



AAUW MPB LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS-2023

The Local Scholarship selection committee is pleased to announce the award of 12 scholarships of \$2000 each to students attending CSU Monterey Bay, Hartnell College, and Monterey Peninsula College. One Scholarship at CSUMB was awarded in memory of Sally Hekkers.

Melanie M. -CSUMB and Recipient of the Sally Hekkers Memorial Scholarship

Melanie was raised with the belief that an education is the key to disrupt the cycle of poverty which her family experienced. She is a talented artist who wishes to teach children how to express their feelings through art and to give back to her supportive community. . She will earn a B.A. in Visual and Public Art and a minor in Psychology.

Marlene R. - CSUMB

Marlene is a reentry student who juggles full-time work, college courses, and parenting duties to pursue her dream of becoming a Social Worker. She has faced significant challenges and loss while attending school and has managed to stay on course. She brings empathy, life experience, and sensitivity to her job in Social Services and will be an excellent Social Worker. She will earn a B.S. in Collaborative Health and Human Services next year.

Jairo G.-CSUMB

Jairo's career goal is to advance sustainability and community focus in Fishery Management. He has volunteered on many restoration projects and sees firsthand how the impact of applying research to community projects increases public awareness. After graduating from CSUMB next year with a B.S. degree in Marine Science next year, Jairo plans to earn a graduate degree in Fisheries Management.

Perla M.- CSUMB

Perla immigrated to the US at nine years of age and had to learn English quickly. She has had many family stressors, including poverty and the loss of her father. She is the first in her family to attend college and her grades have been excellent despite her struggles. Her major is Plant and Soil Sciences and she looks forward to a career in agriculture.

Alma E.- Hartnell College

Alma is a reentry student and works full-time as a school librarian. Juggling her work and school schedules with family duties has been a challenge, but she is well on her way to realizing her dream of becoming an elementary school teacher. She will attend CSUMB in the fall and earn a BA Liberal Studies/Early Childhood Education.

Chanelle A.- Hartnell College

Chanelle wants to become a civil engineer in order to work on ways to develop alternative energy and stabilize our power grid. She hopes to combine her gift as an artist to the engineering field to create images and presentations which will clearly express complicated engineering concepts. She is attending Cal Poly SLO in the fall and will earn a BS in Civil Engineering with a minor Graphic Design

Lizet R.- Hartnell College

Lizet worked full-time as a caregiver after graduating from high school and says this job helped her pursue a path in the medical field. She is a first-generation student and is transferring from Hartnell to CSUMB in the fall to complete her B.S. in Nursing. She enjoys working with both the elderly and clients with developmental disabilities and hopes her bilingual skills will help her patients navigate their medical care.

Valeria O.-Hartnell College

Valeria's parents moved with her family to the US when she was a young child. She is the first in her family to attend college and sees her education as a way of letting her parents know their struggles were worthwhile. Valeria will attend CSUMB in the fall where she will major in Exercise Physiology. Her choice of major was influenced by her young cousin's diagnosis of muscular dystrophy and seeing the benefits of occupational therapy. She plans to earn a graduate degree in occupational therapy and pursue a career as a pediatric occupational therapist.

Angelica O.- Monterey Peninsula College

Angelica immigrated to the US in 2016 and started taking ESL classes at MPC to learn English. She has excelled at MPC with near-perfect grades and has stood out as an excellent tutor and leader in the TRIO program. She is majoring in Human Development and is transferring to Cal State East Bay next fall to become a teacher. She was a recipient of the Book Award in 2022.

Debbie V.- Monterey Peninsula College

Debbie changed her major from computer science to geology two years ago and has thrived in the geology program at MPC. As a top student, her professors selected her as a tutor in the newly-established STEM tutor program. She will attend CSUMB in the fall and major in Environmental Studies. She hopes to pursue a graduate degree in geology.

Kaly M.-Monterey Peninsula College

Kaly faced many challenges in her early life and turned her life around with the support of behavioral health services. This experience motivated her to enter college in her late 20s. She will transfer to CSUMB in the fall and earn a degree in Collaborative Health and Human Services in two years. Her dream is to earn a graduate degree in Social Work and eventually open a non-profit mental health clinic that provides services to women, LBGTIA+ and low-income clients.

Kayla R.—Monterey Peninsula College

Kayla was always interested in the sciences and once she set her mind on nursing, she set a path to get into the MPC nursing program. She will graduate with a B.S. in Nursing next year from CSUMB and is interested in several specialty areas of nursing. Kayla excels with her critical thinking skills, compassion, and patient-centered care and will be an excellent nurse!