

THE AAUW GREATER NAPLES BRANCH AND THE GREATER NAPLES AAUW CHARITABLE FOUNDATION, INC. CONGRATULATE THE AMAZING LOCAL WOMEN AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS THIS YEAR

As Chair of the AAUW Greater Naples Branch Scholarship Committee and Director for Scholarships of the Greater Naples AAUW Charitable Foundation, Inc. I take pleasure in announcing the remarkable recipients of this year's scholarship awards. These AAUW organizations have a 20-year history of making scholarship awards to local adult women returning to school. Our mission to provide scholarships began with a desire to assist women with few opportunities for scholarship awards because most are aimed at graduating high school seniors. This year we award scholarships to two local women who are close to completion of their degrees and give them some help and support on their journey.

Altanice Valentine will be receiving a McMahon Foundation Scholarship for Adult Women. She is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in nursing. Already working as a Certified Nursing Assistant, Altanice found that she loved working in senior living facilities. She has enjoyed how rewarding it feels to care for others but also all the life perspectives her residents share with her. This experience validated her decision to go into the field of nursing and she is looking forward to graduating in 2023.

Melissa Wilson is the recipient of the Rose DiBiasi Tribute Scholarship for Adult Women. She was right at the finish line when she submitted to us for scholarship funds. She is enrolled in her last semester and will be completing her Bachelor of Sociology and immediately sitting for the state licensing in Florida to become a teacher. Melissa had been working in a middle school in Naples as a teacher's aide for a special education classroom.

Since 2018, we have also awarded scholarships to deserving local high school senior girls and older students entering a field of study in science, technology, engineering or mathematics. This year, we were able to select five young women to receive STEM scholarships.

Stephanie Roberts is graduating from Immokalee High School. She participated in the Science Students Together Reaching Instructional Diversity & Excellence

(SSTRIDE) program and has intentions of becoming a NICU nurse. She boasts a 4.5 weighted GPA and a 12 of 319 class ranking. She plans to attend Florida State University in the fall to start her Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Brianna Patino is graduating from Immokalee High School and has been dual enrolled at Florida Southwestern. She aspires to become a dentist. Her essay submission told the story of a first-generation student keenly aware of the sacrifices her parents had made. They instilled in her a strong work ethic but also a reverence for knowledge as a pathway to opportunities. At her young age she has already completed a six-week internship at a physical therapy center and has a strong desire to help others.

Lianna Larson is the recipient of the Laura A. Candris STEM Scholarship. She is graduating from Lely High School with a ranking of 3 out of 301. She is a hard-working part time Publix cashier who will be attending University of Florida this fall. She loves science and research and will be begin classes in the field she loves, biomedical engineering.

Kamili Henry is the recipient of a McMahon Foundation Scholarship. She is an Immokalee High School student graduating with a strong record of community service all while maintaining a 4.0 GPA. She has an interest in science which led her to participate in the Science Students Together Reaching Diversity and Excellence (SSTRIDE). She would like to become a pediatrician. Kamili has a part time job as a tutor at the Guadalupe Center. She is dual enrolled at Immokalee Technical School and will soon seek her Certified Nursing Assistant license.

Camila Rojas is graduating from Barron Collier High School with a 5.03 weighted GPA with an intense course load of AP level classes. Her class work has not deterred her from becoming very involved in her school in various clubs and volunteer work that have led to a long list of awards and recognition. She recently completed an internship at CatapultMD a biomedical manufacturing company and has her sights set on attending University of Miami's College of Engineering to become a software engineer.

We are honored to help these amazing women with scholarship awards and enthusiastically congratulate each of them!