

THE AAUW GREATER NAPLES BRANCH AND THE GREATER NAPLES AAUW CHARITABLE FOUNDATION, INC. CONGRATULATE THE 15 AMAZING LOCAL WOMEN AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS IN 2024!

Started and supported by members of the AAUW Greater Naples Branch and supported by other donors, the Greater Naples AAUW Charitable Foundation, Inc. has awarded scholarships to deserving local women annually for over 20 years. This year, we are proud to award seven scholarships to local women who are age 21 or over, five scholarships to local women pursuing STEM degrees, and three scholarships to local future teachers.

We are pleased to introduce these outstanding women:

Scholarships for Local Women, Age 21 or Over:

1. Maria Hernandez Lopez—McMahon Foundation Endowed Scholarship Fund

Originally from Venezuela, Maria works two jobs while pursuing her Bachelor of Science in Bioengineering at FGCU. Maria is interested in biomechanics and tissue engineering and looks forward to a career in which she is directly involved in developing new technologies that create healthcare solutions.

2. Megan Swanson—Friends of Bayview I Scholarship Award

Megan is a mother of three small children now pursuing a master's degree in nutrition at Nova Southwestern University with the goal of becoming a registered Dietician, to pursue the passion for nutrition she developed after becoming a mother.

This is the third Friends of Bayview I Scholarship.

3. Kayla Miranda—Dellatorè Real Estate Company Scholarship Award

A recipient last year while pursuing her Bachelor's degree, Kayla is now working as a Registered Nurse at Naples Community Hospital and is pursuing a Master of Science in Nursing with a Family Nurse Practitioner Concentration at South University.

This is the second Dellatorè Real Estate Company Scholarship.

4. Karina Lopez

Karina is employed as an advocate at The Shelter for Abused Women and Children and is pursuing her Master's in Business Administration to further her work on the front line with victims of abuse and human trafficking.

5. Brittany Jarvis

After obtaining a degree in Marine Biology from Florida Southern and becoming a mother in need of steady employment, Brittany is now pursuing a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing with the goal of becoming a Registered Nurse.

6. Anita Herrera—McMahon Foundation Endowed Scholarship Fund

Anita works as the Assistant Director of the Tutor Corps Program at the Guadalupe Center in her home town of Immokalee, having attained a Bachelor's degree at North Central College in

Naperville, Illinois. She is now enrolled in the Master's in Educational Leadership program, with a concentration in Higher Education, at FGCU.

7. Adelyne Olson

Enrolled in a "four plus one" program, Addy is graduating from Wilkes Barre University in May 2024 with a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. She completed a research project on an affordable and realistic below-the-elbow prosthetic with a premade hand, and expects to earn her Master's of Science in Biomedical Engineering in the Spring of 2025.

STEM Scholarships:

8. Alina Zankevich—Laura A. Candris Endowed STEM Scholarship Fund

We are delighted to make a second scholarship award to Alina, who is pursuing her degree at the University of Florida in Applied Physiology and Kinesiology, with the goal of becoming a physician.

9. Alexis Mathurin—Catherine E. Hackney Tribute STEM Scholarship

Lexi is graduating from Naples High School with an AICE diploma and a high GPA, having served in the ROTC, and earned a varsity letter as an athlete, while holding a job. Lexi is an aspiring Occupational Therapist who plans to attend University of Florida to begin her program in Health Sciences.

A very active member of the AAUW Greater Naples Branch, including of its Public Policy Committee, Cathy organized several fundraising/friend raising events and served for four years as President of the Greater Naples AAUW Charitable Foundation, Inc.

10. Mallory Poff—Judith A. MacGregor Tribute STEM Scholarship

Mallory earned her Bachelor of Science in Engineering from Elon University. She was an Honor's fellow, an honor bestowed on just 45 students out of 6300. She completed her honors thesis research on designing and building a low-cost system to support refrigeration immediately after harvest and during transport for farmers who would typically use generators. Mallory is continuing her studies at Duke University in pursuit of her Masters of Science in Mechanical Engineering and Material Science.

Another very active member of the AAUW Greater Naples Branch, including having served as one of two facilitators of 12 local AAUW StartSmart workshops, and leading the SWFL Women Giving Together giving circle, Judith assumed the Presidency of the Greater Naples AAUW Charitable Foundation, Inc. on April 1, 2024.

11. Gabriella Nagy—Candris STEM Scholarship

Gabby is dual enrolled at Lorenzo Walker High School and Florida Southwestern College, and will graduate with an associate degree, having met all the requirements to sit for the boards for Practical Nursing. Gaby will be attending the University of Florida pursuing her bachelor's degree in nursing. She volunteers at NCH and co-founded and led the Teens Against Dating Violence council at The Shelter for Abused Women and Children where she has been volunteering since 2020.

12. Denise Garcia Salas

A first-generation college student, Denise is in her third year at FGCU, majoring in Biology with a concentration in Marine Biology. A professor for whom she serves as a teaching assistant ranked her in the top 10 percent of those she has taught. Denise intends to continue with graduate work at the University of Florida in Marine Biology, focusing on shark research.

Future Educator Scholarships:

13. Lauryn Jackson—Dorothy King Sutton Memorial Future Teacher Scholarship

Inspired by her mother who has worked as a special education teacher for 28 years, Lauryn took a position in high school working with a seven-year-old child with Down's Syndrome. She is now in her third year at Florida State University, majoring in Special Education.

14. Lydia Sears—Dorothy King Sutton Memorial Future Teacher Scholarship

Lydia is an aspiring teacher in her third year at FGCU where she is pursuing her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with an endorsement in reading and an ESOL endorsement. She interned with a 3rd grade class at Lake Park Elementary School in Naples and works as a nanny.

Dorothy King Sutton was a dedicated public elementary school teacher for 34 years, while raising three daughters and earning her master's degree. She was Laura Candris' mother.

15. Valentina Guzman

Valentina is a bilingual high school senior at Barron Collier High School who will be attending Wake Forrest University and majoring in elementary education and sociology. A scholar with an exceptional high school record, she has spent many hours in the classroom with English as a second language students.

The Greater Naples AAUW Charitable Foundation, Inc. and AAUW Greater Naples Branch are affiliates of AAUW, AAUW.org.