

## MEET THE SEVENTEEN AMAZING LOCAL WOMEN AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS THIS YEAR!!

1. **Geselle Mendez- Hernandez** is an Immokalee High School senior who is dual enrolled at FSW. She will be attending FGCU in the fall of 2025 to major in health sciences, with the dream of becoming an occupational therapist. Geselle was awarded the **Patricia Ann Weinswig Tribute STEM Scholarship** generously donated by Carole F. Barrett, Esq. in memory of her son-in-law's mother. With financial aid assistance, Pat attended the University of Illinois College of Pharmacy, and after graduating worked as a pharmacist in community pharmacies in Indiana and Wisconsin and as a teaching assistant at Butler University and the University of Wisconsin, School of Pharmacy. Pat gave back to her community as a volunteer for Hadassah and B'nai Brith Women and served on the Board of Trustees and as President of Temple Beth El in Madison Wisconsin.
2. **Brittany Jarvis** is a second time recipient of a Local Scholarship. We are proud to make this award to take her over the finish line as she completes her final semester to obtain her nursing degree and graduate in June. Brittany is being awarded a **Friends of Bayview I scholarship**. This is the second scholarship residents of the Bayview I community have funded.
3. **Lydia Sears** is also a previous recipient. We supported her last year as she completed a bachelor's in elementary education. She is currently working at Pelican Marsh Elementary school and pursuing a master's in education. Lydia received the **Mary Schell Tribute Scholarship**. A former teacher, Mary has been a very dedicated member of our Branch, including having led our STEAM Girls Count program and having served as Finance Director.
4. **Alina Zankevich**, another previous recipient, is a pre-med student at the University of Florida. Alina was awarded a **Candris STEM Scholarship**. She is studying Applied Physiology and Kinesiology and is currently recognized on the Dean's List. Alina stated in her essay, "My ultimate goal is to become the first physician in my family, a woman in STEM who bridges the human elements of care with scientific expertise."

5. **Islande Victorin** received her bachelor's in healthcare administration from Arcadia University in Pennsylvania. She returned to her hometown of Immokalee where she works as the Middle and High School Coordinator at Guadalupe Center. Islande is now pursuing a Master's in healthcare administration at FGCU which she anticipates completing in summer of 2026. Islande's scholarship is funded by the generosity of the **Dellatoré Real Estate Company** which has supported our program for multiple years.
6. **Camaraelle Milord** received her bachelor's in business administration at the North Central College in Illinois. She migrated from Haiti at age eight to Immokalee, the town that she calls home. She presently works as the site director of the Boys and Girls Club. Not stopping with her education, she is now pursuing a master's degree in business administration with a focus on management. Camaraelle states, "My degree will give me the knowledge to open businesses and create more employment opportunities in Immokalee." Her scholarship is funded through a **McMahon Foundation** endowment.
7. **Graciela Cervantes** is proud to serve her community of Immokalee as a 3rd grade teacher for Eden Park Elementary School. She was recently admitted to the graduate program at USF and began her coursework in Educational Leadership. Graciela's scholarship is also funded through a **McMahon Foundation** endowment.
8. **Tracey Lindvall** has been attending Indiana University remotely to pursue a master's degree in social work while working as an unpaid intern. Tracey is passionate about becoming a therapist, stating that she knows that she is exactly where she is meant to be—doing extensive work with children experiencing grief, loss, and trauma. We are happy to award Tracey a Local scholarship.
9. **Rebecca Roberts** is pursuing a double major at FGCU in International Business and Analytics and Informatics. Her dream job after graduation is to research and engage in process optimization of the issues that people with congenital malformations face. Rebecca is receiving the **Jeannine Stetson Tribute STEM scholarship**. Passionate about our scholarship programs, Jeannine has served as our Director of Scholarships for many years

10. **Megan Swanson** is also a second time recipient, having received a scholarship in 2024. We are pleased to continue to assist her in attaining her master's degree in nutrition. Megan is already actively working in her Estero community at Pinewoods Elementary as a Nutrition Education Coordinator. She is receiving a Local scholarship.
11. **Kayla Miranda** is another previous recipient. We congratulate her on becoming a mother and a licensed nurse since her last award. Kayla is pursuing a Master of Science degree in nursing and is currently working through her clinicals to decide on her specialty. Kayla is receiving a Local scholarship.
12. **Juliana Noreus** is a high school senior at Lely High School where she holds the number one ranking in her graduating class. She is currently pursuing her private pilot's license. She would like to become an operational researcher in financial engineering. Juliana is being awarded a STEM scholarship underwritten by the generosity of **The Naples Money Managers, LLC**.
13. **Cessia Elwin-Flores** is also a past recipient, and we are proud to continue to support in her journey to becoming a physical therapist focusing on treating women. One of her recommendations letters states, "Cessia's ability to balance academic excellence, leadership, and community service is truly commendable. She is hard-working, compassionate, and responsible individual who consistently goes above and beyond in her commitments." Cessia will complete her bachelor's degree in Exercise Science at FGCU in the Spring of 2027. Cessia was awarded a **Candris STEM Scholarship**.
14. **Gabriella Nagy** is a second time recipient who came to us as a super star senior in high school at Lorenzo Walker with 670 clinical hours completed. She is now in her program at UF with an impressive 4.0 GPA in the College of Nursing and has decided to focus on becoming a nurse midwife. Gaby is receiving a **Candris STEM Scholarship**.
15. **Emmanuelle Legerme** impressed us at once with her knowledge of our organization and the time she had spent researching AAUW and our mission, which is no surprise because Emmanuelle is very familiar with research. She will be completing her bachelor's in psychology this May. She already has three published articles and has participated in numerous conference presentations. Emmanuelle is

passionate about becoming a clinical psychologist and begins her master's program in the fall. Emmanuelle was awarded a Local Scholarship.

16. **Lian Paje** is a senior at Immokalee High School and will be attending FGCU this fall to begin her studies in nursing with the goal of becoming a labor and delivery nurse. Lian overcame many challenges as she and her family moved to Immokalee from the Philippines when she was 9 years old. Her recommendation letter stated, "Lian is a determined, motivated and hard-working student that will not let you down." Lian is being awarded the **Blanche and John Rebar STEM Scholarship**. This endowed scholarship 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.
17. **Mariela Vega** grew up in Immokalee and is funding her own education. She has already completed both her bachelor's and master's degrees and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Medicine degree at Florida State University. Mariela is being awarded the **Catherine E. Hackney, Ph.D. Memorial Scholarship** funded by the **Southwest Florida Women Giving Together Giving Circle**, honoring the Foundation's beloved past president.