmya Krishnareddy

The Petar and Zdravka Zdravkovski Scholarship was established in 2015 to support graduate students in STEM fields and architecture. The scholarship was made possible by a gift in honor of Smilka Zdravkovska and her siblings Nevenka and Zoran's parents. Their father, Petar, was a great champion of universal education, including for women. As Secretary of Education in Macedonia after WWII, he was also an early innovator of hybrid education: with many schools destroyed during the war, he devised a distance learning plan, over the radio, to reach all children, involving the local teachers whenever possible. Their mother, Zdravka, dreamed of studying architecture right after high school, but the beginning of WWII interrupted those plans. After raising three children, she went on to earn a degree late in life as a nontraditional student and became a teacher of French. The children, a mathematician, a physicist/librarian, and a chemist, inspired by their parents' example, established this scholarship.

The Fellows



Gwendolyn Burgess is a PhD candidate in behavioral pharmacology, and she is studying the way sex differences affect patients' responses to opioid pain medicines. Historically, most pharmacological research has focused on men, leaving major gaps in medical knowledge about women. Gwendolyn's project addresses these gaps by investigating the effects of opioid painkillers on male and female rats. She ultimately hopes to determine whether chronic pain makes women more likely to develop opioid dependence.

Gwendolyn's research is important because it will help the scientific community better understand women's unique experiences with chronic pain. Previous research has indicated that women experience chronic pain at higher rates than men, experience less pain relief from opioids, and may be more likely to develop opioid use disorders. According to Gwendolyn's mentors, her project addresses "a highly understudied area in both humans and laboratory animals.... in laboratory work, as with human trials, there have been almost no investigations of sex differences in pain, and studies on sex differences in drug abuse are only now beginning." Gwendolyn hopes her research will also help women who experience pain receive better care. She says, "Understanding how chronic pain alters the abuse potential of opioids could inform treatment of women experiencing chronic pain."

After finishing graduate school, Gwendolyn hopes to become a faculty member and continue mentoring undergraduate students. She also plans to run an independent lab that will focus on evaluating sex differences in the effects produced by a variety of drugs. Described by her mentors as "mature," "hard-working," and "highly intelligent," Gwendolyn's work has been widely recognized within her field. She has previously received the Dr. Ben and Diana Lucchiesi Fellowship in Pharmacology and a National Research Service Award in Neuroscience from the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

CEW+ commends Gwen's dedication to ensuring that women are represented in pharmacological research and names her a Riecker Graduate Student Research Fellow.

Paloma Contreras Zúñiga Simson Family Graduate Student Fellow



Paloma Contreras Zúñiga is earning her PhD in Biological Anthropology at the University of Michigan. Since entering the program, Paloma has conducted research on the genetic signatures of adaptation in high-altitude populations and, through the NESTSMX project (Neighborhood Environments as Socio-Techno-bio Systems: Water Quality, Public Trust, and Health in Mexico City), the relationship between water security and health outcomes. She has also coauthored a paper in the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* and completed a certificate in Science Technology Studies. Most recently, she was awarded the Community of

Scholars Fellowship from the Institute for Research on Women and Gender (IRWG) to work on the first chapter of her dissertation.

For her dissertation research, Paloma is traveling to Mexico City to explore the impact of water insecurity on women's objective and subjective measures of stress. Her innovative research uses a biocultural framework to assess how water scarcity and trust impacts biological markers of stress (cortisol levels and epigenetic modifications). Paloma's advisors remark that "her research promises to help marginalized communities that are often overlooked in scientific study."

Paloma is committed to directly supporting women in her community, as well. She has led outreach activities to promote the presence of women in science and participated in a symposia for young learners on environmental issues in Latin America. Last year, she helped organize a series co-sponsored by the Evolution and Human Adaptations Program and the Department of Anthropology; 90% of the speakers were women. Paloma is also a member of the Lunar Doula Collective, assisting women during miscarriage and abortion procedures.

Known as a "highly motivated scholar" with a "strong capacity for analytic thinking with a creative edge," Paloma is sure to make a positive impact in her field.

CEW+ celebrates Paloma's commitment to interdisciplinary and community-based research and names her a Simson Family Graduate Student Fellow.



Chloé Damon's research centers on gender and environmental change in highland Indigenous communities in northern Thailand. While earning her bachelor's degree at Michigan State University, Chloé discovered that there was no published work on the gendered dimensions of environmental change in Thailand's Akha communities. Dismayed, Chloé chose to take up that work herself.

Chloé brings extensive Thai language training and years of research experience to U-M's Southeast Asian Studies program. With the support of the Mekong Culture WELL Project, Chloé recently conducted a series of remote interviews with highland Indigenous women and activists on a mapping policy implemented by the Thai government. The policy has the potential to help Indigenous people secure land rights. Chloé also serves as a research assistant on a U-M grant project that focuses on the gendered dimensions of health and citizenship among women living and working on the Thai-Burma border.

Next, Chloé is traveling to northern Thailand to conduct field work that investigates women's roles in forging livelihoods and sustaining ecologies in communities that are systematically denied citizenship, land titles, and other legal rights. Her project will shed light on the gendered division of agricultural labor in these communities and how environmental change and Thai policies have affected women and their responsibilities. Chloé emphasizes that "the ultimate goal of this project is to produce research that will be valuable in Indigenous communities' work toward recognition and justice."

Chloé was recently accepted to the Master of Science in Information program at U-M, and, adding a new dimension to her work, plans to collaborate with highland Indigenous groups to address their concerns regarding knowledge loss, language preservation, and archival possibilities. Chloé hopes to later earn a PhD in anthropology and serve as a professor, all while contributing to a larger shift in the academy toward reflexive scholar-activism.

CEW+ applauds Chloé's commitment and names her a Menakka and Essel Bailey Graduate Fellow.

Audrey DeGroot Simson Family Graduate Student Fellow



Audrey DeGroot is earning her master's degree in epidemiology, striving to reduce the impact of parasitic infections in underserved global communities. After earning her bachelor's degree in English literature and photography, Audrey went on to serve in the Peace Corps in Guinea; while there, she contracted a parasite that went undiagnosed for many years and resulted in a range of chronic health concerns. The experience motivated Audrey to switch fields and learn everything she could about parasitic infection.

Through the EcoDess project, Audrey is currently researching the role of dogs as a source of zoonotic hookworm infections in remote, Indigenous Chachi communities in northern coastal Ecuador, and particularly in pregnant women and children. Hookworm infection during pregnancy and early childhood can have long lasting effects, and Audrey hopes to help develop the understanding and treatment of these infections. She says, "The reason I am so incredibly passionate about this research is because it is a chance to contribute to the scientific literature in a way that can directly benefit underserved indigenous populations, who are disproportionately affected by parasitic infection."

Audrey's field work and research builds upon her experience as a Peace Corps volunteer, during which time she worked with local communities to institute a reproductive health education program in schools and assisted health workers with vaccination and malnutrition campaigns. She has also previously served as an analyst with the Seattle market research firm Hall & Partners and a disease investigator with the Barry Eaton District Health Department. Known for her "intelligence, drive, and maturity," Audrey is sure to make an impact in her field.

CEW+ celebrates Audrey's drive to address health inequities and names her a Simson Family Graduate Student Fellow.



Jun Fang is earning his PhD in Political Science and Scientific Computing with a focus on marginalized populations, including women, ethnic minorities, and domestic migrants. Prior to joining the program at U-M, Jun studied social science at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, where he developed a “quite extraordinary” research and publication record as an MPhil student. In 2020, Jun’s research on domestic migrants’ electoral participation under authoritarianism appeared in *Electoral Studies*, a top subfield journal in political science. Most recently, Jun was invited to discuss his research at the annual

conference of the American Political Science Association.

Jun is also motivated by his lived experiences to study and understand the living conditions of disadvantaged groups in authoritarian countries. Building on his prior studies concerning China’s disadvantaged groups, Jun’s current research is focused on gender equality in public goods provision. Since Xi Jinping launched the “Toilet Revolution” in 2015, the Chinese government has been building more and more toilets in order for women to achieve “potty parity,” and the Reiker Fellowship is supporting Jun’s work to create an original, detailed database of public restrooms in China. Through this research, Jun is seeking to better understand why gender equity in public goods provision varies among localities and how dictators may be incentivized to enhance women’s rights in some localities but not in others. Jun’s advisors remark that this is an “inventive and sharp” project that will “improve our understanding of how authoritarian leaders attempt to meet governance challenges related to gender equality.”

CEW+ applauds Jun’s commitment to leading research of importance to women and marginalized populations and names him a Riecker Graduate Student Research Fellow.



Maya Glenn, a PhD student in the Department of Sociology, studies Black women's sexual socialization and identity formation. Maya is a graduate of Northwestern, where she received the Betty Jo Dobbs Outstanding Thesis Prize for best senior thesis in the Gender and Sexuality program.

Maya's current research investigates how Black women come to understand their sexual identities. She is interested in how social media sex education shapes young Black women's definitions heterosexual and non-heterosexual identities and in the ways that Black women use discourses of pleasure and respectability to respond to society's attempts to police their sexuality. With funding from the Reicker Fellowship, Maya plans to conduct interviews with heterosexual and non-heterosexual Black women in the Detroit area and to discuss their experiences learning about sexuality, pleasure, and sexual identities from social media and other sexuality knowledge production institutions. She hopes that her findings will inform public health policy and sex education curricula. Maya's mentors note that Black women's sexual experiences have been understudied in sociology and say that Maya's research will meaningfully advance the field.

The research Maya conducts as a Reicker Fellow will also help her lay the groundwork for her future dissertation research. She says, "For my dissertation, I plan to triangulate the data from the initial interviews with virtual ethnographic data of sex education YouTube videos and in-depth interviews with heterosexual and non-heterosexual Black women who are prominent social media sex educators." After she completes her PhD, Maya plans to become a tenure-track professor and continue to study Black women's sexuality. She hopes her research will be used to improve public policy and sex education, ultimately improving Black women's overall health and well-being.

CEW+ commends Maya's dedication to expanding knowledge about women's health and names her a Riecker Graduate Student Research Fellow.



Charles Katulamu has dedicated his career to improving women's access to reproductive healthcare. Currently pursuing his PhD in sociology, Charles graduated with honors from Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda with a Bachelor of Science in Population Studies. At Makerere University, he was named a Mastercard Foundation Fellow and elected student body president. His research focuses on fertility of men and women, sexual reproductive health, and abortion.

Charles' dissertation project will investigate women's access to abortion services in Kampala. Advocacy groups in Uganda have been working to change their country's restrictive abortion laws, which cause many women to seek unsafe, illegal abortions. However, these groups lack sufficient data about women's experiences accessing reproductive healthcare under the current system. Charles hopes his project will inform future advocacy by illuminating the ways women in Uganda navigate legal restrictions, cultural stigma, and religious expectations when they seek abortions. He plans to conduct surveys and interviews with women who seek sexual reproductive health services from NGOs, as well as clinicians who work at NGOs that offer sexual and reproductive health services. Charles' mentor writes that Charles is "uniquely poised to do this work" and notes that Charles' project will have important implications for human rights.

Charles has tenaciously supported women's health for many years. In 2018, a blood shortage in Uganda led to an increase in women dying during childbirth. Charles and a colleague responded by developing an initiative to increase blood donations. Their initiative was later adopted by the Uganda Blood Transfusion Network in Kampala and was published in the journal *Social Science & Medicine*. Throughout all of his projects, Charles has remained committed to improving women's reproductive health. He says, "There is no reason whatsoever that would justify a mother dying from anything associated with a pregnancy."

CEW+ applauds Charles' work to promote women's health and names him a Gutsy Broad Fellow.



Remy Mink is on a mission to address environmental health hazards in the workplace and generate sustainable communities globally. Remy earned her bachelor's degree in integrative biology and physiology at UCLA and eventually went on to live and work on a tropical fruit farm on Maui, Hawaii, where she saw that many farmers lacked basic healthcare, occupational safety services, and understanding of the adverse effects of pesticides. The experience motivated Remy to study the neurotoxic effects of various pesticides and help improve conditions for workers.

In 2021, Remy earned admission to U-M's School of Public Health, and she is now investigating the neurotoxic effects of insecticides in the farmers of Northern Thailand as an industrial hygiene intern at Mae Fah Luang University. Remy is specifically looking at farmers' acetylcholinesterase (AChE) activity, which could potentially indicate insecticide exposure before any chronic or serious related health outcomes manifest, and the effectiveness of work safety protocols like PPE enforcement and mandatory pesticide safety training.

Remy says, "As a future global public health professional and industrial hygienist with work experience in an agricultural setting, I strive to ensure environmental health and safety for both farmers and their communities." She is committed to taking an intersectional approach to providing care to international communities and she is earning a certificate in professional diversity, equity, and inclusion. By clearly relating practices and mechanisms of exposure to the chronic health effects they produce, Remy hopes to promote safer working conditions for farming communities.

Recognized as an "hard-working, talented, and extremely promising student," Remy is also a U-M School of Public Health scholarship recipient, a National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health Education and Research Center Fellow, and Vice President of the U-M Industrial Hygiene Students Association.

CEW+ celebrates Remy's vision for healthy, sustainable communities and names her a Menakka and Essel Bailey Graduate Fellow.



Barbara Nainiger is studying geospatial data science at U-M's School for Environment and Sustainability with a focus on sustainable agriculture and forests. Barbara is currently conducting research in partnership with the Ceiba Foundation, a nonprofit organization in Manabí, Ecuador that seeks to protect the landscapes and biodiversity of Manabí's tropical dry forests by creating national parks and conservation easements granted by local landholders. Often, there is a disconnect between the community-wide benefits of conservation like this and the short-term economic pressures that cause deforestation. Barbara hopes to address this disconnect and combine sustainable production with added value for producers through bioentrepreneurship and ecotourism. She plans to conduct a case study of the ASOPROCOFFEE cooperative—a collective of women coffee farmers practicing sustainable production in the Manabí province of Ecuador—along with collecting data to create digital models for restoring forest populations. Barbara's mentor remarks that her work "will contribute significantly not only to the information and outreach needs in the region, but also the field of tropical conservation generally."

Barbara's work is informed by her hands-on experience in ecotourism, as well. In 2018, Barbara served as a research intern for the Pacific Whale Foundation in Hawaii, which funds all of its research on whales and dolphins through eco-tours like guided snorkel trips and the dinner cruises where Barbara worked at night. Barbara also has experience as an interpretive staff guide at the Toledo Zoo and Aquarium.

Going forward, Barbara is motivated to help "bridge the gap between ecological and social variables—because environmental solutions should balance the benefits for both the ecosystem and the people who live there." She hopes to build a career that merges her experience with ecotourism and geospatial science to better the environment and the lives of local communities.

CEW+ applauds Barbara's commitment to both conservation efforts and local communities and names her a Riecker Graduate Student Research Fellow.



Sally Phipps is committed to promoting sustainability and equity. A master's student at the School for Environment and Sustainability, Sally is studying the social and ecological benefits of sustainable farming in conservation areas of coastal Ecuador. For her project, she will interview farmers, landowners, and community members to assess their attitudes about reforestation of agricultural land. She hopes her research will inform future reforestation campaigns throughout the world.

Sally's research is innovative because it focuses on the behavioral and psychological factors that affect how individuals adapt to climate change. Focusing on these social factors will allow her to make recommendations that are socially and culturally sensitive. Sally says, "This is an up-and-coming and not widely-known field, but I firmly believe that fighting climate change must include the role of people in a way that is sustainable and equitable." Sally's study will also explore the way attitudes about sustainable farming vary based on gender. Although most agricultural land in coastal Ecuador is controlled by men, there are a growing number of small, sustainable farms, many of which are owned by women. She explains, "These livelihoods represent a path towards self-sufficiency and increased equity for many female community members, and these efforts can only thrive in ecosystems which retain high levels of biodiversity and plant species richness. Thus, the social implications of reforestation have profound consequences for women in particular."

Sally previously attended Georgia State University, where she earned bachelor's degrees in anthropology and applied linguistics and graduated summa cum laude. Before beginning graduate school, she worked in the ecotourism industry in Southeast Asia and East Africa. Sally is widely praised for her integrity, curiosity and professionalism. Her mentor writes, "I have no doubt that Sally will make major contributions to issues of environmental sustainability and social justice."

CEW+ celebrates Sally's work to build a more sustainable world and names her a Riecker Graduate Student Research Fellow.



Savanna Smirnow is a dedicated nurse studying midwifery at U-M. Savanna has previously worked as a nursing supervisor caring for twins with cerebral palsy and a postpartum nurse at Hutzel Women's Hospital in Detroit, where she became passionate about health education and supporting women of color in pregnancy. She is particularly passionate about providing education concerning pregnancy and women's health to women with lower socioeconomic statuses, who often have additional risk factors outside of their control.

Savanna is currently earning her post-master's Doctor of Nursing with a focus on respectful maternity care and health equity, along with a certificate in nursing education. With the support of CEW+ fellowship funds, Savanna has also gained global clinic experience as a midwife, traveling to the United Arab Emirates to learn from midwives and other providers at Kanad Hospital in Al Ainlearn. There, Savanna participated in the antepartum, intrapartum, and postpartum care of Arabic women and visited women socially in the villages to learn more about their culture and experiences. Going forward, Savanna hopes to use what she has learned about the Arabic culture and the Muslim religion to better support her patients in Michigan.

Savanna's mentors remark that she will "provide excellent and compassionate care for patients" and underscore her commitment to trauma-informed and equitable reproductive health care. Savanna hopes to continue her career at Hutzel Women's Hospital to "make even more of a difference as a provider and give women of color the pregnancy care that is more than deserved." She is grateful to her family for their support as she works toward this mission.

CEW+ applauds Savanna's commitment to providing excellent pregnancy care for women of color and names her a Simson Family Graduate Student Fellow.



Chloe Wilkinson is dedicated to improving dental health in low- and middle-income countries. A master's student in environmental health sciences, Chloe will be conducting research in Northern Thailand to document the Oral Health-Related Quality of Life (OHQoL) among adolescents in Thailand's Hill Tribes. Chloe will collaborate with the Center of Excellence for the Hill Tribe Health Research at Mae Fah Luang University to collect survey data and evaluate the relationship between health habits, oral health perceptions and oral impacts. She plans to adopt a holistic approach, considering the effect of the adolescents'

environment, lifestyle choices, and medical histories. She hopes her project will help promote dental health in rural communities of Thailand.

After finishing her master's degree, Chloe plans to attend dental school and become a public health advocate. If Chloe continues her dental education at the University of Michigan, she hopes to volunteer abroad through U-M's Global Initiatives in Oral and Craniofacial Health Program. She is passionate about improving access to dental care for people around the world, and explains, "many low- and middle-income countries have less oral health interventions and cavity prevention strategies than the US, leading to a high prevalence of tooth decay and gum disease in these regions. This unfortunate reality motivates me to pursue a career in dentistry along with international research in oral health." As a dentist with a background in environmental health, Chloe will be ideally positioned to achieve this goal. Her mentor praises Chloe as "an extremely bright and highly engaged student with a clear set of goals" and writes, "there are (very) few dentists who will have her unique set of skills."

CEW+ applauds Chloe's commitment to reducing health inequalities and names her a Menakka and Essel Bailey Graduate Fellow.



Lai Wo has devoted her professional life to studying gendered labor migration. Lai earned her bachelor's degree in anthropology and gender studies from Rutgers University - New Brunswick; at Rutgers, she drew on oral history archives and digital ethnography to examine the self representations of Asian/American and Asian immigrant women working within garment factories and fashion blogs, writing a thesis that earned high honors. From there, she went on to earn an MPhil in Anthropology from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Her master's thesis, which examined gendered labor migration within the entertainment industry in Hong Kong's red light district, pushed back against recurrent portrayals of migrant Asian women as subservient, docile, and mute subjects and resulted in a peer-reviewed book chapter.

Throughout her research, Lai became increasingly interested in the motivations of labor migrants from Indonesia to Hong Kong, and in particular their dreams for investing their earnings. While literature on labor migration generally focuses on the desire to contribute to the economic well-being of family members at home, Lai noticed that some women also shared dreams of investing their earnings in rural landscapes back home, creating new agrarian opportunities in advance of their return. Now as a PhD candidate in anthropology at U-M, Lai is studying how migrants invest and allocate their earnings to understand how they negotiate moral ambivalence, gendered relations of power, and increasingly uncertain futures. Lai's mentor remarks that "her work will add valuable depth to our understandings of these women's lives and their concerns about rural Indonesia and the environmental future of the planet" as well as "novel and valuable insight" into their aspirations.

An accomplished scholar, Lai also spent three years as a research assistant working with the asylum seeker and refugee community in Hong Kong, and she is motivated to center marginalized communities in her work.

CEW+ commends Lai's dedication and names her a Riecker Graduate Student Research Fellow.



Katherine Wright, a PhD Candidate in Sociology, studies racial disparities in maternal healthcare experiences. In the United States, Black women are significantly more likely than White women to die in childbirth. While Katherine was determined to understand the factors leading to these outcomes, she noticed a significant gap in research: prior studies attributed inequalities in patient-provider interactions to differences like medical knowledge and conversational style, without accounting for the impact of systemic racism. Katherine says, “I found the explanations of why racial health disparities persist to be frustratingly devoid of evidence linking systemic racism to racism at the individual and interactional levels.”

Katherine set out to address this gap in knowledge and complicate existing cultural explanations for disparities with her own research; ultimately, the interviews she conducted with White and Black women suggested that even professional health expertise was not enough to ensure Black women were treated equitably in patient-provider interactions. With the support of the Gutsy Broad Fellowship, Katherine is now building on this research for her dissertation, conducting interviews with 45 female medical professionals of color who have given birth in the last year. Katherine’s advisor remarks that this project “will have important implications for health policy, and will also contribute to sociological understanding of health disparities.”

A former McNair Scholar, Katherine has previously conducted award-winning research on women’s contraceptive choices and access to reproductive health services. “An extremely promising doctoral student,” Katherine is fiercely committed to bettering her communities, whether by working to change racially disparate health outcomes or supporting her colleagues at U-M. She has previously served as a leader in the Department of Sociology’s Graduate Student Organization and Students of Color Group and co-coordinator for a biweekly workshop on Medicine, Aging, Science, and Health.

CEW+ commends Katherine’s dedication to improving maternal healthcare for women of color and proudly names her a Gutsy Broad Fellow.

The Scholars



Ebenezer Agu is a poet, nonfiction writer, and literary critic who is earning an MFA in creative writing from the Helen Zell Writers' Program. Originally from southeast Nigeria, Ebenezer has been passionate about literature since his teens. He is a 2022 Los Angeles Review of Books Publishing Fellow and a 2022 Gupta Values Scholar, awarded by the Rackham Graduate School and endowed by the Gupta Family Foundation. He was recently featured in *Open Country Magazine's* special issue on the Next Generation of African literature. His mentor praises Ebenezer's intellectual curiosity and says, "He is not only a wonderful poet, but he's also a good

citizen in the poetry world."

In addition to creating art, Ebenezer is committed to working for social justice. In 2016, he co-founded 14, an arts collective that promotes stories by queer people in Nigeria and their allies. Between 2016 and 2018, Ebenezer edited the poetry of the anthologies published by 14. In 2017, he founded 20.35 Africa, an organization that promotes contemporary African poetics and poets. Today, 20.35 Africa is a registered not-for-profit organization in Nigeria and publishes an annual anthology of contemporary African poetry. Ebenezer also works to support community development by volunteering with AU-EU Youth Cooperation Hub, a youth organization under the African Union and the European Union. He says, "My guiding principle as an adult has been to render my knowledge and skills in the service of the different communities I am part of, either as a member or an ally. I have always been inclined to find solutions to my challenges and then expand the solutions so that other people in my community will benefit from them."

CEW+ commends Ebenezer's creative vision and names him an Elsie Choy Lee Scholar.



Ebaa Al-Qouqa is an enthusiastic teacher who is returning to school to earn her master's degree in education with an ESL endorsement. Ebaa is dedicated to helping children from all backgrounds succeed, and believes that education is key to a strong global community.

Prior to graduate school, Ebaa worked full time as an elementary school teacher before taking time off to raise her three children. She says, "Although I was devastated to have to put my career and graduate school dreams aside, in my heart I felt it was the best decision for our family. I promised myself that I would persevere and reach my goals when the time was right."

As a mom, Ebaa dedicated herself to her children's education, seeking out parenting courses and educational research to support their learning. She also worked part time as a substitute teacher, a reading tutor, and an administrator for a nonprofit Sunday School. Now that she is ready to return to full-time teaching, Ebaa is earning her master's degree to expand her career options. She says, "I am proud of the elements I have chosen to invest in while taking a pause in my education in order to show up as the best caregiver I can be."

Ebaa loves helping struggling students develop their skills and confidence, and she is especially passionate about using research to expand her teaching skills. Her colleague writes that Ebaa has "outstanding rapport" with students, especially those in need of extra assistance. She is widely recognized for her empathy, charisma, and dedication. Her professor praises Ebaa's talent for studying educational theory and applying it directly to her teaching, and writes, "Her ability to engage her students in an underserved community demonstrates her commitment to teaching for social justice."

CEW+ applauds Ebaa's enthusiasm and names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.



Noha Algaithi is a dedicated student who is earning her bachelor's degree in early childhood education. Noha is returning to school after taking time off to raise her five children, and she is excited to set an example for them by earning her degree. She says, "Having children and more responsibilities has given me the persistence and courage to keep going and work hard on my goals and dreams."

Noha first became interested in education while caring for her six younger siblings. Growing up, she would often come home from school and teach her siblings what she had learned that day. She believes in early childhood education because she knows that teachers can make a major impact during the first years of a child's life. She says, "I feel that affecting the life of one child will have a lasting impact not only on the child, but also the community as a whole."

Noha is also passionate about giving back. During the early COVID-19 pandemic, she volunteered with the Yemeni American Association to distribute food and resources to families in need. She also volunteers as a teaching assistant for Head Start and as a translator for families that don't speak English. As a first-generation college student, Noha is proud to represent her family and community. She says, "My parent's wish for me to finish my education because they never had that opportunity. I cannot wait for the day they watch me receive my degree."

Noha is widely recognized for her creativity, generosity, persistence. Her advisor writes, "Upon first meeting Noha, I knew instantly that she had grit and determination.... Noha continuously exceeds any and all expectations that she creates for herself through dedication and perseverance."

CEW+ commends Noha's resilience and names her a Linda J. Rider Scholar.

Aditi Anand Irma M. Wyman Scholar



Growing up in a small town in India, Aditi Anand always believed that education would transform her life. Her parents were both teachers, and they instilled in her the importance of studying hard to succeed. She earned admission to a top university and graduated with an engineering degree in 2012. After that, she worked as a software developer in various domains like banking and airline where she gained extensive experience in designing and developing efficient computer systems. However, she had to wait to attend graduate school, working as a software engineer for eight years while also saving money and caring for her parents. She

is currently pursuing a master's degree at U-M's School of Information and graduating in Fall 2022, and she is proud to be following her dreams.

Aditi's ultimate goal is to become a research scientist, a career that will allow her to pursue her passion while also making the world a better place. She hopes to use her skills to develop artificial intelligence programs that can be used for the early detection of diseases. Aditi's other research interests include natural language processing and computational social science. She says, "I am a firm believer in giving back to society, as that is the only way for the growth of humankind."

Since coming to U-M, Aditi has continued to distinguish herself. This past year, she worked as a research assistant on a project at Michigan Medicine that aims to reduce the harms caused by addictive substances. She also got an opportunity to use AI/ML skills to study engagement in drug addiction intervention trials under d3center of the Institute of Social Research (ISR). Further, with her strong understanding of data analysis, she extended research support at the U-M Women in Science and Engineering Office. Her supervisor at WISE says, "I have absolute faith that Aditi will use her personal and professional excellence to accomplish anything she sets her mind to, no matter what field she chooses."

CEW+ applauds Aditi's tenacity and names her an Irma M. Wyman Scholar.



Sawsan Allam is earning her master's degree in applied data science at the University of Michigan, demonstrating remarkable persistence in her education. Sawsan earned her bachelor's degree in Medical Laboratory Sciences and completed pre-medical studies from the American University of Beirut (AUB), where she earned the highest GPA in the Faculty of Health Sciences and received the Kiram Siniora Memorial Prize for Academic Excellence and the University Student Faculty Committee Distinguished Student Award. She was determined to go on to graduate school in the field of public health and sought an unprecedented

graduate assistantship percentage from AUB; she received a rare level of support for her outstanding academic performance. She went on to serve as the coordinator for a project on the role of civil society in policy-making at the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs at AUB.

Following her graduation, Sawsan also served as a project manager under Dr. Melani Cammett for a national scaled facility-level study on the quality of primary health care in Lebanon. Most recently, Sawsan helped establish a Policy Support Observatory at the Ministry of Public Health as a consultant with the World Health Organization. The project sought to implement electronic health records and modernize the ministry's capacities for knowledge management. Sawsan's experiences further motivated her to develop her data science skills.

Sawsan is now pursuing her data science degree in the face of unprecedented hardship in her home country of Lebanon, a situation that has only increased her drive to advance her skills and work to strengthen the public sector and overall national health system in her country. Her colleagues and mentors highly value her for her "exceptional commitment" and describe her as "ambitious, motivated, hard-working, and just plain smart." With these qualities, Sawsan is sure to make a difference.

CEW+ commends Sawsan's persistence and names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.



Irma Maribel Andrade Guzman is a proud first-generation college student who is earning her master's in social work. The daughter of immigrant parents from San Luis Potosi, Mexico and a mother of two, Irma is passionate about helping families from underserved communities succeed. She says, "The road to earning my bachelor's degree was nontraditional in many ways.... My experience drives me to 'lift as I climb' and ensure that everyone has access to education and opportunity."

For the past seven years, Irma has worked to support underrepresented students as they apply to college. She worked at the U-M admissions offices in Ann Arbor and Detroit, where her colleagues say she was "instrumental" in expanding recruitment of Hispanic students. She also worked as a college advisor in Flint through the Michigan College Advising Corps and was a tireless advocate for students. She says, "As a first generation, low-SES Latina with immigrant parents, I experienced many of the same barriers as the students I've worked with. Due to this, I have made intentional efforts to make my work accessible, equitable, and inclusive for students and families of all backgrounds."

Irma's tenure as a college advisor overlapped with the Flint water crisis, adding another layer of complexity to her role; however, Irma responded to this crisis with empathy and compassion. Her work was so impressive that she was honored by the national College Advising Corps with the Laura M. & Peter T. Grauer True North Award, beating out 600 other exceptional advisors. Describing Irma's work, one colleague says, "Irma not only encompasses the traditional characteristics of a dedicated leader, but she does so with an open heart... She inspires others to do the work we should all be doing in this world."

CEW+ applauds Irma's inspirational leadership and names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

Kathryn Beeman Irma M. Wyman Scholar



Kathryn Beeman is earning a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and plans to use her skills to move us toward a zero-emission future. A first-generation college student, Kathryn grew up in the small city of Ovid, Michigan, where she captained her high school robotics team, graduated as valedictorian, and earned a scholarship from the Cook Family Foundation. She has accepted a position to work full-time with General Motors upon her graduation and will begin in January as a TRACK Engineer in their rotational program for new graduates.

Kathryn is also passionate about expanding opportunities for women in engineering. She is an active member of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), where she served as the SWE External Vice President for the 2021-22 school year. In this role, Kathryn was able to organize and fund 32 SWE members to attend the WE22 national conference in Indianapolis. She also headed the SWE x WECE charity rose sale for SafeHouse Center in Ann Arbor. SafeHouse serves as a resource and safe place for those affected by domestic violence or sexual assault. Through this fundraiser, the group was able to raise over \$200 directly for SafeHouse.

Describing Kathryn's work at SWE, a colleague says, "Katie's most admirable quality is her passion. She has an unrelenting drive to make whatever initiatives she's working on a success, and that support and initiative is contagious, inspiring the rest of her team to follow her on her journey." Kathryn also works as a laboratory assistant at Lurie Nanofabrication Facility, where her supervisor praises her dedication and attention to detail. In the future, Kathryn hopes to help expand access to STEM opportunities for women worldwide.

CEW+ applauds Kathryn's tenacity and names her an Irma M. Wyman Scholar.



Melika Belhaj is a proud Moroccan American and Ann Arborite. While studying part-time at Portland Community College, one of Melika's three jobs included managing a job training program for a community organization. Her experience there building partnerships and working with people—along with the encouragement of the program's director—led her to pursue a degree in community development while working. She earned her bachelor's degree from Portland State University and returned as the keynote speaker for the University's multicultural graduation in 2018.

After a year working through AmeriCorps at a nontraditional high school in Portland, Melika returned to Ann Arbor with the desire to bring the skills she had learned back to her home community. Melika spent three years working in case management with low-income families at the Ann Arbor YMCA; when the YMCA reopened during the pandemic, she also became a frontline worker serving the community.

Melika soon decided to pursue a master's degree in urban and regional planning with the intent of developing a more technical skillset and broadening her scope of practice in community development. With characteristic commitment and care, Melika completed her first semester of graduate school while pregnant and is continuing her studies while raising her daughter. She is also a research assistant with Dr. Margaret Dewar at U-M's Taubman College, supporting research assessing housing conditions of tax foreclosed properties for Detroit Land Bank Authority's Buy Back Program and United Community Housing Coalition's Make It Home Program. Melika reflects, "My impact will be felt in the long-term, sustainable relationships that I continue to develop with community members through the work that I do."

Melika is recognized by her professors and colleagues for her unique capacity to advance critical dialogue and her "undeniable commitment to creating equitable, data-driven policy that yields more sustainable and just communities."

CEW+ commends Melika's persistence and names her a Gail Allen Scholar.

Eden Berdugo Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar



Eden Berdugo is earning her MBA at Ross School of Business, and she is passionate about supporting small business owners. The daughter of North African Jewish immigrants, Eden grew up watching her father run his own small business. This experience inspired her to learn about public support for small businesses and to study political science and urban planning as an undergraduate. After college, Eden worked as the Director of Launch Services at the Department of Small Business Services in New York City, supporting minority- and immigrant- owned businesses and helping them increase their revenue and profits. During the early

COVID-19 pandemic, she spearheaded a collaboration with Deloitte to help small businesses remain open.

After graduating from Ross, Eden will work as an associate at McKinsey. She hopes to eventually start her own business, which will offer consulting services to support women- and minority-owned businesses. She says, “My vision is to advocate for businesses and communities on the margins, expand my contribution to building sustainable business models, and help build vibrant, competitive, and resilient economies.”

Throughout her work, Eden focuses on strengthening communities. She is a national advocate for Mizrahi Jews, facilitating workshops to teach Arab Jewish history and offering guidance about building more inclusive Jewish spaces. She is co-president of the Consulting Club at Ross, an Investment Associate for Ross’s Social Venture Fund, and a Board Member for Maize and Jew. She has also worked as a Non-Profit Board Fellow at the Salvation Army of Detroit, helping them strengthen their relationships with partner organizations. She is widely recognized for her leadership and her commitment to social justice. Describing Eden, her mentor writes, “She seeks to spend her life building a better future, not only for herself but for everyone around her.”

CEW+ applauds Eden’s dedicated leadership and names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.



Ellese Blackmon is a dedicated mother, sister, and rising educator earning her Master of Science in Dental Hygiene. Ellese has persisted in her education through many significant challenges: Ellese's mother struggled with addiction, and Ellese cared for her three siblings from a young age. She continues to strive to be the best role model that she can for them, and now, her daughter as well, reminding them that they can accomplish any goals they desire.

Ellese recently earned her bachelor's degree in dental hygiene from the University of Detroit Mercy. While raising a toddler, she served as class Vice President and a tutor for other students in the dental hygiene program. She was also the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the UDMSOD Spiritus Scholarship, the Sherry A. Castle Boyer Scholarship, the Hoban Memorial Scholarship, the Vivere ex Mission Award, the Falcon Family Award, the East Shore Dental Hygienists' Association Award, and the UDM Dental Hygiene Class of 2022 Vice President Leadership Recognition Award.

A licensed registered dental hygienist and expanded functions dental assistant, Ellese is an active member of the Student American Dental Hygienists' Association, the Michigan Dental Hygienists' Association, and the American Dental Hygienists' Association. She has been instrumental in raising funds for Oral Cancer Awareness Michigan and Malta Dental and Medical Clinic, a nonprofit community clinic in Detroit, and helped in the development of video books for children through Colgate Educational Resource.

Going forward, Ellese intends to become an educator in dental hygiene and continue serving her community and spreading awareness about oral health. Already, she is recognized as an "outstanding clinician and individual" who "will be an impactful educator dedicated to her students and community."

CEW+ celebrates Ellese's commitment to her education, her family, and her community and names her a Beth Halloran Scholar.

Erin Casler Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar



Erin Casler is earning her MBA at the University of Michigan - Dearborn with the ultimate goal of leading a performing arts organization. After graduating with her undergraduate degree in entrepreneurship at Northern Michigan University, Erin knew she wanted to bring together her organization, communication, and logistics skills with her love of music, and she sought out opportunities to do so wherever she could. This was not easy in the Great Recession, but Erin ultimately found work with the Ann Arbor Summer Festival and Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. These experiences set her on the path to arts administration.

Erin has since worked as the Group Sales and Promotion Coordinator for the University Musical Society and, currently, the Ensembles Production Manager for the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre, and Dance. Erin's colleagues at U-M describe her as "focused, consistent and reliable" with a "collaborative spirit" and exceptional work ethic. She is known for going above and beyond to ensure the success of performers at the highest possible level. Within her program, she has also been recognized with the College of Business scholarship.

By completing her MBA, Erin will become an even stronger leader and gain the skills and knowledge to build and maintain an arts organization. Within a future leadership position in the arts, she especially hopes to direct strategic and artistic planning and help present a broader range of what classical music has to offer. Erin says, "Classical music belongs outdoors, in schools, in parks, in community centers, at farmers' markets, on buses, and in people's homes. By achieving a leadership position [. . .] I will be able to influence decision-making that leads to a more inclusive and equitable landscape within the performing arts."

CEW+ applauds Erin's vision for her leadership in the performing arts and names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.



Cristina Castillo is an outstanding rising scientist and dedicated mentor and educator. Born and raised in Peru, Cristina moved to Arizona with her dad shortly after her high school graduation. Between barriers to medical insurance and separation from her family, the transition was especially difficult, and Cristina found light in science through her role with the nonprofit organization miRcore.

At miRcore, Cristina quickly became known for her determination and grit as she learned R programming by herself to perform bioinformatics research in big patient datasets from TCGA (The Cancer Genome Atlas). She soon became involved in outreach as well as research and took on a leadership role with the Lab on wheels project, which introduces high school freshmen to basic laboratory techniques and seeks to inspire the next generation of scientists. She also designed and implemented the curriculum of miRcore's first biotechnology camp and has continued to improve the program. Over her time at miRcore so far, she has mentored more than 1,500 students. The President of miRcore remarks that Cristina "will be a leader and strong advocate in making quality biotechnology education available to many, especially among underrepresented minorities."

For the past six years, Cristina has also worked at Dr. Yatrik Shah's lab within University of Michigan Molecular and Integrative Physiology and studied iron metabolism. She is recognized by her mentor for her unsurpassed "intellectual capacity, work ethic and passion for science."

Now, Cristina is continuing her work at the lab while earning her bachelor's degree in biophysics and biochemistry at U-M. Ultimately, she plans to become a physician-scientist and use her research to develop better treatments for anemia. Cristina also hopes to create an infrastructure for research in Peru and provide talented Peruvian citizens with the opportunity to develop solutions to the challenges they face.

CEW+ applauds Cristina's resilience and vision for her research and names her an Irma M. Wyman Scholar.



Rossi Clark has a vision to improve access to community support for LGBTQ+ youth and other underrepresented communities. Raised in the Appalachian mountains of Eastern Kentucky, they overcame struggles to define their sexual and gender identity by building a chosen family and finding support in a local community center highlighting the work of young folk musicians. These early experiences led them to a passion for community advocacy and social justice, oriented especially toward young people and their efforts to explore their identities.

Since then, Rossi has enthusiastically supported community efforts to build networks of care for young people. They have worked with agencies such as the local youth community support organization Ozone House. In their words, they have undertaken this work to “learn more about how individuals and agencies can redefine community and highlight the issues that young people face.” Their experiences with such organizations have given them the opportunity to see how community support can radically alter the lives of young people.

Currently, Rossi is earning a master’s degree in social work with concentrations in the welfare of children and families and interpersonal practice. During this time, they have also acted as a community engagement coordinator with the Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Center (SAPAC) at the University of Michigan. At SAPAC, they have facilitated trainings for local establishments to increase awareness of sexual and interpersonal violence prevention strategies in the Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti communities.

In the future, Rossi hopes to continue to build networks of care for underrepresented young people. They aim to fill gaps in services especially in rural areas where these services are generally inaccessible, and they envision a world where all young people have access to comprehensive care.

CEW+ celebrates Rossi’s dedication to their community and names them a Beatrice Kahn Scholar.

Paula Clasing CEW+ Graduate Scholar



Paula Clasing-Manquian is earning her PhD in higher education, and she is committed to helping students from diverse backgrounds succeed in higher education. An international student from Chile, Paula was a Fulbright Scholar from 2016-2020 and a recipient of a Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship in 2021-2022. She is also the proud mother of two girls.

Paula's dissertation research examines a free tuition policy in Chile, focusing on how the policy has affected low-income students' access to and persistence in higher education. She hopes her research will be useful for other countries as they consider implementing similar policies to promote equity. After graduating, Paula plans to get a job as an assistant professor or a postdoctoral fellow so that she can continue studying higher education. She says, "By applying my research skills to this topic, I firmly believe that I can make an impact on dismantling barriers that affect the educational trajectories of marginalized populations."

Paula believes strongly in the importance of mentors. Throughout her journey, she has been inspired by other women who helped her find her path. When she first decided to have children, she worried that she would have to give up her dream of attending graduate school. "However," she says, "I met other women that have done their PhD while having children, and knowing their experiences opened for me the idea that pursuing a PhD and having children was compatible." As a student at U-M, Paula has paid it forward by employing undergraduate students to help with her research. She hopes to become a mentor to other young women in her future career as a professor. Her advisor writes, "Paula is a wonderful person, incredibly talented yet very humble. I have no doubt that she will make us proud by doing great things when she returns to Chile."

CEW+ celebrates Paula's dedication to students and names her a CEW+ Graduate Scholar.

Savanna Clore Jane and Bill Bloom Scholar



Savanna Clore is a registered dental hygienist who is earning a bachelor's degree in dental hygiene. A first-generation college student, Savanna is committed to giving back to her community. She plans to work in public health and hopes to improve access to oral healthcare for underserved communities.

In her work as a dental hygienist, Savanna has met many patients who can't afford adequate dental care, and she wants to help change that. She plans to eventually become a dental therapist, which will allow her to provide low-cost care and educate patients about oral health. In addition to her studies, Savanna dedicates herself to community service and is active in the Big Brothers, Big Sisters program of Jackson County. While earning her associates degree, she was a leader in student government and served as the President and Secretary of the Dental Hygiene Club. In 2021, she was honored with the Colgate STAR Award, which recognizes students who show a dedication to dental hygiene, patient care, and community service. Savanna says, "Although dental hygiene was not the career I initially had planned for my life, I cannot imagine it any other way... I am thrilled about the possibilities that are in my future for breaking down barriers to oral health and increasing awareness of oral healthcare and diseases."

Savanna is supported by her husband of six years and her five-year-old son, Judah. She hopes her journey will inspire others to pursue their dreams in spite of challenges. She says, "I have overcome many complications of being a non-traditional student going back to school while working and still honoring my active role as a wife and mother. I want to support women and mothers to follow their career goals, no matter where they are in their lives."

CEW+ commends Savanna's dedication to service and names her a Jane and Bill Bloom Scholar.



Constanza Contreras Ruiz is a Chilean scholar, poet, and illustrator who has pursued the lived experience of language in every aspect of her career. Growing up, Constanza struggled with undiagnosed ADHD and its growing impact on her mental health, and while it was difficult for her to discuss this at home, she found that English as a Foreign Language gave her the necessary structures to express herself. Constanza went on to earn a bachelor's degree in English and teach Spanish abroad at Union College in NY, with every intention of going on to graduate school. However, with her father's sudden death in 2012, she was forced to put her plans on hold and go back to Chile in order to be with her family.

When Constanza took a position as a research assistant for the Center for Interdisciplinary & Indigenous Research in 2015, it reignited her passion for scholarship. That year, she was awarded a Fulbright grant and applied to graduate school in the US, making her the first in her family to pursue an academic career.

Constanza is now earning her PhD in English Language in Literature at U-M. She is at work on her dissertation, which looks at the way concepts of Latinidad both erase and uphold Indigeneity and Blackness across the Americas. Her advisors remark that this is a "truly original project" building on the "remarkable contributions that she is already making to the fields of Latin American Studies, Indigenous Studies, photography theory, ecocriticism, practices of translation, and hemispheric American ethnic literary and poetic criticism."

Constanza recently served as the poetry editor for Michigan Quarterly Review, and her poetry has been published or is forthcoming in LatiNext Anthology, Revista Baclu, Revista N'oj and ESLA. Apart from her academic and artistic work, she is passionate about improving her Olympic weightlifting skills and fostering cats and kittens.

CEW+ celebrates Constanza's vision for her scholarship and names her a Mary Malcomson Raphael Scholar.



Justine D'Souza is pursuing master's degrees in social work and public policy at the University of Michigan. Justine has long been committed both to helping individuals with sensitivity and care and to ensuring that systems—specifically international policies and programs—are effective and promote social justice. She graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in French from Rutgers University, where she defended a French language thesis on child labor, and then moved to France to teach in a Priority Education Zone. Along with her volunteer work, the experience challenged her to adapt to the culture while approaching different types of people and their issues with sensitivity and empathy.

Justine went on to spend several years working with World Education Services, a not-for-profit organization that provides credential evaluations for overseas students and prospective immigrants seeking opportunities in the United States and Canada. There, she learned about the education systems of many different countries to keep up with the growing demand for immigration and responded to frequent customer questions from all around the world. She has also served as an intern with the Government Accountability Office in DC and gained extensive experience performing with community theaters, opera companies, and choruses and volunteering on behalf of domestic violence and sexual assault survivors, individuals facing poverty and homelessness, and immigrants and refugees seeking to enter the American workforce. Most recently, she interned for the organization VIDYA in India and piloted a Community Transformation project.

At U-M, Justine is recognized by her professors as “inquisitive, insightful, and hardworking” with a “bright future in public service.” Following her graduation, Justine hopes to analyze international policies and programs to assess whether they are effective, promote social justice, and include populations historically excluded from pivotal reforms and legislation.

CEW+ commends Justine's commitment to making meaningful change through both systemic and interpersonal work and names her the Margaret Dusseau Brevoot Scholar.

Schinella D'Souza Irma M. Wyman Scholar



Schinella D'Souza is earning a PhD in Mathematics with a vision of becoming a professor and serving as a mentor and role model for women in STEM. In Schinella's undergraduate classes in mathematics, statistics, and computer science, she was one of the few women in the lecture halls and also one of the few applying to graduate school. Though this did not come without challenges, with the support of her professors, Schinella persisted and earned admittance to the University of Michigan. The experience only strengthened Schinella's desire to see more women and other underrepresented minorities enter the field.

At U-M, Schinella is involved in F.E.M.M.E.S. as an outreach coordinator on the executive board, working to encourage young women to sign up for STEM-focused programs and boost the confidence of students considering a career in STEM. She has also served as co-organizer for both the Student Dynamics, Geometry, and Topology Seminar and the Michigan Research Experience for Graduates, participated in the Association for Women in Mathematics mentorship program, and served as an on-call supervisor for Math Corps Summer Camp. Schinella says, "I want to teach students that STEM is for anyone and everyone. Through my academic, teaching, and outreach activities, I want to end the narrative of elitism in STEM and work to make it more inclusive."

Schinella's professors describe her as a strong student and creative researcher who is also working to make the world a better place. Ultimately, Schinella plans to become a professor at a university and help to spark and support undergraduate women's interest in STEM fields, paying forward the mentorship that professors and women in STEM offered to her.

CEW+ celebrates Schinella's commitment to supporting women in STEM and names her an Irma M. Wyman Scholar.



Growing up in Peru, Edith Dana learned the importance of education. Although her parents could not attend college themselves, they encouraged her to follow her dreams. At age 15, Edith scored so high on an admissions exam that she earned a place at Federico Villarreal National University in Peru, graduating with her bachelor's degree at age 19. Her journey next led her to the United States, where she earned a degree in dental hygiene and graduated as one of the top students in her class. Edith credits her success to her parents, and says, "I decided that becoming as educated as possible was the way to give back to them.

Education is a privilege they never had for themselves; therefore, it is the greatest honor of my life to become the first-generation graduate in my family."

Now earning a master's degree, Edith is passionate about expanding access to oral healthcare for underserved populations around the world. Currently, there are several programs that provide temporary access to dental care for underserved populations. Edith's thesis will focus on designing programs that make care available permanently. She was recently awarded the Irene Newman Outstanding Clinician Award by the American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA) and was an Honoree of the Patient Impact & Rise Above Program by RDH Magazine. Both awards recognize outstanding dental hygienists who make a difference in the lives of their patients.

Edith believes in giving back to her community and looks forward to supporting the next generation of dental hygienists. She says, "I want to give back to this generous country. I'd love to become a college professor at U-M to pass on the greatest gift ever given to me, dental hygiene education. This extraordinarily fulfilling career is based on service to others, and that has given meaning to my life today."

CEW+ celebrates Edith's dedication to service and names her a Collegiate Sorosis Foundation Scholar.



Dipita Das is driven to improve access to higher education for people of color and the Asian and Pacific Islander American community. Her parents, immigrants from Bangladesh who found work at an automobile factory in Detroit, taught Dipita the value of an education from an early age. At the same time, she became precociously aware of the systemic and cultural barriers that unfairly prevent young people of color from reaching their greatest potential.

She persisted through these challenges, and in 2021, she achieved her and her family's shared dream. Dipita completed a bachelor's degree in Gender and Health, with minors in Intergroup Relations and Community Action & Social Change. As an undergraduate, Dipita developed an interest in organizational structure and in reimagining higher education to improve access for underserved racial groups. As a program coordinator at CommonGround, Dipita collaborated on a social justice-oriented curriculum for undergraduate and graduate students, aimed at improving on-campus intergroup relations through dialogue.

Next, Dipita will pursue a master's degree in higher educational studies, where she will continue to research changes in the organizational structures of higher education. Dipita's compassion leads her to work toward furthering many different social justice issues. In addition to her graduate studies, Dipita works as the DEI Curriculum Development Intern for the University of Michigan College of Engineering, focusing on case studies and working on strategies to implement DEI work into engineering settings.

After earning her master's degree, Dipita envisions building an organization that will help other Asian Americans accomplish their higher education goals. Dipita writes, "I want to create an organization that caters its support and resources to help first-gen identities succeed and enter new spaces."

CEW+ commends Dipita's vision for accessible higher education and names her a Jean W. Campbell Scholar.



Cat Diggs is a fiercely dedicated environmental justice advocate, organizer, and leader. Born and raised as a dual American and Canadian citizen in Montreal by activist parents, Cat pursued a bilingual education, earned a liberal arts degree from McGill University, and then committed herself to gaining boots on the ground experience. Cat moved to Detroit and worked as a grassroots community-based recycling educator in Detroit's only public recycling drop-off center for five years, among other commitments, such as freelance writing and ESL teaching, before transitioning to full-time nonprofit work as a LISC AmeriCorps service

member. Most recently, Cat worked as Manager of Programs & Outreach at Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice. In that role she co-created and led a sustainable building pilot for six Detroit houses of worship, created and co-produced a video series called Solar Stories of Detroit, coordinated the Detroit Environmental Agenda, and partnered with Voters Not Politicians on outreach to Communities of Interests for the Michigan Redistricting Commission process, among other accomplishments.

Cat is now pursuing a dual master's degree in environmental justice and urban and regional planning. As a U-M student, Cat is co-leading work on the Energy Equity Researchers Collaborative through the Dow Fellows program, is co-developing research partnerships with Sust'ainable Molokai in Hawaii, and serves as a circular economy intern with the City of Ann Arbor's Office of Sustainability and Innovations. Cat also helped carry out an evaluation project of the San Antonio Food Bank, interviewing its partner organizations in San Antonio's high need zip codes.

Cat has been recognized with an Wolberg Family Foundation award, an AmeriCorps Segal Education Award, a Dow Sustainability Fellowship, a Taubman College merit-based entrance award, and a Marshall Weinberg internship with the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives. Following her graduation, she intends to pursue waste justice work, especially surrounding the plastics crisis. She also hopes to build on her interests in environmental journalism and filmmaking, environmental law, and social entrepreneurship.

CEW+ applauds Cat's vision for environmental justice and names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

Morgan Fett Grace A. and James D. Bruce Community Engagement Scholar



Morgan Fett is a PhD candidate in Urban and Regional Planning working to advance equitable development. Morgan saw how her family and the communities around her had been impacted by urban planning issues that led to lack of accessible transportation, job opportunities, and affordable housing, and this ultimately motivated her to pursue a PhD and address systemic issues in planning and policy. Now at the University of Michigan, Morgan has dedicated herself to studying planning that prioritizes people's well-being over growth and profit.

Morgan is committed to pursuing equity both personally and professionally. She has served as a Graduate Employees' Organization (GEO) co-steward for several years and, in the fall of 2020, helped to organize her colleagues for a safer, abolitionist campus. She was pregnant at the time and became a parent in the spring of 2021, going on to finish her coursework, pass her comprehensive exams, and defend her dissertation proposal in her child's first months. Morgan's persistence has never wavered: when COVID then continued to disrupt her original research and fieldwork plans, she redesigned her dissertation and pressed forward. Her current research focuses on understanding how Ecuador adopted and implemented a new constitution framed around well-being.

Morgan's professors describe her as a rising major scholar in equity planning who has demonstrated remarkable "seriousness, humility, and strength" through daunting setbacks. Morgan has also been recognized and supported with a Rackham International Research Award, a Public Engagement Fellowship, and a Public Scholarship Grant. Going forward, Morgan's guiding vision is to shape new practices and alternative economic development frameworks that prioritize the holistic well-being of residents. She hopes to teach future practitioners as a professor and apply her expertise as a consultant for governments and multinational development organizations.

CEW+ commends Morgan's persistence and commitment to equitable development and names her a Grace A. and James D. Bruce Community Engagement Scholar.



Growing up in Ethiopia, which is affected by a number of environmental problems, sparked Tilahun Fikadu's interest to study biology for his undergraduate degree and environmental science for his masters degree. Tilahun saw firsthand the effects of climate change, soil degradation, water pollution, and biodiversity loss on our shared living environment. As an undergraduate student, Tilahun was very curious about how natural systems function and how the integrity of these systems are affected by human-induced changes. In 2012, Tilahun joined the highly selective master's program in applied ecology (environmental science) at the

University of Poitiers in France, where he discovered the diverse application of ecological principles for remediating environmental problems. His masters thesis focused on mitigating environmental problems in traditional agricultural systems in Portugal.

After completing his degree, Tilahun was appointed as a lecturer in the department of ecosystem planning and management at the Ethiopian Institute of Architecture, Building Construction and City Development (EiABC). Working in EiABC, Tilahun was exposed to some of the pressing environmental problems in African cities. More importantly, his participation in the Green Infrastructure and Urban Biodiversity (GIUB) workshop in Kumasi (Ghana) triggered his interest in urban ecology. The same workshop helped him identify topics for his doctoral research.

Since 2019, Tilahun has been a doctoral student in urban and regional planning at the University of Michigan. His current research investigates the implications of urban planning and governance practices in East African cities for protection of urban green spaces. Though green space is vital for urban communities, the rapid urbanization of East African cities has limited the availability of green spaces. He is aware of the conflicts between different types of land ownership rights and how this complicates the planning for and governance of green spaces.

While a doctoral student, Tilahun has also cared for his young daughter at home. He balances academic and family responsibilities, and he strives to be an attentive father and husband.

CEW+ applauds Tilahun's vision for a sustainable future and names him a Grace A. and James D. Bruce Community Engagement Scholar.

Chelsea Finkbeiner Sarah Winans Newman Scholar



Chelsea Finkbeiner has built a career focused on women's health and empowerment. After earning her undergraduate degree in biomolecular science with a minor in gender and health, Chelsea joined the Peace Corps as a maternal and adolescent health volunteer. Chelsea led maternal health sessions at a maternity clinic in rural Nicaragua and it became increasingly clear to her that she wanted the skills and knowledge to medically serve women and girls. When she returned from Nicaragua, she joined the Program on Women's Healthcare Effectiveness Research in the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department at Michigan Medicine.

In this role, she worked to identify and address barriers to accessing medication abortion in rural parts of Michigan and helped create a reproductive justice curriculum for Obstetrics and Gynecology residency programs.

Chelsea is now continuing this work as a medical student at the University of Michigan. She recently returned from a one-year leave from medical school to complete a Global Health Research Fellowship, investigating how women's empowerment impacts their healthcare decision making for themselves and their children. She also co-leads a community pregnancy support group with a local Ob/Gyn and fellow medical student, which was created in response to in-person pregnancy classes being cancelled due to COVID-19.

Chelsea ultimately intends to become a Psychiatrist who specializes in women's mental health and fiercely advocates for her patients. She hopes to make an impact as a skilled, caring, inclusive provider as well as conducting research that identifies barriers to healthcare for women in both domestic and international settings. Chelsea says, "I will meet my patients where they are and do my best to understand not only their medical needs, but also the sociocultural elements affecting their care."

CEW+ applauds Chelsea's commitment to promoting excellent healthcare for women and names her the Sarah Winans Newman Scholar.

Elizabeth Foster is a tenacious digital marketing student and mother of three completing her bachelor's degree at the University of Michigan - Dearborn. A first generation student who independently supported herself from the age of 18, Elizabeth had to pave her own way to college. Elizabeth persisted in her education while juggling pregnancies, kids, and work, even returning to the classroom just 1 month, 3 weeks, and 1 week after having each of her daughters. Through ongoing childcare challenges as well as many long hours studying with children in her lap, Elizabeth continued to show up, reflecting, "I pushed on because I needed to show my girls that if you persisted and put in the hard work you would achieve your goals and be successful at anything you put your mind to."

Elizabeth's professors and mentors at U-M Dearborn remark that she is a "smart, hardworking, and resilient student" with "amazing abilities as a photographer, content creator, and editor." In addition to excelling in her studies, Elizabeth serves as a peer mentor for SOAR, helping others navigate the university as nontraditional students.

Following her graduation, Elizabeth intends to pursue a career in marketing and eventually start her own business. Her ultimate goal is to make an impact in the community that her business is in, especially by starting a scholarship for college students in need. Above all, she is guided by her determination to provide a life full of opportunities for her children, and to help others as she has been helped.

CEW+ commends Elizabeth's persistence in her education and commitment to giving back and names her a Molly H. Dobson Scholar.



Growing up in Detroit, Patrick Gallagher has a distinct understanding of how hard work, determination, and grit are necessary, but not sufficient for one to live a good life. He believes that too frequently luck and social context, not “merit,” allows some to succeed while others languish. Pursuing college along the conventional path to achievement, Patrick was confronted with untimely personal loss, and then with the uninvited weight of alcoholism. Intermittently placing education aside, Patrick grappled with the challenges of addiction and economic insecurity.

In his late 20s, Patrick overcame his alcoholism and emerged to find new bearings in life and some professional success. A few years later he became a father, reveling in the responsibility and rewards of parenthood. By his son’s first birthday, Patrick found himself a single parent and primary caregiver to his son. Though an arduous setback, single parenthood inspired his dedication to modeling a life of purpose for his son and accelerated his return to school.

Now a student in U-M’s Program in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, Patrick is an undergraduate affiliate of the U-M Stone Center for Inequality Dynamics, serves on UM’s Student Parent Advisory Board, and is a member of the Criminal Justice Reform group with the Detroit-based social justice organization Michigan United. Believing that politics, policy, and law are how we best express our cultural values, Patrick intends to pursue further study in the law to ensure that political power is not predominantly vested in the hands of those who were fortunate enough to have been born into the right zip code. His identity as a parent inspires his desire to shape the world his child will grow up in as a place in which economic opportunity is not primarily inherited and where justice and equality are background conditions.

CEW+ commends Patrick’s remarkable persistence and names him an AAUW: Mary Elizabeth Bittman Memorial Scholar.



In 2019, after establishing a family and working for two decades in financial services, Diana M. M. Guzman decided to pursue a long-held dream, and she enrolled at the University of Michigan - Dearborn as an art history major with a Spanish minor. A nontraditional student, Diana balanced schoolwork with domestic responsibilities at home, where she cared for her teenage daughters. In her classes, she exhibited curiosity, intellect, and maturity; at home, she did everything to ensure that her daughters thrived.

After overcoming so much to enroll in her undergraduate program, the COVID-19 pandemic laid yet more challenges in Diana's lap. In winter 2021, Diana was hospitalized with COVID-19 and suffered a prolonged illness. Not only did Diana survive her illness, but she writes that she completed her coursework successfully in that semester. She expresses gratitude for the faculty and staff at UM-Dearborn for their support during this difficult time. Diana's success owes to her persistence and the unfailingly positive attitude she maintains in any situation.

Diana envisions a future where our culture recognizes not only wealth and status but "the beauty that the soul needs to thrive," as she puts it. Hers is a future where brilliant minds come together to discuss art and art history. For her own part in this future, Diana intends to offer support to marginalized children through art therapy, where she can show these young minds what makes life beautiful. She plans to work with her daughter, a neuropsychology major who faced her own challenges with anxiety prior to entering university. Together, Diana and her daughter will create a place to combine the disciplines of art and neuropsychology.

CEW+ admires Diana's tenacity and names her an Elsie Choy Lee Scholar.



Nikita Hahn is earning a master's degree in sustainability and development and ecosystem science management following a successful career in the nutrition field. A first generation student, Nikita supported herself through her undergraduate education in health sciences and went on to work for five years as a milk room dietetic technician at Michigan Medicine's C.S. Mott Children's Hospital. She found the work rewarding, but when she went on a trip to Yosemite National Park, she knew she needed to make a change in her path and pursue her purpose in caring for the natural environment.

Nikita soon made a brave shift from her professional training to pursue further education at U-M's School for Environment and Sustainability. She is particularly passionate about promoting and preserving fresh water quality and access; currently, her research is focused on determining the feasibility of beaver reintroduction in an area of Homer, Alaska and evaluating how reintroduction can mitigate the impacts of climate change on peatland ecosystems. Nikita's professors remark that she approaches her work with remarkable "detail, passion, rigor, and maturity" and recognize her as an "outstanding, inquisitive, and motivated student" who will make a positive impact on the world.

In addition to her research at U-M, Nikita has served as a student track leader for the sustainability and development specialization and a Wolverine Support Network leader, facilitating and supporting discussion around student mental health and well being. Going forward, Nikita says, "I want to take my passion and what I have learned at SEAS to implement that knowledge in the world, where my work can make a difference for those who need it most."

CEW+ celebrates Nikita's bravery and passion for the environment and names her an Elizabeth M. Dusseau Scholar.



Jennifer Harris is earning her master's degree in social work on the program pathway of interpersonal practice in integrated health, mental Health, and substance abuse. Jennifer's motivation to become a clinical social worker comes in part from her own experience of recovery and maintaining sobriety. Not long after earning her undergraduate degree, Jennifer began working in the fine dining restaurant industry in New York City, Beverly Hills, and Detroit; while she rose through the ranks to become a captain, sommelier, and manager, her alcoholism and drug use also increased for the worse. In 2015, she entered inpatient treatment

locally, and with remarkable strength and resilience, began to imagine a different life. Jennifer reflects, "I am proud to be an example that people do recover, can change their lives, and help others do the same."

Jennifer intends to use her degree work in substance use treatment, where the need for professionals continues to increase. She firmly believes that making a positive difference by improving treatment outcomes for those struggling with addiction not only impacts individuals and their families, but can have an effect on whole neighborhoods and communities. As a clinical professional, she hopes to advocate with greater effect against the stigma of addiction and be a resource for the recovery community. Jennifer is grateful to those who supported her, and she intends to pay it forward by mentoring aspiring social workers and providing clinical support pro bono to those in need.

Beyond her studies, Jennifer is an active volunteer with Alcoholics Anonymous, the Southern Michigan Rainbow Recovery Retreat, and Avalon Housing Carrot Way Food Pantry. She is recognized across her communities for her resilience, passion for helping others, and her effectiveness as an agent of change.

CEW+ commends Jennifer's vision for her career as a social worker and names her a Susan Quackenbush Scholar.



Mina Hernandez Garcia is earning her PhD in educational studies, and she is committed to helping multilingual students thrive. Born in Serbia, Mina is a first-generation U.S. citizen and the first in her family to earn a bachelor's degree. She has taught English as a foreign/second language in a variety of educational contexts for twenty years, and has also worked as a teacher educator, training new teachers who work with multilingual students. Mina is passionate about helping future teachers discover their enthusiasm for teaching and develop their ability to help students learn.

As a PhD candidate, Mina studies “translanguaging” in education, teachers’ and students’ use of multiple languages as an integrated communication system to make meaning in subject-matter classrooms. She hopes to better understand the ways these students develop their bilingual or multilingual identities, and how employing their knowledge of other language(s) along with English can help them develop disciplinary literacy and language in various academic contexts. After finishing her PhD, Mina plans to become a professor, and to continue training teachers to support multilingual learners and other minoritized students. She hopes her work will help more students experience education as just and equitable, and help teachers create inclusive and welcoming classroom environments for all. She says, “Supporting bilingual children — especially bilingual girls who often may not be well supported — recognizes and respects their identities and futures as multilingual citizens. These children may be able to serve their communities by becoming the bilingual teachers of tomorrow.”

Mina is recognized by her colleagues for her impressive teaching skills and her strong commitment to social justice. Describing Mina’s research, her mentor says, “Such a study is highly relevant in these times of growth in the number of immigrant children in our schools, and I expect that Mina’s work will offer important insights into the ways teachers can support such learners.”

CEW+ celebrates Mina’s commitment to supporting students and names her the Amy Mecozzi Cho and Lawrence Cho Family Scholar.



Julia Hettich is driven to shape an equitable child welfare system that works for families. While earning her bachelor's degree in psychology, Julia served as an intern with Wendy's Wonderful Kids, working on child-focused recruitment for adolescents awaiting adoption in the child welfare system. The experience both forged her dedication to supporting children and families and motivated her to confront and change the failings of the current system.

Julia's personal experiences in the following years only strengthened her commitment. A mother and survivor of domestic violence, Julia experienced frequent anxiety that her parenting would be unfairly questioned and reported while she depended on the social safety net. She also recognized that, as a white woman, her fear of the child welfare system could have been a much different experience. Julia is now studying racial disproportionality in the child welfare system—and the ways mandated reporters contribute to an unjust, inequitable family policing system—as a master's student in social work at U-M.

During her MSW program, Julia worked as a policy intern at the Student Advocacy Center in Ypsilanti and led the development and implementation of evidence-based, anti-racist, and poverty-aware mandated reporting policy for child-focused nonprofits in the area. Most recently, she served as a part of a team researching credit scoring and its disparate impacts on racially marginalized groups; the team is now developing policy recommendations. Julia is also a current member of the U-M Student Parent Advisory Board, which has worked to raise consciousness about the experiences of student parents on campus and advocate for support.

Following her graduation, Julia intends to continue building a career committed to addressing racial disproportionality in the child welfare system and work to bring the voices of those with lived experience into child welfare policymaking.

CEW+ commends Julia's steadfast commitment to child welfare reform and names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.



Kimberly Heumann is earning her master's degree in behavior, education, and communication at U-M's School for Environment and Sustainability. Kimberly previously earned a bachelor's degree in social work, and she has always cared deeply for both people and the planet. Raising her children and discovering her current program at SEAS made it increasingly clear that she could bring her two interests together and make a difference. Kimberly reflects, "I believe in order to help people live healthier lives, we must improve the health of the environment and world we live in. I have three children I care for full time and I want them to grow up with hope for what the future holds, not fear or anxiety."

Now at U-M, Kimberly is a member of the fall 2022 cohort of the Engaged Pedagogy Initiative, a partnership through the Ginsberg Center for Community Service Learning and Rackham Graduate School. She is currently completing her master's project at the SEAS-owned St. Pierre Wetland in Pinckney, MI. The project includes restoration and preservation at the site that will impact the health of the local wetland, as well as contribute to the expansion of the relatively new and growing knowledge base concerning the importance and functioning of wetland ecosystems everywhere. Kimberly is specifically working to create public-private partnerships to preserve the quality of the site.

Kimberly's professor remarks that "her work as a SEAS student will have a real impact on human communities and water quality of the Huron Watershed, and beyond that on her development as a positive change agent through her unique cross-disciplinary career." Following her graduation, Kimberly intends to work compassionately with people and communities to help them make better decisions concerning the environment.

CEW+ applauds Kimberly's commitment to caring for people and the planet, as well as her persistence as a student caregiver, and names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

Amal Hmedeh Potential Made Possible Scholar



Amal Hmedeh is a dedicated educator and parent working to support nontraditional students' goals. Driven to be a model of persistence for her daughter, Amal confronted years of low personal and professional self-confidence and, in spite of longstanding health and familial challenges, launched a journey of self-discovery and learning. Amal says, "My choice was education in order to build a more resilient me."

Amal earned her master's degree in educational management in leadership while teaching and parenting full-time; during this time, she was also awarded certificates from Cambridge and the Positive Discipline Association. Now, Amal is pursuing her doctoral degree in education at the University of Michigan - Dearborn, where her current research centers around graduate students who are parents and caregivers at U-M. As an international student raising her daughter while her husband continues to work in Lebanon, Amal deeply understands the challenges of attending graduate school while caregiving full-time. She is working to support student caregivers both through her research as President of the Support Student Caregiver organization at U-M Dearborn. Amal's advisor remarks that her "research and activism has the potential to be transformative for graduate student caregivers."

As an educator, Amal envisions a transformative future where education is rebuilt to meet student's needs and students themselves are pillars in change. She is known as "the sort of educator to whom you would like to entrust your own children," creating affirmative, collaborative learning environments wherever she is present. Amal is a highly motivated educator who is sure to make a difference in the field.

CEW+ applauds Amal's persistence and commitment to the wellbeing of her students and peers and names her a Potential Made Possible Scholar.

Dalena Hoang Irma M. Wyman Scholar



A proud daughter of Vietnamese immigrants, Dalena Hoang is passionate about making healthcare accessible to all. As a teenager, Dalena struggled with health issues and often felt that her medical concerns were dismissed by doctors. This experience motivated her to study health and medicine so that she can ensure other patients are treated fairly. She is currently pursuing a double major in statistics and sociology, with a minor in business.

Dalena works in a research lab at Michigan Medicine, where she helps investigate interventions to support elderly couples who are dealing with chronic health conditions. She is also committed to mentoring other students and helping them succeed. Dalena is completing a second term as the Operations Chair of the Vietnamese Student Association and is the President of the Asian American High School Student Conference, which takes place annually at U-M. Dalena credits her parents for making her achievements possible. She says, “The person I am today is because of the sacrifices they made, and I am so grateful for the position I am in now, for all of the opportunities available to me.”

Upon graduation, Dalena plans to pursue a position in product management. After completing an internship in Quantitative Analytics at PNC Bank, Dalena discovered that this path aligns closely with her area of study – focusing on the intersection of business, technology and the user. She hopes to use both her sociology and statistics background to help create more intentional and accessible products.

CEW+ celebrates Dalena’s vision and names her an Irma M. Wyman Scholar.

Sam Hobson Mary Malcomson Raphael Scholar



Sam Hobson is earning their PhD in Sociology with the goal of helping everyday people better contribute to systemic-level change. As a young Black person growing up in the South, Sam often felt they had to work harder than everyone else in their classes to prove their worth; it wasn't until college, when they had the opportunity to work with Black professors, that they were able to understand the structural racism at the heart of their educational experience. This shaped Sam's desire to become a professor and provide future Black youth, and especially queer Black youth, with the opportunity to see themselves and better understand themselves.

Now in their doctoral program at U-M, Sam's is working with food justice activists in New York City to study how structural power and oppression are unintentionally replicated through acts of social justice. Sam's ultimate goal is to help us understand the structural implications of our actions and how we can engage in social change in ways that do not perpetuate harm and oppression. They aim to make their work accessible so that every person with the desire can promote transformative, systemic-level change at the personal, community, and global level.

A National Science Foundation Fellow, Mellon Mays Fellow, and Rackham Merit Fellow, Sam has also been awarded funding for their research from the American Sociological Association, the National Center for Institutional Diversity, the Institute for Citizens and Scholars, and the Social Science Research Council. Among their colleagues, Sam is recognized both for their "brilliance" and their "generous spirit."

CEW+ celebrates Sam's vision for social change and public scholarship and names them a Mary Malcomson Raphael Scholar.

Alex Husted Lucile B. Conger Alumnae Group Scholar

Alex Husted is a persistent student committed to making a difference in her communities. As a young person in high school, Alex started struggling academically and thought she didn't like school; though she was curious about the world, traditional school didn't give her the opportunity to engage in ways that were meaningful to her. So in her junior year, she took a leap of faith and enrolled in an alternative school where she had more autonomy in her learning. She quickly became very engaged in both her classes and the highly collaborative school governance process.

Alex's experience at an alternative school enabled her to redefine her own relationship to learning, and she wanted to make that experience available to other young people. She took on a position as an intern at a similar school, and over the course of several years, became the co-director of the program. She is recognized by her colleagues at the school as "a woman of purpose and drive" with remarkable "work ethic, passion, resolve, and capacity for understanding."

Though it was difficult to leave the program after nearly a decade of service, Alex decided to go back to school to make a difference in a different way. She is now pursuing a bachelor's degree in plant biology at U-M with the ultimate goal of contributing to scientific research

scientific that mitigates climate disaster for humans and ecosystems. Through the study of plants specifically, she hopes to build a career participating in research that helps us develop environmental remediation strategies, as well as creative biotechnology for building resilient communities. A lifelong learner, Alex intends to continue to graduate school after completing her bachelor's degree.

CEW+ celebrates Alex's vision for her learning and career and names her the Lucile B. Conger Alumnae Group Scholar.

Eun Bit Hwang AAUW - Ann Arbor Branch Used Book Sale Scholar



Eun Bit Hwang is driven to center human relationships in business organizations through her scholarship, teaching, and public engagement. Though she has faced many challenges in pursuing her education as both an international student and a student caregiver, Eun Bit has never stopped working to make the world a better place. Eun Bit earned her bachelor's degree in economics from Dartmouth College; there, she wrote an undergraduate thesis on the topic of measuring people's wellbeing for development and policy-making and, following her graduation, tenaciously pursued an invitation to attend the OECD

World Forum in India on the same topic. Her experience at the conference, and the mentors she found through it, ultimately led her to a program in applied positive psychology at the University of Pennsylvania, where she earned her master's degree. Now, she is a doctoral candidate in management and organizations at U-M's Ross School of Business.

Through her scholarship, Eun Bit hopes to help business scholars, current practitioners, and future generations break free from the narrative that business and capitalism prioritize profit maximization over human dignity. Her dissertation research focuses on human connection at work, investigating in part how organizational members move beyond economically-grounded workplace relationships and instead come to experience genuine human connection. After completing her PhD, Eun Bit intends to seek a faculty position at a business school. Through her teaching, research, and engagement beyond academia, she hopes to help create relationally healthy workplaces and "ignite meaningful conversations among various stakeholders on who we really are at heart and what we are really meant to do together."

CEW+ applauds Eun Bit's commitment to making the world a better place and names her a AAUW - Ann Arbor Branch Used Book Sale Scholar.



Abigail Johnson is dedicated to addressing systemic inequities in education. After graduating from Yale University, Abigail went on to build a career as a business analyst and project manager at Kitamba, a social-impact consulting firm focused on education. Abigail launched a series of classes there called the Diversity in Analytics and Leadership Program, which provided a space for students underrepresented in policy and analytics fields to connect with mentors, discuss careers, and learn skills. While the program removed some barriers that many students of color and first-generation students face, Abigail also realized that the program

lacked the capacity to address systemic challenges that marginalized communities face in higher education. She ultimately decided to pursue a master's degree in public policy at U-M's Ford School to move toward that goal.

In her first year at U-M, Abigail joined the Student Advisory Board for the Ford School's Center for Racial Justice, led an event on migration policy, and earned a summer internship with the Accountability Team at The Institute for College Access and Success in Washington, DC. She also joined the Center for Socially Engaged Design, facilitating numerous sessions with students across U-M and helping to plan a workshop series about equity and justice in the field of nuclear power. Abby's mentor remarks that "with Abby as part of our community, everyone's knowledge, expertise, and design approach benefits and gets stronger."

Following her graduation, Abigail is interested in developing thoughtful family engagement policies for an urban school district and eventually transitioning to a federal position where she can expand her work in communications and support the Black community. Abigail says, "For me, an impactful career means authentically engaging with and partnering with community members to develop policies that reflect families and students' goals and needs."

CEW+ commends Abigail's dedication to addressing systemic inequity and names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.



Erin N. Johnson is a tenacious rising historian and parent whose research centers women's emotional lives. Erin earned her BA in history from the University of Toledo, where she earned the Margaret Nachtrieb Award for Outstanding Female Undergraduate Major in History and graduated summa cum laude, and went on to earn her MA in history from Miami University. During this time, she was also committed to providing emotional and financial support to her family and became a mother. Erin says, "I have produced important scholarship and engaged with the campus community in a unique and productive way because of my experiences with challenging family dynamics and parenthood. These experiences have shaped my work as a historian and as a teacher, giving me an unyielding dedication to trying to understand the people I study as complex, and often contradictory, individuals."

Erin master's thesis, entitled "'Strong Passions of the Mind': Representations of the Mind-Body Connection and Women's Reproductive Bodies in Early Modern England," explored in part how seventeenth-century beliefs about the relationship between emotion and the body worked to sustain the value of women's roles in labor and delivery and limit women's acceptable emotional expression. Erin is now building on that work with her doctoral research, which focuses on the experiences of seventeenth-century women in the Bridewell and Bethlem Royal Hospitals. Erin's advisor remarks that her research will "offer a new and important angle to understanding the lived experience of women in early modern Britain and how their experiences were understood and regulated."

Erin's mentors describe her as a "resourceful, thoughtful, and driven" scholar who has persisted through significant challenges with unflagging dedication to her research and her children. Going forward, Erin intends to work at a college or university, where she will undoubtedly be a remarkable mentor to, and advocate for, her students.

CEW+ commends Erin's persistence and names her a Mary Malcomson Raphael Scholar.



Katie Jones learned the importance of persistence as a teenager, when her mother convinced her to join the swim team. Katie has spina bifida and uses a wheelchair, which made swimming especially challenging, and at first she thought about quitting. Instead she stuck with it, and ended up competing with her swim team throughout all four years of high school. She says, "I learned that there is always room for improvement, and developed resilience. I navigated my personal goals. I never gave up!"

Now earning a master's degree from the Ford School of Public Policy, Katie continues to approach challenges with grit and tenacity. Her resilience was on display during the 2022 winter semester, when she broke her leg and required surgery. Despite this setback, Katie excelled academically, earning straight As in her coursework. She looks forward to using her master's degree to improve her community. Katie currently works at Fair Food Network, an organization that grows community health and wealth through food. In the future, she hopes to work in health policy and be an advocate for people with disabilities. She says, "Based on my experiences growing up in Ypsilanti and seeing the disparities in my community, I know what obstacles face Washtenaw County and the state of Michigan, and I look forward to learning to develop solutions to provide services more effectively."

Katie is widely recognized for her determination and her enthusiasm for helping others. Her mentor writes, "As a disabled mother and woman, Katie faces barriers every single day of her life; and yet, she keeps going, with a positive attitude and intense focus on her goals... She is responsive and empathetic to others' needs, and models for others to do the same."

CEW+ applauds Katie's persistence and empathy and names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

Alexandra Judelsohn Mary Lucille Randolph and Lea King Dean Memorial Scholar



Alexandra Judelsohn was inspired to work with populations that arrived in the U.S. as refugees after returning home to Buffalo, New York after college. Over the course of a few years, a whole neighborhood had changed: immigrant-owned businesses popped up, vegetable gardens replaced front lawns, and celebrations like the Burmese water festival occurred. While local governments lauded these populations, they did not provide support, and refugee community needs were overlooked by policymakers. She decided to study urban planning in order to contribute to policy change that would address the needs of these communities.

Currently earning her PhD in urban and regional planning from the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Alexandra remains committed to making systemic change for refugees and other underserved populations. As a graduate student, she has published numerous peer-reviewed articles and is co-editing a book on equitable approaches to urban agriculture. In 2019, she led an expansion of the Taubman College Pathways Program, which supports first-generation and underrepresented applicants to graduate school, to include a PhD track. She is currently collaborating on a project to try to understand how mycelium can remediate lead from the soil, while sharing information with refugee populations on healthy urban gardening techniques to avoid lead contamination.

After finishing her PhD, Alexandra plans to become a faculty member and continue working toward systemic change. She says, “I hope to conduct applied research that pushes local governments to build a stronger network of institutions that assist populations resettling in the U.S. and help to lift up leaders from these communities.”

CEW+ applauds Alexandra’s commitment to improving her community and names her a Mary Lucille Randolph and Lea King Dean Memorial Scholar.



Guntaaz Kaur is pursuing her dream of becoming a veterinarian. It wasn't until her mom brought home a dog, which Guntaaz named Fern, that she began to recover from the loss of a loved one. Guntaaz soon discovered her calling was to help all animals that loved humans unconditionally.

Guntaaz is proud to be pursuing a field that makes her happy and honors the sacrifices that her parents made when they both came to the United States to raise their children and support their dreams.

Guntaaz is now earning her B.S. in Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience at the University of Michigan with the goal of continuing on to veterinary school and ultimately joining a nonprofit that helps animals in underdeveloped countries. Guntaaz is a member of the pre-vet club and is also entering her third year of serving in a leadership role with the Women in Science and Engineering Residential Program as a member of the recruitment team. Participating in WISE has helped her community (and herself) break down the barriers of imposter syndrome and learn more about women in science. Her community has described her as someone with "incredible strength and determination" who will be a "change agent in STEM."

CEW+ celebrates Guntaaz's dedication to her dreams and names her an Irma M. Wyman Scholar.

Lacey Kirchen Irma M. Wyman Scholar



Lacey Kirchen is earning her bachelor's degree in biomolecular science with a gender and health minor, in pursuit of her dream of becoming a doctor. A first-generation student, Lacey always knew she wanted to work in healthcare, but she had lacked the support and confidence to pursue higher education. Nonetheless, in 2016—eleven years after her high school graduation—Lacey decided to make a brave leap and pursue her dream. She enrolled at Lansing Community College and made a commitment to herself to stay in school while raising her young son and working full-time. Even when the pandemic forced Lacey to take time away from school to care for her son, she persisted and returned a year later.

Completing a degree as a student parent is far from easy, and every step of the way, Lacey has taken time to reconfirm that her goal of becoming a doctor is what she wants and that her path is building a better life for both herself and her son. She reflects, "I am not afraid to admit that things can be hard, yet I help my son to see that sometimes the hardest things to do are the most worthwhile and that it is important not to give up just because something is tough." Lacey graduated summa cum laude with her associate degree and received the award for Outstanding Student in Chemistry.

She is now furthering her education at U-M, where she is involved on campus with the Global Scholars Program, Archery Club, M-LEAD, Michigan Active Citizens Alternative Spring Break, and Women in Science and Engineering.. Lacey works at Kellogg Eye Center as a clerk in surgery scheduling. She also continues to serve as a tutor at Lansing Community College, an experience that has strengthened her desire to eventually teach and mentor new doctors.

CEW+ commends Lacey's perseverance and names her an Irma M. Wyman Scholar.



The eldest of two daughters born into a family from a conservative Indian village, Sowmya Krishnareddy remembers some neighbors scrutinizing her parents for having only daughters and no son who could support them. As a young girl, Sowmya decided that her gender didn't matter. She would be the one to support her family if they had no son to do so. Pursuant to that goal, she decided that she would earn an education. Her father supported her, and worked to save for her high school education. Sowmya then went on to study civil engineering as an undergraduate at Abdur Rahman University, where she also taught herself to code.

Following graduation, she worked for six years as a senior systems engineer and software engineer in India. She faced social scrutiny again, however, when her family and home village expected her to go through with an arranged marriage. For personal reasons, Sowmya decided to call off the marriage, and a rift broke through her relationship with her family and her community. She decided, then, that she had to become totally self-reliant.

It was that decision that led her to pursue a Master's in Information Systems and Technology at the University of Michigan - Dearborn in 2021. Sowmya values family relationships and connection, and she celebrates software engineers' role in creating "the powerful laptops, phones, and apps that are enabling us to reach out to our loved ones and reach deadlines across different time zones." She also values women's power and independence. In the future, Sowmya hopes to develop a mentorship initiative encouraging more women to learn to code. She writes, "This will open a whole new area of development of women's participation in public decision-making and can provide access to financing, networks, and cooperation."

CEW+ supports Sowmya's fight against gender bias and names her a Petar and Zdravka Zdravkovski Scholar.



Aissa Laouan Wandarama is dedicated to empowering women and girls in developing countries, and she has made use of every resource available to make change for herself and others. Originally from Niger, Aissa is a humanitarian worker who completed high school in an environment where girls receive limited schooling and then moved to the US to pursue higher education. She graduated magna cum laude with Bachelor of Business Administration in Management and Finance and a Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs while working full-time, additionally earning departmental honors and the Student of the Year in International Affairs award.

Most recently, Aissa worked as Senior Project Manager (Niger and DRC) for Save the Children International, where she managed a project implemented in 135 schools in DRC (55) and Niger (80) with the aim of increasing access to safe learning environments that contribute to boys and girls emotional, psychological and physical wellbeing. Prior to this position, she coordinated a holistic child marriage prevention project for married girls and girls at risk of marriage while increasing their access to health, education, economic, and income generating opportunities for them and their families. As an elected staff representative, Aissa also helped significantly expand her employer's parental leave policies.

Aissa is a proud student and parent of a two year old daughter and a seven year old son. She is now continuing her education at U-M and pursuing a Master of Public Policy at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy. She has recently joined the Student of Color in Public Policy, the Student Parent Advisory Board and the Student Advisory Council to the Ann Arbor City Council. Aissa's professors recognize her exceptional dedication, commenting, "Aside from her impressive academic performance, Aissa is a leader and valued member of our community." Following her graduation, Aissa plans to work to improve the lives of women and girls in rural areas at the international level.

CEW+ commends Aissa's persistence and names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.



Jess Lasoff-Santos is earning a PhD in Natural Resources & Environment with a focus on environmental psychology. Driven by a desire to make a difference in the world, Jess' dissertation research focuses on local approaches for climate resilience, including how to best support individuals coping with climate distress.

Currently, Jess is exploring how municipal-level resilience planning affects individuals' climate distress and efficacy to begin engaging in climate adaptation behaviors in the household. Jess' work was recently recognized with the Robert & Judy Marans and Kan & Lillian Chen Dissertation Award in Sustainability and Survey Research, an award of \$10,000 from the Institute for Social Research. Jess reflects, "I hope my research creates a difference—in increasing resilience to climate change, in helping people cope emotionally with the climate crisis, and providing enough efficacy to individuals and communities so that they feel able to take action." Following his graduation, Jess intends to become a professor and conduct research and teach classes that are community-based in nature.

In addition to his research, Jess is currently a co-founder and co-facilitator for Out@SEAS, and a research supervisor for the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program. He has also served as the student representative for the School for Environment and Sustainability Executive Committee for the past two years and the Graduate Student Mentor for the Program in the Environment for the past three years. Recognized as a "gifted scholar, outstanding instructor, and excellent mentor to other graduate students," Jess is already making a difference in his communities.

CEW+ applauds Jess' vision for his teaching and scholarship and names him a Christine Kahan Black Scholar.

Mary Lee Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar



Mary Lee is earning a master's degree in educational technology at UM-Dearborn. Mary was always drawn to education. As an undergraduate at the University of Toledo, she enrolled in the Early Childhood Education program, and a brief switch to the chemistry program only reconfirmed her desire to be an educator. She graduated magna cum laude with her bachelor's degree in education in 2016.

Mary's commitment to teaching stems in part from her experience as a mother to three children, ages 2, 3, and 6. She reflects, "I watch them play and hope that they will get a teacher that is passionate about their career, like I try to present everyday with my students." She is currently a third grade teacher in Petersburg, MI, where she is known as an "outstanding educator" who is always one of the first to lend a helping hand. This is characteristic of Mary: when she was in high school, she experienced an EF4 tornado in her hometown, and she was part of the clean up efforts over several weeks. She is widely appreciated for her care and generous spirit.

Despite the challenges Mary and her family have faced in the past few years, she was determined to continue to grow as an educator and she is currently earning her master's degree while teaching full-time. Mary specifically plans to make an impact with her degree by pursuing the implementation of a new technology team in her school district. Known as the "tech guru" at her school, she hopes to lead this team and introduce more science and technology (like STEM bins and Makerspace) to each classroom and help teachers who struggle with technology. In the long term, she intends to continue her education and pursue a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership.

CEW+ celebrates Mary's commitment to education and names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

Jennifer C. Lopez Christine Kahan Black Scholar



Jen Lopez is earning a Master of Arts in Higher Education with a commitment to centering marginalized students' voices and experiences. As the daughter of immigrant parents from Oaxaca, Mexico, Jen saw how her citizenship status shaped a fundamentally different experience for her than many of her family members. Her family's experiences and story of persistence against the odds continues to inspire her to pursue equity in higher education.

After graduating with her bachelor's degree in sociology from Whitman College, Jen served as a Spanish teacher in the New Orleans region through Teach for America and then joined the staff at Whitman's Intercultural Center. First as Program Adviser and later as Assistant Director, Jen led students through a range of intentional dialogues, engaging individuals of different social identities to promote communication and understanding. She also specifically supported first-generation and working-class students as the staff lead for Whitman's Summer Fly-In Program. She was awarded the Suzanne L. Martin Award for Excellence in Mentoring in 2019 for her outstanding work with, and support of, students. In her community, Jen also helped establish a rapid response team and facilitated Know Your Rights workshops through the Walla Walla Immigrant Rights Coalition.

Now completing her degree at U-M, Jen is recognized as a Rackham Fellow and as an outstanding graduate student instructor with the Program on Intergroup Relations.. Going forward, Jen hopes to "forge a new path in the field of student engagement and student development, one that yields space for marginalized voices to be heard, affirmed, and validated." Building on her reputation for "remarkable professionalism" and "compassionate leadership," she soon intends to pursue a position in higher education where she can continue to work with young people to make change.

CEW+ applauds Jen's vision for student development in higher education and names her a Christine Kahan Black Scholar.

Gabriela Lopez-Salgado Irma M. Wyman Scholar



Gabriela Ivonne Lopez-Salgado has passion both for science and for service. The oldest daughter of Mexican immigrants, Gabriela demonstrated a proclivity for science and math at a young age. As an undergraduate at the University of Michigan, she has refined her natural talents into a particular interest in computer programming, soldering, embedded systems, circuits, and electrical components. In winter 2022, she enrolled in a directed research study course in robotics, and is pursuing a major in computer science engineering.

Since winter 2022, Gabriela has worked as an instructional aid in the U-M Robotics Department, and she conducted research as a research assistant at the Michigan Human-Artificial Intelligence Laboratory in summer 2022. Her instructors and supervisors recognize Gabriela as an “ambitious,” “enterprising” young engineer who spends her free time learning to solder circuits and “selflessly” serving her community.

As a first-generation Latina in STEM, Gabriela has firsthand experience overcoming the challenges that underserved students face in higher education. She has already given so much back to her community through service though she is only a sophomore herself. She is an active member of Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), and was recognized last year as a 2021-2022 LeaderSHPE Scholar. Over summer 2022, Gabriela participated in SHPE’s community abroad program, in which she exposed Puerto Rican high school students to engineering using a hands-on robotics curriculum focusing on the usage of Arduinos. This year, she will serve as Vice President - External of SHPE. Finally, Gabriela also currently serves as a Women in Science and Engineering Residence Program (WISE RP) peer mentor, where she provides support to other women students in STEM programs at the University of Michigan.

CEW+ celebrates Gabriela’s passion and names her an Irma M. Wyman Scholar.

Montana Lyjak Irma M. Wyman Scholar



Montana Lyjak is earning a bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering at the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor. Montana knew she wanted to pursue a career in engineering from a young age, and when she underwent a spinal fusion for her scoliosis at the C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in 2017, the experience further motivated her to pursue engineering in the context of medicine. Montana hopes to help others in the same way that she was helped.

At U-M, Montana is also involved in the Society of Women Engineers and the Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) program. She is founding member of the WISE student programming board, which meets biweekly to develop ideas for the future of WISE and discuss how WISE can help students from students' perspectives. Most recently, Montana joined the U-M Archery Club; she has quickly developed a passion for the sport as well as an appreciation for what it has led her to learn about the human body and movement. She is recognized by her professors and mentors as a leader among undergraduate students with a keen ability to identify a given problem and develop a method to solve it.

After completing her bachelor's degree at U-M, Montana intends to continue on to graduate school. She hopes to build a career developing prosthetics and other synthetic materials to aid individuals in pursuing activities that they previously weren't able to.

CEW+ celebrates Montana's passion for engineering in medicine and names her an Irma M. Wyman Scholar.



Deepika Magapu is a dedicated project management professional, working towards her graduate degree in program and project management. She holds a bachelor's degree from India. Deepika is a scholar and honed her leadership skills in student government. She was elected treasurer of the student council, and during her tenure, Deepika organized a three-day college event, coordinating 20 sponsorships and 100 volunteers. Through this experience, Deepika became comfortable delegating tasks, articulating her vision, and mediating conflict within a team. Deepika recalls learning an important lesson about leadership

during this time: effective leadership is not about personal success, but ensuring the success of your team.

After graduation, Deepika put her leadership skills to use in the IT world. She soon earned a role as an associate consultant at the technology services and consulting firm Capgemini, where she acted as a project management lead for the Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey.

Deepika is currently enrolled in the University of Michigan-Dearborn, where she is pursuing a Master's degree in Project Management, working towards PMP. She sees the opportunity to study at University of Michigan-Dearborn as the biggest achievement of her life so far, and believes that this program will teach her the skills required to lead organizations at more advanced levels.

With a Master's degree in hand by 2025, Deepika envisions leading an organization as a program manager. She plans to put together a team that supports its members' career goals and pushes them toward success. She is widely recognized for her "intellectual tenacity and leadership." Her colleagues praise her relentlessly positive outlook, as she always sees challenges not as failures but as opportunities for further growth. Deepika writes, "Challenges are what make life interesting, and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful."

CEW+ applauds Deepika's leadership and names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

Nina Makhoulf Irma M. Wyman Scholar



Nina Makhoulf is a proud first-generation Algerian-American using her engineering skills to help her community. Nina is pursuing her bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Michigan, where she is a highly active community member. Nina serves as the President for the Society of Women Engineers and has previously held the Strategic Planning Director position, planned the Women in Leadership Conference and an Alternative Spring Break Trip. Nina is also the chair for Advocates for Diversity in Engineering, where she works to improve DEI within the College of Engineering. Nina is deeply committed to diversity,

equity, and inclusion in every aspect of her life.

Nina is pursuing research in disability design, motivated in part by the experiences of a family member with cerebral palsy. She has participated in the Daly Design and Engineering Education research group throughout her entire undergraduate degree. Last year, Nina participated in RISE 490, where she was able to share her research with the greater Mechanical Engineering community by writing a conference research paper and doing a presentation on her research findings. Nina was awarded the Best Paper Award for work on Investigating Design Students' Consideration of People During Concept Generation. This experience has shown Nina her passion for research and helping people.

Nina intends to go on to earn her Master's degree in Systems Engineering and Design and work within Systems Engineering. She hopes to work in the Aerospace Industry, helping to lift people up and advance technologies. Known already as a "capable and emphatic leader" with innovative ideas, firm dedication to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and great compassion, Nina is well-equipped to become a powerful agent of change.

CEW+ is inspired by Nina's leadership and commitment and names her an Irma M. Wyman Scholar.



Anastasia Marie is guided by an interdisciplinary approach to environmental conservation and advocacy. Nature was a refuge to Anastasia through difficult circumstances in her childhood, and when she arrived at the University of Vermont as a McNair Scholar, she decided to study natural resources conservation. She persisted in earning her bachelor's degree through chronic depression, and the experience ultimately led her to a new approach to environmental conservation—one that acknowledged a need for healing and incorporated her creative talents. Anastasia soon returned to school for music, earned a second bachelor's degree, and opened a voice coaching and teaching business.

Now Anastasia is continuing her education and further bridging her interests as a master's student in landscape architecture at U-M. Through her research-based creative work, Anastasia seeks to "design and facilitate connected and ecologically restorative spaces for wildlife" and develop ecological design interventions that facilitate restoration and healing in underserved or abandoned neighborhoods. Her work builds upon her previous experience both in environmental conservation, conducting research on song dialects in Bobolinks, and as a long-time student and teacher-trainee of the Alexander Technique.

Anastasia's professors and colleagues described her as "articulate, thoughtful, and involved," and she is recognized for her "deep listening on social justice and environmental racism." Anastasia has focused her work on reducing racial and economic disparity in Black communities; beyond her studies, she has given free voice lessons in predominantly Black neighborhoods and co-created and delivered two workshops for faculty in the Rubenstein School that used mind-body techniques to support educators in discussing racism in the classroom. Going forward, Anastasia intends to work as both a landscape architect and contemporary artist, leading creative, research-based, grassroots work with communities and developing spaces that function as a habitat both for biodiversity and for human healing.

CEW+ celebrates Anastasia's persistence and vision for landscape architecture and names her the Joan P. Ireland Scholar.

Bridget L. Moss Collegiate Sorosis Foundation Scholar

Bridget L. Moss is a tenacious and dedicated nurse practitioner, mother, and community member. Bridget earned her bachelor's degree in nursing from Case Western Reserve University and, after six years working as a nurse, returned to pursue her master's degree in nursing at the University of Virginia. Bridget persisted in earning that degree through the birth of her child and supporting her family, determined to reach her goal of becoming a nurse practitioner.

Bridget brings that same determination to all spheres of her life and works daily to help make the world a better place for her child and for everyone around her. At work, she is an active participant in her workplace diversity and inclusion committee and she recently spearheaded a Green Workspace initiative in her department. She has also worked throughout her career to increase access to healthcare in underserved communities. In the broader community, she is a dedicated volunteer: she recently finished serving as a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Member for 4 years, works as an election official, and a member of her local NAACP chapter, where she is part of the healthcare and political action committees.

Now, Bridget is pursuing her master's degree in public health at U-M to make a difference through policy and advocacy work. She hopes to use her degree to make her state healthier by working with legislators and organizations to decrease the effects of climate change, racism, and gun violence. Recognized by her colleagues as "intelligent, insightful, efficient, and effective," Bridget also has the determination to make a lasting impact by advancing policy that improves healthcare.

CEW+ commends Bridget's vision for her career and community and names her the Collegiate Sorosis Foundation Scholar.

Margaret Mutch Irma M. Wyman Scholar



Margaret Mutch is a rising actuary driven to make positive changes in the actuarial industry. When Margaret was in high school, her mother was diagnosed with Stage IV Non-Hodgkin's Large Diffuse B-Cell Lymphoma, and Margaret watched her mother fight with medical insurance companies for years. Her keen awareness of the shortcomings in the industry motivated Margaret to be the change, and with the goal of joining an excellent actuarial mathematics program, Margaret devoted herself fully to her studies and graduated as valedictorian while caring for her mom.

Margaret's hard work and dedication paid off when she reached her goal and earned admission to the University of Michigan, where she is now pursuing her bachelor's degree in actuarial mathematics. Margaret continues to care for her mother while excelling in her studies, and has recently completed her second internship and accepted a full-time job with Segal Consulting.

Ultimately, Margaret hopes to serve as a director of actuaries and help to develop policies that are non-discriminatory for her own company and her clients. While working in the multiemployer pension industry, she hopes to ensure full pension benefits for all clients. Margaret says, "In enacting change both at my own company and those of our clients, it will ignite change within the entire industry. The effects of such changes will not only reach the individual, but also the entire industry."

CEW+ applauds Margaret's drive to create change and names her an Irma M. Wyman Scholar.



Okyoung Noh is an artist, community-builder, and caregiver from South Korea earning her MFA at U-M's Stamps School of Art and Design. Her work focuses on diverse stories around the cultural phenomenon she refers to as the “better life” cult—the myths, hopes, and fears about pursuing a better life that are perpetuated by the messaging of transnational, capitalist media. Her work also specifically engages with the social morals and patriarchal ideologies of a “better” woman in Asia, an interest that stems in part from Okyoung’s experience as a caregiver to her very traditional grandmother. Okyoung recently interviewed Korean

female millennials living in urban slums and shared their living narratives in art, where they could freely confess and visualize their backgrounds and beliefs about a “better” daughter, wife, woman, customer, or life.

Okyoung is deeply committed to civic engagement as both an artist and educator. She has previously served as an intern at the Seoul National University Diversity Council, taught at Korean youth centers, and provided curatorial assistance on educational exhibitions in public museums. Currently, she participates in the Asian Teaching Artist Exchange Workshop and Joint Program on Socially Engaged Arts Education as a representative teaching artist from South Korea and a team lead. At U-M, she also plans to work with Asian women for “better” self-care and create spaces where people can openly and critically discuss underlying fears behind the “better life” myth.

Okyoung intends to build a career as an artist-caregiver-educator who engages struggling communities, visually documents, and shines a light on the ideas of “better life” formed by urban media, social discipline, and capitalist extraction. Already, she is recognized by her colleagues for her passion, imagination, and singular capacity to build relationships through socially-engaged art.

CEW+ applauds Okyoung’s commitment to her communities and names her an Elsie Choy Lee Scholar.

Nathalie O'Hernandez Janice F. Stephens Memorial Scholar



Nathalie Jean O'Hernandez is studying biomolecular science and writing, and she plans to one day become a pediatric oncologist. Nathalie is a member of Alpha Phi Omega, an intercollegiate service organization, and the M-STEM Scholars Program, which supports students with high ability and potential in science. She is committed to giving back and helping others.

Nathalie has overcome many setbacks while pursuing her degree. When she was growing up, Nathalie helped raise her younger siblings after their mother experienced health problems that prevented her from being present in their lives. During her first year of college, Nathalie struggled with health problems of her own and took time off to recover. Now that she has returned to school, she hopes to become a role model for her siblings, her future children, and the patients she will one day serve. She is also committed to improving access to mental health care and reducing the stigma that accompanies mental health treatment. She says, "Success to me is the relentless pursuit of a better life and as long as I keep pushing myself to achieve that, I believe I will make it."

Nathalie is widely recognized for her dedication, conscientiousness, and motivation. She works as a waitress while going to school, deftly balancing work and academics. Her manager writes, "What continues to impress me is Nathalie's commitment to school. Her passion for education is truly unmatched." Nathalie also volunteers at Michigan Medicine and with Dance Marathon, a student organization that raises funds for pediatric therapies at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital. She is also passionate about fitness and coaches children's sports teams with USA Sport Group.

CEW+ praises Nathalie's dedication and names her a Janice F. Stephens Memorial Scholar.

Alondra Ortiz Ortiz Irma M. Wyman Scholar



Alondra Ortiz Ortiz is a fiercely dedicated scientist and community member. Through many obstacles, Alondra has drawn on the discipline and determination she inherited from her mother and grandmother to continue her scientific education. Alondra worked hard and earned admission to the Residential Center of Educational Opportunities of Mayaguez, the top specialized high school in Puerto Rico, and then the mechanical engineering class at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez. Though Alondra suffered an accident in high school that led her to develop a chronic pain condition, and though she faced ongoing

challenges trying to excel in a field dominated by men, Alondra persisted and earned her undergraduate degree, leaving with determination not only to continue in mechanical engineering but to embrace her identity as a Hispanic woman with disabilities and make a difference in her field.

Alondra has continued graduate studies in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Michigan, where she is researching new strategies to scale-up manufacturing processes for biological and environmental applications. She is also passionately pursuing her goal of creating a more equitable community: she has served as the Chair of the Mechanical Engineering Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Student Committee and the co-leader of the cataLIST: Ladies in Science and Technology organization. She has also participated in outreach events with FEMMES and the Women in Science and Engineering Program, where she has helped lead a virtual book club. For the last two years, she was part of the Give Merit's FATE program, serving as a mentor for 17 high school students in Detroit. She is known in the community as "a positive force for change" and a "passionate, hardworking individual."

Looking forward, Alondra says, "I will have achieved success when I wake up every day and find a way of using my engineering skills to make the world a better place and work for an organization that not only values my work but who I am as a person."

CEW+ commends Alondra's dedication to diversity, equity, and inclusion and names her an Irma M. Wyman Scholar.



Anna Poirier has followed her passion for robotics with great determination. As early as middle school, Anna started and served as captain of an all-girls robotics team that won the world championship in 2016 for their engineering process, as well as numerous awards for design. This experience required Anna to persevere not only through technical challenges but through the significant stigma girls and women face in STEM. Though treated unfairly, Anna persisted, reflecting, “I learned how to walk into a room no one wants you in, even when you did nothing wrong besides show up.” Anna’s experience of this stigma led her to become passionate about supporting women in STEM fields as well as robotics.

Anna is now pursuing her bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering at the University of Michigan, where she is part of the Women in Science and Engineering Residential Program and the Michigan Racing Team and Chemical Engineering car teams. She is recognized by her professors and mentors for her leadership among her peers, her incisive engagement with issues of gender and equity, and her commitment to her goals. In the future, Anna plans to work in robotics design, eventually running a lab, and mentor young girls to get them excited about STEM.

CEW+ applauds Anna’s determination and commitment to becoming a woman in STEM and names her an Irma M. Wyman Scholar.



Jordan Power is working to inspire systems change and increase the resiliency of communities. Jordan became passionate about environmental justice after studying at the International Sustainable Development Studies Institute in Thailand, where she lived with and learned from indigenous communities and studied sustainable agriculture and forest and reef ecology. The contrast Jordan observed between communities' close relationship with nature and the adjacent commercial exploitation motivated her to pursue a career in conservation outreach. She went on to serve as a Water Conservation Coordinator and Management Analyst for the City of Woodland, CA, where she quickly became known for her "impressive creativity" and ability to make environmental conversation clear, fun, and enlightening to the public.

In 2020, Jordan moved back to Michigan with her husband, becoming more active in his family's fifth-generation farm and taking on a role with The Nature Conservancy. Now, Jordan is pursuing a master's degree in Behavior, Education & Communication and Environmental Policy & Planning at U-M's School for the Environment and Sustainability. For her capstone project, she is working with the City of Detroit to measure equitable outcomes of the 27+ mile Joe Louis Greenway, including economic opportunities, access and connectivity, and public engagement. Ultimately, the project seeks to mitigate the negative impacts of gentrification while empowering the communities through which the greenbelt passes. Jordan is additionally active at Rare, a nonprofit that uses behavioral science to inspire change so that the environment and people can thrive.

In her professional career, Jordan hopes to dismantle policies that discourage local food system growth and build a network of farmers to collectively advocate for needed resources and opportunities. She also aims to steward a self-sufficient farm herself and be a community resource for education, skill-building, and more.

CEW+ applauds Jordan's commitment to environmental justice and names her a Hall-McCannell Scholar.

Maryelizabeth Rojas Irma M. Wyman Scholar



Maryelizabeth Rojas has continuously overcome obstacles in pursuit of her education. When Maryelizabeth was 22, corruption and violence forced her to leave Venezuela. Her college credits did not transfer from her home country to the United States and she had to rebuild her education from the ground up, learning English, earning her GED, and then enrolling at Grand Rapids Community College to pursue an associate's degree. Soon after enrolling, however, Maryelizabeth's education was interrupted by her new responsibilities as a parent.

Maryelizabeth spent three years devoted to caring for two children under two, one of whom is on the autism spectrum and requires additional therapies, appointments, and support. With great determination, Maryelizabeth is now returning to school again.

Maryelizabeth is earning her bachelor's degree in software engineering from the University of Michigan with the ultimate goal of working for a federal government agency in the field of cybersecurity. She is deeply committed to serving her country and her communities. Beyond her studies, Maryelizabeth works as an engineering systems specialist from the city of Grand Rapids, mapping city assets and developing web map applications. She is known across her communities for both her "outstanding academic achievement" and her "unwavering kindness."

In the future, Maryelizabeth plans to pursue a master's degree in public administration to continue serving her communities and mentor Hispanic women, women in STEM, and first-generation college students like herself. Maryelizabeth says, "I would like to be an example of persistence, proving to my children that education is the way to succeed, and that it is never too late to complete it."

CEW+ commends Maryelizabeth's persistence in her education and names her an Irma M. Wyman Scholar.

Jasmine Rivera is a proud first-generation student and mother of two children, Antonio-Jose and Selena, and she is earning her PhD in sociology. As a woman of color who has been deeply impacted by poverty and incarceration, Jasmine is committed to dismantling the social inequalities that have affected her family and others.

Jasmine has overcome many challenges throughout her life. When she was 17, she became the sole provider for her household after her father's death. As an undergraduate student at UC Berkeley, she struggled with housing insecurity despite working multiple jobs to support herself and her son. These challenges inspire her to make systemic change that will help others who are struggling. Jasmine is passionate about the field of sociology because it has helped her make sense of her experiences. She explains, "Prior to finding sociology, I'd seen the issues my family faced as individualized and isolating. Sociology helped me understand that the struggles and invisibility I'd experienced were structural."

Jasmine is committed to using her degree to advocate for marginalized communities. Her dissertation will focus on Latino residents of low-income neighborhoods' experiences with criminalization. She is particularly interested in how people's experiences of surveillance and criminalization affect their everyday lives and life trajectories. She says, "Through participatory action research, my goal is to work with communities to advocate for changes at the community level that will help people personally in their everyday lives." Jasmine's mentors describe her as exceptionally hard-working and praise her willingness to "go the extra mile" for her students. One mentor writes, "Jasmine has a tremendous amount of potential as an educator, scholar, and community activist."

CEW+ commends Jasmine's tenacity and vision and names her a Mary Malcomson Raphael Scholar.



Evalynn Rosado is earning her MBA at Ross School of Business, and she is breaking new ground for Latina women at U-M. A proud first-generation college student, Evalynn is also the first Hispanic MBA Council President in Ross history. She has previously worked in the architecture and nonprofit industries, including at Project for Public Spaces in New York City. As MBA Council President, Evalynn is committed to ensuring that students from all backgrounds feel welcome at Ross.

Evalynn is passionate about place-based community and economic development, an interest she first discovered at age 12 when her family moved from Seattle to rural Oklahoma. The move was challenging: to Evalynn, Oklahoma felt like “the other side of the world.” However, living in a new place also gave her a unique perspective. She explains, “My travels across the country launched my awareness of the ways place impacts education and wealth potential.” In her current work, Evalynn considers the way factors like relationships, educational systems, and job opportunities help people feel connected to a place. She says, “Ultimately, I want to guide the private sector to support historically disenfranchised communities through economic development and strategic investments.”

Evalynn also believes in using her education to help others. While working in Oklahoma, she helped jumpstart the initiative Build in Tulsa, which supports Black entrepreneurship in the city, and created a social innovation program to support women-owned businesses. She is a former volunteer firefighter, an avid podcast listener, a bicyclist, and a public art enthusiast. Her colleagues praise her grace and perseverance and say, “She is a natural leader, fearless in her desire to make a real difference.”

CEW+ commends Evalynn’s compassionate leadership and names her the Helen Huff Shell Scholar.



Teaira Ross is a dedicated mother and persistent student earning her bachelor's degree in behavioral science. After graduating from high school in 2007, Teaira began taking college courses with determination to build a better life for her and her daughter. Teaira's grandmother soon came to live with them as she struggled with mental illness, and though it was difficult to juggle caregiving responsibilities and school, Teaira was committed to showing up for her. When Teaira started researching her grandmother's illness, she realized that mental health was never discussed in her home and family, and this motivated her to learn more and dedicate her life to mental health education and awareness in the black community.

Teaira continued her studies at Wayne Community College while working full time and ultimately earned an associate degree in liberal arts in 2015. With characteristic determination, she is now pursuing her goals at the University of Michigan - Dearborn, where she is active in SOAR. Teaira reflects, "When I decided to pursue behavioral science, I first considered the impact it would have on my community. My vision for achieving my goals is providing resources to my community through education and frontline action through outreach and engagement." Teaira intends to make an impact through therapy, community interventions, and advocacy work, ultimately helping to remove the stigma of asking for—and receiving—help. She also plans to work with black youth in managing and treating trauma.

Beyond her studies, Teaira also works as a case manager for Unified HIV health, serves on the ethics committee at Henry Ford Hospital and helps with resource navigation there, and does outreach with the community organization S.I.G.H. Among her colleagues, she is recognized as an inspiring leader as well as for her "thoughtful, critical, engaged and sociological work."

CEW+ commends Teaira's vision for mental health education and awareness and names her a Molly H. Dobson Scholar.



Lubna Saleh is a courageous mother, student, and professional working to address health disparities and structural inequities. Lubna's commitment stems from personal experience: when Lubna was a freshman in high school, her mother was diagnosed with cancer. Despite Lubna's efforts to provide her mother with foods high in iron and other nutrients, chemotherapy drugs deterred her from eating and, four years later, she passed away. Lubna's mother's battle against cancer ultimately inspired her to start a career implementing nutrition education programs in the underserved communities of Chicago.

Lubna knew she wanted to attend graduate school and build on this work, but caregiving responsibilities delayed those plans. Then, when Lubna's second son was diagnosed with Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia, Lubna fully realized the value of a healthcare system that communicates across various disciplines. Lubna says, "I learned that my voice is powerful and I could use it to advocate for people and causes." She is now earning her master's degree in public health at the University of Michigan, recognized by her professors for her passion and sensitivity for life, culture, and social justice.

Beyond her studies, Lubna has previously served with AmeriCorps and the University of Illinois at Chicago, working among the most vulnerable populations to help increase access to healthier food products, and completed an international educational and service practicum with Global Youth Connect in Rwanda, where she worked on sustainable development projects. She is also the president of her local Lions Club and has led numerous service events, including a menstrual product drive for women who reside in domestic-violence shelters. Most recently, Lubna traveled to a Palestinian community to write a report for the Galilee Society on the economic and social conditions of young Arab women living in Israel.

CEW+ applauds Lubna's dedication to addressing health disparities and names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.



Terra Schneider is pursuing a bachelor's degree in computer science and anthropology after ten years working, learning, and exploring independently. Terra began their undergraduate education in engineering in 2011, but soon realized that they needed time to grow as an individual. Among many other experiences in that decade, Terra rode their bike with a group from Austin, Texas to Monterrey, Mexico, protested and organized for reproductive justice and racial justice, read widely, traveled, and worked to become self-employed as an artist. They also attended an herb school in Michigan as well as the School for Poetic Computation in New York.

Now Terra is bringing the perspective gained from those years of experience to their continued education at U-M. As Terra reflects, this nontraditional background and collected knowledge supports a "reverence and contextualization of the histories, struggles, and successes that transpired to compose the body of knowledge I am now gaining access to in my studies." With their degree, Terra hopes to marry technological pursuits with the humanities in ways that creatively and purposefully uplift others. They are especially excited to build highly-specialized skills to offer to their community, including the ability to volunteer time to make websites or do other design and programming work for nonprofits and artists.

Terra is recognized among colleagues as a careful, critical thinker and engaged community member who is "driven by justice." With these qualities, Terra is sure to make a difference in the world and help shape society into a more equitable place.

CEW+ celebrates Terra's vision for their education and commitment to community and names them a Ruth Jeanette Buttrey Scholar.

Amanda Seney is a dedicated writer, mother, community member, and lifelong learner. Amanda earned her associate degree from Miracosta College, where she was one of twelve Medal of Honor students in the graduating class, and went on to spend a year learning Homeric Greek at the University of California - San Diego. Then, she became a mother, leaving academia to provide the most stable life she could envision for her sons and build a rich life of parenting, partnership, family, and community for herself.

Fourteen years later, she returned to school to earn her bachelor's degree in English and anthropology from the University of Michigan - Flint, choosing to add another layer to her busy life because it meant so much to her. At U-M, Amanda earned publication for three of her poems in the student-run Qua Literary and Fine Arts Magazine and went on to become Editor-in-Chief of the magazine. She also served as a tutor in the Marian E. Wright Writing Center, earned publication in the writing center journal, The Dangling Modifier, and presented at regional and international conferences. Upon her graduation in the fall of 2020, she received the Maize and Blue award. Her professor remarks that she is an "astounding thinker" and "highly skilled researcher and writer" who consistently brings others into rewarding and meaningful literary conversations.

Amanda is now earning her master's degree in English at U-M Flint, guided by her commitment to "keep your eyes open, try everything, and think outside the box." Following her graduation, she is committed to writing, publishing, and living a creative life.

CEW+ applauds Amanda's persistence, openness, and creativity and names her an Elsie Choy Lee Scholar.



Kari Sherwood, a single mother to three autistic and neurodivergent children, is earning a joint PhD in Social Work and Development Psychology. Kari's path to graduate school has not been easy, but she has met every challenge as an opportunity to deepen her commitment to disability justice and as an advocate for her children and other families. Kari's daughter and son were diagnosed with autism in 2013; that year, she applied to a master's program in special education with an emphasis in autism spectrum disorder. When Kari struggled to find appropriate care for her children in rural Ohio, she created her own nonprofit organization, raised the funds, and built a center offering childcare, after-school programs, and therapy services for her own and many other kids in her community.

Kari most recently left her corporate job to pursue her doctoral studies at U-M and work to inform autism research and practice. Throughout her program, she has worked with Dr. Matthew Smith and the Level Up Employment Skills Simulation Lab to help develop and evaluate two interventions for autistic transition-age youth. These interventions assist autistic youth with job interview skills and social skills in the workplace. During this time, she also adopted a 17-year-old autistic youth. Her dissertation focuses on a particular intervention, Work Chat: An Interactive Virtual Workday, which will be implemented at the Michigan Career and Technical Institute in service of transition-age youth with disabilities.

Going forward, Kari intends to develop employer-targeted interventions that improve employment outcomes and inclusion of autistic individuals in the workplace. Kari says, "My role as a mother to my three children and my role as a PhD student and future researcher are both critically important to me. Both of these roles inform one another and make me a better caregiver to my children as well as a passionate student and researcher."

CEW+ celebrates Kari's fierce commitment as a scholar, mother, and advocate and names her a Mary Malcomson Raphael Scholar.



Jess Silber-Byrne never lost sight of her goal to get a graduate degree and make a difference in the world through environmental justice. Determined to pay off her undergraduate student loans and return to school, Jess worked for 11 years in jobs ranging from bartending and restaurant work to NGO work and freelance reporting. Jess' experience in ecotourism throughout Africa especially motivated her to pursue a STEM degree in environmental science that was also grounded in social justice, leading her to U-M's School for Environment and Sustainability. Jess reflects, "I wanted my life's work to align with my values and to contribute

to solving some of the greatest challenges of our times. I chose to pursue graduate school despite knowing it would be an academic and financial strain, that it would take me outside my comfort zone as an older student, and that it would require putting other dreams on hold."

Now embarking on a career focused on climate change, social justice, and the decolonization of conservation, Jess has been assisting with exciting research focused on changing the narrative surrounding human-wildlife conflict in East Africa. This summer, she completed a fellowship with a local Michigan government with the goal of creating a replicable sustainability campaign. She has also been recognized as an Outstanding GSI in the Program in the Environment, helping students learn and push their thinking in the realm of environmental justice.

Jess ultimately intends to return to California and pursue a position as a Sustainability Director in local government or a similar position focused on addressing environmental injustice and building resilience to extreme weather. An outstanding student and professional, Jess is recognized by her colleagues for both her "grace, clarity, and warmth" and her exceptional work ethic and dedication.

CEW+ applauds Jess' vision for her career in pursuit of environmental justice and names her a Hall-McCannell Scholar.



Brittney Smith is an MBA student driven to uplift communities of color through education and education access. Brittney's experience as one of two African-American girls at a science-focused elementary school not only increased her interest in STEM subjects from an early age, but also motivated her to create more equitable opportunities for others. She has served as a dedicated mentor and changemaker in all phases of her career.

Brittney earned her B.S. in chemical engineering from the University of Southern California, where she volunteered 100+ hours to increase representation of women and minorities pursuing careers in STEM, and went on to work as an engineer and project manager in the oil and gas industry. Most recently, she worked in government consulting in San Diego, where she became known as a "composed and thoughtful leader who thinks deeply about how best to engage others." Brittney took on key leadership roles as co-chair of both her employer's African American Network and the inaugural San Diego STEM Girls 4 Social Good (SG4SG) event, which focused on increasing interest in STEM careers amongst young women of color. She additionally served as the Email Marketing Director for the Diversity MBA Admissions Conference (DMAC).

Now, Brittney is earning an MBA herself at U-M's Ross School of Business and pivoting into the technology field. She continues to support her communities as a Consortium Liaison, Vice President of Allyship for the Hispanic Business Students Association, and a Ross Student Ambassador, among other roles. Following her graduation, her goal is to work within the tech industry advocating for change for women and People of Color. When not working, she is a Disneyland enthusiast, passport stamp collector, and loving dog mom to her pup Abigail.

CEW+ applauds Brittney's leadership as a woman in STEM and names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

Tiffany Staal Caroline M. Lee Scholar



Tiffany Staal is a dedicated nurse pursuing a master's degree in public health with a health management and policy focus. As a teenager, Tiffany was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma and the care she received from nurses set her on a path towards a career in the profession. Tiffany is proud to be a nurse and it is her experience in the field that motivated her to help patients on a larger scale through policy change.

Tiffany has persevered in her goal despite the challenges of raising her daughter as a single parent while pursuing a graduate degree and working full-time as a clinical care coordinator at Michigan Medicine. She is known among her colleagues as an outstanding nurse with "exceptional commitment to excellence and empathy for her patients." Tiffany juggled all of this throughout the pandemic, obtaining a 4.0 while dealing with the high demands of work and frequent interruptions within the public school system.

Tiffany intends to use her graduate degree to pursue a position in hospital administration and create and promote policies that will have a positive impact on patients and employees. Motivated in part by her own experience becoming a single parent, Tiffany also has a long-term vision to own and operate an independent living facility for single women with children. The facility would offer support like babysitting, career development, GED programs, and trade school while providing women a safe place to live as they take steps towards a stable career and life.

CEW+ celebrates Tiffany's vision for her career and commitment to caring for others and names her the Caroline M. Lee Scholar.



Jordan Stevens is driven to advocate for and support young people who are trying to create change in their communities. Raised in a highly conservative community, their own journey of coming out as queer in college and becoming involved in social justice activism sparked a life-long interest in supporting young leaders working to create a better world for all of us.

Since then, Jordan has continually pushed for the inclusion of social justice values at their institutions. At the National Park Service, Jordan created a queer working group to write the interpretation material for the Stonewall National Monument. In their position at Communities in the Schools, Jordan created an affinity group for employees with ADHD so they could better form the community and advocate for themselves.

Jordan is now earning their master's degree in higher education with a diversity and social justice concentration. During their program, they have completed the DEI certificate program,, and attended classes on community change and conflict at the Summer Peacebuilding Institute at Eastern Mennonite University. Jordan says, "I am most proud of my work with undergraduate student leaders at the University of Michigan, advocating for and advising them in their work to create a more just, healthy, and equitable community on campus."

Following their graduation, Jordan intends to pursue restorative justice work at a higher education institution. Recognized as a "thoughtful and creative leader," their guiding goal is to join a growing movement of student affairs professionals centering restorative practices in student conduct.

CEW+ celebrates Jordan's leadership and activism and names them a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.



Kelly Turner's dad always told her that "education will set you free." Time and time again, Kelly has refused to give up on herself and overcome obstacles to continue her education. Kelly spent the years following her high school graduation recovering from mental illness; yet, despite all the challenges in doing so, she enrolled at Oakland Community College in 2016 to restart her educational journey. Kelly graduated magna cum laude with an associate degree in 2019 and is now pursuing her bachelor's degree in anthropology with a minor in sociology at U-M Dearborn.

Kelly persisted through the additional challenges of the pandemic to become an outstanding student and community member who seeks to support others in their education as well. She is an active SOAR student, a member of the Alpha Sigma Lambda honor society, and recognized on the Dean's List every semester. She also works at Dearborn Heights City Libraries and actively engages with teens about their reading interests, hobbies, and plans for continuing education. Kelly is committed to the goal of improving literacy rates and, during the COVID lockdown, she worked to provide positive educational experiences for over 1,500 kids through activity boxes and other outreach programs.

Following her graduation, Kelly plans to pursue graduate school in anthropology and ultimately build a career where she is giving back to the community. She plans to focus on community education and the development of programs for museums and children's after-school literacy initiatives.

CEW+ applauds Kelly's commitment to her own education, as well as supporting others' educational opportunities, and names her a Molly H. Dobson Scholar.

Morgan Vanderleest Irma M. Wyman Scholar



Morgan VanderLeest is earning their bachelor's degree in computer science through the College of Engineering. After losing their father at a young age, Morgan struggled to find their place until they discovered their love for STEM. Their experience motivated them to pursue engineering while also staying in touch with the comfort they found in books and the keen understanding they developed that everyone has a story to tell.

The first two years of their time at the University of Michigan, Morgan was a member of the Women in Science and Engineering Residential Program (WISE RP), where they served as a peer mentor their second year. They were also a Summer Scholar this past summer for the program. Additionally, they are part of the Michigan Hackers club; now participating as a co-lead for the security team. Though pursuing their degree in a STEM field, Morgan has remained connected to their interest in and appreciation for the humanities with an additional minor in political science and learning the Korean language. They plan to use their humanities skills to bring a valuable new perspective to a career in cybersecurity. Morgan says, "I hope that my career will have the impact of not only keeping people safer, but also showing biracial people and members of the LGBTQ+ community that they can enter jobs and be an asset to the team because of their different backgrounds not despite them." Above all, Morgan hopes to make a technological and social impact with her career and degree.

Morgan's mentors and professors describe them as a "shining example of leadership, selflessness, and professionalism" with a strong desire to be "a life-long learner and educator." Their ability to meaningfully support others and continuously seek out growth will serve them well in their future career.

CEW+ is inspired by Morgan's vision for their career and names them an Irma M. Wyman Scholar.

Susan K. VanderSloot Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar



Susan VanderSloot is a model of persistence in education. A mother to four daughters, Susan has been raising children and supporting her family across four decades of her life while completing her bachelor's and master's degrees at Western Michigan University. For many of these years Susan was a single parent and family priorities necessitated interruptions in her education. She always returned to higher education, however, with the determination to improve her life. . Now Susan is earning her EdD in Educational Leadership, including a Central Office Administrator's certificate, at the University of Michigan - Dearborn.

Susan's doctoral studies build upon her years of experience as a parent, teacher, and training and development professional in settings ranging from K-12 district schools to state offices to the manufacturing industry. Currently, her research interests include nontraditional participation in career and technical education, public pedagogy, and the impact of motherhood on career and family wellbeing. Susan is committed to equity in educational access and opportunity and hopes to create opportunities for nontraditional students to participate and be successful in living-wage, sustaining careers. She reflects, "Whatever walls we have built for ourselves, or others have built for us, crumble under the force of education. It is education that I have returned to time and again in my life and it is this model that I will use to encourage others to change their circumstances."

Susan is especially proud to have modeled persistence in education to her four daughters. Her oldest daughters have earned degrees from Michigan State University, Grand Valley State University, and Western Michigan University, Susan's alma mater. Her youngest daughter plans to attend the University of Michigan. Described by her professors and colleagues as a "results-driven educational leader" and "future visionary," Susan is sure to impact many others as they pursue further education to improve their lives.

CEW+ celebrates Susan's persistence and names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.



Katie Watson is pursuing a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering with a minor in Spanish. As a woman in a male-dominated STEM field, Katie's path has come with challenges, but those challenges have only stoked her motivation to become a role model and mentor for others and speak up when she sees injustice. She plans to become a chemical engineer who designs and implements renewable energies, especially in communities that have been impacted most negatively by fossil fuels.

At U-M, Katie is active in the Women in Science and Engineering Residence Program, Out in Stem, Spanish Club, and Students for Clean Energy, where she serves as the Director of Research and Design. Additionally, she was recently accepted to work in Dr. Andrej Lenert's research lab and study various kinds of aerogels (special molecules) that optimize the efficiency of thermal absorption in solar cells. Katie has also previously engaged in research as a summer intern with the Fermi National Particle Accelerator Laboratory.

Known for her "academic drive, focus, and commitment to learning," Katie has been recognized as an Illinois State Scholar and a recurring member of the College of Engineering Dean's List. In 2021, she also earned the Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish, recognizing her proficiency in writing and reading in Spanish; during her time at U-M, Katie plans to minor in the language and study abroad in a Spanish-speaking country.

Above all, Katie hopes to use what she learns to make a difference. Katie says, "I hope that with my work on renewables such as solar cells, I can make renewables more efficient, storable, and easily deployed in places of need. In the end, success means to me that I will have a positive impact on my community."

CEW+ celebrates Katie's drive to make a positive impact through chemical engineering and names her an Irma M. Wyman Scholar.



Karen Yoshida Weldon believes a sustainable future can be built through transnational collaboration. Karen is earning dual master's degrees in sustainability and Japanese studies, and she is dedicated to tackling ecological challenges that affect agricultural communities. She says, "As a biracial Japanese American, I see this work as a way to stay true to myself while also making a positive impact on local communities and the global environment."

Karen originally became interested in sustainability during high school when she lived in a small city in Oklahoma. Inspired by her mother's prolific vegetable garden, Karen began interviewing local farmers and visiting the weekly farmer's market. She continued to develop this interest at Macalester College, where she studied environmental studies with an emphasis on food systems. While in college, Karen also helped organize her fellow students to push for more sustainable food offerings in campus dining halls.

After earning her bachelor's degree, Karen moved to her mother's hometown in Japan, where she worked on farms and learned about rural revitalization. She hopes her research at U-M will help foster cross-cultural exchanges of agricultural knowledge. For her thesis in Japanese studies, Karen interviewed people in Japan who live in regions designated by the United Nations as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems, investigating how these community members conceptualized sustainability and engaged with this international designation. For her sustainability capstone project, she is developing a carbon offset model that will measure the potential of agricultural lands as carbon offsets. She was recently awarded the Malm Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Writing from U-M's Center for Japanese Studies. Described by her mentors as "consistently outstanding," Karen is doing research that will make a difference at local and global levels.

CEW+ is inspired by Karen's vision for a sustainable future and names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.



Kristie Wilcox is committed to improving maternal healthcare for young women. When Kristie became a mother at age 17, her plans for her future changed dramatically. She had originally intended to study public relations in college, but she needed a stable job to support her daughter. Kristie began working as a patient services associate at Michigan Medicine and discovered her passion for women's health, a passion she is now pursuing as a gender and health major at U-M. Although her path has been bumpy, Kristie is grateful that becoming a mother helped her find a career that brings her joy. She says, "This incredible life my

daughter has given me has been a blessing. I intend to return the favor and show my daughter anything is possible with the proper hard work and persistence."

After finishing her degree, Kristie plans to pursue graduate studies with the goal of working in women's healthcare. She is also committed to advocacy and wants to help other young women who are mothers. After starting college at U-M, she founded the organization She's Got Grit, which offers support and resources to women who become mothers during high school. She is in the process of creating a scholarship fund that will offer financial assistance to these young women as well.

In addition to her advocacy work, Kristie is a dedicated student who plans to complete two separate honors thesis projects, each of which will focus on issues related to maternal healthcare. Her mentor describes her as an "extraordinary person" and says, "her work ethic, maturity and wide-ranging thinking continue to inspire me." A first-generation college student, Kristie is proud to be setting an example for her daughter. She says, "I am excited to show my daughter that education is important and worth the hard work."

CEW+ celebrates Kristie's unwavering persistence and names her a Robert Bruce Dunlap Memorial Scholar.

Melissa Zochowski is a PhD candidate in Health Infrastructures and Learning Systems with a drive to understand health system factors that impact the delivery of care for women. Her current research focuses on understanding Emergency Department treatment of preeclampsia during pregnancy. Melissa's advisor remarks that her research is "an important piece of understanding to combat the ongoing maternal health crisis in the U.S."

Melissa additionally holds a BS in Zoology and Environmental Health, an MBA in Nonprofit and Organizational Management, and certificates in change management, lean health care, and global health. She has extensive background in project and program management at the University of Michigan in emergency medicine, psychiatry, obstetrics and gynecology, and most recently pediatrics. She served as the program manager for the International Family Planning Fellowship Program, supporting the establishment of the first research and fellowship training programs in Sub-Saharan Africa, as well as the administrative director of the domestic Fellowship in Family Planning.

Melissa has persisted in her education while raising two boys and will soon leave her staff role to focus on completing her doctoral program. Following completion of her degree, Melissa plans to seek a teaching position at a college or university, grow the consulting business that she founded late last year, focusing on women-owned businesses in healthcare, and complete the process of founding a nonprofit organization, KOI for Women. In line with Melissa's commitment to supporting women, the organization will provide training opportunities in skilled trades for women re-entering the community after being incarcerated, receiving residential treatment for a substance use disorder, or residing in a domestic violence shelter.

CEW+ commends Melissa's perseverance and commitment to promoting women's health and names her a Margaret E. Gnegy Scholar.

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.



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