

2022 GFWC-WCI High School Scholarship Recipients

Sarai Ceceni

SHHS, Major: Business, UCLA

After earning her bachelor's degree, Sarai plans to earn an MBA. For the past two years she has run her own small business, selling handmade and customized jewelry. Sarai hopes one day to use her creative skills to influence the business world in a positive way.

Kimberly Cruz

INDIO HS, Major: Sociology, UC San Diego

Kimberly takes her inspiration to study hard from her parents. Her goal is to get a degree in sociology on her path to becoming a Criminal Psychologist because of her interest in criminology and human behavior and the impact they have on a community.

Eduardo Fausto

INDIO HS, Major: Biology, UC San Diego

Being a physician has been Eduardo's dream since he can remember. He is passionate about increasing Latino representation in the medical field and about being able to help the low income members of his community both by educating them about healthcare and helping to make healthcare more affordable.

Anna Marie Frese

SHHS, Major: Interior Design, California Baptist University

Anna Marie plans to open her own company. She has been a leader and mentor in technical theater skills - set design, theater safety. She even helped a new teacher reinvigorate a theater program. The life lessons she works hard to embody, and which she learned from her family, are to put her best effort forward and never give up.

Jennifer Garcia

INDIO HS, Major: Psychology & Business, UC Berkeley

Jennifer describes herself as a "hustler." She became an entrepreneur at a very young age when she began selling candy, bracelets, charms, and soaps to her fellow classmates at school. An internship performing outreach work in Coachella Valley spurred her interest in both business and travel.

Michael Gonzalez

SHHS, Major: Bioengineering, San Diego State

Michael's long-term goal is to "design, install, evaluate, and create the machines and medical devices that physicians use to treat and diagnose patients." His curiosity about math and science and his excellent technical science writing skills and critical science thinking through collaboration ability, will help him reach that goal.

Maleyna Gregorio

Home Schooled, Major: Business & Communication, UC Riverside

Maleyna has a passion for music and golf. In addition to pursuing her degree, Maylena will be playing on her university's women's golf team. Her goal is to use her four-year education to prepare her "to become a strong multiethnic female leader contributing one shot at a time."

Jacquelynn Perez

SHHS, Major: Philosophy, University of San Diego

Jacquelynn was inspired by her grandparents' experiences as migrant farm workers. Her goal is to become a human rights and social justice lawyer, working to improve fieldworkers' working and housing conditions. She volunteers with organizations concerned with runaways, the homeless, and the food insecure.

Chloe Platt

SHHS, Major: Filmmaking/Studies, Utah Valley University

A "visual learner and a hands-on kind of person," Chloe plans on getting a degree with the goal of becoming a writer and director. Her leadership and social skills have helped her stand out as a member of her church group and the Ophelia Project. Chloe has been described as "a great problem solver," who "will defend her decisions and opinions," and who always "perseveres."

Fernanda Robles Banuelos

INDIO HS, Major: Communication, UC San Diego

Spurred by one of her high school counselors, Fernanda has taken an active interest and done much research on immigration law and communication. Her interest comes from "wanting to know the impact people within both sides of the border face on a day-to-day basis." She hopes to become an immigration lawyer and contribute to the governmental policies impacting immigrants to this country.

Diana Sixtos Lucas

INDIO HS, Major: Nursing, UC Riverside

Diana's goal of becoming a nurse comes from her experiences in middle and high school health sciences classes. She got to meet doctors, visit hospitals, become certified in CPR, and compete in medical terminology contests. To fight the negative impact of the pandemic, Diana and her sisters created a business selling jewelry, as a way to express their creativity and artistic abilities.

Rui Tapia-Cervantes

SHHS, Major: Computer Science, COD

Rui wants "to pursue a career in the technology field because the future is technology." His family has instilled in him the importance of responsibility, diligence, and a work ethic. The author of one of his LOR's, for whom

he acted as a teaching assistant, describes Rui as an impressive student, outstanding athlete, and role model for his peers.

Reid Waterman

SHHS, Major: Food Sciences, UC Davis

Reid's volunteerism and interests have centered around food. His ultimate goal is to open a restaurant or bakery but he also hopes to work to find new ways to grow produce and goods on farms in an effort to conserve resources.

2022 GFWC-WCI Empowering Women Scholarship Recipient

Yesenia Cortes

Court Reporting Certificate, South Coast College

Yesenia has worked since before graduating high school in a variety of workplaces - law and medical offices and retail. She currently works for the Mojave River Academy as a translator/family engagement specialist and for JC Penney as a sales associate. After years of working hard and helping to support her mother and siblings, she is now in a place where she feels ready to take the next step - become part of a profession that she admires greatly.