



## **AAUW MPB LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS-2024**

The Local Scholarship selection committee is pleased to announce the award of 12 scholarships of \$2500 each to students attending CSUMB, Hartnell College, and Monterey Peninsula College (MPC)

### **Achsah Jojo- CSUMB**

Achsah came to the US from India when she was ten years old and believes the difficult adjustment to her new life helped to shape who she is today—"a fighter, a dreamer, and a go-getter". She is a first-generation college student with a 4.0 GPA, and her chosen field is Computer Science. Her leadership skills are evident in the organizations she is involved with on campus. Achsah will graduate with a BS in Computer Science in Spring 2025.

### **America Cardoso- CSUMB**

America is an excellent student as evidenced by achieving a 4.0 GPA in high school and maintaining this high standard during her first two years at CSUMB. She also works part-time to help her parents and pay her school bills. America describes herself as a first generation Mexican-American student who has faced down many obstacles to become a "humble, resilient, and dedicate individual." She plans to follow in her father's footsteps in the agricultural field by combining a B.A. in Business Administration with a concentration in Agribusiness. She plans to go to graduate school.

### **Denisse Emeterio- CSUMB**

Denisse is a first-generation student with a passion for the field of Molecular Biology. She has a 4.0 GPA and credits her mentors for igniting her interest in research. Denisse believes in the importance of communicating research results to the community at large. One way for her to achieve this was to enter her poster which explained her research at CSUMB's Summer Symposium. She was one of 10 students to win an Outstanding Research Poster Award. Denisse plans to graduate in two years with a B.S. in Molecular Biology and go to graduate school.

### **Monique Davila- CSUMB**

Monique worked as a financial counselor in a cancer care center after high school and this led to her interest in the field of physical therapy. She faced several obstacles as a child and is proud to have developed a resilient personality in the face of life's challenges. Her "Can Do" approach will be a benefit to her patients. She will earn a B.S. in Kinesiology in two years and become a Physical Therapy Assistant. Her ultimate goal is to earn a Masters Degree in Physical Therapy.

### **Sarra Huerta- CSUMB**

Sarra is balancing the demands of being a full-time student with a full-time work while raising her four-year-old child. She has maintained an impressive 4.0 GPA. In her early adult years, she developed an addiction problem, and having successfully overcome the challenges of addiction, she wants to become a Social Worker to help others. Sarra will graduate with a degree in



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Collaborative Health and Human Services with a concentration in Social Work next June. She plans to earn a doctorate in Social Work.

### **Catalina Cruz-Hartnell College**

Catalina arrived in California from Mexico at the young age of seven speaking only Mexicano. In the span of just a few years, she learned English and Spanish. Today she is tri-lingual (English, Spanish, and Mixteco) and hopes to find a career in counseling or teaching where her language skills will help children who may be struggling in school. Catalina is transferring to CSUMB in the fall and plans to earn a B.A. in Communication Studies.

### **Alina Ramirez-Hartnell College**

Alina's passion is social justice and a strong desire to improve her community. Her leadership skills were evidenced by her position as the president of the Associated Students of Hartnell this past year. She also spearheaded Healing Hearts Through Healthy Minds, a volunteer organization to help students navigate life stressors. She will transfer to UCSB this fall and earn a B.A. in Social Sciences. She would like to become a lawyer, work as a prosecutor, and be a positive role model for the young women in her community.

### **Sonia Sainz-Hartnell College**

After high school, Sonia worked as and started her family before entering college at Hartnell. She sees the importance of addressing mental health issues early in childhood and dreams of becoming a psychologist. Sonia views her education as creating a ripple effect within her family to inspire the educational dreams of her four children. She will transfer to CSUMB in the Fall to earn a B.A. in Psychology. She plans to go on to graduate school for a Doctorate in Psychology.

### **Melanie Aquino Gonzalez-MPC**

Melanie graduated from MPC with dual AA degrees in pre-nursing and Spanish. She will transfer to UCLA in the Fall to pursue her degree in Nursing and return to the Monterey area to work as a nurse. She wants to employ her Spanish skills to help her Spanish-speaking patients. She is a first-generation student and has been working with students in middle and high schools as a highly effective mentor and tutor.

### **Ailani Corona Miramontes-MPC**

Ailani's passion for art started at a very young age and she hopes to create a design business which will showcase her artistic creativity. She has achieved top grades at MPC and is looking forward to transferring to UC Davis in the Fall. She will obtain a B.A. in Design and plans to go on to graduate school. She is a first-generation student in her family.



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### **Maryam Othman-MPC**

Maryam was born in Palestine and her life and education have been divided between living in Palestine and the US. She is a first-generation student. Maryam believes the war in Palestine has helped her become mentally stronger. She is passionate about becoming a Civil Engineer and dreams of working in Palestine to help design infrastructure projects in the coming years. Next fall she will transfer to SJSU where she will earn her B.S. in Civil Engineering.

### **Alexis Wong-MPC**

Alexis achieved a near perfect GPA at MPC and is headed to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in the Fall. She is a first-generation student and plans to earn a B.A. in Business Administration Economics. At MPC, she developed strong leadership skills by participating in a number of organizations and events on and off the campus. She hopes to find a company where her strong desire to help people can be realized, such as in the field of philanthropy.