



*Women's  
Executive Council*

*2021  
Scholarship  
Recipients*

***Empowering and Embracing  
Women to Serve Central Florida***



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# SYNOVUS® Scholarship

## NIA BERRY



Nia Berry is an Information Technology major at Florida A&M University. Since middle school, she has been interested in software development and spent her free time engaging in STEM camps and volunteering for STEM activities at her high school and the local library. Nia graduated high school as class vice president in the top 10% of her class. She values her education and strives to be a great role model for her little sister. Her most outstanding achievement in high school was independently learning to develop an iOS app for one of her community members. Her hard work has landed her five outside scholarships, including this one, to afford her first year of university. Nia plans to use her degree to create new technologies that help inner-city minorities and women gain greater access to STEM education & career opportunities. Her goals this year are to finish learning web development and start her first stream of income as a freelance web developer.

## COMPUTER SCIENCE

FLORIDA **A&M** UNIVERSITY

“This scholarship allows me to access a university full of networking and educational opportunities that will benefit my future career goals.”



# SYNOVUS<sup>®</sup> Scholarship

## NHU NGUYEN



Nhu Nguyen is pursuing a Ph.D. in Management – Organizational Behavior at the University of Central Florida. She loves using research to help business leaders and local organizations. In fact, she led the publication series “Motivation 101: A Guide for Public Servants” during her master’s program and achieved more than 10,000 downloads. Most recently, her studies on abusive supervision were selected to be featured at the 2021 Western Academy of Management Conference and the Southern Management Association Annual Meeting. Nhu plans to become a professor of management in order to share her passion for behavioral ethics with others while becoming an agent of positive change through teaching and research excellence. Prior to her Ph.D. journey, Nhu worked in career advising and created seminars for the Georgia International Leadership Conference. She is a strong advocate for career readiness. In her free time, she teaches English to elderly immigrants and mentors first-generation college students. She is also volunteering as a page manager for the United Nations Association – Orlando Chapter.

PHD, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION  
(MANAGEMENT TRACK)



UNIVERSITY OF  
CENTRAL FLORIDA

“This scholarship will be a tremendous help in alleviating the financial burden and keep me focused on my doctoral program.”



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# *Foundation Scholarship Partner*



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## Inspire. Encourage. Share.

Doing good in a community is harder than it looks. It takes commitment, vision, and the spirit to inspire others. Thank you for helping to make our community a better place.

**Thank you, Women's Executive Council, for your service to the community.**

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**WELLS  
FARGO**



**WELLS  
FARGO**

# *Foundation Scholarship*

## **SEANEKA COLLIE**



Born in Nassau, Bahamas, Seaneka Collie is a student pursuing a bachelor's in International Affairs with a minor in Business Management at Rollins College, where she transferred after earning her associate's degree in Ecuador. Her passion for economics, culture and global citizenship led her to her degree choice. Coming from a family of educators, Seaneka is also driven by a desire to make education more accessible for all. This is evident in her work with San Pedro Cares, a non-profit organization in the Bahamas that provides anonymous scholarships to students attending San Pedro International School. As an active member of her campus community, Seaneka serves as a peer mentor to her fellow students, hoping to be for someone else what she wishes she had on her college journey. She is also a member of a number of student organizations and serves as an academic administrator for San Pedro International School. Seaneka is extremely grateful for the Women's Executive Council scholarship because it allows her to continue with her studies. She hopes to create opportunities for others to have the same chance to study abroad and experience a global education. Her main goal is to form meaningful connections with others throughout her life.

## **INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**Rollins**  
EST. 1885

“The WEC scholarship represents hope for the future. Many of us would not be able to complete our studies without it. I am extremely grateful to receive this scholarship and I will pay it forward one day.

[wecOrlando.com](http://wecOrlando.com)







*Scholarship Partner*

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## Sit with women who are winning, the conversation is different.

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We are proud to support the Women's Executive Council  
in its mission to recognize and inspire  
Central Florida's women leaders and students.

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## CAPRI GUTIERREZ



Capri Gutierrez is a rising junior at Rollins College who is studying International Relations. She is Vice President of Rollins Amnesty International, a human rights organization on campus, and has recently become involved with gender-based discrimination issues as co-chair of Peer Education at Rollins Violence Prevention. Capri is passionate about global development and, more specifically, addressing the multidimensional challenges faced by the extremely poor. To learn more, Capri has taken on a virtual internship with the Smart Youth Network Initiative in Kampala, Uganda, which works to empower impoverished youth through community action. She will also be studying abroad in Uganda during the fall semester using the funds from this scholarship. Capri has recently committed to co-authoring a book with her professor that aims to engage young people with the major issues of poverty and development. The book is entitled *Debating Global Development* and will be published in 2023.

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



“There is so much power in women supporting women, and I am incredibly proud to be a part of this wonderful network of strong women making change in their communities and the world at large.





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Restoring Families Through Trauma Sensitive Therapeutic Communities

# Scholarship Partner



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**BRIDGES**INTERNATIONAL





**BRIDGES**INTERNATIONAL  
Restoring Families Through Trauma Sensitive Therapeutic Communities

# Scholarship

## KELLY FOY



Kelly is a graduate social work student at the University of Central Florida's School of Social Work. She is a single mother of two boys and works as an office manager for Seneca Valley Builders, a local general contracting company. Kelly has volunteered for the last 3 years as a block chair for the Downtown Frederick In the Street Partnership, volunteers at both of her sons' schools, and has both worked and volunteered for United Against Poverty of Indian River County. Her history of volunteer work helped shape her career interests working in the community and advocating for mental health. Currently, Kelly is a Clinical MSW Intern at The Orenda Center of Wellness practicing both substance abuse and mental health counseling. She plans to pursue a career in direct services immediately following graduation in 2021, with the intention of eventually obtaining a PhD in Public Affairs. Kelly's long term plan is to work in Washington D.C. advocating for social policy amongst local and federal legislators. When Kelly is not working or volunteering, she enjoys cooking and catering small events for friends and family. Kelly has always had a passion for the culinary arts and uses the opportunity to cook to "feed the soul" and "practice self-care." Other interests include reading fantasy, traveling, and spending as much time in nature as possible.

## MASTERS, SOCIAL WORK



**UNIVERSITY OF  
CENTRAL FLORIDA**

“This generous opportunity not only allows me to grow as a woman in my career, but also to set an example for my children of what is possible.”





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NCM recognizes the sacrifices of all the extraordinary women who came before us. We celebrate the amazing women in our own organization and honor ALL the women, men, and those who identify as non-binary, for continuing the quest for equality.

-NCM Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council



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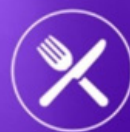
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*Scholarship*

## ISABELLA KIEU HETZ



Isabella Kieu Hetz is a freshman at the University of Central Florida working towards her Bachelor's degree in Film. In High School, she was very involved in the arts taking leadership roles in theatre and chorus. She was a member of the International Thespian Society and officer for her school's Thespian competition troupe. She has worked in many shows at Winter Park High School and the Winter Park fringe Festivals by acting, choreographing and directing. She now has the goal of working in the film industry and working creatively with others to put together films. Her journey in film begins at UCF, where she aims to gain internships, valuable knowledge, and learning experiences. Her goal is to work towards moving right into the industry, feeling confident in her film work. She has previously volunteered at the Orlando Pet Alliance as a Bark Buddy, taking care of the dogs up for adoption. She is looking forward more volunteer opportunities to help with things she is passionate about. She enjoyed painting and donated her paintings to the Orange County Comptroller Auditors office. She is extremely grateful to receive this scholarship, which will help her earn her degree at the University of Central Florida and ultimately to a job she loves.

### FILM



UNIVERSITY OF  
CENTRAL FLORIDA

“ I am so appreciative to be awarded this scholarship as it will help me pursue my academic goals and lead me towards my future career endeavors!





In 2013, the Board of Directors created the 1972 Society to reflect the heart of the Women's Executive Council - *Embracing and Empowering Women to Serve Central Florida.*

Scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$1,972.00

### **1972 Society Donor Opportunities:**

Donors may give and present a **\$1,972 scholarship** in your name or the name of a loved one to a scholarship recipient in a field/major of your choice. This donation qualifies you as a 1972 Society Diamond Member.

Join the **1972 Society Giving Circle** and donate **a one time payment of \$197.20** or **ten-monthly payments of \$19.72**. Gather nine friends or family members and you will be able to award one scholarship in your group's name. Any donation of \$197.20 or more qualifies you as a member of the 1972 Society.

Thank you for making a difference and investing in the lives of women in Central Florida - one scholarship at a time.

Visit [wecorlando.com/1972-Society](http://wecorlando.com/1972-Society) for more information.



# *1972 Society*

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\*\* Two scholarships donated



# George J Woodward Scholarship

## LOGHAN ASHLINE



Loghan Taylor Ashline is a passionate learner studying Business Administration at Florida Tech. Since the start of her secondary education, she has adamantly worked towards career preparations through internships, volunteer work, and employment opportunities on and off-campus. Beginning an internship at a local jet dragster racing facility in Palm Bay, Loghan's freshman year allowed her to work towards a full-time employment opportunity in the Business and Marketing Department a mere semester later at the same facility. Loghan also worked as a student ambassador for Florida Tech, which provided an opportunity for her to refine her interpersonal skills. Loghan has also volunteered over 300 hours towards a non-profit organization called Blazing Trails, which helps to educate K-12th graders on the importance of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) education. Loghan has a deeply rooted love for motorsports that has driven her towards the racing industry. Not only does Loghan work on the business and marketing team, but she is also crew chief to an all-female jet dragster racing team. She is eager to continue her career in motorsports with an offered position at Larsen Motorsports, a small business that is female-owned and empowered.

## BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



“This scholarship provides me with the financial stability I need to continue following my dreams.”



# *Jerri Jenkins Scholarship*

## **TANYA FERNANDA BAHENA HERNANDEZ**



Tanya Fernanda is a Legal Studies major at the University of Central Florida. She was born and raised in Mexico and moved to the U.S. at the age of 16. Her experience going through the immigration process motivated her to help others in similar situations. She started her legal career right out of high school as a legal intern and studied hard to learn as much about immigration proceedings as possible. Tanya's college journey began at Valencia Community College in 2018, where she earned her associate's degree. She was awarded a scholarship to continue her studies at UCF and currently serves as president of the Immigrant Justice Center at UCF. Tanya loves helping the community, especially under-represented minorities. She has served with different organizations, including: Community Hope Center, iDignity, Catholic Charities of Central Florida, Florida Justice for our Neighbors, Hands-On Orlando, and Second Food Harvest Bank of Central Florida. Her goal is to become an immigration attorney and make a difference in the lives of refugees, asylum seekers, victims of domestic violence, and other crimes. She is excited to continue helping and motivating others to be of service.

### **LEGAL STUDIES**



**UNIVERSITY OF  
CENTRAL FLORIDA**

**“The WEC Scholarship allows me to continue helping immigrants by encouraging them to never give up on their dream of becoming legal in the U.S.**



# James & Laura Lynn Scholarship

## DANIELLE BELLETTIERE



Danielle Bellettiere is entering her senior year at the University of Central Florida's Rosen College of Hospitality Management. She is pursuing a double major in Hospitality and Tourism Management and in Event Management. Originally from New York, Danielle was inspired to enter the hospitality industry after working at a luxury wedding and event destination Cedar Lakes Estate, which is led by a strong female team. After moving to sunny Orlando for her studies, she worked at the Walt Disney World's Boardwalk Inn's Innkeepers Club Lounge as a resort hospitality concierge buffet host. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she continued to stay involved in the events industry. She worked with Plannie.com to create the "Gathering Guide" which listed all COVID-19 guidelines worldwide organized by country. Currently, she is working at Walt Disney World's Yacht and Beach Club as a deep water lifeguard as well as a resident assistant for UCF Housing and Residence Life. At Rosen College, Danielle is very involved. She serves as a student mentor, Dean's Ambassador, and President of the Association of Bridal Consultants. Danielle is extremely grateful to be a recipient of a WEC Scholarship as it will allow her to continue to pursue her career aspirations as an event designer and be the guiding example for other females in the hospitality industry.

## HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT & EVENT MANAGEMENT



UNIVERSITY OF  
CENTRAL FLORIDA

“Being recognized as a WEC Scholarship Recipient is empowering for my hopes of becoming a female leader in the hospitality industry. Thank you so much for all of your support and encouragement!”



# Shelly Ferrone - UBS Financial Scholarship

## DELANEY BENNETT



Delaney is currently pursuing her Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the Florida Institute of Technology. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of Florida. When she arrived to FIT she wasn't sure what area of psychology she wanted to pursue until she learned about Military Psychology. She immediately knew that was what she wanted to do. Her family connection with the military, as well as her father being a police officer and her mother being a clinical psychologist, helped inspire her to find her true passion of helping others who experience trauma in the line of duty. Specifically, she wants to help active-duty soldiers, who experience post-traumatic stress disorder by joining the United States Army as a military psychologist. During her first year in the program, she worked as an intake specialist at an inpatient mental health hospital and as a graduate clinician for the Family Learning Program, a sexual abuse treatment program. She is about to begin her semester as a graduate clinician for the community counseling center. She is beyond grateful for the Women's Executive Council and all of the donors who made this scholarship possible. She thanks the Women's Executive Council for selecting her as a scholarship recipient, and thanks her family and friends, who have always supported her on this challenging, yet incredibly rewarding journey.

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY PSY.D.



“The Women's Executive Council Scholarship will help me significantly with my tuition, allowing me to fully focus on my studies.”



# *Kelly Family Cuidiu Foundation Scholarship*

## **DENESE BROWN**



Denese Brown is an international student from Jamaica currently pursuing her Master of Science in Public Health at Rollins College. She has worked in healthcare as a medical technologist for over eight years where she was involved in several community outreach projects such as planned health fairs and free health testing. She is also a volunteer with the Habitat for Humanity Winter Park/Maitland division. She dedicates her time on campus as an integral member of the Executive Council of Student Affairs, where she helps new and returning students to find their place at Rollins College. As she continues to study Public Health, it has contributed more to her drive for serving her community, while improving the quality of life for all people. She deserves this scholarship because she loves learning and enjoys practicing community outreach, and she is passionate about helping people improve and maintain their health and overall well-being.

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

# Rollins

HAMILTON HOLT SCHOOL

**“The Women’s Executive Council Scholarship will be helping me to accomplish my dreams of contributing to the quality of public healthcare.”**

[wecOrlando.com](http://wecOrlando.com)





# Yarmmys Vargas Scholarship

## CAROLINA A. COLÓN



Carolina A. Colón was born to a low-income family in Puerto Rico. Although facing several challenges throughout her educational career, such as being homeless for two years, she continued her studies while simultaneously working full-time in her Marriott hotel career. She earned her A.A. degree from Valencia College while being a part of the President's List each year. Additionally, due to losing multiple members of her family because of cancer, Carolina participated in two summer research opportunities at Georgia Tech as part of the NSF's Cell Manufacturing Research Techniques to further their vision of bringing low-cost cell-based therapeutics to cancer patients. Most recently, Carolina transferred to the Florida Institute of Technology to earn her bachelor's in Aerospace Engineering. In her senior year, she's working as the project manager for her Senior Design group focused on creating a reusable landing pad on the moon using In-Situ materials. Moreover, she plans on pursuing a Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering to merge both her love for Bioengineering and Aerospace in a new interdisciplinary field. Her biggest dream is to one day have a lab of her own filled with aspiring students with limited backgrounds and work together to make the next state-of-the-art therapies accessible to those who need them the most regardless of income.

AEROSPACE ENGINEERING



I am honored to be a recipient of this scholarship created for women by women as it grants me the opportunity to keep the door to education open and enables me to stand amongst giants.



# Nora Buning & Karen Willis Scholarship

## PAIGE HERR



Paige Herr is a senior at the Florida Institute of Technology pursuing a bachelor's degree in Forensic Psychology. Upon graduation, she plans on continuing her education in pursuit of a Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology. Paige is currently interning with the Brevard County Public Defenders Office, working one-on-one with mentally ill offenders in an effort to place them in much-needed treatment programs as an alternative to incarceration. She is very involved on campus as a member of Alpha Phi International Fraternity, serving as vice president of Diversity and Inclusion, Director of Philanthropy, and Director of Merchandising for this organization. In addition, Paige is the current event head of the Campus Activities Board and is a fourth-year veteran of Florida Tech's cheerleading squad. This past school year, Paige was named one of Florida Tech's Outstanding Students of the Year in the School of Psychology and is also a member of Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society. Paige is very grateful for being awarded this scholarship as it will help finance her last undergraduate year of college and allow her to focus on funding her future graduate degree. She has had the good fortune to connect with strong female role models in her time at Florida Tech and hopes to someday return the favor to another generation of achievers.

## FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY



“Receiving the Women’s Executive Council Scholarship will help me pursue a career in which I can make a significant difference in helping marginalized individuals get another chance at a positive life.”



# *Geraldine Gallagher Scholarship*

## LIUDMYLA HOLOVACH



Liudmyla Holovach is a sophomore at Valencia College and will graduate in August 2022, with an associate's degree in Science, Major: Accounting Technologies. She pursues the goal of becoming an educated accountant. Also, Liudmyla is a part of the Seneff Honors College. Outside of classes, Liudmyla volunteers at the "Give Kids the World," where kids with a terminal illness and their families are catered to and entertained. She enjoys working in various positions such as operating the carousel, serving meals from the buffet line at Katie's Kitchen, and welcoming guests and families by providing information about the "Gallery of Hope." Liudmyla also volunteers at Osceola Arts Theater: scans tickets, and checks the body temperature of each patron who enters. Liudmyla is extremely excited to receive a 2021 Women's Executive Council scholarship, which will help her achieve all her educational and career goals.

ACCOUNTING TECHNOLOGY

VALENCIA COLLEGE

**I am incredibly grateful and want to thank the Women's Executive Council for this scholarship. It will allow me to pay my tuition.**



# Ashley Laubach Scholarship

## KATELYNN JONES



Katelynn Jones is a second year doctoral student in Clinical Psychology at Florida Institute of Technology. She received her bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Alabama and her Master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Johns Hopkins University. Katelynn has a passion for improving the lives of individuals who suffer from mental health or substance abuse challenges and their families. Throughout her higher education journey she has volunteered and/or interned at clinics in Alabama, Maryland and Florida in an effort to not only enhance her education with real life experience, but more importantly to help others improve their lives wherever and however she could. Katelynn's long-term vision is to open her own clinic focused on those who truly need assistance and may not otherwise be given the opportunity. This scholarship does not only provide financial assistance but more importantly it serves as an acknowledgement of the focus Katelynn has on helping others improve their lives and is sincerely appreciated.

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY



I am grateful to the WEC Scholarship Committee for this wonderful opportunity that will allow me to continue my successes academically, professionally, and personally.



# Shirley Horsey Scholarship

## HOPE KERN



Hope Kern plans to pursue the field of pediatric nursing at Valencia College. She has served in a volunteer capacity with organizations such as the Spina Bifida Association of Central Florida, Redefining Spina Bifida, and the Down Syndrome Association of Central Florida. Her brother Chance was born with the birth defect spina bifida, which has affected her and her family greatly. Although Hope's parents work hard to provide for their family, their medical expenses have reached max limits every year since her brother was born. Witnessing the challenges and triumphs supporting her brother through his extensive medical treatment has inspired her desire to help other kids just like him upon completion of the nursing program. She has also worked closely with his neurosurgeon, Dr. Keyne Johnson, who has also been a mentor and inspiration for Hope to remain committed to her interests to enter the medical field and choose nursing. Hope believes her personal experiences put her in a unique position to be a strong and devoted advocate for children with disabilities and complex medical conditions like her brother was born with. Though medical challenges such as Hope's family has taken a toll on families, after her brother endured 19 surgeries, with a 20th pending this fall, it only motivates Hope to work harder to conquer her academic goals.

## NURSING

VALENCIA COLLEGE

“This scholarship is important to me because it allows me to worry less about expenses and give all of my attention to my education to become a registered pediatric nurse. I look forward to giving care and advocating for kids who need my care in the future.”



# Fred & Gerry Scheer Scholarship

## IDIL KILIC



Idil Kilic is currently a second-year undergraduate student at the University of Central Florida and the Burnett Honors College. She is majoring in Aerospace Engineering and has plans to minor in Mathematics and French in her upcoming years. She loves running and lifting in her free time. She has volunteered with many organizations in her area, ranging from pet shelters to libraries. Within her university, she has participated in various events to clean parks and lakes around her university. Ever since she was little, Idil has had the opportunity to work closely with airplanes and airwings. She hopes to be employed by an aerospace or an airplane company so that she can extend the same opportunity to others. With her degree, she hopes to commercialize global traveling to all social classes so that everyone can have an equal opportunity to visit various destinations around the world and learn more about each other. Ultimately, she hopes to normalize flying all over the world while lowering the cost of airplane tickets and minimizing the amount of fuel used. With the Women Executive Council Scholarship, she is one step closer to her goal. Idil is a second-time WEC scholarship recipient, having also been awarded in 2020.

## AEROSPACE ENGINEERING



UNIVERSITY OF  
CENTRAL FLORIDA

I am very honored to have been chosen for the Women Executive Council Scholarship, for it will help me a lot in my career path.



# Margaret D Jennings Scholarship

## ALEXA MALPARTIDA



Alexa Malpartida is pursuing her graduate degree from the University of Central Florida in Criminal Justice. While being a full-time student, she also works full-time as a paralegal for Thomas J. Pilacek & Associates, LLC, a firm that specializes in labor and employment law. She earned her bachelor's degree in Legal Studies from UCF as well. During her undergraduate career, she was actively involved in the pre-law fraternity, Phi Alpha Delta, and competed in the national mock trial competition. Her perseverance and determination to excel both professionally and academically led to the decision to pursue a degree in higher education prior to attending law school. Alexa's overall goal is to become an attorney and have her own practice someday so she can give back to the community. Her upbringing focused on the importance of community involvement which has allowed her to be involved in Catholic HeartWork Camp, Ronald McDonald House, Girl Scouts, Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida, and many other local opportunities. This scholarship will not only advance her professional and academic goals but will also greatly help with covering the remaining balance of her last semester's tuition. She also recently joined the WEC as a new member.

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE



UNIVERSITY OF  
CENTRAL FLORIDA

“ I am extremely grateful for this opportunity to be one of this year's recipients for the WEC scholarship. This scholarship will help cover the expenses for my last semester of grad school.



# Kelly Family Cuidiu Foundation Scholarship

## SHEA MCLINDEN



Shea McLinden is a junior at the University of Central Florida majoring in Health Sciences and pursuing a minor in Medical Sociology. She is an involved student on campus as a member of the Burnett Honors College and has participated in the Dean's Leadership Council. Shea also works closely with incoming freshman in her role as a resident assistant. She is currently an intern at Limbitless Solutions, a nonprofit that designs expressive bionic arms for children. At Limbitless she designs research studies and plans outcomes for clinical application for accessible video game devices and bionic arm evaluations. In her free time, Shea enjoys volunteering at Nemours Children's Hospital Child Life, helping patients and families cope with medical experiences through self-expression activities. Shea also enjoys spending a lot of her time outside, on the water, reading and going for runs. She is looking forward to the upcoming academic year and focusing on her studies.

## HEALTH SCIENCES



UNIVERSITY OF  
CENTRAL FLORIDA

**I am excited to be a recipient of the Women's Executive Council scholarship. Thank you for helping support my academics!**



# Ina Courtney Revis Scholarship

## EMILY MURDOCK



Emily Murdock is a sophomore at Seminole State College majoring in English Language Arts Education. She plans to transfer to the University of Central Florida next fall and obtain her bachelor's degree so she can begin teaching those younger than her and, hopefully, impact their lives in a positive way. Emily has always loved helping others; in high school, she volunteered at many establishments, her main objective was to help others and provide them with the information they needed. And teaching will allow her to continue those objectives. In addition to teaching, Emily is active in the arts, having acted in school productions since she was in middle school. She hopes to continue acting in college and bring the creativity of theatre into her classroom. Emily would like to thank the Women's Executive Council for their extremely generous award, it means the world to her and will alleviate the stress and financial burden of paying for college.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS EDUCATION



“The WEC Scholarship has helped me focus on my passions rather than their cost.

[wecOrlando.com](http://wecOrlando.com)





# Susan Murphy Scholarship

## ASIA-MARIE OLUDE



Asia-Marie is attending the University of Central Florida majoring in Communication Sciences and Disorders with a minor in Spanish. While in high school, Asia-Marie began taking classes at Daytona State College and graduated with her Associates of Arts degree and received the Florida Seal of Bi-Literacy Certification. Her goal is to earn her master's degree followed by a doctorate in Speech Language Pathology. She plans to take advantage of available internships and to pursue research work to gain the necessary knowledge and skills to evaluate, diagnose and treat patients with speech and language disorders. Her passion for giving back can be seen in her many years of participation in community service projects. During high school, she performed over 400 community service hours and continues to serve. She has volunteered at New Hope Human Services, American Red Cross, National Federation of the Blind, Paralyzed Veterans Association, NAACP Youth Council-West Volusia, New Hope Church Ministry, and many others. She is a grateful recipient of a 2021 WEC scholarship and would like to thank the Women's Executive Council for recognizing her.

COMMUNICATION DISORDERS  
PEDIATRIC & ADOLESCENT SPEECH THERAPY



UNIVERSITY OF  
CENTRAL FLORIDA

I am grateful to the WEC Scholarship Committee for this scholarship opportunity. This scholarship will provide the financial aid that will allow me to take courses to help me gain the necessary knowledge and specialized skills to evaluate, diagnose and treat patients with speech and language disorders.



# Gwyn Picerne Scholarship

## ISABELA PERDOMO



Isabela V. Perdomo, 18 years old, is a first-time college student at the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne. She participates in a variety of community services, problem-solving, and technology-infused activities that provide solutions to environmental issues, as well as partnering with a group of female leaders educating other females through Global Co-Creation Lab, an MIT initiative. She is the founder and president of Project CS Girls-FL Chapter, an international non-profit organization encouraging middle-school females to pursue computer science and STEM careers. A recent endeavor awarded her with a proclamation from the City of Miami Beach naming April 24th Isabela Perdomo Day forevermore. She has worked on an environmental project that included a 4-year study to develop an environmentally friendly, alternative solution to the use of toxic chemicals in boat paint to reduce barnacle growth. She has since expanded her ultrasonic waveform research to include solutions in the biomedical engineering field. In addition, she was chosen as Miami Zoo and Local 10's 2018 Eco-Hero winner, where she starred in a prime-time, Emmy Award-winning, environmental documentary filmed on location in Antarctica. Isabela is a member of the South Florida Youth Symphony, which recently performed at the 2017 Presidential inauguration in Washington D.C. and Carnegie Hall in NYC. She also serves as a spokesperson representing her peers at monthly school board meetings. She is one of six students who represented MDCPS and the State of FL at ISEF for the 4th year in a row and was recently awarded the Office of Naval Research Naval Science award while participating in the state fair where she has won numerous awards throughout the past 7 years. Isabela is pursuing a career in Biomedical Engineering and Electrical Engineering. Even a recent vicious assault that left her with multiple skull and hand fractures, vision and hearing difficulties, and cognitive function deficiencies has not deterred Isabela from completing her research and achieving the goals she has set for herself.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING & BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING



“The WEC scholarship has supported my life motto, to take every opportunity possible, because I will now have more flexibility in making the most of my higher education.

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# *Shirley Horsey Scholarship*

## **SALOME PIEDRAHITA MONTOYA**



Salome Piedrahita Montoya is a junior studying nursing at the University of Central Florida. Salome is a first-generation college student, who wants to make an impact in the world by educating those who would not otherwise have the opportunity. She is also dedicated to helping others access better healthcare, which will allow them to have a better life. She has an infinite love for science and the idea of helping others. Her end goal is not only to become a nurse but to also become a doctor and go further into medicine. She feels education is one of the most important rights a person can have which is why her life's goal is to open a school for children who have the passion to study but do not have the resources to further their education. Salome has been involved in the Latino medical student association and she also has volunteered in the Advent Health East Hospital.

### **NURSING**



**UNIVERSITY OF  
CENTRAL FLORIDA**

**I am extremely honored and thankful to have been awarded this scholarship because it allows me to pursue my dreams while alleviating my financial burdens.**



# *Marianne Koves, Betty Kennedy, Michael Dwinell, and Cammie Ford Scholarship*

## ALEXIS PITTMAN



Alexis Pittman is a sophomore at the University of Central Florida, pursuing a degree in Biomedical Sciences. She plans to graduate and attend medical school to ultimately become a physician. Alexis developed an interest in medicine and healthcare by actively engaging with the community and personal experiences within the American healthcare system. These influences led her to join the Girls Excelling in Math and Science, or GEMS, mentoring program upon entering UCF. She thoroughly enjoys uplifting other women to close the gender gap in STEM by mentoring and having been mentored in the past. In addition, Alexis is a founding member and current executive board member of the African American Biomedical Sciences Organization at UCF, which assists black students aiming to enroll in post-graduate, pre-professional health programs. She thanks the members of the Women's Executive Council for their time and consideration, as well as for their contributions to this scholarship and the Central Florida community. This scholarship supports Alexis as she focuses on studies and a rigorous extracurricular medical life.

## BIOMEDIAL SCIENCES



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“After losing my mom to cancer and feeling the financial pressure, I give my thanks to the women who made this opportunity possible for me. The WEC scholarship gives me more time to invest in Orlando’s medical community.”



# Tony Martin Scholarship



## KIRSTEN TAGUE

Kirsten Tague is a Criminal Justice major at the University of Central Florida working towards her master's degree in Criminal Justice. She has aspirations of working for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. She currently works as a classifications specialist at the Seminole County Sheriff's Office and holds her Class C private investigator's license in the State of Florida. In the future, Kirsten hopes to work for the government to help protect the community in which she lives and make the country overall a better place.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
FBI DOMESTIC TERRORISM



UNIVERSITY OF  
CENTRAL FLORIDA

“This scholarship allows me to pay for my classes without worrying about financial barriers.



## FAITH-CHRISTINA DUNCAN



Faith-Christina is a sophomore at Valencia College pursuing a bachelor's degree majoring in American Sign Language (ASL) Interpretation. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, on the President's Honors List for Spring 2020 and 2021. Faith-Christina was recently awarded the Inaugural World Changer Award by Our City Beautiful. She has given motivational speeches and is the keynote speaker in the upcoming Presentation Summit in Clearwater, Florida in September 2021. Her career goal is to work as an ASL Interpreter. Faith-Christina has a passion for giving back to her community and has over 1000 hours of service. She is active as an Ambassador for Able United, Best Buddies of America, and two local Down Syndrome (DS) organizations. She works two part-time jobs, as well as, being the CEO of her own entrepreneurial company, Imperfect Creations. She hand makes and donates baby blankets to parents of babies born with DS. She is active in her church and fundraising events throughout the community. Fitness is an important part of her life. She believes in eating right and exercising to keep her mind sharp and focused. Faith-Christina quotes John F. Kennedy, "One person can make a difference, and everyone should try." This scholarship means so much to her. It will allow her to continue to pursue her endeavor to gain a degree and not worry about how to pay her tuition. Faith-Christina has used her passions to inspire individuals all over the Globe. She was born with DS but does not let that stop her from achieving the goals she has set for herself.

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE

VALENCIA COLLEGE

“The WEC scholarship will allow me to continue in the pursuit of gaining my degree to work as an ASL Interpreter. Helping others is a passion of mine. I have always been fascinated with ASL and can put that fascination to work helping others. I am honored and humbled to be a recipient of this prestigious award.



## LISSETTE OSORIO



Lissette Osorio is a third year undergraduate student at the University of Central Florida. She is majoring in Forensic Science with a chemistry track and minoring in Chemistry. She loves chemistry, but her favorite aspect of Forensic Science is the chemical composition of fingerprints. She hopes to work in a federal law enforcement agency as a forensic latent print examiner. In hopes of achieving her career goal in STEM, she is the vice president of Scientista (a women in STEM club) and a chemistry tutor in the UCF EXCEL Program, where she helps freshmen students majoring in STEM succeed in their first year chemistry courses. She is also an undergraduate research assistant in the Laboratory for Bioarchaeological Sciences, working on stable isotope analysis research projects with the lab team. Due to her enjoyment in the lab, she has joined the Honors Undergraduate Thesis (HUT) Program. She is basing her undergraduate thesis on pathology and diet reconstruction of juveniles in Kuelap, Peru using stable isotope analysis. On her free time, she loves to connect with nature by bike riding or camping. She has big aspirations, and this scholarship will help her pursue them.

## FORENSIC SCIENCE - CHEMISTRY



UNIVERSITY OF  
CENTRAL FLORIDA



This scholarship will help me pay off some of my loans and continue my education with reduced financial worries.





Women's  
Executive Council *Scholarship*

## ANNA PHAN



Anna Phan is a junior studying Industrial Engineering (IE) at the University of Central Florida. She is excited to pursue an IE degree where she will get to optimize real-world problems and find effective and sustainable solutions that will help benefit the world. In high school, she has been involved in more than seven clubs while handling dual enrollment classes. By her senior year of high school, she was an officer for five of her clubs/organizations. She hopes to one day work for the Walt Disney World Company as an industrial engineer intern after graduating from UCF in 2023. Anna plans to work as a supply chain intern in the summer of 2022, where she will work with trafficking and warehousing. She hopes to one day hold seminars to educate and mentor high school students about the reality of how to be successful and to explore their career paths to find out what their true passion is. She wants to teach students to live life in happiness. "If you are not happy, then what life are you living?" Life is meant to be enjoyable, and every waking moment should be a lesson learned.

## INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING



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CENTRAL FLORIDA

“ Thank you to the Women’s Executive Council for this amazing opportunity! This scholarship will not only cover my cost for my academic expenses but also help me achieve my dreams.



## MIRANDA RUBLAITUS



Miranda Rublaitus is attending Valencia College majoring in Data Science for Public Policy. After 17 years in the pet industry, Miranda was forced to retire young due to complex health issues. The events of 2020 inspired her to enroll in Valencia College with the hopes of fostering changes in the United States from the top down. At Valencia College, Miranda is the SGA President of Osceola campus, the president of the G.U.I.D.E.S. club, the VP of Leadership of Alpha Phi Zeta (PTK Chapter), a Peace and Justice Institute Distinction Student, V.E.C.T.O.R. Scholar, and a Seneff Honors College student. While maintaining a 4.0 GPA, Miranda still finds time to help the homeless community through her volunteer researcher work for the HOPE Partnership and frequently delivering food to homeless people in Kissimmee. Upon graduating from Valencia College, Miranda plans to attend a 4-year university and then onto graduate school. Aligned with her academic and career goals, Miranda is currently working on an undergraduate research project to rewrite the formula for defining the poverty line. Her goal is to create a feasible, adaptable, and fair poverty line representing city and state economies instead of one national number that falls far below the minimum required budget for many households in the U.S.

DATA SCIENCE FOR PUBLIC POLICY

VALENCIA COLLEGE



The WEC Scholarship allows me to attend college debt-free and supports me as a woman in a STEM field that men dominate.





Women's  
Executive Council *Scholarship*

**KATE RUMISEK**



Kate Rumisek is a sophomore at the University of Central Florida pursuing a bachelor's degree in Political Science Pre-Law with a minor in Leadership Studies. She is a member of LEAD Scholars Academy where she holds the position of LEAD Activities Director. As LEAD Director, she oversees the hosting of major events for LEAD scholars like the LEAD formal and graduation ceremony. Kate is also involved in many other organizations on campus including Women's Student Union, Student Government Leadership Council, LEAD Activities committee, and Inclusive Education Services (IES), where she serves as a social media coordinator. In her free time Kate can be found volunteering with multiple organizations including Sarasota K9 Search and Rescue, Port Charlotte Bandits Cheerleading, and with her local Boys and Girls Club. Upon graduation at UCF Kate plans to attend law school. This scholarship will allow her to focus on school while staying highly involved with campus organizations and community service projects.

POLITICAL SCIENCE PRE-LAW  
LEADERSHIP STUDIES



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I am grateful for this scholarship for allowing me to advance in leadership as a woman in my community.



*Thank you to our members who  
gave their time, talent and treasure.*

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Deborah Kelly

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Women's Executive Council

*unites* professional women by *creating* opportunities  
to *recognize* and *inspire* women leaders and  
students to *serve* our Central Florida *community*.



## Our Legacy

The Women's Executive Council was formed in 1972 by the late Dot Estes Ellis in an effort to involve executive and professional women working with the Downtown Orlando Partnership. Our organization's first annual "Women's Achievement Awards" was held in 1972 and continues today as we honor outstanding women leaders in Central Florida.



## Membership

The Women's Executive Council is an association of executives and professionals committed to the recognition, education, and leadership development of Central Florida women. In support of this mission, we provide educational, financial support through the **Scholarship and Endowment Fund of Women's Executive Council**, a 501(c)(3) organization.



## Outreach

Since 1987, the Women's Executive Council has awarded nearly three-quarters of a million dollars in scholarship funds to over 375 women attending college in Central Florida. Through our financial support and mentorship by our members, we encourage personal growth, professional development and leadership skills in today's scholars.

Together we enrich lives. For information email [communications@wecOrlando.com](mailto:communications@wecOrlando.com) or visit [wecOrlando.com](http://wecOrlando.com).





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