AAUW-MCP LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS RECIPIENTS 2026

The Local Scholarship selection committee is pleased to announce 12 scholarship awards of $3,000 each to students attending CSUMB, Hartnell College, and Monterey Peninsula College (MPC).

CSUMB:

Laura G. Laura credits her grandmother for encouraging her to obtain a college education. As a first-generation college student, Laura balances a full courseload with a full-time job to help support her family. Her work in the fields informed her decision to major in the field of agriculture. In two years, she will earn a B.S. in Agricultural Plant and Soil Sciences from CSUMB. Laura would like to become a trusted resource to others seeking solutions in the fields of agriculture and horticulture.

Natalie N. Natalie's dream job is to become a high school English teacher. She hopes to impart her love of reading to her students believing it is how we "learn, understand, and discover" life. She has earned top-notch grades while balancing school and job demands. Natalie will earn a B.A. in Humanities and Communication with a Concentration in English Matter Prep in two years from CSUMB.

HARTNELL COLLEGE:

Elena P. Elena balances a full-time courseload while caring for her husband with disabilities. In addition to earning top grades, she was selected to be the Director of the InterClub Council on campus. Her career path was inspired by her son's diagnosis of autism. She is transferring to CSUMB in the fall where she will major in Psychology. She plans to go on to graduate school to earn a PhD in Psychology and become a college professor and academic counselor.

Maria S. Maria describes herself as a "proud Latina woman in STEM" and is committed to opening doors for the next generation of young women. She is currently balancing the responsibilities of raising her young daughter, managing a full courseload, and working several part-time jobs. At Hartnell College she has worked in several science labs. and has chosen Computer Engineering as her major. Maria is transferring to CSUMB in the fall where she will earn a B.S. in Computer Science in two years. Her goal is to work as a software engineer or in embedded systems.

Tanae G. Tanae has faced many challenges in her life that have shaped who she is. These challenges have propelled her to earn a college degree and work in a field to help others as she has been helped. . Her academic focus is Addiction Studies, Health and Human Services, and Social Work. Tanae supports her family through full-time work at Door of Hope while carrying a

full course load. She will earn a B.S. in Community Health and Human Services at CSUMB in two years. Her career aspirations are to be a social worker or therapist.

Daisy O. and Thalia H. currently are attending Hartnell College nursing program. They have been selected for scholarships to be awarded when they complete the program next May and matriculate to CSUMB or another four-year college to obtain their B.S. in Nursing.

Monterey Peninsula College:

Kenza M. Inspired by both of her parents to work hard starting at a young age, Kenza finished high school early and is on a path to earn her B.A. in Business in two years from San Jose State University. Her ultimate goal is to obtain a master's degree in finance and work for a leading financial institution. She wants to give back to her community by teaching financial literacy to others as a way to contribute to the long-term economic health of the community in which she was raised.

Maria S. When Maria immigrated from the Philippines several years ago, she brought with her the lessons taught by her grandparents to work hard and persevere. By assisting them with their business, she learned to appreciate the business world. She wants to help low-income families by helping them navigate through their finances and become financially literate. Maria will transfer to San Jose State University in the fall with plans to earn a B.A. in Business Administration in two years and then obtain her Certified Public Accountant license.

Loryn G. Loryn credits her family and her hometown of Salinas for instilling a foundation of hard work, determination, and ambition as her core beliefs. She also has a strong love of music. She has a deep respect for the music industry and wants to apply her business aptitude towards a job in the industry to enable it to thrive and impact others as she was impacted. Loryn is transferring to UCLA in the fall and will earn a B.A. in Business Administration in two years.

Abeer B. As a child, Abeer moved from Afghanistan with her parents to the Monterey Peninsula and learned to adapt to a new culture. She has an passion to work with young children and wants to become a speech-language pathologist to help children and families communicate. Abeer will transfer to San Jose State University in the fall to earn a B.A. in Psychology in two years. She plans to go on to graduate school to pursue a degree in Speech-Language Pathology.

Sara I. Sara has overcome a difficult childhood and early adult life challenges to achieve a balance with her college courses, parenting her young child, and working to support her family. While employed as s a bookkeeper, she discovered a passion for accounting and has set a course to earn a degree in Accounting from CSUMB in two years. After graduation, she aspires to obtain a license as a Certified Public Accountant.