



Local Scholarships

The AAUW Greater Naples Branch and the Greater Naples AAUW Charitable Foundation, Inc. Announce the Availability of 2022 Scholarships!

The Foundation administers several scholarship funds that award tuition assistance to local women who meet the [Eligibility Criteria](#) described below, as determined by the Scholarship Committee. The Foundation's scholarship policies and procedures are posted on the Foundation's page of this website. **Scholarship applications normally become available on this page on or about January 10.**

[Click here to access the Scholarship Application form.](#)

[Eligibility Criteria for All Scholarship Funds.](#) The following criteria apply to all scholarship funds administered by the Foundation. Each applicant must:

- Be a resident of Collier County or southern Lee County, Florida;
- Participate in an interview with the Scholarship Committee;
- Provide a minimum of two acceptable letters of recommendation; and
- Submit a completed application and the required references and essay by the specified deadline.

Previous applicants and awardees may re-apply for all scholarship funds.

[Additional Eligibility Criteria for Specific Scholarship Funds.](#) The following additional criteria apply to the specific scholarship funds administered by the Foundation:

1. **[Local Scholarship Fund \(for adult women\).](#)** Scholarships normally are awarded annually from the Local Scholarship Fund. In addition to

meeting the eligibility criteria for all scholarship funds, described above, each applicant must:

- Be at least 21 years old;
- Be currently accepted to or enrolled in a program of study at an accredited college or university, and pursuing an Associate's, Bachelors', or Masters' degree;
- Demonstrate a satisfactory academic record with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher;
- Demonstrate a need for financial assistance; and
- Submit an essay addressing why she has decided to pursue a career in her chosen field, which essay may be shared with donors.

2. **The Blanche and John Rebar STEM Scholarship Fund**. The Blanche and John Rebar Scholarship Fund, an endowed fund, honors the memory of Blanche Rebar, a longtime and dedicated member of AAUW and of the AAUW Greater Naples Branch, and John Rebar, her husband, who supported her and AAUW's mission of promoting equity for women and girls. The Blanche and John Rebar Scholarship Fund awards one STEM scholarship in odd-numbered years. *Please read more about Blanche Rebar and her many contributions to AAUW below.* In addition to meeting the eligibility criteria for all scholarship funds, described above, each applicant must:

- Be a graduating high school senior or an older student;
- Be currently accepted to or enrolled at an accredited four-year college or university;
- Be pursuing or intending to obtain a Bachelors' or Masters' degree in one of the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) disciplines;
- Have a grade point average of 3.5 or higher; and
- Submit an essay addressing why she has decided to pursue a career in her chosen STEM field, which essay may be shared with the Fund's founding donors and other donors.

3. **The Laura A. Candris STEM Scholarship Fund**. The Laura A. Candris Scholarship Fund, an endowed fund, was established by Aris S. Candris to honor his wife, a dedicated member of AAUW and of the AAUW Greater Naples Branch. The Laura A. Candris Scholarship

Fund awards one STEM scholarship in even-numbered years. Each applicant must meet all of the eligibility criteria applicable to The Blanche and John Rebar Scholarship Fund, described above.

4. **The McMahon Foundation Scholarship Fund for Adult Women.** The McMahon Foundation Scholarship Fund for Adult Women, an endowed fund, annually awards a scholarship to a local woman who meets all of the criteria for the Local Scholarship Fund. Timothy S. McMahon, President of TSM Management and TSM Consulting & Capitol, established the McMahon Foundation for the purpose of providing assistance to organizations and individuals that align with his values and beliefs. He selected the Greater Naples AAUW Charitable Foundation, Inc. to establish the McMahon Foundation Endowed Scholarship Fund for adult women based on its 20-year history of providing academic scholarships to deserving local women.
5. **STEM Scholarship Fund.** Scholarships may be awarded annually from the STEM Scholarship Fund to applicant(s) who meet all of the criteria for The Blanche and John Rebar Scholarship Fund, described above.
6. **The McMahon Foundation Scholarship Fund.** This endowed scholarship fund annually awards a scholarship to a local woman who meets all of the criteria for the Local Scholarship Fund **or** all or the criteria for the STEM Scholarship Fund, as determined by the Scholarship Committee.

For additional information about scholarships, you may contact the Chair of the Scholarship Committee Jeannine Stetson at 239-961-3481 or jeannine07@gmail.com.

Since its creation by the AAUW Greater Naples Branch in 2001, the The Greater Naples AAUW Charitable Foundation, Inc. ("Foundation") has annually awarded academic scholarships to deserving local women upon the recommendations of the Scholarship Committee. Read about the amazing 2021 scholarship recipients by clicking this link:

[Scholarship Awards](#)

Women awarded scholarships are invited to attend, as our guests, the scholarship awards luncheon normally held on the first Saturday in April. **In 2022, the scholarship awards luncheon will be held on Saturday, April 2.**

The Foundation raises funds for scholarships by various means, including individual donations. If you are interested in supporting this effort, contributions may be made by clicking the **Donate Now** button or by check made payable to “Greater Naples AAUW Charitable Foundation, Inc.” designated for the scholarship fund of your choice, and mailed to the Greater Naples AAUW Charitable Foundation, Inc., PO Box 9742, Naples, FL 34101. Donations designated for scholarships with no other designation will go into the scholarship fund selected by the Foundation Board on the recommendation of the Scholarship Committee.

We offer a one-time Named Scholarship Opportunity. Click the link for more information: [Named Scholarship Opportunity](#).

Blanche Rebar’s Lasting Legacy

by Sharon Perrino

The AAUW Greater Naples Branch lost a valued member in July of 2017 when Blanche Rebar passed away at the age of 94. An immigrant from Czechoslovakia pre-WWII, Blanche followed her American dream. She received a Bachelor’s degree in Microbiology from the Illinois Institute of Technology and a Master’s degree in Bacteriology from Loyola University. She met and married John Rebar, Jr. in Chicago, raised two sons, Robert and Alan, and taught Medical Technology.

Throughout her life, Blanche was committed to the advancement of women through education, a founding goal of AAUW. She championed a woman’s right to choose and picketed for that right. She encouraged young women to pursue an education in the sciences—like the Branch’s STEM Girls Count program does today.

Blanche was a model of lifelong learning and commitment to education. She was a skilled linguist, having mastered seven languages. Even in retirement, she enjoyed teaching English as a second language and learning. Her son Alan commented “Around the time my mother was retiring from teaching medical technology, she became acquainted with a young blind

child. One of the challenges the child faced was a shortage of textbooks in Braille. My mother's response was absolutely typical—she learned to type Braille and proceeded to translate textbooks into Braille that would carry the child through high school.”

Blanche exemplified the principles of AAUW, and John supported Blanche's endeavors and AAUW's mission of promoting equity for women and girls. To honor them, their sons and daughters-in-law, Robert W. Rebar, MD, Margo S. Rebar, Alan H. Rebar, DVM, PhD, and Susan A. McLaughlin, DVM, have established The Blanche and John Rebar Scholarship Fund of the Greater Naples AAUW Charitable Foundation, Inc., an endowed fund to provide scholarships for local women pursuing, or intending to obtain, a bachelor's degree or a master's degree in one of the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) disciplines and who otherwise meet the criteria for such scholarships as determined by the Foundation's Scholarship Committee. The generosity of the Rebar family will allow Blanche Rebar's commitment to education to continue for years to come.

The Greater Naples AAUW Charitable Foundation, Inc. is an affiliate of [AAUW](#). For more than 130 years, AAUW has worked to improve the lives of millions of women and their families. Membership is open to everyone holding an associate degree or equivalent, bachelors or higher degree, and to those pursuing a college degree.

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