



AAUW Greater Naples Branch  
Greater Naples AAUW Charitable Foundation, Inc.  
P.O. Box 9742, Naples, FL 34101

### 1. EMMA FERNANDEZ- MCMAHON SCHOLARSHIP

Emma is a previous recipient that applied for further assistance in her pursuit of Master of Science in Public Health at Johns Hopkins after already completing her Bachelor's in Family and Child Science at FSU. Emma is focused on Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health and public policy. Emma is from Marco Island and attended Lely High School.

"My desire to work in public health has stemmed from my ability to tailor my education towards women's health issues and epidemiology, which has allowed me to gain the skills and education needed to create more accessible effective and reliable healthcare system. With this degree I plan on, in my career and education, promoting social justice through research informed policy."

### 2. VIOLETA GIRA- DELLATORE REAL ESTATE COMPANY SCHOLARSHIP

Violeta is a hardworking 34-year-old immigrant that is pursuing her degree. She presently works as a paralegal in a law office and is pursuing her bachelor's degree in legal studies at FGCU. To pay for that degree, she works a second job as a server. Her professor said in his recommendation letter, "Violeta is a self-starter and goes beyond the minimum to achieve her goals."

### 3. BYLINDA BRUNY- STEM SCHOLARSHIP

Bylinda is completing her high school career dually enrolled at FSW and Lorenzo Walker. She has applied to 10 colleges and was accepted to all of them. She selected USF for their Biomedical

program and has already been working at Discovery Village retirement home and Physicians' Regional. She has set the lofty goal of becoming a neurosurgeon as she stated in her essay, "I am a black woman from a low income household, so I know that becoming a neurosurgeon won't be easily achieved. Every good thing in life will come with trails, and I am willing to face them because I know the result will be worth it all."

#### 4. LIANNA LARSON- REBAR SCHOLARSHIP

Lianna is a previous recipient that applied for our continued assistance while she pursues a degree in Biological Engineering at UF. She currently holds a research position and a part time job on campus along with her rigorous class load. In Lianna's own words, "My chosen major is biological engineering with a specialization in Biosystems. The reason I chose this major is because the career that I want is to conduct research into the world of biofuels and help create more sustainable sources of energy. The work of a biosystems engineer is to bridge the gap between the engineering world of figuring out solutions to problems for the benefit of users and the betterment of daily life and the search for knowledge and understanding that the traditional field of biology is rooted in."

#### 5. KELLY GUERRERO-FLORES- STETSON TRIBUTE SCHOLARSHIP

A co-worker of Kelly's mom told her about AAUW and our scholarship opportunity and it was music to my ears that there are women out in our community talking about the work we do. Kelly is attending Golden Gate High School and is dual enrolled while playing in the band. She has been accepted to FGCU and intends to study civil engineering. In Kelly's own words, "The opportunity to receive a college education would not only help me learn the foundations of the engineering industry, but also share it with

other young people. Studying is but one part of this journey, I plan to use it as an opportunity to show students who may be interested that it is a welcoming place for people of any background- as I have experienced first-hand.”

#### 6. SHARON SAINT-SURIN- STETSON TRIBUTE SCHOLARSHIP

Sharon interviewed with our committee days after being accepted to Johns Hopkins. Although this is not her first choice, she is still awaiting word back from Northwestern. Sharon is a senior at Lely High School with a passion for Mechanical Engineering. Her resume reflects significant involvement in her school with the National Honor Society and band and an impressive paid internship with Raytheon Technologies last summer. The director of the Band at Lely High School had the following words about Sharon, “I don’t think I have had a student like Sharon in my years of teaching. She makes everyone’s day better when she comes into the room either with her positive attitude or her solution to any problem at hand. Her drive to be the best student, musician, and person makes her the ideal student and has encouraged so many around her to follow in her footsteps to success.”

#### 7. PEYTON DAVIDSON- STETSON TRIBUTE SCHOLARSHIP

Peyton is a senior at Gulf Coast High School that is already enrolled at Embry Riddle. She is very involved in JROTC and plays lacrosse while maintaining a high GPA. Peyton will major in Homeland Security and Intelligence with a minor in Military Science. Her career goal is to become a Tactical Intelligence Officer in the US Army. In the words of her lacrosse coach, “Peyton will go on to be one of the most successful alumni to pass through the halls of Gulf Coast. She is destined to leave her mark

on this world and will be a wonderful ambassador for Gulf Coast High School and as an Officer in the US Army.”

#### 8. EMMA DISARRO- MCMAHON SCHOLARSHIP

Emma is graduating this May from Naples High School with a high school resume of awards and clubs all while maintaining a position as a lifeguard and playing on the soccer team. Emma intends to study engineering at USF. In the words of a Sergeant for Collier County Sheriff’s office that wrote Emma’s recommendation letter: “With a passion for engineering, Emma has clearly demonstrated creativity, leadership skills, and an extraordinary ability to problem solve. While each of these unique traits will propel Emma to success in any endeavor, they are uniquely suited to lead a team in designing complex systems faced by contemporary engineers.”

#### 9. KAYLA MIRANDA- LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP

Kayla joins us today not only as a 2023 recipient but as a newly joined AAUW member! Kayla is one of our returning students that has already received a Bachelor’s in nutritional science and decided she wanted to return to school for a nursing degree and we are pleased to support her. Her husband Carlos accompanies her today and they reside, work and volunteer in our community. In Dr. Goldberg’s words that wrote Kayla’s recommendation letter, “She has been exceptional as both a medical assistant and research assistant. She is headed for a career as a Physician Assistant, and I am confident she will be an excellent one.”

#### 10. LILIANA SALAZAR-JUAREZ- FRIENDS OF BAYVIEW

Liliana will be graduating from Immokalee High School and comes from a family of 4 daughters and likes to remind her father that he doesn’t need a son, she will carry on the family name! Liliana is

dual enrolled and plans to attend FGCU. We greatly enjoyed Liliana's well written essay which I quote, "It was during my high school years when I truly grasped the power of this two-letter simple word: no. I recognized that to accomplish everything I was capable of because of my parent's hard work and sacrifice, that I would have to say no and create healthy boundaries and set priorities to be the best daughter, sister student and friend that I possibly could be. Instead of saying yes to every potential task, I learned to politely decline the request and let the person know of my current commitments."

#### 11.VANESSA KINLEY- JANET WELCH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Vanessa is currently attending Bonita High School and is dual enrolled at FGCU where she plans to attend. In Vanessa's own words, "With the rapidly growing Southwest Florida population becoming intensely more aged, our area is suffering an employment drought in the medical field. It is with this urgent local problem in mind that I plan on continuing my education at Florida Gulf Coast University for my bachelors and strive to graduate from FGCU's master's in physician assistant studies program. After graduation, I plan to stay local and use my gained knowledge to service the area I was born and raised in. With heart disease killing more Americans than anything else, I have a passion for specializing in cardiology."

#### 12.TORI GUARINO- LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP

Tori is currently studying biology at FGCU with a passion for ecosystem remediation, a critical field of study for the Southwest Florida area. Both of Tori's recommendation letters were exceptional and I will quote her professor, "In addition to having the intelligence and energy for coordinating and conducting field

research, Tori has an admirable environmental ethos. Besides having exceptional drive, environmental values, and personal responsibility, Tori is academically gifted with a strong record of coursework in the “harder” sciences of cell and molecular biology and chemistry.”

### 13.JASMINE VEGA-VINCENT DIBIASI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Jasmine is working to complete her bachelor’s in social work while also working as a substitute teacher and for Catholic Charities. She is intent on becoming a social worker and serving the community of Immokalee that she was raised in. Jasmine articulated her goals to us in her essay with the following statement, “With a master’s degree I will be able to work to better my community, to encourage the youth in my town to push for something great. I will be able to provide a safe, open, and honest space to help my community heal.”

### 14.CESSIA FLORES ELWIN- STEM SCHOLARSHIP

Cessia is a Palmetto Ridge High School Senior that has been accepted to FGCU to study biology. It is her dream to go to dental school. Along with her strong record of community service and involvement at her school she has also been invited to participate in various STEM programs. She wrote an exceptional essay in which she described her hard-fought journey to overcome an eating disorder and to also help other girls with body image.