



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Business and Professional Women's Foundation Scholarships Help Women Advance Their Careers through Education**

**Washington, DC** - Twelve women, including one veteran, are one step closer to fulfilling their dream of finishing school and advancing their careers, thanks to Career Advancement Scholarships from the Business and Professional Women's (BPW) Foundation.

BPW Foundation established the Career Advancement Scholarship Program in 1969 to provide financial assistance to financially disadvantaged women seeking to further their education. Scholarships are provided to women 25 years of age or older, who wish to advance in their careers or are soon to enter or re-enter the workforce. Most of this year's scholarship recipients are pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) or related fields. Supporting women in non traditional fields has long been part of the mission of BPW Foundation.

"BPW Foundation scholarships have a profound effect both on the women who receive them and on their communities. Many recipients use the degrees they earn with the help of a BPW scholarship to work in careers that directly impact the quality of life in their communities," explained Dr. Sheila Barry-Oliver, Chair of the BPW Foundation Financial Aid Committee. "That is why BPW Foundation has the application and screening process done through BPW Foundation state and local Legacy Partners. They know the women in their communities."

Scholarship recipients must have been accepted at an accredited educational institution and be within two years of completing their undergraduate degree. Over the years, demographics have shown that the average recipient is a 37 year-old single mother of two children. Twenty-five percent of the recipients have received public assistance at one time or another and 40 percent of the recipients are the first in their immediate family to earn a college degree.

"Once again I am so impressed by the quality of the applicants and heartened by their stories and drive." BPW Foundation CEO Deborah L. Frett said. "I am so pleased to be part of an organization with a program that has such a profound impact on women, with limited opportunities but unlimited potential."

Career Advancement Scholarships are made possible through the long time generosity and commitment of BPW Foundation donors. *For every gift given, 95% directly funds our programs supporting working women, their families and successful workplaces.*

Scholarships are for \$1,000 or more. Following is the list of scholarship recipients, their home states and degree aspirations:

### **Career Advancement Scholarships**

Rachel Contizano, BBA Business, Denver, CO

Brooke Gianelloni Weiss, BS, Earth and Environmental Sciences, New Orleans, LA

Erin R. Dunphy, BSN, Beverly, MA  
Niekeiya N. Williams, BS, Electrical Engineering Technology, Houghton, MI  
Shawna Fisher, BSN, Smithton, MO  
Rebecca L. Guerrero, BSN, Scottsbluff, NE  
\*Chanon Robinson, BS, Speech and Hearing Sciences, Fayetteville, NC  
Anastasia Mercier, BS, Psychology/Health Science, Franklin, NH  
Angela Marie Hoeltje, BS, Electrical Engineering, Zelienople, PA  
Susan R. Ledford, BS Accounting/BA Psychology, Spartanburg, SC  
Heather Nicole Fuller Albert, BS, Communications Disorders, Woodville, TX  
Janet Graham, BS Human Services, St. Johnsbury, VT

The participating Legacy Partners that selected the recipients are Colorado Business Women, BPW/Louisiana, BPW/ Massachusetts, BPW/ Michigan, BPW/Missouri, Nebraska BPW Foundation, BPW/North Carolina, BPW/New Hampshire, BPW Pennsylvania, BPW/South Carolina, Texas BPW Foundation, BPW/Vermont.

*\*Chanon Robinson is a veteran.*

*BPW Foundation supports workforce development programs and workplace policies that recognize the diverse needs of working women, communities and businesses. BPW Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) research and education organization. To learn more, visit <http://www.bpwfoundation.org/>*

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