In Her Words

$1500 Scholarship
Junior in Early Childhood Education
Ferris State University

I am a non-traditional student returning to higher education after a 10-year hiatus. At 41, I have decided to pursue my academic goals, demonstrating a commitment to lifelong learning and personal growth. As a mother of five children, I have developed and demonstrated valuable skills in an academic setting, including time management, organization, patience, and the ability to multitask effectively. My decision to select Ferris State University and my chosen program stems from my passion for child development, my desire for continued learning, and my commitment to enhancing my skills to serve my community better and positively impact early childhood education. One of the most significant obstacles I have faced while pursuing my degree is balancing my various roles and responsibilities. This challenge has taught me resilience, adaptability, and the importance of perseverance in the face of adversity. While it is not always easy, I remain committed to my educational goals and am determined to succeed, knowing that the effort I put in now will pay dividends in the future.

Kamilla Bagley

2023 Scholarship Recipient

AAUW
Big Rapids (MI) Branch

In Her Words

$1500 Scholarship
Senior in Welding Engineering
Ferris State University

I am a female student pursuing a bachelor's degree in Welding Engineering which is traditionally a male-dominated field and still is today. I am also a single parent who is enrolled full-time and financially independent of my parents. I chose Ferris State University because a lot of my colleagues in the welding field are graduates of Ferris State University and shared lots of positive stories about the school. I found that compared to some of the other schools I was looking into, Ferris was more of a hands-on program which was essential for me because that is how I learn best. The biggest obstacle I've experienced was transferring here from Wisconsin as a mother of a 2-year-old and trying to establish resources and connections to help me be academically successful. Being that I am from Wisconsin I lost all my friends and family support. I am very persistent in getting my degree to better my life and my children and always find a way to keep moving forward to pursue my lifelong goals

Olivia Arreola

2023 Scholarship Recipient

AAUW
Big Rapids (MI) Branch