

2025-2026

**Academy of Nutrition
and Dietetics Foundation
Scholarship Recipients**

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Academy Board Scholarship Honoring Academy President Deanne Brandstetter, MBA, RDN, CDN, FAND

Funded by the generosity of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation Board of Directors

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, The impact of these scholarships allows us to further our education and pursue the role of a Registered Dietitian. Relieving even a part of the financial burden that comes with this goal can allow a student to thrive in their program and put more of their focus on their studies. As someone who has had to work at least 30 hours a week to stay in school, I can say that any help is monumental in providing the support to use our time towards our learning.

– Allyson Gray

Allyson Gray

Purdue University

Allyson Gray is from Columbus, Ohio and recently graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics from Purdue University. She returned to Purdue University to pursue a Master of Science in Dietetics, where she will further her education and will begin her supervised practice. Allyson is passionate about cultivating positive relationships with food in individuals from a young age and would love to work with children in the future whether that is in a clinical setting or a school setting. Later in her career, Allyson would like to teach or mentor aspiring nutrition professionals through a role of a preceptor or professor.

"I am incredibly grateful to have received this scholarship. It has allowed me to take the next step to becoming a Registered Dietitian by helping me pursue my master's degree. It means a lot that the Foundation Board of Directors saw in my application that I want to make an impact in the nutrition world and decided to help me achieve that goal through this scholarship."



Academy Foundation Board Scholarship Honoring Foundation Chair, Catherine W. Christie, PhD, RDN, LDN, FAND

Funded by the generosity of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation Board of Directors

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Remember your student days—those long hours, the challenges, and the determination to turn your dreams into reality? Today, you stand as a successful professional with the power to help someone who is walking the same journey as you once did. Thank you for making a meaningful difference in a future dietitian's life. Your generosity will support a student in need and strengthen our profession by nurturing the next generation of nutrition leaders.

- Suvosree Chatterjee, MSC, RDN, CD-N, CDCES

Suvosree Chatterjee, MSC, RDN, CD-N, CDCES

University of North Florida

Suvosree Chatterjee, MSC, RDN, CDCES, is a Registered Dietitian and Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist at UConn Health, Connecticut. She earned her bachelor's with honors and master's degrees in food and nutrition from the University of Calcutta, India. She later completed her Didactic Program in Dietetics at Simmons University, Boston, and her supervised internship with Sodexo Southcoast Hospital Group, Massachusetts. A dedicated member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics since 2011, Suvosree became a Registered Dietitian in 2012. Her deep passion for dietetics and patient care led her to become a CDCES in 2017. Actively involved in professional service, she has volunteered with both the Connecticut Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and the Association of Diabetes Care and Education Specialists (ADCES), serving in leadership roles such as Membership Chair, Diversity Liaison, Delegate, and currently, Chair-Elect for CT ADCES. A graduate of the Academy's prestigious Leadership Institute, Suvosree has been recognized with the Emerging Dietetic Leader Award (2021) and Outstanding Dietitian of the Year Award (2024). Her leadership journey and commitment to professional growth inspired her to pursue a Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition (DCN) at the University of North Florida, where she is currently a doctoral candidate.

"I am truly honored and excited to receive this scholarship, which I will utilize toward my Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition program. As a devoted member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, this recognition from the Academy Foundation holds deep significance for me. Receiving this scholarship is a memorable milestone that I will cherish throughout my life. It not only supports my academic journey but also inspires me to pursue future research and contribute to advancing our profession.



Academy Foundation Scholarship in Honor of the 2025 Class of 50-Year Members

Funded by the generosity of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation Board of Directors

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, This donation is changing lives through education. I am living proof that education transforms and opens doors to a future that seemed so distant when I was a child. I am eternally grateful for the support I received throughout my studies, because without it, I would have had a completely different and less successful life.

- Viviane Freire de Farias

Viviane Freire de Farias

NutraCo

Viviane was born and raised in a poor community in Brazil. She won her first scholarship to pursue her undergraduate degree and become the first in her family to attend university and graduate. She also completed her master's degree with a scholarship. She moved to the United States, worked as a food service representative, and received financial assistance from the hospital where she worked to pay for her university tuition. After that, it took her almost a year to organize her finances to start her internship, and today, after much dedication and effort, she has the titles of MS, RDN, and LDN behind her name. She dreams of being called a Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist (CDCES) in the future.

"As I described when I applied, I come from a background where I didn't have access to quality education, and it was always through scholarships that I was able to earn my degrees. Without these programs, it would be nearly impossible to earn a degree today."



Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation General Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation Board of Directors

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Your generosity creates real and lasting change. By supporting scholarships, you give students like me the chance to pursue our education without the constant weight of financial stress. This scholarship has lightened my load and given me the freedom to focus on my studies, my internship, and the future I am working hard to create. Your investment will reach far beyond me, as the knowledge and skills I gain will directly impact the health and well-being of countless individuals I serve. Thank you for believing in us and making this journey possible.

- Jennifer Youngren, NDTR



Smitha Abraham, MS, RD, LD

Rutgers University

Smitha Abraham, MS, RD, LD, is a renal dietitian at Innovative Renal Care and works on a PRN basis as a clinical dietitian at Encompass Health Acute Rehabilitation Hospital. With over 22 years of experience in the renal field and more than 8 years as a clinical dietitian, she currently serves as the Regional Lead Dietitian for South Carolina and parts of Georgia. Smitha is a member of the Academy for Nutrition and Dietetics, the Advisory Panel for Dietitians at Innovative Renal Care, and the South Carolina Renal Nutrition Association. She is also pursuing a Doctor of Clinical Nutrition degree part-time at Rutgers University in New Jersey. Her professional aspirations include working as a principal investigator in research, conducting evidence-based clinical trials in nutrition and dietetics, and implementing community programs aimed at promoting health and reducing healthcare costs associated with preventable diseases linked to nutrition and lifestyle. Smitha plans to collaborate with the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics to promote the “Food as Medicine” concept in various communities.

“I am currently enrolled in a Doctor of Clinical Nutrition program at Rutgers University on a part-time basis, which allows me to balance my full-time job with my weekend PRN position. I am also honored to have received a scholarship from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation. This scholarship has motivated me to pursue my dream of obtaining a doctoral degree and preparing for a future career as a Principal Investigator. My goal is to acquire the expertise and knowledge necessary to lead evidence-based research in the field of nutrition and dietetics.”



Stephanie D. Alsbrook, MS, RD, LD

University of Arkansas

Stephanie D. Alsbrook, MS, RDN, LD, is a Registered Dietitian and Clinical Instructor in the Department of Nutrition and Family Sciences at the University of Central Arkansas. With over 18 years of experience in public health and community nutrition, Stephanie has led innovative programs that connect nutrition education, food access, and sustainable systems. She was recognized by the USDA for her leadership in the Team Up for School Nutrition Success mentoring program and has advised on state legislation related to school wellness, farm to school, and hunger relief. Stephanie completed her bachelor’s and master’s degrees at the University of Central Arkansas, and she is currently working on her Ed.D. in Human Resource and Workforce Development at the University of Arkansas. She also completed her dietetic internship at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. Through her doctoral degree, Stephanie hopes to contribute meaningful and relevant research that connects HRD and dietetics. Her research interests include mentorship, service-learning, and community nutrition. While teaching in higher education is her dream job, she does hope to achieve a promotion to professor after completing her doctoral program.

“Receiving this scholarship makes me feel empowered to achieve my educational goals because I know that I have support and encouragement from my peers and colleagues. I hope to make them proud by connecting Dietetics and Nutrition to Human Resource Development through meaningful research that promotes the goals of our profession.”



Rylandnia Sucha Anwar
Pennsylvania State University

Rylandnia Anwar is a driven and passionate learner committed to academic excellence and personal growth. She brings a global perspective, having studied nutrition in Indonesia and continued her studies in the U.S. Currently pursuing her master's degree in nutritional science at Penn State University, Rylandnia is continuing her passion for understanding nutrition and human performance. She was inspired by her childhood experience in basketball and badminton, recognizing the importance of getting proper nutrients before and after competitions. Rylandnia's ultimate goal is to work as a sports dietitian, where she can combine her passion for sports and nutrition. She has actively sought opportunities to apply theoretical knowledge in practical settings, such as working alongside the sports nutrition team at James Madison University and the University of Maryland. Looking forward, Rylandnia is excited about leveraging her education and experiences to continue to drive success and contribute meaningfully to the field of sports nutrition. She is excited about the prospect of working alongside teams or individual athletes on a professional sports team, college, or high school athletic program. She is also excited about the prospect of contributing to using individualized nutrition plans to maximize athletic performance, avoid injuries, and promote general well-being.

"Receiving this scholarship has been meaningful for me. Moving to the U.S. with a degree from Indonesia, I faced many challenges, but this support has reaffirmed my passion for becoming a dietitian and my commitment to helping others through nutrition. It gives me the freedom and confidence to focus on my studies, gain practical experience, and grow into the professional I aspire to be. I am sincerely grateful for this opportunity and motivated to use it to make a meaningful impact in the field of nutrition and dietetics."



Isabella Blasko, NDTR
Boston University

Bella comes from a very small town in Pennsylvania. She started her culinary journey early cooking with her mother and getting some jobs in smaller restaurants in her hometown throughout high school before she decided to attend Johnson & Wales University where she pursued a bachelor's degree in culinary nutrition. During one of her first nutrition classes, she fell in love with dietetics and decided to change her major to dietetics and applied culinary nutrition. She graduated in May of 2022 with summa cum laude and took a few years in between undergraduate and graduate education where she got work experience as a registered diet technician and personal chef. Now she is currently pursuing her MS/DI at Boston University and hopes to work as a dietitian personal chef in the future.

"I am beyond grateful to be receiving this scholarship as it will help me along my educational journey. It will assist with the cost books, course materials and fees. I could not be more appreciative of the Foundation helping me reach my career goals."



Samantha Boerstler
University of North Florida

Samantha Boerstler grew up in a close-knit family where love and support were important, even when financial resources were limited. These early experiences instilled in her a strong work ethic, resilience, and appreciation for the value of education. She earned her undergraduate degree in Nutrition Science and is currently pursuing a Master of Nutrition and Dietetics at the University of North Florida. Samantha is passionate about helping others improve their health and quality of life through nutrition and plans to open a private practice focused on chronic disease prevention and management. Her goal is to make nutrition a cornerstone of healthcare by providing accessible, evidence-based care that empowers individuals to take control of their health.

"Receiving this scholarship has been a means of encouragement for me. It eases some of the financial burden of my education, which allows me to focus on my studies. Receiving this scholarship reaffirms my commitment to pursuing my education and pursuing my goals necessary to make an impact in my field and community."



Ariana Bolivar, MS, RDN, LDN
Florida International University

Ariana Bolivar is an RDN and PhD candidate at Florida International University (FIU). Ariana's own challenges with nutrition and eating behaviors motivated her to build a career in nutrition and dietetics. Ariana received her master's degree and completed her dietetic internship from FIU summer 2022. Shortly after she started the PhD program where she is now conducting her dissertation research that focuses on eating behaviors & styles, interoception, and its relationship with acculturation and body satisfaction amongst Hispanic midlife women. She has worked as a dietitian in a culturally diverse setting and has been providing patients with personalized dietary recommendations that respect cultural food practices while promoting healthy habits, including self-regulation. After graduation, Ariana looks forward to continuing research in the community and guiding the next generation of dietitians.

"Receiving this scholarship is both an honor and a source of encouragement as I pursue my PhD. It has alleviated the financial burden of my research project, allowing me to focus more fully on my research without worrying about limited funds. I am deeply grateful for this reward, as it has encouraged me to keep working hard, knowing that others believe in my goals and my future."



Julia Burmenko
San Francisco State University

Julia has been passionate about nutrition since she was young. She was fascinated by the impact nutrition can have on health and well-being and decided to pursue it as a career. Julia completed her Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics at San Francisco State University in 2024. She is currently completing her dietetic internship and earning her master's degree at San Francisco State and is anticipating graduating in 2026. She is eager to earn the registered dietitian credential and provide nutrition care. Julia is passionate about reversing and managing chronic disease and positively impacting individuals' well-being through evidence-based nutrition care.

"Receiving this scholarship is a great relief for me. It helps remove some of the financial pressure and allows me to better focus on my academic success and professional development. I am grateful to have received this scholarship as it supports my commitment to make an impact on people's lives through compassionate, evidence-based nutrition care."



Claudia A. Carrillo
Iowa State University

Claudia Carrillo is a PhD candidate in Nutritional Sciences at Iowa State University, where she also earned her undergraduate degrees in nutrition and dietetics. Her dissertation research examines the impact of dietary fibers on renal function and vitamin D homeostasis during diabetes and kidney disease. Originally from Puerto Rico, Claudia chose to attend Iowa State for its highly regarded dietetics program and the breadth of opportunities it offered, which has prepared her to become a well-rounded nutrition professional. Upon completing her doctoral degree, she will pursue her dietetic internship through the Individualized Supervised Practice Pathway at Iowa State, with the goal of becoming a practicing clinical dietitian. Her primary interests lie in diabetes and renal nutrition, and, in the future, she aspires to integrate clinical practice with research and serve as a preceptor to mentor future registered dietitians.

"Receiving this scholarship is a true privilege, and I am honored to have been selected as a recipient this year. This award will support my pursuit of an Individualized Supervised Practice Pathway program after completing my doctoral degree. The Academy Foundation's generosity eases the financial burden of my education, allowing me to focus on academic and professional growth. I am deeply grateful for this investment in my future, which strengthens my motivation to succeed, give back to the profession, and advocate for evidence-based, compassionate care in the field."



Kelsey Catalano, MA

Southeast Missouri State University

Kelsey earned her Bachelor of Science in Nutritional Sciences from the University of Connecticut, where she balanced academics with Division I athletics. She went on to earn a Master of Arts in Physical Education from Adelphi University, continuing her athletic career at the Division II level. Kelsey's interest in dietetics focuses on sports nutrition, private practice, and education, with an emphasis on wellness and building sustainable habits for both performance and everyday life. Kelsey's career aspirations include becoming an impactful mentor for young athletes to turn to for guidance in fueling for their sport. She has big goals of being an entrepreneur in the field of nutrition and dietetics and creating a career tailored to her passions. Her passions for gardening, cooking, and teaching drive her journey toward becoming a registered dietitian to help others achieve their performance and wellness goals.

"I am truly honored and grateful to receive this award, which supports my growth and eases the financial burden of pursuing my goals. Receiving this award means so much to me in many ways. As a former teacher who has returned to school to pursue a new career in nutrition, the financial risk of this transition has been significant, especially while still managing past student loans. This award eases that burden by helping cover school expenses and allowing me to take unpaid leave from work during my rotation hours with less financial stress."



Hannah Collin

Hannah is a master's student and dietetic intern pursuing a one-year degree at Saint Louis University. She is away from her hometown in Northern Illinois, where she grew up. Hannah underwent cardiovascular surgery as a child and through that, grown a deep love for pediatrics. Getting to experience MNT as a child gave her perspective on the impact she would like to have on children regarding nutrition. Throughout high school, Hannah worked as an inclusion aide for adults and children with developmental disabilities. This job had an immense impact on her life, as she hopes to one day work again with that population in dietetics. Her professional goals currently are to complete her MS/DI and then go on to work in pediatrics. She is excited to work with both children and families and help them find ways to gain control with food and food choices amidst disease. The creativity needed to work with children energizes her, as a new day and new patients bring new challenges to overcome. She is open though, throughout her internship, to seeing what areas of nutrition call her and is looking forward to growing as a dietitian through this.

"I am blessed and appreciative for this scholarship. As stated in my scholarship application, I am living out of state, alone while taking on a rigorous one-year MS/DI program. Having some money taken off my tuition takes some of financial burden off my shoulders. This will slightly reduce the need to work every weekend and more time focused on finishing my degree."

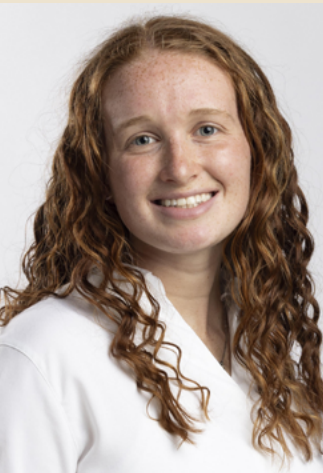


Mario Alfonso Cortez, FSM

University of California Los Angeles

Mario Cortez graduated from Sacramento State with a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics and is now pursuing a Master of Public Health in Community Health Sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. He is passionate about advancing nutrition equity and ensuring that low-income and underserved communities have access to healthier food options and culturally relevant education. During his time at Sacramento State, Mario served as President of both the Food and Nutrition Club and Delta Epsilon Mu, Nu Chapter, while also volunteering with the ASI Food Pantry and SETA Head Start. His diverse experiences include working in healthcare food service, teaching group fitness, and serving as a Peer Health Educator, where he gained hands-on skills in nutrition counseling, food safety, and community outreach. Mario will be interning at the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, where he will continue to build his expertise in clinical and community nutrition. With a strong passion for equity, education, and supporting the future generation of health professionals, he aspires to become a Registered Dietitian and eventually transition into an educator role, combining his professional experience with his dedication to mentoring others and creating healthier, more equitable communities.

"This scholarship shows me that the hard work and dedication I've put into my craft isn't going unnoticed. It gives me both encouragement and support as I continue my graduate studies, helping me stay focused on my goals and easing the challenges along the way. It's a reminder that my efforts matter and that I have people and opportunities backing me as I move forward in my educational journey. Thank you, donors!"



Madison Degenfelder

Rochester Institute of Technology

Madison Degenfelder is a 5th-year Dietetics and Nutrition MS/BS graduate student at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in Rochester, NY. She has a minor in exercise science and an immersion in psychology, as she believes these disciplines are important in having a holistic view of nutrition. She has professional experience working at WIC and Strong Memorial Hospital. Outside of her program, she has found a passion for community work, dedicating her Spring Breaks to volunteering. Madison has worked with organizations that focus heavily on food injustice and insecurity, as well as community recovery. These experiences have been highly impactful and even led her to found Tiger Nutrition at RIT. Tiger Nutrition is the first mainstream nutrition education program on campus designed to empower college students to make their health their own. While initially intending to pursue sports nutrition, seeing the impacts of investing in the community, Madison is now likely switching courses to pursue a career in community nutrition. Madison has been a part of the RIT women's club soccer team for 5 years, served on Eboard for the Student Dietetic and Nutrition Association (SDNA), and is heavily involved in the Christian ministries on and off campus.

"It is a huge blessing to be a recipient of this scholarship. It takes a weight off my shoulders when it comes to funding my education, especially now that a master's degree is needed to pursue my RD credentials. Knowing that there are people out there who are willing to help make your professional dreams become a reality is so comforting and encouraging!"



Payton Dosan

University of Western States

Payton completed her Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) at Minnesota State University, Mankato Spring of 2024, earning a Bachelor of Science degree. During her time at Mankato, she served as an active member, Volunteer Coordinator, and President of the Student Dietetic and Nutrition Organization (SDNO). In this role, she recruited professionals in the field to speak to members and organized events that expanded knowledge of the profession while promoting opportunities for professional development. Payton is currently pursuing a Master of Science degree in Human Nutrition and Functional Medicine at the University of Western States. After graduation this Spring, she will complete a dietetic internship to become eligible to sit for the CDR exam. She is determined to work as a public health dietitian, providing education, promoting behavior change, and developing practical strategies for individuals to integrate nutrition into their daily lives. Passionate about health advocacy and social justice, Payton aspires to empower individuals, reduce barriers to healthy living, and improve long-term health outcomes.

"I am very grateful to be receiving the 2025 Foundation's Scholarship. This award gives me peace of mind and the ability to focus on my education with the weight of finances lifted from my shoulders. I appreciate the contributions from the donors who made this gift possible. Thank you so much!"



Deanna G. Driss, MS, RDN, LDN

University of Mississippi

Deanna is a current doctoral student at the University of Mississippi with an expected graduation in Fall 2026. She earned bachelor's degrees in biological sciences and nutrition (dietetics) from Arizona State University, as well as a master's degree in food and nutrition services from the University of Mississippi. As part of her studies, she works at the campus nutrition clinic, where she provides nutritional counseling to the public. Additionally, she works part-time at the local hospital. Deanna's passion lies with eating disorders, and she hopes to work for a treatment center upon graduation. Long-term, she plans to also teach future healthcare professionals about weight-neutral nutrition to make a greater impact than just the clients she can see herself.

"This scholarship will have a profound impact on my educational journey. With less financial stress, I can focus more on my academics. I am deeply appreciative of this scholarship, which will help me reach my goals."



Cade Ensinger

University of New Haven

Cade Ensinger is in the Nutrition Science master's program at The University of New Haven, preparing to practice as a registered dietitian. His focus is mostly within community nutrition, as he aspires to work with vulnerable populations, help lead food security initiatives, and improve current food systems. Cade grew up in Deep River, Connecticut, and is getting his undergraduate degree in Health Sciences at Eastern Connecticut State University. He played for the basketball team there and started the school's nutrition club. After doing a year of a graduate program at The University of Cincinnati, Cade decided to come home to complete his studies.

"This scholarship will help me further reach my educational goals by alleviating some of the financial stress that comes with being a graduate student. It makes me feel more supported in this journey to becoming a dietitian, something that cannot be taken for granted."



Grace Fortson

Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University

Grace Fortson is a dedicated Nutritional Sciences master's student at Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University in Baton Rouge, LA passionate about supporting women's health and wellness. Growing up as an athlete, she realized that there is not enough education about nutrition in our world, especially for female athletes. Called to make a change, she pursued an undergraduate degree in Nutrition and Food Sciences at LSU. Her academic and practical experiences have strengthened her commitment to becoming a Registered Dietitian who empowers others to build a positive relationship with food. She will graduate from FranU December 2026 and take the RD exam to become a Registered Dietitian. Grace aspires to work with women, helping them develop confidence and balance in nourishing their bodies and improve their health through nutrition.

"I am beyond grateful for this scholarship. It is not only a recognition of my hard work and dedication, but also a reminder that others believe in my goals and my potential. My parents have been my biggest supporters through my whole life, and supporting my education has been a priority for them. I am so grateful that I can share this achievement with them and give them the assistance and appreciation they deserve for being such a crucial part in my academic career."



Anna Gawel

Wayne State University

Anna earned her Bachelor of Science in Nutritional Sciences from Michigan State University, where she graduated with honors. During her undergraduate studies, she discovered the transformative power of nutrition and was drawn to the field of dietetics. Anna is currently a second-year graduate student at Wayne State University, where she's pursuing a Master of Science in Dietetics and completing her dietetic internship. In addition to her studies, Anna currently serves as the president of the Student Dietetic Association and as a student leader for the Diabetes Education and Wellness Clinic. In this role, she provides nutrition counseling to patients with diabetes, promoting positive nutrition and lifestyle choices for diabetes management. Anna aspires to work in oncology nutrition, offering targeted nutrition care to patients as they undergo treatment. Ultimately, she aims to earn a certification as a Certified Specialist in Oncology Nutrition.

"I am deeply grateful to have been selected as a recipient for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation General Scholarship! This generous support will be very beneficial to me as I continue my education and begin my career. Receiving this scholarship has alleviated some of the financial burden of my master's program, allowing me to better focus on my studies, supervised practice, and career aspirations."



Erin Irons

Boston University

Erin Irons is currently pursuing her Master of Science in Nutrition at Boston University. After attending Clemson University (Class of 2025) for her undergraduate degree in South Carolina, she returned to her home state of Massachusetts. Erin has been thriving in the classroom, where her favorite class, the Theory and Practice of Clinical Counseling, has allowed her hands on simulation practice to strengthen her motivational interviewing skills for her Dietetic Internship. Erin is eager to begin her dietetic internship at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in the fall of 2026. She hopes to fine tune her professional aspirations by exploring her current interests in both Gastroenterology and Endocrinology, with a goal to assist individuals with diet-related medical conditions.

"The Foundation scholarship has lifted a financial weight off my shoulders, allowing me to truly immerse myself in my studies. With this support, I can confidently move towards becoming a Registered Dietitian. I am grateful for the Foundation's dedication to supporting both my education and future."



Anna Janaszek Simmons University

Anna Janaszek is a graduate student at Simmons University in Boston, where she is pursuing her master's degree in nutrition after earning her bachelor's degree in nutrition from Penn State University. While at Penn State, she co-founded the Food Recovery Network, ran with the club cross country team, was an active member of Phi Epsilon Kappa, and worked in the dining hall. These experiences inspired her passion for nutrition and motivated her to pursue a career as a dietitian in community or food service. Originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Anna moved to Boston to further her education and continue working toward her professional goals.

"Receiving this scholarship is a blessing, and I am so thankful to have received it. It will allow me to dedicate more time to my studies and remind me that hard work and dedication are worth it."



Leenghoi Lower, MS Cedar Crest College

Leenghoi Lower is a nutrition major at Cedar Crest College, Allentown, Pennsylvania. She hails from Ghana, West Africa. Leenghoi obtained a bachelor's degree in Biochemistry from the University of Science and Technology, Ghana, in June 1998. After completing undergraduate studies, Leenghoi worked as a research assistant at the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research in Accra, Ghana, for two years. She migrated to the US in 2002 and received her master's degree in health science from Minnesota State University, Mankato, in 2004. After completing her master's degree, Leenghoi worked as a case manager, program specialist, and service coordinator in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New Hampshire. She took a break from her social work career in 2016 to care for her family. After an eight-year hiatus, Leenghoi returned to school to pursue her desire to study nutrition and dietetics. Leenghoi's ultimate dream career is to become a registered dietitian nutritionist.

"I feel immensely honored to be a recipient of the Foundation's scholarship. The scholarship comes at a time when I've experienced difficulties that have threatened to derail my educational journey to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist. The scholarship I have received is a sign of hope and evidence that I can continue my academic pursuits and complete the course, no matter the circumstances that life presents. Awarding me the scholarship is proof that the Academy has faith in me and that I will accomplish my goal of becoming a registered dietitian nutritionist."



Mackenzie Malone Grand Valley State University

Mackenzie Malone has been financially independent for her higher education journey, a responsibility that shaped her determination and commitment to education. Throughout her undergraduate years, she balanced nearly full-time work, often holding three jobs at once, while excelling academically. This ability to persevere throughout challenges has carried into her graduate studies, where she is currently pursuing a master's degree and completing supervised practice hours. In graduate school, Mackenzie has continued to demonstrate an extraordinary work ethic by managing a 20-hour per week position alongside 30 hours of supervised practice, in addition to the demands of graduate-level coursework. Her dedication reflects a strong commitment not only to advancing her own education but also to building the professional skills and experiences necessary to succeed in the Dietetics field. Mackenzie is passionate about the ties between nutrition and mental health, as well as policy and communities' access to nutrition, with aspirations to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist who works with these populations. Her long-term impact is to use her knowledge and skills to make a meaningful impact in the dietetics community.

"Receiving this scholarship holds deep meaning for me. I have been financially independent throughout my higher education journey, often balancing school with multiple jobs. This process has been challenging, and receiving a scholarship adds a layer of support that eases this burden. It allows me to reduce work hours and focus more on my classes, supervised practice, and opportunities I would otherwise need to pass up. Beyond the financial help, this scholarship reminds me that my efforts have been seen and valued. This encouragement gives me confidence as I continue my path to becoming a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist."



Manuel Marroquin

California State University, Long Beach

Manuel Marroquín is a first-generation Mexican American and the first in his family to earn a college degree. He recently completed his Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Food Science with an emphasis in Dietetics at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) and is now pursuing a Master of Science in Applied Nutrition and Dietetics at CSULB. Alongside his graduate studies, Manuel works as a Clinical Research Associate at Cedars-Sinai Cancer Research Center for Health Equity, where he contributes to community-engaged studies focused on health equity and culturally tailored nutrition interventions. He is also a former BUILD and U-GROW Scholar, experiences that shaped his passion for research and public health. Through these programs, he has investigated the effectiveness of CalFresh Healthy Living (SNAP-Ed) interventions, contributed to studies on trauma-informed nutrition education, and co-authored publications and community resources to support food security and culturally meaningful dietary guidance. Manuel aspires to become a Registered Dietitian and public health leader who bridges clinical nutrition, research, and policy. His long-term goal is to design and advocate for nutrition programs that reduce health disparities, empower underserved families, and ensure equitable access to healthy, culturally relevant food and education.

"This scholarship eases my financial burden and lets me focus on my education. As a first-generation Mexican American student, I've often had to balance working, helping support my parents, and paying for my own education. Without this support, I would have ended up working more and pulling back from opportunities like research, leadership, and mentoring other students. Because of this scholarship, I can stay focused on growing as a future Registered Dietitian and public health professional. This reward is not just financial help it is encouragement to continue the momentum I have."



Alexandra Martin

Pepperdine University

Alexandra completed her bachelor's degree in Nutritional Science from Pepperdine University in May 2025, where she was a student athlete on the Swim and Dive Team and spent time studying global health abroad in Kenya. She is now a graduate student at Pepperdine University pursuing a Master of Science in Nutrition and Health Science and is completing her dietetic internship, with aspirations to obtain her Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN). Although Alexandra doesn't have a specific career in mind yet, she is deeply convicted to work against the food and health injustice. Her past experience primarily lies in the realm of public health and community nutrition, and she feels particularly called to serve disadvantaged populations, however is open handed entering into her internship as she expands her perspective by working in other fields.

"Closer now than I have ever been to doing what I want to do, this scholarship was the sweetest gift to my future, and my encouragement to keep going."



N Tatiana Miralaeff

Stony Brook University

Tatiana is an extremely passionate person. This passion not only resides in her personal life but also permeates her scholastic and professional life. She recently graduated from Northern Illinois University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nutrition, Dietetics, and Wellness. During her time there, she graduated with a 4.0 GPA and Summa Cum Laude honors. Shortly after her graduation, she began pursuing her master's in nutrition but had to transfer into a different program due to unforeseen circumstances. She was managing all of this while working as a WIC Nutritionist, helping low-income mothers and children in underserved communities. Tatiana aspires to open her own private practice, helping those with chronic illnesses like MS, POTS, and chronic fatigue syndrome. Her passion for helping people with chronic health issues stems from her own experience as a patient and from having to navigate a confusing healthcare landscape that can often make individuals feel unseen and unheard.

"Being a recipient of an Academy Scholarship has meant the world to me. I had to recently pivot to a new master's in Dietetics program due to my previous program experiencing financial difficulties. In doing so, the program I transitioned to did not accept all the credits I had earned. As a result, I am required to take several more classes in order to receive my degree. Unfortunately, that requires me to pay more for my education. The scholarship is helping me cover the added tuition cost."



Elle Nicholson
University of Arizona

Elle Nicholson earned her undergraduate degree in Nutrition and Dietetics from the University of Arizona. She is currently pursuing her master's degree in nutritional sciences during the 2025–2026 academic year while completing her dietetics rotation. Originally from Michigan, Elle is also a certified Personal Trainer and Pilates Instructor, which complements her passion for helping others live healthier lives. Upon completing her program, she plans to take the Registered Dietitian examination and obtain her credentials. Elle is dedicated to inspiring and empowering individuals through balanced nutrition and exercise, with generous scholarships supporting her journey toward these professional goals.

"I am incredibly grateful to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation for awarding me the General Foundation Scholarship. This generous support has eased the financial challenges of graduate school and is helping me take the final steps toward becoming a Registered Dietitian. Thanks to this scholarship, I am one step closer to giving back to my community by promoting healthier lifestyles through nutrition and exercise."



Sarah Obermeier
Ball State University

Sarah Obermeier is an aspiring RD who has a particular interest in disordered eating, diabetes, and weight management. She completed her undergraduate at the University of Southern Indiana where she had numerous opportunities for self and educational development. During this, she emerged herself in her education and had the opportunity to network throughout the community and counsel patients under the supervision of her professors. Sarah is on track to complete her MS/DI in the fall of 2025 from Ball State University. While completing her master's in Muncie, she was selected as a graduate assistant for the HealthyLifestyle Center on campus. She served the community by offering one-on-one sessions with students/faculty/community members, created community fair displays, and worked with peers to deliver health care to better the community as a whole through interprofessional work. She aspires to take this foundation of whole person wellness and apply it to her future practice in areas of low health literacy or have high barriers to health.

"Receiving a scholarship has extended my ability to pursue educational and career enriching opportunities through relinquishing financial burdens that are a deterrent during this time of exploration and growth as a developing health professional. Being a member of AND reinforced by ability to succeed through constant support both financial support and the support of other dietitians."



Isaac Ou
University of California, Berkeley

Isaac Ou is a graduate student in the Master of Nutritional Sciences and Dietetics program at UC Berkeley. He aspires to become an eating disorder dietitian working with high acuity eating disorders. He is dedicating his career to raising awareness about underrepresented topics in eating disorders with a focus on how psychiatric conditions can present a barrier to change. Isaac is actively involved in leadership roles and committees within numerous DPGs/MIGS and organizations including AAPI-MIG, BHN-DPG, and DND-DPG, International Federation of Eating Disorders, Academy for Eating Disorders, California Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, and the Bay Area District Dietetics Association.

"I am grateful to have received this scholarship to assist my educational journey. Going the dietetics path requires a lot of money and time and this scholarship has eased some of that stress for me. With this scholarship, I am able to afford textbooks and supplies to complete my master's program and succeed in the dietetic internship."



Ana Maria Palacio

California State University, Sacramento

Ana Palacio grew up in Davis, CA and graduated from Chico State with her BS in Nutrition this past May. She is currently attending the MS/DI program at Sac State in pursuit of her RD credential. Throughout her undergrad, she sought out opportunities that would provide her with experience in areas that she was interested in, including a clinical internship at a local hospital where she got to not only gain clinical experience through shadowing the RDs, but independently screening patients, connecting with them on their appetite, and food preferences, while learning to comfortably navigate charts. Ana learned that the clinical side of nutrition interested her, but learning patients' backstories and meeting them where they were in their health was the most rewarding part. Her interest in dietetics stems from my enthusiasm for nutrition and the impact she can make through patient care and education. Ana is drawn to building strong, compassionate connections with patients and helping them improve their health and well-being by applying evidence-based practices.

"I am proud to share that my undergrad and currently graduate degree has been primarily funded by my own personal savings and scholarships that I sought out. My learning experience and appreciation for every academic experience and achievement means so much more because of that, and is reflected in my academic success. I am so grateful to the committee for taking the time to review and select my application for this award. Every scholarship like this one, takes a bit more weight off my back and allows me to fully dedicate myself to my studies and thriving in my roles."



Khushboo Parshuram Puria

University of the Pacific

Khushboo is a graduate student in MSCN program at UOP, Sacramento with an expected graduation date of Dec 12, 2025. She's chosen to pursue a career in dietetics because she is passionate about patient care through providing nutritional interventions. Her plan is to get credentialed soon after completing her MSCN degree and work in clinical settings, particularly with underserved populations

"Receiving this scholarship from the AND Foundation has been a motivational boost for me, allowing me to focus more fully on my studies without the added stress of expenses"



Ingrid Mariana Penaranda Rojas, NDTR

Utah State University

Ingrid Mariana Penaranda was born in Bolivia and now currently residing in Utah. She completed her bachelor's degree at Brigham Young University and is currently a student intern in the Master of Dietetics Administration program at Utah State University. As a first-generation immigrant and bilingual student, Mariana is passionate about serving her community and ensuring that nutrition education is accessible to all, especially underserved Hispanic and Latino populations. She aspires to become a bilingual registered dietitian who not only provides medical nutrition therapy but also empowers individuals and families to live their healthier lives possible. Mariana hopes to one day expand her impact by developing bilingual nutrition resources and program that reach thousands.

"Receiving this scholarship shows me that the academy has faith in my abilities and in my work. It means that someone other than myself believes in my lifelong dream of becoming a registered dietitian and trusts that I can truly make a difference in my community as a bilingual professional. That belief is the true value of this scholarship to me. Thank you!"



Katherine N Petersen, MS, RDN, CSO

Arizona State University

Katherine Petersen, MS, RDN, CSO, is an advanced practice oncology dietitian at the Phoenix VA. She is pursuing doctoral training in order to conduct research into factors that can improve the health and well-being of Veterans with cancer.

"I appreciate the support of my degree through this scholarship!"



Adam Quezada

Lehman College

Adam Quezada is an undergraduate student at Lehman College who will be earning his Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics in January 2026. He is an avid volunteer for community organizations, including Food Bank for New York City and Corbin Hill Food Project, where he has the opportunity to advance food security by serving lower-income communities. His professional aspirations are to complete a master's degree in dietetics, a dietetic internship, and pass the registration examination to become a registered dietitian. After this, Adam wishes to apply his knowledge in clinical settings, where he has the opportunity to educate patients one-on-one about the importance of healthy eating, and provide medical nutrition therapy to achieve positive health outcomes among those he serves.

"Receiving this scholarship is a great honor and a source of encouragement as I continue pursuing higher education. This support recognizes my efforts and eases the financial burdens that accompany my academic journey."



Gabrielle Richards, MS, CFL1

University of Alabama

Gabby Richards was born and raised in Raleigh, North Carolina. She grew up playing various sports and quickly fell in love with them. From football to soccer to volleyball, she loved it all. Through this love for sports, she went to the University of Lynchburg in Lynchburg, Virginia. She studied Exercise Physiology with a concentration in Athletic Training. Her senior year of undergrad, she took a turn and decided to go to James Madison University to obtain her master's in kinesiology. During her time at JMU, she completed a master's thesis on 'The Effect of Polyphenol and Fiber consumption on C-peptide and insulin after consumption of a High Fat Meal'. This thesis was the reason Gabby found her love for Nutrition. A friend informed Gabby about the University of Alabama's Online Food and Nutrition Program and Gabby knew it was the program for her. Currently, she is completing her DPD verification courses in hopes to obtain a dietetic internship for the 26-27' school year. Once she passes her certification exam, she hopes to begin shadowing at a Sports Nutrition facility. Her number one goal is to become a Sports Dietitian for a Collegiate or Professional Sports team.

"This scholarship has allowed me the opportunity to continue to follow my passion. Without this opportunity I would not have had the ability to continue my education to become a Registered Dietitian. Receiving this scholarship takes a piece of my financial burden off my shoulders and allows me to focus more on my studies. I am beyond grateful for the recognition for my hard work and dedication to achieve my dreams."



Ida Valery Santos

New York University

Ida Valery Santos is a first-generation college graduate from the Boston area with a strong passion for health and nutrition. Growing up, she developed an early interest in food and wellness that inspired her to pursue a career in dietetics. Ida earned her Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Food Studies at New York University, where she also gained global experience studying abroad in Madrid. She is currently a master's candidate and dietetic intern at New York University. Through her clinical, community, and business experiences - including volunteering in the clinical nutrition department at a hospital, teaching nutrition education classes in Brooklyn, and interning at a meal prep start-up company - Ida has built a strong foundation for her career. Her professional aspiration is to become a registered dietitian specializing in eating disorder nutrition, where she hopes to support adolescents in recovery.

"This scholarship gives me the encouragement I need to continue to pursue my passion in helping adolescents with eating disorders. I feel honored that my hard work is recognized and rewarded. Being rewarded for my passion in nutrition in dietetics feels amazing."



Orie Soffer

California State University, Northridge

Orie is currently pursuing a master's degree in nutrition, building on her bachelor's in nutrition and her experience as a nutrition coach for an eating disorder company. She is passionate about helping children, families, and mothers who are trying to conceive or are pregnant, as well as individuals managing diabetes, develop healthy and sustainable eating habits. Her long-term goal is to open a private practice offering personalized nutrition counseling and educational workshops. She hopes to empower others with the knowledge and confidence to improve their health and overall well-being.

"Receiving this has been such a meaningful boost to my journey in nutrition. It helped cover the cost of textbooks and course materials, easing some of the financial pressure that comes with school. More importantly, it reminded me that others see value in my goals and the path I'm pursuing. Studying nutrition is something I'm very passionate about, and this support motivates me to keep working hard and stay focused on making a positive impact in people's health and lives. I'm truly grateful for this encouragement."



Zoeë Tanner

University of California, Berkeley

Zoeë is a 2nd year of the master of public health program concentrating in food, nutrition, and population health at UC Berkeley. Concurrently, she is partaking in the School of Public Health's dietetic internship. This past summer she completed her public health nutrition rotation at the California WIC Association and Native American Health Center WIC where she was able to advocate for protecting WIC and develop nutrition curriculum for caregivers of young children. During the academic year she has served as a Graduate CalFresh Ambassador, demystifying SNAP and supporting her fellow students in the application process. She previously attended the University of California, Davis where she obtained her BS in Clinical Nutrition and a minor in community development. Zoeë's ultimate aim is to contribute to larger food policy advocacy in support of building an equitable and sustainable food system. Her particular focus centers on maternal and childhood food access initiatives such as WIC, Farm to School, and school meal programs with the goal of improving nutrition outcomes particularly in low-income and/or historically marginalized communities. In her free time you can find her hiking, thrifting fun vintage finds, attending concerts, or trying out local coffee shops!

"This scholarship gives me a sense of belonging in the way I feel that my contributions are valued and makes me a more confident, content, and ambitious graduate student. While the monetary contribution of this scholarship is an immense source of financial support, the scholarship is also a marker to keep steady on my path forward. It is a reminder that the rollercoaster of higher education and pursuing a career in nutrition is a worthy endeavor and that there are people in the field that want to see me succeed."



Ella Wilkinson

Johns Hopkins University

Ella is currently a student at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health pursuing a Master of Science in Public Health on the Human Nutrition - Dietitian track. She graduated from Cornell University this past May with a Bachelor of Science in Nutritional Science, where she discovered her passion for public health and expanding food security. During her time at Cornell, she worked in the Leak Research Lab helping to implement the Advanced Cooking Education (ACE) program in public schools in New York City. She also became deeply engaged in Anabel's Grocery, a student-run grocery store, that sources produce from local farmers and sells it at highly subsidized prices to provide students with an affordable source of nutritious, accessible foods. Through this work, Ella discovered her passion for community-building and program development for food security initiatives. Upon graduation, Ella hopes to continue her work in expanding food access at both a national and global level, ensuring nutrition equity for all.

"Receiving this scholarship from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics is both an honor and a source of encouragement as I pursue my masters degree and dietetic training. It affirms my commitment to advancing food security and nutrition equity while lessening the financial burden of graduate study. With this support, I am able to focus more fully on my academic and professional growth, building the skills I need to become a registered dietitian and public health leader. This award motivates me to continue working toward creating programs that expand access to healthy, affordable food across communities."



Amy Yepifantsev, MS

Morrison Healthcare

Amy Yepifantsev graduated from The University of Georgia with a bachelor's in dietetics in 2024 and a master's in nutritional sciences in 2025. She is currently completing her dietetic internship through Morrison Healthcare at Piedmont Augusta. Her career goal is to own a private practice specializing in behavioral nutrition.

"This scholarship will allow me to better focus on my internship without stressing about the financial hardships."



Jennifer Youngren, NDTR

Nutraco

Jennifer Youngren is a Nutrition and Dietetics Technician, Registered (NDTR) with a strong background in clinical, community, and culinary nutrition. She earned a certification in culinary arts and restaurant management, an associate of applied science in dietetic technology from Suffolk County Community College, and a Bachelor of Science in Human Nutrition and Dietetics from Kansas State University. She has also completed her Didactic Program in Dietetics. Currently, Jennifer is pursuing a Master of Science in Dietetics at Arkansas State University and is completing her dietetic internship, expected to finish in 2026. She works in clinical settings including Mather Hospital's Eating Disorder Partial Hospitalization Program and the Northport VA Medical Center, where she provides both group and individual nutrition care. Jennifer's professional goal is to become a Registered Dietitian with specialization in eating disorders, clinical nutrition, and community education. Alongside her academic and clinical work, she runs a blog, Pumpkin House Nutrition (pumpkinhousenutrition.com), where she shares evidence-based insights, seasonal wellness content, and mindful approaches to nutrition with a broader audience. Her long-term vision is to become a leader and educator in the field of nutrition, building bridges between evidence-based practice, compassion, and empowerment for diverse populations.

"Receiving this scholarship is both an honor and a blessing. It represents not only the belief others have in my potential, but also the reminder that dedication and perseverance are noticed and supported. This award allows me to focus more fully on my studies and less on financial concerns, making it possible to pour my energy into becoming the best dietitian I can be. It motivates me to continue striving toward excellence, knowing that I am part of a community that invests in future nutrition professionals. I am deeply grateful for this gift on my educational journey."

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of Ruby Linn, friends and associates, and an estate gift of Catherine Passarelli

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, You are empowering the future generation of dietetics. It takes a village of advisors, professors, mentors, sponsors, and donors to help a dietetic student not only reach the finish line but also exceed expectations along the way. Your selfless gift is a reflection of your dedication and passion to the field of dietetics. It is also a direct way of saying, "I believe in you," to a student that needs someone in their corner.

– Ashley Simons

Mitchell Beck

University of Montevallo

Mitchell Beck is an inspiring and hard-working undergraduate student at the University of Montevallo, located in Montevallo, Alabama. He has always had a passion for nutrition, and during his adolescence, he decided to fulfill this passion by furthering his education in the subject. Mitchell grew up in a family that had no focus on nutrition, and he began to feel the impact of this within himself while also noticing its effects on his loved ones. He is currently in his junior year at Montevallo, where he is engaged and very active on campus. Mitchell has taken on the role of Research Chair for the university's student dietetic group, where they will be conducting a review of the literature. He has also presented research at the SEACSM and ACSM conferences on studies conducted within the Exercise Science organization on campus. Mitchell solemnly swears that he will do his best to be at the forefront of continuing nutritional research and methodologies that the general population can apply to their daily lives. He hopes to one day be a seasoned dietitian with a successful career and a legacy that will last a lifetime.

"Receiving this scholarship is an honor for me. I attend a small university with a student population of about 5,200. My advisor and other professors in the program were astounded to hear that a student of theirs had been selected by the academy to receive one of their scholarships! Receiving this scholarship will allow me to continue to strive and pursue my career in dietetics!"

Emily Crumbling

University of Mississippi

Emily Crumbling grew up in Lancaster Pennsylvania, with ambitions of big things. She always struggled with anxiety but knew that she wanted to make a big jump and move down south for college. By overcoming her fears and managing her anxiety she was able to begin her education at the University of Mississippi. She began her college career as an exercise science major but was not in love with this program. She finally did some research into other routes and switched her major to nutrition and dietetics. Although she made the late switch in majors, she has been thoroughly involved in the department. She has volunteered with sports nutrition for 2.5 years now, in addition working as a research assistant, and volunteering for local low-income food service programs. She recently was awarded the Louise Burnett scholarship through the department, as well as being chosen to serve as an ambassador for the program. She has goals of becoming a bariatric registered dietitian and will continue working her hardest to meet this aspiration one day.

"I am truly honored to be selected for this scholarship, as it offers validation in the efforts I have made in my education. Being recognized for my hard work and determination towards achieving my goals, as well as acknowledgment of my academic accomplishments provides me with great dignity."





Eleanor Curlis

Bowling Green State University

Eleanor Curlis is a third-year dietetics student at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio. She is from Forest, Ohio and graduated high school with thirty-one other students from Hardin Northern High School in Dola, Ohio in 2023. She plans to graduate in Spring of 2027 with a Bachelor of Science in Dietetics. Upon completing her master's degree and internship, she will sit for the board examination to become a registered dietitian nutritionist. As a registered dietitian she hopes to work with a wide variety of individuals who need nutritional support. Currently, Eleanor is most interested in working in a clinical setting in a pediatrics unit. As a pediatric registered dietitian, she wants to focus on being a support system for not only a child that may need nutritional assistance, but also that child's family. Eleanor desires to use her nutritional knowledge to help people find joy and hope in their life. She aspires to play a critical role in her community that allows individuals of any age or demographic to receive proper nutritional care.

"I am greatly honored to be a second-time recipient of a scholarship from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation. I am currently in my third year of the Didactic Program in Dietetics at Bowling Green State University. Being a recipient again this year, will allow me to save up more money to continue my education as a dietetics student and obtain my master's degree in the future. In addition, the Foundation scholarships have allowed me to have less financial stress and more time to pursue research opportunities and take on more leadership roles at Bowling Green State University."



Mariah Essom

Rochester Institute of Technology

Mariah was born and raised in Rochester, NY. On October 5th, 2013, she had a major stroke. She has aphasia, apraxia, hemiparesis, and cognitive and processing difficulties. She had to learn to walk, talk, read, and write again. She worked at Monroe Community College from 2018 to 2020 and was laid off due to the pandemic. She wasn't "essential." After a year and a half of sheltering in place, she landed a job at Strong Memorial Hospital as a Diet Clerk. She ensured patients were fed and their meals complied with their diet orders and didn't conflict with any allergies. Now, she's a Patient Menu Assistant. It's similar to being a Diet Clerk, but she sees patients in person. She enjoys her job, but wants to do more, so she's now back in school. She graduated from MCC with a degree in Health Studies in 2024. She's enrolled at RIT to study Nutrition and become a Registered Dietitian. She's always been interested in nutrition; this would be a career where she could help people and be essential. It will take a while because of her disabilities, but she has something to work toward, and she loves to learn.

"I'm so grateful for any support as I work hard to achieve my dream of becoming a Registered Dietitian. Thank you so much!"



Savannah Gilmore

Texas State University

Growing up in rural Nebraska, she developed a love for nutrition at a young age through her family's annual summer garden. In college, after battling an eating disorder and illness, she explored the career path of becoming a registered dietitian, inspired by an influential professor who encouraged her to learn more. Upon deciding to pursue dietetics, she realized she wanted to attend graduate school to work with women and children during critical developmental stages. During her junior year, she transferred from the University of Nebraska to Texas State University to complete her studies in dietetics. She aims to earn a bachelor's degree in nutrition and a master's in biochemical nutrition. Once a Registered Dietitian and after gaining experience under tenured professionals, she hopes to open a private practice with an emphasis on nutrition for women and children while serving the broader community.

"As a nutrition student studying to become a dietitian, the Foundation Scholarship has been a tremendous help in supporting my ability to study and learn at Texas State University. Not only does this scholarship allow me to focus on my coursework, but it also motivates me to continue working hard towards achieving my dream of becoming a registered dietitian. This opportunity supports my education and inspires me to use what I've learned and will learn to help others and make a positive impact in their health and lives."



Caroline Henderson

Tennessee Technological University

Caroline Henderson is a senior at Tennessee Technological University pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Human Ecology with a concentration in Nutrition and Dietetics. Originally from Hermitage, Tennessee, she developed an early interest in science that grew into a passion for understanding how food influences health. Through this passion, Caroline discovered the field of dietetics—a career that combines science, service, and education—and has been dedicated to it ever since. At Tennessee Tech, she serves as President of the Food, Nutrition, and Dietetics Club, Treasurer of Kappa Omicron Nu, and College Ambassador for the School of Human Ecology. Her professional goals include becoming a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist and earning a master's degree in Community Health and Nutrition. Caroline aspires to use nutrition research to promote disease prevention, develop community-based programs, and reduce health disparities in underserved and rural populations.

"Receiving this scholarship from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation has been an incredible honor and a meaningful source of support in my educational journey. It has not only eased the financial burden of pursuing my degree but also strengthened my motivation to excel in the field of nutrition and dietetics. This recognition affirms my hard work and dedication, inspiring me to continue developing the skills and knowledge needed to make a positive impact in my community."



Madison Hornback

San Jose State University

Madison Hornback is a dedicated student currently pursuing a degree in nutritional science with a concentration in dietetics at San Jose State University. As a nontraditional pre-med student, she is passionate about the intersection of nutrition and medicine with particular interests in gastroenterology, liver health, and diabetes care. Madison is also very involved on campus. She is an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated where she promotes academic excellence, leadership, and service to all. She is also active in the Chemistry Club as the general manager as well as the secretary for the MedLife Club. Her goal is to become both a registered dietitian and gastroenterologist that advocates for preventative health outcomes through nutrition services, medical interventions, and accessibility of healthcare. Madison's academic journey is a reflection of her commitment to advocating and empowering others to live healthier and stay informed.

"This scholarship is such a blessing, it has eased my financial burden and allowed me to fully focus on my studies for this academic year! It has motivated to continue striving towards my goal of becoming a Registered Dietitian and has shown me that others also believe in my potential."



Olivia Keable

University of Florida

Olivia Keable is a senior dietetics student, minoring in food science, at the University of Florida. During her time as an undergraduate student, she has been able to explore sports nutrition through interning with the Gators Football team, engage in culinary medicine through completing honors thesis, and help the community increase their access to nutrition education and cooking abilities through teaching cooking classes. Her experiences in the dietetics realm have shaped her future interests, helping her discover her heart's desire to use nutrition and exercise from a functional, holistic view to heal future patients. She believes that there is immense power in eating whole foods, moving our bodies organically, and being surrounded by communities that bring us joy and life, and she wants to be able to share all that she's learned and has yet to with her clients! She is so excited to continue her education towards becoming a registered dietitian.

"Receiving the 2025 Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation Scholarship has provided me with immense confidence going into the 2025-2026 school year knowing that I am supported by a generous community that wants me to thrive and is investing in my education towards becoming a successful registered dietitian."



Meredith Lawrence

James Madison University

Meredith is currently in her senior year at James Madison University, in the home-stretch of earning her Bachelor of Science and Dietetics. She grew up surrounded by agriculture and always had a deep appreciation for our food and where it comes from. Upon entering college, she had originally planned to study animal science, as she had always been interested in what went into the nutrition that she fed her animals. However, in her early adult years, she was introduced to the field of human nutrition and how impactful it can be and switched her course of study to dietetics. During her time spent in college, Meredith has accrued a variety of experiences in different areas of the field of dietetics. These include work in the community, food service and clinical spheres, and with specific populations such as children and elderly. After graduation, she hopes to step into a graduate program, as well as complete her dietetic internship and receive her RDN credential. Meredith is currently interested in several different areas of the field, such as food system sustainability, community nutrition programming, and individualized MNT practice. Wherever her next steps take her, she is excited for her future as an RDN!

"Receiving this scholarship has truly made an impact on the trajectory of not only this academic year, but my next steps post-grad. As I begin my last year of university, I am juggling many different things. Between my school work, job, extra-curriculars, and applying to graduate school, my plate is full! Looking ahead to paying next semester's tuition, housing, and graduate school application fees, being awarded these funds helps to reduce some anxiety about making everything line up and work out."



Avery Little

University of Florida

Avery Little is a junior at the University of Florida, majoring in dietetics with a minor in food science and a certificate in sports management. She has been working hard following the course schedule while also gaining experience in dietetics. Her experience includes working with the University's taste panel and working with research to build a cookbook for patients with chronic kidney disease. Her biggest experience is working with the University's sports nutrition program. She started as a volunteer and quickly gained the role of Student Manger, overseeing inventory, supplement preparation, organizing the fuel bar, and managing volunteers. She also has the leadership role of Assistant Dietitian for the University of Florida Basketball, Tennis and Golf teams. She aspires to be a Sports Dietitian and knows her experience with Sports Performance Dietetics will help her professionally.

"Receiving this scholarship means so much to me as I continue to study in my undergraduate program in dietetics. I am honored to represent the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation through this scholarship. I will continue to work hard to achieve their goals and become a hardworking and ethical dietitian."



Jordan Reilly

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Jordan Reilly is a current undergraduate student at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, pursuing a degree in dietetics with an interest in healthcare and community wellness. She maintains high academic standing while also being involved in leadership and service on campus. Jordan currently serves as the President of the Residence Hall Association, Co-President of the Student Association of Nutrition and Dietetics, and President/Founder of the Fiber Art Club. Through these roles, she has gained extensive leadership experience, organized events, and created inclusive communities for her peers. In addition to campus involvement, Jordan has a strong foundation in healthcare. She has over 1,600 hours of patient care experience as a CNA in a long-term care facility, as well as 500 hours as a dietary aide in the same facility. She has also completed shadowing experience with physicians and physician assistants, further confirming her passion for patient-centered care. Jordan aspires to become a physician assistant and will start graduate school in the summer of 2026. She hopes to combine her knowledge of nutrition and healthcare with her commitment to compassionate, holistic service. She looks forward to continuing her education and ultimately making a positive impact on the lives of future patients.

"Receiving this scholarship is an honor and will benefit me greatly on my educational journey. It has lessened the financial burden of pursuing higher education and allows me to focus more on my studies, leadership roles, and community involvement. This support motivates me to continue striving for academic and professional excellence while also reassuring me that there are people who believe in my potential to make a difference. By easing the financial stress, this scholarship helps me stay committed and motivated to my goal of becoming a physician assistant and giving back to the community through holistic, compassionate, patient-centered care."



Ashley Simons

Texas Woman's University

Ashley is currently a senior dietetic student at Texas Woman's University (TWU) and works as the Wellness Intern for Chartwells Higher Education. Before she transferred to TWU in the Spring of 2024, she was active duty in the United States Navy. She served four years as an air traffic controller and was honorably discharged as a Petty Officer Second Class. Interestingly enough, before she joined the military, she was interested in becoming an equine nutritionist. However, during her time in the military, she became fascinated with human nutrition and discovered the power of food. Since then, she has positively affected her close loved ones with her change in lifestyle and new attitude towards food. Ashley is deeply committed to nutrition, and her greatest desire is to help others. After she is officially an RDN, Ashley plans to work in a clinical setting so that she can gain experience and be well-rounded. Her long-term goal is to own a private practice and specialize in prenatal, pregnancy, postnatal, and pediatric nutrition. She believes one of the best ways to help others in their nutrition journey is to start from the beginning of life.

"It is an absolute honor to be a recipient of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation Scholarship. Receiving this scholarship is a reminder of the endless support the Academy provides us students. Thank you for entrusting me to make a positive impact in the dietetics world. My main goal is to help people realize that nutrition is not just one piece of the puzzle in life, but nutrition is in every piece of the puzzle. Your support will help me help others."



Abiola Tanimola, PhD

Lamar University

Abiola Tanimola is a dedicated food scientist with over 12 years of experience in the field. She holds a bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree in food science, reflecting her deep commitment to advancing knowledge in nutrition and health. Currently, Abiola is enrolled in the Didactic Program in Dietetics at Lamar University, where she is completing the academic requirements to become a registered dietitian in the United States. Driven by a passion for promoting healthy living through nutritious eating habits, she aspires to support Americans, especially adolescents and teenagers, in achieving better health outcomes and building a brighter future.

"Receiving this scholarship is a profound blessing and a turning point in my career journey, as it gives me the cushion to pursue my dream. As a woman navigating the challenges of migration while striving to become a registered Dietitian in the United States, this support will ease both financial and emotional burdens. It will cover part of my Fall tuition, allowing me to focus more fully on my studies and fueling my confidence to keep moving forward with purpose and resilience"



Kyleigh Thomas

University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Kyleigh Thomas, born and raised in Salisbury, MD, currently attends the University of Maryland Eastern Shore majoring in Nutrition and Dietetics. With an associate's degree in general studies from her local community college, Kyleigh is continuing her education at UMES pursuing Nutrition and Dietetics. With passion for helping adolescents with eating mindsets and habits, she is actively pursuing her bachelor's to be able to accurately provide help. With an expected graduation date of December 2026, Kyleigh will pursue her master's in psychology to further expand her knowledge on how the mind thinks so she can help counteract negative mindsets about food. Her career goals revolve around preventing eating disorders in adolescents by healthy conversations and positive affirmations.

"Receiving this scholarship means the world to me. I am so passionate about the field of Nutrition and Dietetics and this program, in general, has already provided so much for me and my college career and I cannot even begin to say thank you for everything that has been done for me. This scholarship will be used to further my education so that as a team, we can help those struggling with eating issues that may not be able to help themselves."



Autumn Young

Iowa State University

Autumn Young is a Wisconsin native currently pursuing a degree in dietetics with a minor in exercise science at Iowa State University. Her expected graduation date is May 2027. With a strong foundation in both clinical nutrition and performance-based strategies, Autumn is passionate about helping active individuals translate science-backed nutrition into sustainable, everyday habits. Her professional goal is to work in sports and exercise nutrition, supporting athletes and active populations through personalized, evidence-based care. Long-term, she aspires to launch her own company that bridges the gap between research and real-life application. Recently, Autumn has developed an interest in pursuing an MBA alongside her dietetic internship to strengthen her leadership and business acumen to prepare her to build innovative wellness platforms that empower others to thrive.

"Receiving this scholarship reaffirmed that I am on the right career path. As I enter my upperclassman years, I've been exposed to a wide range of opportunities within nutrition and exercise science, each exciting, but also challenging in ways that made me question whether I'm truly cut out for this field. This support has reminded me that my dedication, curiosity, and growth are being recognized."

Advancing Community Dietetics Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of an anonymous donor

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, The field of dietetics is full of passionate, caring individuals who are dedicated to making the world a better place. I've witnessed it in the presenters at FNCE, volunteers, professors, and students like me. While I have overcome many obstacles in my master's journey, one of the major obstacles was financial challenges. Because, to be frank, dreaming is expensive. It takes determination, resilience, grit, and for many students - financial resources they may not have. I believe if you can give, you are not giving only money, but an opportunity for someone to dream. Someone just like me.

– Carie Bradshaw

Carie Bradshaw

Howard University

Carie Bradshaw is a graduate student in the Nutritional Science Coordinated Dietetics Program at Howard University, where she is earning her master's degree and is seeking to enter the field of sport nutrition. She is the proud recipient of the 2025 Advancing Community Dietetics Scholarship, recognizing her leadership, academic success, and commitment to advancing the field of dietetics. Carie has a Bachelor of Science in Human Health and Performance with a concentration in sports medicine and has been able to blend her experience in wellness and performance to create inclusive, evidence-based strategies for health promotion and nutrition therapy. Her work has earned several honors, including the Ann Litt Graduate Scholarship, DCMAND Outstanding Graduate Student Award, and the Interprofessional Leadership Award for Howard University Research Month. She was a two-time poster presented at the 2025 Food and Nutrition Conference and Expo (FNCE). Passionate about empowering others through health literacy and evidence-based nutrition, Carie is currently completing a thesis on social media and its impact on nutrition education. She plans to use the results from her thesis to inform her community on how to determine accurate nutrition education.

"I am still so overwhelmed with gratitude that I have been fortunate enough to be a recipient. This is truly a life-changing scholarship that not only changes my life by allowing me to complete my master's degree but also my family legacy. Being unable to work due to demands and school has been an ever-present financial strain. This has been confirmation that my commitment to becoming an RDN is seen and supported."

Catalina Duque

Teachers College, Columbia University

Catalina is completing the final year of her graduate program at Teachers College, Columbia University. She will graduate in August 2026 with a Master's Degree in Nutrition and Exercise Physiology and be eligible to sit for the RDN exam. She currently serves as the 2026 Annual Meeting Co-Chair for NYSAND and has worked as a research assistant at the Laurie M. Tisch Center for Food, Education, and Policy. She was born in Medellin, Colombia, and obtained her bachelor's degree and license in nutrition and dietetics from the Universidad de Antioquia. From a young age, Catalina has prioritized wellness, nutrition, and exercise, because of her own personal health journey and obstacles. She has been instructing fitness and exercise for more than a decade and has established a wellness nutrition consulting business in New York City. In addition, she has been involved in a variety of public and private research and education initiatives that are primarily related to the health and nutrition of underserved, at-risk communities. As a mother, Catalina is acutely aware of the value and impact of nutrition on the health and development of children. Once she becomes a registered dietitian, she hopes to further strengthen the role of exercise, food, and nutrition in the public health and political systems.

"This scholarship is a critical piece to the puzzle of financing my master's journey. As an immigrant, I am challenged to have equal opportunities and a support system to pay for my education. This scholarship is an important tangible validation and encouragement of my effort to be the first in my family to achieve an advanced degree. It also makes it more affordable to push forward to pursue my goal of serving individuals and communities through this profession, a commitment I hold dear."



Aimee N. Moore Memorial Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of friends & colleagues of Aimee N. Moore

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Your generosity reminds students and professionals that they are supported in the classes they enroll in, the positions they hold, and the research strides they make. Every donation changes the trajectory of the nutrition and dietetics field and inspires our future clinicians.

– Amelia Heimerman

Amelia Heimerman

Texas Christian University

Amelia Heimerman is a recent graduate from Texas Christian University (TCU), where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Dietetics and is currently pursuing her Master of Science in Dietetics. Amelia is originally from Las Vegas, Nevada, and was the first in her family to graduate from a four-year institution. Amelia is a part of the 2026 cohort of TCU's Combined Dietetics Program, where students complete their bachelor's and master's degrees in five years with aspirations of becoming a registered dietitian. Within this program, Amelia has had the privilege of completing dietetic internship rotations in community, foodservice, clinical, and outpatient settings. Although Amelia has greatly enjoyed all of her supervised practice experiences, she can picture herself in a foodservice management or a clinical nutrition role in her future. After graduating with her Master of Science in dietetics in May 2026, Amelia hopes to move back to Las Vegas and begin her career as a registered dietitian to gain experience in the field and make new connections. Her long-term career goals involve finding a career where she can exercise her leadership skills, connect with others, and apply her nutrition and dietetics knowledge.

"The receipt of the Aimee N. Moore Memorial Scholarship makes me feel supported in my pursuit of a career I am passionate about. Balancing graduate-level coursework and long hours of supervised practice has required increased discipline and refined time management skills. Receiving this prestigious scholarship reminds me that there are professionals in the field who believe in me and want to support my journey in becoming a registered dietitian. Knowing that people are rallying behind me inspires me to embrace the challenge and achieve my goal"



Alfred J. and Florence E. Seubert Memorial Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of Sally Ann Seubert, and friends of the Seuberts

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Your generosity directly changes lives. Scholarships do more than ease financial strain; they provide the opportunity to focus on learning, training, and giving back to the community without the constant worry of making ends meet. By supporting this program, you are investing in individual students like me and the future of healthcare and community wellness. Every contribution helps create professionals who are prepared, passionate, and ready to make a meaningful impact. Thank you for believing in students and for making education more accessible.

Quote Author



Hadley Coggeshall

University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

Hadley Coggeshall is currently pursuing a Master of Clinical Nutrition at UT Southwestern in a coordinated program that provides students with world-class training and a strong foundation in evidence-based nutrition therapy and related sciences. Before beginning her master's program, she earned a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics with a dietetics emphasis from the University of Mississippi. Nutrition has long been her passion, driving her commitment to improving health outcomes through education and compassionate care. Her experiences have strengthened her dedication to promoting health through evidence-based nutrition interventions and accessible education. With her training, she aspires to become a registered dietitian and continue working in a clinical setting to improve long-term health outcomes. Her ultimate goal is to create lasting, positive change in the lives of those she serves.

"Receiving this scholarship has been an incredible honor and has greatly impacted my educational journey. It has not only lightened the financial burden of pursuing my studies but has also given me a sense of encouragement and motivation to continue striving toward my academic and professional goals. This support allows me to focus more fully on my coursework and hands-on learning opportunities, which are essential to my future career. I am deeply grateful for this investment in my education, and I am committed to making the most of this opportunity."



Taylor Helmbrecht

University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

Taylor Helmbrecht is from Dallas, Texas, and completed a bachelor's degree in neuroscience with a minor in psychology from the University of Texas at Austin in 2021. After graduation, Taylor worked in psychiatry for four years, most recently as a research coordinator where she helped launch and manage clinical trials for stimulant use disorder. Taylor returned to graduate school to pursue a career as a registered dietitian and is currently enrolled in a Master of Clinical Nutrition - Coordinated Program. In her future role as a Registered Dietitian, Taylor hopes to provide medical nutrition therapy to support individuals managing a variety of chronic conditions.

"It is an honor and encouragement for me to receive the Alfred J. and Florence E. Seubert Memorial Scholarship. This award not only eases some financial burden of my education but it has motivated me to become more engaged in the practice of dietetics as I advance in my education and career. Knowing that others see value in my potential increases my confidence to pursue more opportunities to learn and develop as a future dietitian, which will strengthen my impact in the field!"

Ann Selkowitz Litt Memorial Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of Daniel M. Litt, David L. Litt, Jordan M. Litt, and relatives, colleagues, and friends of Ann Selkowitz Litt

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Contributing to scholarship funds is an investment in the future of the profession. The cost of a college education today can feel daunting and shouldn't be a reason why someone doesn't pursue a career in nutrition. Scholarships help today's strong students become tomorrow's successful professionals by assisting dedicated students with their college expenses.

- Caitlin Berenson

Caitlin Berenson

Syracuse University

Currently a senior at Syracuse University, Caitlin is from New Jersey and majoring in nutrition with a human development & family science minor on the dietetics track. After graduation, she plans to complete an MS/DI program before sitting for the RD exam. She aspires to work in a clinical setting, specifically in the ICU or NICU. The opportunity to volunteer last year in a clinical nutrition setting was instrumental in affirming her professional aspirations.

"It is an honor to be acknowledged from among my peers for a scholarship from the Academy. To specifically receive the scholarship awarded in honor of Ann Selkowitz Litt, a nationally known nutritionist and Syracuse University alumnus, is especially meaningful. I am inspired by Ms. Litt's impressive professional achievements and dedication to nutrition education as a spokesperson, consultant, and author."



Quinn Gonzalez

Syracuse University

Quinn Gonzalez is a junior at Syracuse University, studying nutrition with a minor in Public Health. She plans to go on to complete a master's degree in nutrition and to become a Registered Dietitian. She is from northern New Jersey and loves cooking, baking, ice skating and dancing. Her interest in cooking and baking started when she was very young and she would watch, then later help, her mom in the kitchen. Later on, her love of cooking and baking grew into an interest in how food impacts and supports the body on a nutritional level. Her interests then shifted toward clinical and preventative nutrition when her grandmother was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, and she came to learn more about how important nutrition and access to healthy food is for all people. She hopes to work in a clinical setting and is particularly interested in pediatric nutrition. She is also passionate about increasing food security in food deserts and underserved populations, as well as increasing nutrition education for all, and ensuring everyone has the tools they need to best support their health.

"I am extremely honored to have received the 2025 Ann Selkowitz Litt Memorial Scholarship, and grateful to the donors who have made this scholarship possible. Receiving a memorial scholarship is very special to me because it means that the scholarship committee was not only looking at my grades but also saw qualities in me through my writing and activities that they thought reflected those of the person the scholarship is honoring. This scholarship will impact my educational journey by allowing me to continue working towards my degree in nutrition with less of a financial burden on me and my family."





Olivia Moskunas
Syracuse University

Olivia is a graduate student currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Nutrition Science. She previously earned a Bachelor of Arts in Health Sciences while competing in Division III athletics. Olivia is deeply passionate about becoming a registered dietitian, with particular focus areas including women's health, community nutrition, and advocating for change in the health policy arena. She is committed to using her education and experiences to make a meaningful impact in these fields.

"Having been awarded this scholarship has not only provided financial support that eases the burden weighing on me but also serves as validation for the hard work and dedication I have put into my studies so far. I was genuinely surprised and honored to receive this recognition, which now fuels my motivation even more to persevere and excel in my program. This scholarship reminds me to appreciate the small victories and opportunities that can have a profound impact on my educational journey and personal growth. It empowers me to stay committed to my goals."



Grace Novak
Syracuse University

Grace Novak graduated from SUNY Plattsburgh in May 2025 with a bachelor's in nutrition and a minor in chemistry. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in nutrition science from Syracuse University. She has a personal connection to the field, having celiac disease and following a gluten free diet. This connection inspired her to pursue a career in dietetics. Her specific interests in the field lay in pediatric, sports, and clinical nutrition. Her goal is to become a registered dietitian and use her knowledge to make a difference in people's lives.

"Receiving this scholarship means a lot to me. It makes me feel seen as a student and that my hard work and dedication doesn't go unnoticed. The scholarship also takes some of the stress surrounding getting my education away. I'm thankful that the Academy is invested in students and provides us with these opportunities."

Anne Voss Memorial Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the Oncology Nutrition Dietetic Practice Group of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Your generosity inspires, encourages, and supports. As a dietitian receiving advanced education, I aim to help more people in need but also realize many challenges in life. Before I can help others, I must first navigate those challenges myself. Your support truly makes it possible for students like me to fully focus on the education, research, and commitment to improving cancer care.

- Zhongyao Li, MS, RD

Zhongyao Li, MS, RD

Tufts University

Zhongyao Li is a doctoral candidate in the Friedman School of Nutrition Sciences and Policy at Tufts University, completing her doctorate degree in Nutrition Epidemiology and Data Sciences. Her academic path has always been focusing on nutrition and dietetics, with the ultimate goal of advancing the field of nutrition and helping people in need. Her current research focuses on diet quality in cancer survivorship, and the implementation and evaluation of Food is Medicine programs tailored to the needs of cancer survivors. She is committed to advancing the field of oncology nutrition, with a particular focus on improving long-term health outcomes for those living with cancer. She aspires to become an independent and leading researcher in oncology nutrition, translating scientific evidence into dietetics practice that can be integrated into oncology care, and also promoting the implementation of nutrition interventions into health policy implementation and clinical guidelines.

"It is a great honor and encouragement to receive this scholarship. This scholarship truly recognizes my ongoing efforts in the field of oncology nutrition, also motivates me to further contribute to and advance this field. This scholarship encourages me to pursue more opportunities to generate scientific evidence in cancer care, with the ultimate goal of translating and applying those evidence to improve the lives of those who need it most."



Annette M. Rachman Memorial Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the estate of Annette M. Rachman

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Thank you for your contributions to the scholarship program. These allow students to continue producing quality work in their studies and make the most out of the learning opportunities presented to them.

- Olivia Jean Gambill

Olivia Jean Gambill

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Olivia Jean holds a Bachelor of Science in Dietetics and is now a first-year graduate student at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She is focused on professional development and leadership for health profession students. She was a leader in the Student Association of Nutrition and Dietetics and founded the new Student Association of Healthcare Simulations that helps health profession students develop communication skills. In her undergraduate, she conducted a research project assessing the impact of forum-style interprofessional simulation-based education (ISBE) on the improvement of attitudes towards collaboration (unpublished). This project received the Dean's Award for its presentation at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania's Scholars Forum. She hopes to continue this study after graduation and conduct follow-up research exploring the magnitude of effect forum simulations have on attitudes towards interprofessional collaboration and the development of empathy in health profession students. As a graduate assistant, she manages the Nutrition Connection office that offers free Nutrition counseling services on campus. She is set to complete her masters and dietetic internship in May 2027 and take the test to become an RDN. She aspires to get her doctorate after gaining work experience in order to become a college professor and teach the next generation of future RDNs.

"Receiving this scholarship has meant so much to me, and I could not be more thankful. This award will allow me to fully dedicate myself to my studies, internship, and graduate assistantship. This will create the foundation I need to pass my RDN exam and become a professional who provides quality care and supports the next generation of future RDNs."



Beatrice Donaldson David Graduate Scholarship in Foodservice Administration

Funded by the generosity of family, friends, and associates of B. David

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, I want to sincerely thank you for your generosity and support of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation. Your contributions make a tangible difference in the lives of students and professionals pursuing advanced education in nutrition and dietetics. Scholarships like this one allow dietitians to grow their skills, expand their impact on patient care, and contribute to the health of communities nationwide. By investing in our education and professional development, you are helping shape the future of nutrition and empowering us to give back to our profession in meaningful ways. Your support truly makes a lasting difference.

- Anja Grommons, MA, RDN

Anja Grommons, MA, RDN

Oklahoma State University

Anja Grommons, MA, RDN, is a Clinical Nutrition Manager and Registered Dietitian Nutritionist with a strong background in pediatric nutrition and a special interest in vegetarian and plant-based nutrition. She began her career after completing her dietetic internship and earning her degrees in dietetics from Western Michigan University, where she also gained experience teaching and mentoring students. In addition to her clinical work, Anja has pursued freelance writing within the nutrition field, contributing to digital and print publications along the way. She is currently advancing her education through obtaining a Doctorate of Healthcare Administration at Oklahoma State University, with the goal of growing her leadership skills, better supporting her team of dietitians, and contributing to the broader nutrition and dietetics profession.

"Receiving this scholarship affirms my commitment to advancing in the healthcare field and my dedication to personal and professional growth. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity, as it allows me to continue my education while strengthening the skills I bring to my team and the profession. This support motivates me to give back through leadership, innovation, and service."

Melanie Browning, MS, RDN/LDN, CDCES, BC-ADM

University of Phoenix

Melanie Browning is a Registered and Licensed Dietitian-Nutritionist and Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist, Board Certified in Advanced Diabetes Management. She obtained her BS in Dietetics from the Coordinated Program in Dietetics at the University of Connecticut in 2010 and her MS in Nutrition from Queens College in 2014. She is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Healthcare Administration at the University of Phoenix with an expected graduation date of July 2028. Melanie is the Director of the Perinatal Diabetes Education Program at MedStar Health and built the program alongside the D.C. Safe Babies Safe Moms Initiative starting in 2021. The program has had so much success that they were officially incorporated into the Women's and Infants' Services Department at MedStar Washington Hospital Center and have since expanded to MedStar Maternal Fetal Medicine at Brandywine, Montgomery Medical Center, and Georgetown University Hospital. Melanie is pursuing her doctorate to further her knowledge to inform program expansion in healthcare and to better serve her team and the patients served.

"I am so grateful to have been chosen as the recipient for the 2025 Beatrice Donaldson David Graduate Scholarship in Foodservice Administration. I always strive for continual professional and personal growth, and it's always been a goal of mine to complete a doctoral program. Being the Director of the Perinatal Diabetes Education Program at MedStar Health has ignited a passion for healthcare leadership leading to my acceptance and enrollment in the University of Phoenix's Doctorate in Healthcare Administration Program. I hope to use this degree to better serve my team members and the patients we serve."



Bill Barkley Graduate Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of Bill Barkley, MBA, RD, LD, FAND

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, As students in the field of dietetics now face the requirement of a graduate degree, many encounter significant financial barriers. Your generous support can help alleviate these challenges, enabling aspiring professionals to focus on their education and training without the burden of financial stress. By contributing, you're not just funding education; you're investing in healthier communities and a brighter future where access to nutrition expertise is within reach for all. Together, we can empower the next generation of dietitians to make a meaningful, lasting impact.

- Megan O'Connor



Boluwatife Lowen

University of Minnesota

Boluwatife Lowen is a dedicated nutrition professional with a background in food science and technology and experience in community-based nutrition and public health. She is currently pursuing a Master of Public Health in Nutrition at the University of Minnesota, where her work bridges the fields of dietetics, food systems, and health equity. Her graduate training has included projects with the Minnesota Department of Health, WIC, community-based organizations, and academic research groups, focusing on nutrition programs, food security, and culturally responsive care. She has also contributed to initiatives such as evaluation and intervention programs for diverse communities, WIC cultural toolkits, aging and nutrition coursework, and food waste behavior research. Looking ahead, Boluwatife aspires to become a registered dietitian and public health nutritionist, with a focus on advancing equitable food and nutrition policies, reducing health disparities, and promoting community well-being. She is also committed to mentoring future students and emerging professionals in nutrition and public health, fostering pathways for leadership, inclusion, and knowledge-sharing. Through her education and professional experiences, she is building a strong foundation to contribute to public health practice, research, and policy that empower individuals and communities to live healthier lives.

"I am grateful for this scholarship as it goes a long way with the payment of some part of my fall semester tuition. This will relieve the burden of having to work longer hours and i can concentrate fully on my academics. Thank you"



Megan O'Connor

University of Minnesota

Megan obtained her undergraduate degree from Minnesota State University- Mankato where she had an array of interests for her future profession. After obtaining a psychology degree and a biology minor, Megan decided her future career lied in the realm of nutrition and dietetics. Taking a post back semester, Megan obtained her pre-requisites to apply to accredited masters programs. She currently attends the University of Minnesota and is a student in the Master of Public Health Nutrition Coordinated Program. Megan's future career goals align her interest in both psychology and nutrition, focusing in on assisting individuals who struggle with eating disorders and disordered eating. Along with this, Megan can see herself working alongside athletes to help them train and perform at their peak performance with the help of nutrition interventions.

"Receiving this scholarship assists me in my goals to become a Registered Dietitian. Although the scholarship I received was not a hefty amount of money, every single penny helps me pay for my education. This scholarship is proof of the fact that I capitalized on an opportunity that was offered to me for assisting my educational finances."

Billye June Eichelberger Memorial Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the Pennsylvania Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, We need highly trained dietitians ready to lead with evidence-based expertise across clinical, community, and foodservice settings. Financial barriers shouldn't prevent passionate students from pursuing this vital work. The Foundation's scholarship program makes it possible for future dietitians like me to access the education we need to create meaningful change in the health and well-being of diverse populations.

- Hanna Harris

Hanna Harris

Pennsylvania State University

Hanna Harris is originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She earned her bachelor's degree in nutritional sciences from Penn State University and is currently pursuing her master's degree from Penn State as well. Her ultimate goal is to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN). Hanna aspires to work as a clinical dietitian, where she believes she can gain diverse, hands-on experience while helping patients manage chronic diseases. She's passionate about using nutrition as a foundation for disease prevention and overall well-being throughout all stages of life. She hopes to advance into a leadership role within the clinical setting, where she can continue to grow professionally and mentor others. In addition to clinical work, Hanna is also interested in community nutrition and hopes to engage in volunteer efforts that support food security and improve access to nutrition resources in underserved populations.

"The 2025 Billye June Eichelberger Memorial Scholarship is a meaningful recognition of my dedication to the field of Nutrition and Dietetics. It has allowed me to continue my education through Penn State's Master of Professional Studies program. As a graduate student currently completing my dietetic internship, this financial support offers both stability and encouragement to stay dedicated to my goals. I can focus on excelling in both my coursework and rotations without the stress of school-related expenses. I remain committed to my educational journey and am honored to be a recipient of this scholarship"



Carey D. Miller Memorial Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the Hawaii Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Imagine being in our shoes as dietetics students—all the coursework, dietetic internship requirements, gaining experience, and trying to maintain healthy habits in our own lives. Scholarships allow us to focus on our studies more worry-free by reducing financial stress. We are deeply grateful for the generosity of donors who make this possible. Even a contribution that helps one student purchase a medical nutrition therapy textbook makes a difference, bringing them one step closer to becoming a dietitian who can give back to others in the future.

- Nicole Sevcikova

Nicole Sevcikova

Boston University

Nicole Sevcikova graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Food Science and Human Nutrition: Sports and Wellness from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. During her undergraduate studies, she competed as a Division I student-athlete on the cross country and track teams, served as team captain, and represented cross country on the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. She has experience in food service and corporate settings, research in nutrition and sport psychology, and has volunteered at various medical sites. She is currently in her first year of the DPD/MS + Dietetic Internship program at Boston University. Nicole works as a graduate assistant for intramural sports, volunteers at the Terrier Fueling Station, and shares her journey as a vegan distance runner and aspiring dietitian on Instagram (@nicolerunsvegan). Nicole aspires to become a registered sports dietitian specializing in endurance athletes, plant-based diets, and performance nutrition. She is particularly passionate about supporting athletes with relative energy deficiency in sport (RED-S) and vegan athletes navigating dietary challenges.

"Receiving the Carey D. Miller Memorial Scholarship is both an honor and a relief. It eases the financial demands of my first year of graduate school at Boston University, allowing me to focus on my coursework, clinical experiences, and growth as a future dietitian. As a University of Hawai'i graduate, it is especially meaningful to receive a scholarship created by Carey D. Miller, whose work advanced nutrition and supported the Hawaiian population. This award not only provides valuable support but also inspires me to carry forward her legacy in my own career."

Esther Wong

University of Florida

Esther Wong was born and raised in Hawai'i. Having witnessed many family members struggle with chronic diseases her whole life and seeing first-hand the gap in nutrition literacy, she decided to pursue a career in dietetics. In May 2025, she earned her Bachelor of Science in Dietetics from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Seeking a change of scenery and a chance to pursue her interests in sports nutrition, Esther decided to move across the country, where she is currently pursuing her master's in food science and human nutrition and dietetic internship at the University of Florida. Upon graduating and obtaining her Registered Dietitian certification, she plans to get an additional CSSD certification and work with collegiate and professional athletes. Her long-term goal is to establish a nonprofit organization dedicated to nutrition education for underserved communities, empowering families and individuals with the knowledge and tools to improve their health and well-being.

"I don't think I can fully express how much this scholarship means to me. I am incredibly grateful to the generous donors and truly honored to be selected as a scholarship recipient. Beyond alleviating some of the financial burden of being an out-of-state student, this scholarship gives me the confidence and motivation to keep pushing forward! Knowing that others believe in my dream inspires me to work even harder. Thank you so much for supporting and believing in me."



Carol V. Hall Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the Illinois Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, As a small island girl pursuing my dreams in dietetics, I never imagined opportunities like this would come my way, but your support has boosted my confidence and reminded me that I am capable of achieving great things. This scholarship allows me to focus on my studies and work toward becoming a registered dietitian who serves underserved communities and helps people build healthier relationships with food. Your generosity doesn't just fund education; it fuels hope, purpose, and the belief that our contributions truly matter.

- Rhesa Lawrence

Rhesa Lawrence

Rush University

Rhesa Lawrence grew upon the island of Dominica, in the Caribbean, where her passion for health and nutrition first began to take shape. After earning her associate's degrees, dietetics was suggested to her as a field of study, an introduction that quickly turned into a deep calling. Now pursuing her master's degree in clinical nutrition at Rush University in Chicago, Rhesa is dedicated to becoming a registered dietitian who makes a lasting impact in her community and beyond. Her educational journey has been strengthened by the support of the Carol V. Hall Scholarship, which has allowed her to focus more fully on her studies and professional growth. Rhesa hopes to use her expertise to serve underserved communities, promote equitable access to nutrition education, and help others build healthier, more positive relationships with food. She believes food is not only nourishment but also a source of healing and connection. With her strong academic foundation, passion for helping others, and commitment to continuous learning, Rhesa is determined to make meaningful contributions to the field of dietetics and inspire others to view nutrition as an empowering part of everyday life.

"Receiving the Carol V. Hall Scholarship has been an incredible honor that has truly eased my financial burden and reduced the stress of managing school expenses. This support allows me to focus more deeply on my studies and dedicate my energy toward becoming a registered dietitian. With less worry about finances, I've been able to invest in essential materials and prioritize my academic growth. I felt ecstatic when I learned I received this scholarship; it reaffirmed my hard work and strengthened my commitment to contributing meaningfully to the field of dietetics and improving the well-being of others."

Kayla Lammy

University of Illinois

Kayla Lammy received her B.A. in Biology from Blackburn College in Carlinville, Illinois. She has had a passion for food and cooking since she was young and decided to combine her love for food with her interest in science, pursuing a career in nutrition and dietetics in graduate school. After graduating from Blackburn, she worked as a dietetic technician at a hospital for about 18 months. Here, she gained her first exposure to therapeutic diets, various types of supplements, and patient interaction. Kayla started a master's program in Food Science and Human Nutrition at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in August 2023. She is completing a thesis under the supervision of Dr. Manabu Nakamura, where she assists with operating the lab's dietary weight-loss program, EMPOWER. This fall, she began her dietetic internship at the university. She plans to defend her thesis by Summer 2026 and then start preparing for the RDN exam. After becoming a dietitian, Kayla plans to begin her career in an inpatient clinical setting. In the long term, she would also like to get involved in community nutrition work, as well as develop recipes. She hopes to publish her own cookbook one day.

"Opening my email to see that I had been selected for the Foundation's 2025 Carol V. Hall Scholarship was an incredible feeling. Back in March, I decided to apply for the Foundation's scholarships in hopes of relieving some of the costs associated with starting my dietetic internship. Receiving this scholarship reduces the financial stress I face as a graduate student. With the busyness of my dietetic internship, coursework, and thesis work, there is little time to pursue other streams of income. I am beyond appreciative to have been considered and selected for this scholarship!"



Colgate Palmolive Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the Colgate-Palmolive Company

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, There is a desperate need for nutritional intervention in our communities, and nutrition and dietetics students are studying and working intensely to try to fulfill this deep need. That being said, the cost of education, along with intensive course loads and internships, can take a financial toll on students, and for this reason, we are grateful for the support from generous donors like you.

– Linnea Browne

Linnea Browne

Point Loma Nazarene University

Linnea Browne was born and raised in Ventura, California, where she lives with her parents and two brothers. She was involved in music and dance growing up, and she also attended a dual-immersion school, which encouraged her to become fluent in Spanish. This experience allowed her to compete in the National Spanish Spelling Bee in San Antonio, Texas, in 2017. She currently attends Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego, and she is pursuing a dietetics major and Spanish minor. She is the secretary of the school's Student Dietetics Association club, and she works two on-campus jobs. With her degree, she looks forward to becoming a registered pediatric dietitian. In her free time, Linnea loves to go to the beach, go on hikes, cook, and spend time with loved ones.

"This scholarship is allowing me to pursue my dreams of attending university by the beach in San Diego, California. I am able to grow so much here as a student and as an individual. I have met my lifelong friends here, and I have learned so much about nutrition thanks to my wonderful professors. Thanks to this scholarship, I will be able to continue my education at this place that I now can call home."



Colonel Filomena Manor Memorial Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the Filomena Manor Separate Property Trust

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Your generosity changes lives in ways that extend beyond financial support. As a minority in the nutrition field, I am committed to pursuing this career despite the significant financial and personal challenges. The rigorous hours/workload of the dietetic internship make it impossible to hold a full-time job, and the combined costs of tuition, internship fees, and living expenses create a significant financial burden. Scholarships like this one make it possible to focus on my education and professional growth. Your support not only eases these challenges but also affirms that dedication, passion, and perseverance are worth investing in.

- Mabel Del Castillo Guccione, MS

Mabel Del Castillo Guccione, MS

Sodexo

Mabel Del Castillo Guccione is a master's graduate from NYU (May 2025), pursuing a career as a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist. After a decade-long career in media, she made the bold decision to switch paths to follow her passion for nutrition, wellness, and supporting others in achieving health goals. Currently completing a dietetic internship, Mabel is focused on gaining hands-on experience in clinical, community, and functional nutrition. As a minority in the field, she is committed to promoting equitable access to health and wellness resources and aspires to create meaningful impact through her work in nutrition education and corporate wellness.

"I am beyond grateful to have received this scholarship. Embarking on a career switch has been the most challenging yet rewarding decision of my life, requiring tremendous financial and personal sacrifices. I completed my master's at New York University in May 2025 after 5.5 years of balancing graduate school with full-time work, until being laid off at the end of 2024. Along the way, I accumulated significant student debt. Additionally, having to pay for the Sodexo internship added to this burden. This scholarship eases that weight and reaffirms that pursuing a passion-driven career opens doors to meaningful opportunities and support."



Colonel Frances G. Ballentine Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of Colonel Frances G. Ballentine

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Thank you for believing in students like me. Your generosity reaches far beyond tuition support. As a single mom balancing graduate school, teaching, and growing my nutrition counseling business, your investment gives me the stability and encouragement I need to keep moving forward. You are helping me become a future full-time professor and a stronger leader for my community. Because of you, I can focus on my education and continue serving others through evidence-based nutrition care. Your support truly changes lives, including mine, and I am deeply grateful.

- Katheryn Willey, MS, RD, LD, CDCES



Ryan Andrews, MS, MA, RD, LD

University of New Hampshire

Ryan completed his education and training at the University of Northern Colorado, Kent State University, Johns Hopkins Medicine, and Columbia University. He has experience in nutritional counseling, teaching, writing, school lunch programs, trauma-informed yoga, and has worked with Precision Nutrition, Equinox, Insider, Allergic to Salad, Silver Hill Hospital, Purchase College, and Regis College. He has authored/co-authored multiple books and has over 1000 hours of experience volunteering with farms/food recovery. Ryan is working with Dr. Nooreem Mena at the University of New Hampshire in the nutritional sciences doctoral program. His research interests include exploring the intersection between sustainable/equitable food systems and chronic disease prevention.

"While I do consider myself a lifelong student, I haven't been in a graduate degree program for many years, and re-entering the full-time student realm in a PhD program has definitely proved to be a challenge. Receiving this scholarship provided a boost of morale at just the right time. Knowing that I have support from the Foundation goes a long way towards feeling like the dietetics community has my back. And this means a lot."



Charity Brennan, MS, RD, LD, CNSC

Rutgers University

Charity is a travel dietitian currently working in a Cancer Hospital with both inpatients and outpatients. She writes CPN for inpatient, outpatient, and home patients. She also conducts counseling sessions and conducts NFPE for patients as needed. She has been involved in identifying the needs of facilities, initiating improvement projects, data tracking, and staff education in the clinical sector. These projects more specifically included volume-based tube feeding, malnutrition initiative involving coding by physicians, Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS®), CPN appropriateness, and the creation of competency exams for new dietitians. She attended advocacy day for the South Florida Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and spoke to Senator Marco Rubio's Health and Wellness advisor, Yakirah Rosen, to promote and bring awareness to the Medical Nutrition Therapy Act as well as the Diabetes Self-Management Training Act. She is a new ASPEN Advocacy committee member and a DNS DPG item writer. Last year, she was able to attend the SFAND symposium and network with her peers. She believes the advanced education and leadership training will allow her to be more persuasive and confident in her practice and message delivery and is expected to obtain her DCN in 2028.

"Receiving this scholarship has been a big relief and takes a lot of stress off of me. This scholarship allows me to continue pursuing my education without having to worry about financial consequences in the short term."



Autumn Martin, MS, RD, LD

Arizona State University

Autumn Martin MS, RD, LD, received her bachelor's degree in nutrition and dietetics with a certificate in Sustainable Food Systems from Northern Illinois University and a master's degree with a concentration in Rural Nutrition from Appalachian State University both in Nutrition and Dietetics. She has been employed since 2021, and currently works as the Nutrition Services Director at the Clayton County Health Department in Atlanta, GA. She became a certified urban grower in 2023 through HABESHA Works where she led a team to help a church utilize their current assets to design, build, and maintain a community garden. Outside of work, she spends most of her free time volunteering at local farms and community gardens to present nutrition education where she demonstrates plant-based garden to table meals. She is a member of the Hunger and Environmental Nutrition Dietetic Practice Group at the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics to gain continuing education opportunities and experiences from like-minded individuals who advocate for access to nourishing food and clean water provided by sustainable food systems.

"This scholarship has made me feel so proud to pay for school on my own. I was stressed about making payments and acquiring more student loans, but now that stress is lifted with the help of this scholarship. I am so grateful!"



Katheryn Willey, MS, RD, LDN, CDCES

American College of Education

Katheryn Willey, MS, RD, LDN, CDCES, is a dedicated nutrition professional, educator, and entrepreneur from West Middlesex, Pennsylvania. She is currently pursuing her Doctorate in Education at the American College of Education while serving as an adjunct professor at Thiel College, Youngstown State University, and Carrington College. With nearly a decade of higher education teaching experience, she is passionate about helping students connect evidence-based nutrition to real-world practice. Katheryn is also the CEO and founder of Simply Science Nutrition Counseling, LLC, where she provides medical nutrition therapy and compassionate counseling for individuals with a wide range of health needs including diabetes, cardiovascular disease, renal conditions, gastrointestinal disorders, eating disorders, and cancer. Her clinical background spans hospitals, dialysis centers, outpatient settings, and community programs, and she holds multiple state licenses along with certification as a Diabetes Care and Education Specialist. Katheryn's long-term goals include becoming a full-time professor, earning her Doctorate of Education, and expanding her business to increase access to high-quality, science-driven nutrition care. Her work is guided by empathy, integrity, and a commitment to empowering others through education.

"Receiving this scholarship has been truly life-changing. It has given me the support and confidence to continue growing as both an educator and an entrepreneur. As I work toward becoming a full-time professor and expanding Simply Science Nutrition Counseling, this award reminds me that others believe in my vision and my purpose. It has eased financial stress, allowing me to focus on my coursework, my students, and my professional development. Most of all, it reinforces my commitment to serving my community through evidence-based nutrition education and compassionate leadership."

Colonel Katharine E. Manchester Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of Colonel Katharine E. Manchester, MS, RD, LD

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Your generosity changes lives in ways you may not always see. Because of this scholarship, I can continue my dietetic education while working full-time, staying on track toward my degree in nutrition and public health. This support has lifted a significant financial burden and given me the confidence to move forward after the difficult decision to close my business last year and my dad's sudden passing. Your investment doesn't just support education—it builds healthier, stronger communities through the students you empower. Thank you for believing in me and in the future we are working to create together.

- Reneé Claire Blanchard

Reneé Claire Blanchard

Texas Tech University

Reneé Blanchard is a New Orleans-based student and public health advocate with a passion for nutrition and community wellness. She previously owned and operated Church Alley Cafe & Grocery, a mission-driven hospitality business that focused on serving healthy food and beverages while fostering community engagement. After closing her business in 2024, Reneé returned to school to pursue a graduate degree in nutrition and public health, combining hands-on experience with academic study. Reneé has extensive experience leading teams, organizing community fundraisers, and supporting local food systems. She brings her entrepreneurial background to her studies, applying practical knowledge to understand and address public health challenges such as chronic disease and food access. Her professional goal is to work at the intersection of nutrition, public health, and community development, creating programs that promote health equity and empower individuals. Reneé is committed to translating her education and experience into meaningful impact, helping communities thrive through healthier food systems and accessible, evidence-based nutrition initiatives.

"This scholarship has given me the ability to pay for a third of my entire degree while continuing to work full-time. Balancing both is challenging, but with this support, I can stay focused on my studies in nutrition and public health without feeling overwhelmed by financial pressure. It means that others believe in my capacity to persevere and succeed. This encouragement motivates me to keep pushing forward, knowing my hard work will not only shape my future but also benefit the communities I hope to serve."

Allyson Foote

University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point

Allyson Foote is current senior studying dietetics at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point with a minor in business administration. Since she was one year old, she has been living with multiple food allergies that have led her to always focus on what food she was eating. This included many hospital visits and experience in the healthcare system. Allyson did not let this stop her when it came to normal activities such as participating in school events, sports, exercise, and jobs. Her professional aspirations would be to be the professional who helps people, especially children, not to miss out on opportunities due to nutrition. She also aspires to utilize her food and nutrition education and experience to use food as a healing property in complement to medications.

"Receiving this scholarship has made my future more achievable and has given me the resources to obtain my career goals. It allows me to pursue my master's degree and internship through saving for this academic school year, providing me peace when it may otherwise feel stressful."





Emarie Jacobson

Viterbo University

Emarie Jacobson grew up on a rural, small family farm in Peterson, Minnesota. This is where she learned the importance of hard work, dedication, and service which she greatly values today. In high school, Emarie became interested in nutrition and since then, she has been passionate about ways to create sustainable food systems and improving food policy. She has always been fond of being in the kitchen, trying new recipes, and learning about the effects of food on our health. Emarie attends Viterbo University in La Crosse, Wisconsin where she is in the Coordinated Program in Dietetics, with a minor in Psychology. Her hope as a nutrition professional is to serve others the best that she can. Emarie wants to use the knowledge and experience she gained through school and internships to educate people about nutrition to help promote their health and wellbeing. For her future career in dietetics, Emarie is interested in working in sustainable food systems or policy work because it will have a great impact on many people. She would also like to start a business someday focused on nutrition education in the community with a garden to provide people with fresh produce at a reduced cost.

"The impact of this scholarship on my education journey means more than I could have imagined. I am very grateful for the Foundation and the donors of this scholarship. It will help me with the cost of my education and further my learning experiences. My hard work and dedication as a student will continue to grow with the acceptance of this scholarship."



Agnes Jakobsson

Nova Southeastern University

Agnes Jakobsson grew up in a small Swedish community with a passion for sport, in particular soccer. Ended up following her passion and through hard work and dedication to the sport she loved received a soccer scholarship in the USA. She played division I soccer for 4 years at Troy University and graduated with a bachelor's degree in exercise science with a concentration in nutrition. During these four years she meets an incredible mentor that opened her eyes to pursue a degree in the field of sport and nutrition. She interned with Auburn Athletics Sport Nutrition Department and due to her interest in weightlifting she volunteered with the Strength and Conditioning Department at Troy University. Upon graduating she applied to start a master's in nutrition science with a concentration in professional practice at Nova Southeastern University which would give her the opportunity to become a Registered Dietitian in the future. In addition to being apart if the master's program she has become a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist, worked as a Graduate Assistant with the Sport Performance Department coaching athletes in Strength and Conditioning. Her aim is to be competitive and contribute to the growing field of sport nutrition.

"Receiving this scholarship has a tremendous impact on my education journey. The goal has been to graduate in May 2026, and this scholarship has given me the opportunity to achieve this goal. Given the financial support from this scholarship decreases my financial burden that have been my biggest challenge regarding fulfilling my participation in my program. This scholarship goes up and beyond my expectations and it provides me with self-confident and belief that working extremely hard creates opportunities that I could not even imagine. I am honored and extremely grateful for the Foundation's support and dedication to provide these opportunities."



Sofia Ramon Mendez

Boston University

Sofia completed her undergraduate degree in Nutrition and Dietetics at Boston University and has recently began her master's in nutrition at her alma mater. Upon completing her master's degree, she will begin her dietetic internship and be on her way to becoming a Registered Dietitian. Sofia has developed a strong interest in sports nutrition through her experiences interning with BU athletics, USF football and the Boston Red Sox. She continues to learn more everyday about the different nutrition career pathways and is excited to explore other interests, such as gastrointestinal health. Sofia's ultimate goal is to help people build a healthy relationship with food and use nutrition as a tool to improve both performance and quality of life.

"Receiving the Colonel Katharine E. Manchester Scholarship has been extremely meaningful as it represents more than just financial support. It is a reminder that others believe in my potential and the path I have chosen. This scholarship will allow me to fully focus on my studies and professional growth with less worry of finances. Additionally, it strengthens my motivation to work hard and continue to strive toward my goal of becoming a registered dietitian who makes a meaningful impact on the field of nutrition."

Colonel Mary Lipscomb Hamrick Memorial Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of General Wm. Hamrick, USA Ret, dietitians, associates, and Army friends

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Your generosity makes an incredible difference in the lives of students like myself. Scholarships are not only a financial relief but also a powerful investment in an individual's future. By supporting students, you allow for us to focus on education, pursue meaningful opportunities and prepare for our careers where we can give back to our communities. With your support, many of us would face difficult choices between working extra hours to cover expenses or cutting back on academics. Because of you we are able to thrive.

- Alexis Presnell-Lule

Kayli Bagwell, MS

Sodexo

Kayli Bagwell completed her Didactic Program in Dietetics at California State University, Los Angeles in 2024 and earned her Master of Science in Nutritional Science in 2025. She will begin her dietetic internship with Sodexo in September 2025, where she will gain experience in food service management, clinical nutrition, and community nutrition. A former teacher and mother of three, Kayli is passionate about helping families, women, and active individuals build healthier relationships with food. Her long-term goal is to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist and create accessible, evidence-based programs that empower people to improve their health and quality of life.

"Receiving the Colonel Mary Lipscomb Hamrick Memorial Scholarship has been such an encouragement as I begin my dietetic internship. This award not only helps ease the financial burden of continuing my education but also reinforces my commitment to becoming a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist. I am deeply grateful for this support, which allows me to focus more fully on learning and preparing to serve others through nutrition."

Alexis Presnell-Lule

Samford University

Alexis Presnell-Lule is a dedicated intern currently enrolled in Samford University Dietetic Internship program. As a third-generation college graduate, Alexis values the importance of education and the opportunities it creates. She balances her academic and professional pursuits with her roles as a married mother to a 10-month-old, demonstrating resilience, determination, and the ability to thrive under demanding circumstances. Alexis' long-term goal is to become a registered dietitian and eventually establish her own private practice. While she is still exploring her area of specialization, she is passionate about advancing health and wellness through evidence-based nutrition care. Her experience during the internship is providing her with a strong foundation in both clinical and community settings, helping her refine her interest and skills. With her commitment to lifelong learning, dedication to her family, and passion for making a positive impact, Alexis is preparing to enter the field of dietetics with the goal of empowering individuals and communities to have healthier lives.

"This scholarship represents more than a financial support; this is an opportunity, a reminder that my hard work, dedication, and goals are being recognized. Receiving this scholarship lightens the financial burden of education, allowing me to focus more on my studies and personal growth rather than stress on other expenditures. It also motivates me to continue striving for excellence, knowing others believe in my potential. This support gives me the confidence, stability, and resources needed to pursue my dreams."



Colonel Miriam E. Perry Goll Memorial Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of Moxie Goll, Air Force & Army dietitians, friends

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Thank you for supporting students like me who are pursuing careers in dietetics. Your generosity makes a real difference by helping interns focus on their professional growth during a demanding and unpaid year of supervised practice. Your contributions not only ease financial challenges but also inspire us to give back to our communities through compassionate, evidence-based nutrition care. I'm deeply grateful for your investment in the future of our profession.

- Katharine Hamelin, MS

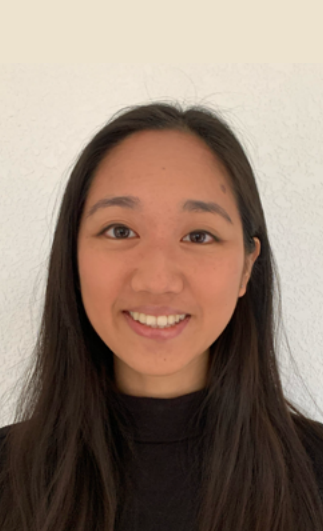


Eleanor Bill

Rutgers University

Eleanor Bill is currently pursuing her MS in Clinical Nutrition at the Rutgers University School of Health Professions. She graduated in 2024 from Penn State with a BS in Nutritional Sciences. She has a background of several avenues of nutrition, including experience as a dietary aide, performance nutrition intern, and assistant manager of a food service establishment. She hopes to gain her master's degree and experiential learning hours in pursuit of preparing to pass the RDN exam and work in clinical dietetics, and further her skills to one day work with individuals diagnosed with eating disorders.

"I am honored that my application was found worthy and want to express that this award will certainly make a positive difference in my life. I am committed to working hard in my academics and development as a future health professional. Receiving this scholarship supports my passion for dietetics and pursuing this degree and has expanded my gratitude immensely."



Kai An (Kelly) Chu, DTR

San Jose State University

Kelly was born in Taiwan and immigrated with her family to America at age 10. Growing up, nutrition has always been a part of her life, starting from nutritious meals made by her mom, family member who struggled with pre-diabetes, to an unhealthy obsession with being "fit" and "healthy". What was originally an unhealthy obsession, eventually, after self-discovery and a time of healing, became her passion to share with others what it truly means to be nourished and have a healthy relationship with food. Kelly completed her bachelor's degree in UC Davis in 2019, recently completed her master's at San Jose State University (SJSU) in 2025, and is currently in her dietetic internship at SJSU. Her aspiration is to be a dietitian who can not only come up with helpful nutrition recommendations for her clients, but one who can impart empathy, compassion and pass on what she's received.

"Receiving this scholarship means a burden lifting off of my chest, as I continue to pursue the journey to become a dietitian. As often with higher education, they come at a cost that's not always accessible for many. Although of course, a scholarship is not meant to solve all my financial problems, it sends me a sort of relief, like a gift, that encourages me to keep going... that I can keep going, because of all the support that's around me."



Marisabel Guzman Bowen

University of New England

Marisabel Guzman Bowen is a graduate student in the Applied Nutrition program at the University of New England. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology with minors in Business and Communications from Guilford College. After graduating, she worked as an admission counselor for two years before transitioning into the field of nutrition and dietetics, driven by her interest in the connection between psychology and nutrition. Some of her interests within the field include pediatric nutrition, sports nutrition, and clinical nutrition. She looks forward to one day serving as a preceptor to future students in the field and feels grateful to have had the opportunity to work with such amazing preceptors through her rotations.

"Being a recipient of this scholarship has been an incredibly meaningful experience and a memorable time in my academic journey. I have felt encouraged to continue to work hard and stay focused and dedicated towards my goal, motivated by the support."



Katharine Hamelin, MS

University of Delaware

Katharine Hamelin is a dedicated dietetic intern and graduate student passionate about advancing evidence-based nutrition care. She earned her bachelor's degree in nutrition and dietetics and continued her education in graduate studies, where she strengthened her skills in clinical and research settings. During graduate school, Katharine worked closely with her professor on research projects that deepened her understanding of nutrition science and inspired her to pursue a career focused on improving health outcomes through nutrition intervention. Currently completing her dietetic internship, Katharine is gaining hands-on experience across clinical, community, and foodservice settings. She is especially interested in the role of nutrition in disease prevention and management and hopes to combine clinical practice with ongoing involvement in research and education. Her long-term goal is to become a registered dietitian who contributes to advancing patient care and supports the growth of the dietetics profession through mentorship and leadership.

"I'm very grateful for this scholarship. Beyond the financial support, it serves as motivation and recognition of my dedication to the field of dietetics and my ongoing growth during the internship."



Doreen Nadia Kamal, MSW, CAP

University of Northern Colorado

(Doreen) Nadia Kamal is a part-time wellness program specialist for first responders and a full-time addictions counselor and therapist in community mental health. She received her Bachelor's in Dietetics and Master of Clinical Social Work from FSU and is completing a Master's in Dietetics/DI at the University of Northern Colorado. She is a Certified Addictions Professional and is pursuing licensure as a Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist and Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Her professional interests include Addiction, Mental Health, Nutrition, Holistic Wellness, Trauma & Crisis Counseling, Education, Research, Consulting & Entrepreneurship, as well as First Responder & Military/Veteran Wellness & Mental Health. Nadia has completed competency training in suicide intervention, crisis counseling, military mental health, deployment psychology, and fire service mental health. She also holds certifications in child welfare, personal training, group fitness, health coaching, and fitness nutrition.

"It's an honor to receive this scholarship. It provides encouragement to succeed academically with less financial burden."



Makenzie Pak, MS

Montclair State University

Makenzie Pak is a devoted student pursuing a dream of being a Registered Dietitian. Her own relationship with food inspires her, and she always wants to help others improve their relationship with food. Makenzie is currently completing her dietetic internship. She has completed her undergraduate and graduate programs at Montclair State University. As she progresses through her journey, she has expressed interest in sports nutrition to help athletes maintain a healthy relationship with food, enabling them to perform at 100% on the playing field. She is also passionate about working in a clinical setting to help educate others on the importance of nutrition.

"Receiving this scholarship is not only an honor but an immense source of motivation. Helping to alleviate some of the financial burden I face, it is one less stressor I need to worry about. This allows me to go the extra mile and immerse myself in my studies and internship experience."



Andrea Rebimbas

Veterans Affairs Memphis Dietetic Internship

Originally from New Jersey, Andrea recently graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Food Sciences from the University of Vermont. She is currently pursuing her Master of Science in Nutrition at the University of Alabama while completing her dietetic internship with the Memphis Veteran Affairs hospital. Andrea hopes to empower others with food agency through nutrition education or culinary education programs.

"Earning the Colonel Miriam E. Perry Goll Memorial Scholarship has felt incredibly rewarding. This scholarship eases the financial pressures of graduate school and my dietetic internship, allowing me to focus more on my studies and clinical rotations. This support is helping me pursue my dream of becoming a registered dietitian."



Sydney Toburen

Oklahoma State University

Sydney Toburen grew up in rural Oklahoma and was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at a young age; because of this she has always aspired to become a certified diabetes educator one day. After many more autoimmune issues she decided to return to school at the age of 36 and began a nutrition and dietetics program at Oklahoma State University. After obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition & Dietetics she began a competitive graduate program in Dietetics Practice with the goal of becoming a registered dietitian and eventually a diabetes educator. She will graduate with her Masters of Nutritional Science in December 2025.

"Receiving a Foundation scholarship means so much to me because it is validation of the commitment I have made to this career and shows that someone wants to invest in my future and the future of nutrition & dietetics!"

Colonel Nannie Rudd Evans Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of Charlotte Evans Floyd

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Thank you for believing in students like me who are striving to make a difference through the power of nutrition! As a dedicated dietetics student and campus leader who has faced personal loss, this support means more than just financial aid. It is hope, validation, and a reminder that I am not alone in pursuing my purpose. Your generosity allows me to focus on my education, serve my community, and honor my mother's legacy by promoting equitable access to nutrition and wellness. Because of you, I am one step closer to becoming a registered dietitian who transforms lives.

- Janyia Hightower

Janyia Hightower

University of Georgia

Janyia Hightower is a dedicated and passionate student at the University of Georgia pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Dietetics with double minors in Nutritional Sciences and Public Health, graduating in May 2026. She is also enrolled in the Double Dawgs Pathway to earn her master's degree in community nutrition, expected in May 2027. Deeply committed to leadership and service, Janyia is heavily involved on campus, serving as President of both the Zeta Psi Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and the UGA Section of the National Council of Negro Women. She is passionate about promoting health equity and fostering meaningful connections. Her passion for nutrition grew stronger after experiencing the loss of her mother, which inspired her to help others live longer and healthier lives through accessible nutrition education. Janyia aspires to become a registered dietitian specializing in oncology and community nutrition with a focus on underserved populations. Through her future career, she hopes to address food insecurity, improve nutrition literacy, and create sustainable programs that bridge the gap between healthcare and community wellness. Guided by her faith, compassion, and purpose, Janyia strives to honor her mother's legacy by empowering others to nourish their bodies, minds, and spirits.

"Receiving the Colonel Nannie Rudd Evans Scholarship has been an incredible honor that reinforces my purpose in the field of dietetics. It represents recognition of my hard work, leadership, and commitment to promoting nutrition equity within underserved communities. This scholarship not only alleviates financial stress but also empowers me to focus more deeply on my studies and community-based nutrition initiatives. As a rural, low-income student and aspiring registered dietitian, this support reminds me that my dedication to service, education, and advocacy is seen and valued, motivating me to continue making a lasting impact through nutrition and public health."

Mariana Montserrat Salazar

Texas Woman's University

Mariana M. Salazar is a Senior at Texas Woman's University, Denton pursuing her undergraduate degree in dietetics. She was born in Mexico and immigrated to the U.S as a child for better opportunities. She is highly involved in her campus, having been president for the nutrition organization on campus, has led and created summer nutrition culinary camps, and is currently a mentor for incoming Freshman majoring in nutrition. She hopes to one day provide bilingual services to her Hispanic community, helping to reach the underserved. She wants to provide nutrition services without stripping away people's culture and backgrounds.

"This scholarship is a blessing to me and my family. I often feel as though the financial burden of college is overlooked, and many, like me, struggle to afford it. Without financial support, I would likely not be able to finish my degree and accomplish my goal of becoming an RDN. This money will help alleviate the financial burden from my family and give us a sense of peace. Thank you."



Commission on Dietetic Registration Advancing Practice Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the Commission on Dietetic Registration

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, One day I hope to be in your shoes, contributing to fellow dietitians' academic pursuits. As a change-maker in your own right, you are investing in future leaders within all sectors of food and nutrition. While I am grateful to receive funding at this stage in my life, I cannot wait to pay it forward as you are. You have my respect. Thank you for your generosity!

- Laura Weidemann, RD, LDN

Magan Ester, RDN, NBC-HWC

Louisiana State University, Shreveport

Magan Ester, RDN, CHWC, NBC-HWC, is a dedicated registered dietitian and certified health and wellness coach serving as a nutrition expert and health educator at Microsoft in Atlanta, GA. In her role, she designs and delivers innovative wellness initiatives—including global fitness and wellbeing classes, group coaching, and evidence-based nutrition education—impacting thousands of employees across diverse communities. Magan's professional background spans nutrition research, clinical nutrition, public health, and community outreach. She has contributed her expertise across major healthcare and government settings, including Emory University Hospital, the USDA's Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program, and local community organizations. Her work includes chronic disease prevention, maternal and child health programming, wellness initiatives, and nutrition counseling. She holds a B.S. in Health Science from James Madison University, a B.S. in Dietetics from Virginia State University, and completed her dietetic internship at Virginia Tech University. In addition to her work in corporate wellness, Magan is the founder of Happy Mango Books, an independent publishing company creating innovative children's books that make health and nutrition fun, accessible, and empowering. As a proud mother of two young daughters with another on the way, Magan is committed to advancing health equity and inspiring lifelong healthy habits in families and communities.

"Receiving this scholarship has filled me with both gratitude and reassurance. This scholarship represents far more than financial support—it affirms the importance of advancing leadership within the dietetics profession. Being a mom of small children, I didn't think I would be in a position to go back to school until my children were much older; I am so humbled by the Foundation's belief in my potential. This opportunity allows me to pursue my MBA and continue building a career focused on equity, innovation, and empowering communities through nutrition. Thank you for helping me take this transformative next step."

Ariel Gehringer, RDN

West Chester University of Pennsylvania

Ariel earned her first degree in Business Marketing from Millersville University in 2011 and built a nine-year career in sales and marketing across several states, including Texas, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania. She later pursued her passion for nutrition, completing her degree in nutrition and dietetics at West Chester University in 2021, where she also began her Master of Science in Community Nutrition. She completed her dietetic internship with Sodexo, specializing in oncology nutrition, before working as an Outpatient Dietitian, providing comprehensive nutrition assessments for patients from infancy through older adulthood. She then transitioned into an acute care rehabilitation RD while completing her graduate studies and raising her young daughter. Her long-term goal is to own and manage a private practice that integrates her background in business and nutrition to deliver evidence-based, practical guidance—particularly supporting women's reproductive health and pediatric nutrition as they navigate today's complex nutrition landscape.

"By awarding me with this scholarship, you have alleviated a large portion of the financial burden of finishing my Master of Science in Community Nutrition from West Chester University of PA. The funds from this scholarship will go directly towards the cost to finish my master's degree. As a first-time mom, this scholarship provides me confidence in continuing to complete my master's degree without worry or guilt."





Julie Kummet, RDN

University of California, Davis

Julie received her Bachelor of Science in Human Nutrition and Dietetics at Metropolitan State University of Denver. She completed her dietetic internship with Sodexo with specialization in pediatric nutrition. Julie has been a dietitian at Presbyterian St. Luke's/Rocky Mountain Children's for five years. She spent three years in Adult and Pediatrics before transitioning to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit where she has been passionately supporting the littlest patients for two years. She sits on two committees aimed at the improvement of nutrition and lactation in the NICU. Prior to dietetics Julie had a 16-year career in retail management. In her multi-unit leadership roles, she honed skills in servant leadership, change management and problem solving. She ran regional level quality improvement projects and was an educator and mentor for newly onboarded leaders. Julie's interest in leadership and teaching endures and she has professional aspirations for educating the next generation of dietitians. She would like to help expand the curriculum in undergraduate and graduate degrees to include more opportunities for education on neonate and pediatric nutrition.

"Receiving this scholarship will have a profound impact on my current role and career goals. I will pursue a Master of Advanced Studies that aligns with the specialized area of dietetics I work in, furthering my ability to improve the lives of those I serve. Additionally, this degree will allow me to pursue a long-term goal of teaching at the collegiate level. As a mother, helping support her own children through higher education, it would have been exponentially harder to advance my career without this incredible opportunity."



Isabel Markowski, RDN

Tufts University

Isabel is pursuing dual master's degrees in public health and nutrition at Tufts University, specializing in agriculture, food and the environment. Originally from Wisconsin, she developed an early connection to farming on her grandfather's corn and squash farm and later managed a chili pepper farm and value-added business while studying dietetics and environmental science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. There, she co-directed SlowFood UW, a student-led nonprofit connecting farmers, students, and community members through local food. After completing the Edward Hines, Jr. Veterans Affairs Dietetic Internship, Isabel worked at a recreational cooking school, The Chopping Block, and Chicago's oldest continually operating food pantry, Common Pantry. She led pantry operations during COVID-19, supporting over 1,000 households per week, oversaw a full-scale facility renovation, and launched the organization's first nutrition program. She served on the junior board for Green City Market and performed with a Korean folk drumming group at HANA Center in Chicago. Isabel's professional focus is on bridging agriculture, nutrition, and public health to advance a biodiverse, just, and climate-resilient food system. She envisions dietitians shaping conversations not only in nutrition, but also in agriculture and climate spaces, crafting systems-level solutions that honor both people and the planet.

"I was walking out of the classroom after my Global Food and Nutrition Policy class at Tufts University when I read "congratulations" on my phone and immediately froze on the spot. Relief, excitement, and joy. As a first-generation college student, my history with carving out my own support for education and career-building is a long hallway, and receiving this scholarship opened up a window and let a breeze in. It also means not only feasibility, but visibility. I feel seen by my field even though I'm at the intersection of many things—agriculture, climate change, justice, and nutrition—and I'm grateful."



Merideth Miller RD, CSP, LD

Ohio University

Merideth Miller obtained her Bachelor of Science from The Ohio State University in 2000. She completed her dietetic internship at the Cleveland Clinic in 2001. She has been a pediatric nutrition support dietitian for the past 24 years. She has been a Board-Certified Specialist in Pediatric Nutrition for the past 10 years. She has been an Advanced Practice Dietitian through Cleveland Clinic since 2019. Merideth's primary focus is pediatric nephrology that includes general nephrology through renal transplant patient care. She has provided numerous presentations and written several articles. She participates in research projects through the Cleveland Clinic where she has worked the entirety of her career. She is a member of the Northeast Ohio National Kidney Foundation Medical Advisory Board for the past 3 years. Merideth participates in a number of committees and fundraising events with NKF. She is currently working on obtaining her Master of Food and Nutrition Science through Ohio University.

"This scholarship means more to me than just financial support; it's a recognition of my hard work and a vote of confidence in my potential. I wasn't certain that I wanted to get my master's and I was concerned about the monetary and emotional constraints going back to school would place on my family. I limited the classes I was taking to allow for lower costs, but with this scholarship, I will be able to finish my master's in a more timely manner allowing me to have more free time with my children in the future."



Celeste Olson, RDN, LDN, CNSC

Western Governors University

Celeste Olson holds a Bachelor of Science in Dietetics from Iowa State University (2016) and has been a practicing clinical dietitian since 2017. She currently serves as the lead clinical dietitian at Lee Health in Fort Myers, Florida, where she guides patient-centered nutrition care and supports interdisciplinary teams in medical and surgical ICU's. Celeste is now pursuing her MBA in Healthcare Administration to expand her impact as a dietitian-leader. Her professional goal is to blend clinical expertise with strategic leadership to drive innovation and elevate the role of dietetics within the broader healthcare system.

"Receiving this scholarship has empowered me to pursue career advancement as a dietitian with a focus on leadership and business innovation. It's given me the freedom to invest in opportunities that strengthen both my clinical expertise and my ability to lead meaningful change in the nutrition field. I'm deeply grateful for the support—it's helping me build a career that blends science, strategy, and service."



Emily Scheresky, RDN, LRD

University of North Dakota

Emily Scheresky is a graduate student pursuing her master's in public health at the University of North Dakota. She is a registered dietitian and works as a food service director for a school district in rural Minnesota. She also is a part time instructor for the University of North Dakota. Additionally, she is the State Policy Representative for the North Dakota Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Recently, she was active in the passing of the licensure compact in North Dakota. In 2025, Scheresky received the Recognized Young Dietitian of the year for the state of North Dakota. Scheresky hopes to continue her career advocating for improving food insecurity amongst rural youth in America, specifically through existing programs, such as the School Nutrition Program.

"This scholarship allows me the freedom to pursue higher education without being held back by financial burden. My educational journey will be made possible because I can fully to commit to my classes without having to worry about the potential financial consequences."



Kimberly Snodgrass, RDN, LD, FAND, FNKF

University of Michigan-Flint

Kimberly Snodgrass has been a RDN for 22 years and she was a National Spokesperson for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, and she is a member of the Academy's Center for Lifelong Learning. She is active in several DPG's/MIG's. Snodgrass worked on a toolkit in collaboration with the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the National Baptist Convention, and NOBIDAN that was disseminated to Baptist churches across the US to improve nutrition. Snodgrass is also on the Advisory Board for the Nutrition & Dietetics program at Ursuline College in Pepper Pike, Ohio. Snodgrass graduated from Marygrove College in Detroit, Michigan with her Bachelor of Science in Human Nutrition and Foods. She went on to complete her dietetic internship at the Detroit Health Department. Snodgrass is currently pursuing her MPH from U of M. While in graduate school she was the Vice-President of the Graduate Students of Color, a member of the Eta Sigma Gamma which is a national health education honors society, and a mentor to students in the Mentor Collective Program. She is happily married to Pastor Kenneth Snodgrass with three daughters: Peyton, Rachel, and Hannah. She is the President of the church usher board and likes to run 5k's.

"I affirm that receiving this scholarship has meant a lot to me because without it, I would not be able to attend graduate school. The impact it has on my educational journey is difficult to verbalize. I didn't think it'd be possible to go back to graduate school at this point in my life. The Academy has made my dream of obtaining a graduate degree a possibility."



Allison Taormina, RDN, CDCES

Central Michigan University

Allison serves as the Director of Nutrition & Wellness for CCL Hospitality Group, where she provides leadership and strategic direction for nutrition and wellbeing initiatives across the Southeast. Allison began her career with Morrison Healthcare as a food service associate while completing her undergraduate degree at Michigan State University. Later, Allison completed her dietetic internship with Morrison Healthcare, launching her career with Compass Group at McLaren Macomb Hospital. After relocating to Atlanta, Georgia, Allison served as the Clinical Nutrition Manager overseeing three acute care facilities and supporting 14 dietitians across the system. As Regional Clinical Nutrition Manager, Allison also collaborated with CNMs across several southeast states, leading nutrition initiatives and operational excellence. growth throughout the profession and Compass Group. In her current role with CCL Hospitality Group, Allison continues to champion evidence-based nutrition and wellness strategies and supporting the development of dietitians throughout Compass Group and the field of dietetics.

"I'm so grateful to have been chosen to receive the Foundation's 2025 Commission on Dietetic Registration Advancing Practice. Receiving this award will support my continued growth in the field of dietetics. Having the understanding of the field of nutrition and wellness from a business perspective will shape the future leaders of dietetics that I support. The impact of this provides motivation to continue growing and learning, and give back to others through my work."



Laura Weidemann, RD, LDN

Johns Hopkins University

Laura Weidemann, RD, LDN, grew up in rural Iowa where she founded and led an impactful community and donation garden. Leaving a legacy at each place Laura called home, she also helped develop the first ever food ethics course at Viterbo University, her alma mater. This course continues to guide students in thinking critically about just food systems. Currently, Laura is a second-year MSPH student at the Bloomberg School of Public Health. Her degree is focused on food systems research, a vital field in which researchers study how the built environment, policies and programs, and food value chains impact food availability and access. She is actively leading research projects related to food worker mental health and regional food systems. In addition to her degree program, Laura works as a clinical dietitian at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. Following completion of her master's program, she is interested in either working as a clinical dietitian full-time or pursuing a doctoral nutrition program. Her career aspirations are to work as a research dietitian and professor.

"I am deeply honored to receive the Commission on Dietetic Registration Advancing Practice scholarship. My MSPH program in human nutrition has been everything I could have hoped for, blending clinical nutrition, food systems, and nutrition policy all into one degree. With this scholarship's support, I can focus on developing advanced research skills and creating meaningful deliverables for partnering organizations. I am grateful for this recognition of my work and for the opportunity to thrive in my academic program."

Commission on Dietetic Registration Advancing Practice Preceptor Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the Commission on Dietetic Registration

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Thank you for helping me grow professionally by investing in my continued education. Your generosity eases financial stress and empowers future leaders in public health nutrition to create lasting, meaningful change. As a first-generation college student committed to expanding equitable access to nutrition education and culinary medicine, I can confidently say your support fuels this progress. It has kept me on track with my MPH and allows me to focus on programs that serve underserved communities. Your contributions are life-changing investments in both students and community health. Thank you for believing in me and this work.

- Anita Bancroft, RD, CC

Anita Bancroft, RD, CC

University of Colorado

Anita Bancroft is a first-generation college graduate and current Master of Public Health student at the Colorado School of Public Health, expected to graduate in December 2025 with a concentration in Leadership and Public Health Practice. She began her academic journey with an Associate of Applied Science in Culinary Arts and a 6,000-hour American Culinary Federation apprenticeship. In 2019, she earned her Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Food Science with a concentration in Dietetics and Nutrition Management from Colorado State University, graduating magna cum laude as a University Honors Scholar. Throughout her career, she has merged culinary expertise with nutrition education, managing community programs that promote health equity through culturally relevant culinary medicine initiatives. Her leadership as manager of Community Nutrition Programs at CU Anschutz Health and Wellness Center has helped launch impactful programming for underserved communities and medical students alike. She is passionate about public health, food justice, and increasing access to nutrition education in rural and underserved populations. Her long-term goals include shaping policy, growing preventive nutrition programs, and mentoring future dietitians. This scholarship has helped her continue her studies while working full-time, allowing her to stay focused on her mission of improving community health through food.

"Receiving this scholarship has empowered me to continue advancing public health through culinary nutrition without the added weight of financial stress. As a first-generation student balancing full-time work and graduate school, this support is a reminder that my efforts to create equitable, community-based nutrition programs truly matter. It has also reaffirmed my place in public health nutrition and allowed me to stay focused on expanding culinary medicine initiatives without delaying my MPH progress. As a preceptor, this scholarship also supports my ongoing commitment to mentoring dietetic interns and helping prepare the next generation of dietitians for impactful, community-based work."





Temina Chebelyon-Dalizu, RD, LD, CLC

University of Texas at Arlington

Temina Chebelyon-Dalizu, RD, LD, CLC, is a Registered Dietitian and Certified Lactation Counselor with a strong background in food and nutrition initiatives that improve health outcomes. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Culinary Nutrition from Johnson & Wales University. She is currently the Director of Food and Nutrition Services at Medical City Denton and Medical City Argyle. Serving as a Board Member at Friends of Shiloh Garden, Temina leverages her expertise in food service, healthcare, and dietetics to advance sustainable food systems. Deeply committed to community service, she actively seeks opportunities to advocate for health and nutrition, striving to contribute her knowledge, passion, and experience in community leadership roles. Continuing her pursuit of lifelong learning, she is also working toward an Executive MBA at The University of Texas at Arlington.

"I am deeply thankful to The Foundation for awarding me this scholarship. Balancing full-time work, personal family obligations, community service, and my full-time enrollment in my master's program has been challenging, but this scholarship has enabled me to devote additional hours to schoolwork and community projects. This direct financial support has alleviated tuition burdens, allowing me to avoid accumulating student loan debt. As a result, I can move forward with my planned enrollment for the upcoming year, continue addressing community needs, and further my career goals."



Rachell Cooney, RD, LDN

University of Florida

Originally from the Dominican Republic, Rachell has resided in Florida for most of her life. She has dedicated the past five years to her career as a dietitian and currently works at a level 1 trauma center with the adult oncology population providing specialized nutrition support aimed at improving the patients' quality of life. Building on this experience, she's pursuing a Master of Science in Health Education and Behavior at the University of Florida, with plans to graduate in December 2025. Eager to advance her expertise, she plans to obtain the Certified Nutrition Support Clinician (CNSC) and/or Certified Specialist in Oncology (CSO) credential in 2026. These credentials will strengthen her evidence-based, patient-centered practice. Her long-term goal is to join an interdisciplinary outpatient team where she can combine her skills to empower patients and help them address nutritional concerns in a healthy, sustainable way.

"Receiving this scholarship means the world to me. It provides the opportunity to focus on my studies with ease and gives me the confidence to continue striving toward my academic and career goals. My dedication and sacrifices have not been in vain, and I hope this serves as encouragement to others that they too, can achieve their goals."



Kori Dover, RD
University of the Pacific

Kori is a dedicated food and nutrition professional and a Registered Dietitian working at the intersection of agriculture, communications, and nutrition. Her work bridges the gap between how food is grown and how it nourishes people, highlighting sustainable practices and championing nutrient-dense food choices that support health and well-being across all stages of life. A recognized leader in the food industry, Kori collaborates with schools, healthcare providers, and community organizations to develop innovative programs and resources that inspire lasting change. She has led initiatives to educate professionals on the critical role of high-quality protein, created engaging hands-on learning experiences, and designed impactful tools that connect farm-to-table principles with practical nutrition applications. Her ability to bring diverse stakeholders together has established her as a trusted voice in advancing sustainable nutrition education. Her work is driven by a commitment to improving public understanding of food, farming, and health. As a mother and someone who affectionately identifies as “farmer-ish,” Kori believes there is no one-size-fits-all model for food or health. We create connections, celebrate culture, and honor traditions with food. Eating well should be satisfying and joyful, and it should never be rooted in fear.

“Receiving this scholarship is an honor that allows me to complete my education and deepen my ability to support consumers, healthcare professionals, and future students as a credentialed professional. It builds on my existing expertise and keeps me engaged in the evolving field of nutrition and dietetics while applying the real-world skills and experiences I’ve gained throughout my career. This support strengthens my commitment to advancing the field with sound science and helping others better understand the essential roles nutrition and health play. I am grateful for the opportunity to continue growing and contributing to the future of this field.”



Islena Luceth Keyes, RDN, LDN
University of Nebraska- Lincoln

Islena Keyes is currently a resident of Florida. She came to the United States at the age of 22 without being able to speak English fluently. She was born in Colombia and had a goal to attend university and obtain a degree. After many years of attending school to learn English, she applied to the University of Utah to start her professional degree in Nutrition and Dietetics. She graduated with her bachelor’s degree in 2015, followed by the completion of her dietetic internship in 2016, both at the University of Nevada, Reno. She is a mother of three boys and currently works as a clinical dietitian in the Tampa Bay area. Her professional aspirations include completing her master’s degree in nutrition and dietetics. She would like to teach in the future and continue providing nutrition care to her patients. She is planning to pursue the credentials to become a Board-Certified Specialist in Digestive Health.

“The scholarship shows that people believe in the importance of education and are willing to help nutrition professionals who want to continue their education, to help them increase their knowledge and ability to provide better care, which is supported by evidence-based practice. Completing my master’s program is expensive, and receiving this scholarship allows me to focus on the program without as many financial worries.”

Commission on Dietetic Registration Doctoral Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the Commission on Dietetic Registration

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Your donations make a meaningful and lasting impact on the lives of students like me. Your generosity provides more than tuition assistance—it gives us the time, encouragement, and confidence to pursue our education to the fullest. Because of your support, students are able to reach their potential, emerging as skilled professionals who will contribute greatly to our field and shape its future. Your investment transforms lives today while building a stronger tomorrow. Thank you for believing in us and wisely investing in all our futures.

- Reilly Warren, MS, RD, CSG, LD

Nour Alkarzon, MS, RD, LDN

Northern Illinois University

Nour Alkarzon, MS, RD, LDN is a clinical Registered Dietitian at Northwestern Medicine and a doctoral student in Health Sciences at Northern Illinois University. She earned her master's degree in nutrition and has developed a strong passion for advancing research that improves how nutrition care is delivered in healthcare settings. Her current doctoral research focuses on understanding physician referral practices to Registered Dietitians, with the goal of increasing access to medical nutrition therapy and addressing barriers that prevent timely nutrition intervention. Nour's work is driven by her commitment to improving patient outcomes and advocating for equitable access to nutrition care across all populations. Through her PhD studies, Nour aims to bridge clinical practice and research by contributing to evidence-based policies that strengthen the role of dietitians within interdisciplinary teams. She aspires to become a leader in clinical nutrition research, an educator who mentors future dietitians, and an advocate for policies that elevate the visibility and impact of the profession. Nour is honored to be selected as a 2025–2026 Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation scholarship recipient, and she is deeply grateful for the Foundation's support in helping her continue her educational journey and contribute to the advancement of dietetics.

"Receiving this scholarship has been truly empowering. As a Registered Dietitian pursuing my PhD, this support allows me to continue advancing in a field where there is a critical shortage of RDs with doctoral training. It enables me to focus on research that advocates for equitable access to nutrition care and strengthens the voice of dietitians in healthcare policy and practice. I'm deeply grateful to the Foundation for investing in the future of our profession."





Demsina Babazadeh, MPH, RDN

University of California, Davis

Demsina Babazadeh, MPH, RD, is a PhD candidate in Nutritional Biology at the University of California, Davis, where her research focuses on the intersection of nutrition, metabolism, and obesity pharmacotherapy. Her dissertation examines how injectable anti-obesity medications influence diet quality, food cravings, and metabolic health—addressing a critical gap in clinical research. She recently published a scoping review in *Advances in Nutrition* highlighting the lack of dietary assessment in GLP-1 receptor agonist trials and leads the CRAVE study, 24-week clinical trial investigating nutrition-related outcomes during pharmacologic weight loss. Demsina has presented her work at national conferences, including ObesityWeek and the American Society for Nutrition, and currently serves as Director of Nutrition Research at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, overseeing metabolic feeding studies and nutrition science initiatives. Her professional goal is to bridge academic research and industry innovation by advancing the integration of nutrition science into obesity and metabolic drug development. Through her combined background in public health, dietetics, and clinical research, she aims to shape evidence-based, equitable approaches to obesity care that improve both health outcomes and quality of life for patients.

“Receiving this scholarship is both an honor and a profound encouragement to continue advancing nutrition science and obesity research. The Foundation’s generosity allows me to focus more fully on my doctoral studies, particularly my work investigating how anti-obesity medications influence diet quality, metabolic health, and patient outcomes. By alleviating financial pressures, this award provides the freedom to pursue rigorous, impactful research that bridges clinical nutrition and metabolic medicine. I am deeply grateful for this support, which reinforces my commitment to improving evidence-based, equitable approaches to obesity care and shaping the future of nutrition science.”



Brooke Butterick, MS, RDN

Arizona State University

Dietetics is a second career for Brooke Butterick, MS, RDN, which stemmed from a passion for health and nutrition. She completed her Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) at Arizona State University where she was fortunate to work in a research lab focusing on hydration. That experience sparked her interest in human research and motivated her to pursue a doctorate. From there she moved on to earn a master’s in nutrition from the University of Central Arkansas. Brooke then returned to ASU to work towards a PhD in Exercise and Nutritional Sciences and is in the final year of the program. Her professional goal is to remain in academia, balancing both research and teaching, and she is especially interested in how nutrition can help mitigate negative environmental impact, supporting long-term health and preventing chronic disease. Through her research she hopes to contribute to evidence-based practices that benefit individuals and communities. She is also passionate about educating and mentoring future dietitians, assisting them in developing the skills and confidence they will need in their profession.

“This generous award will greatly support my academic goals as a doctoral student in Exercise and Nutritional Sciences at ASU, helping me complete my final year and achieve my lifelong dream of earning a doctorate. As a first-generation college graduate, this scholarship not only brings me closer to my aspirations but also sets an example for my children, showing them the importance of education and perseverance. I am deeply grateful for this opportunity.”



Robin Danowski, MS, RD, LDN

University of North Florida

Robin Danowski, MS, RD, LDN is a Registered Dietitian and Licensed Dietitian Nutritionist with over 20 years of experience in both inpatient and outpatient settings, with a focus on nephrology nutrition. She holds a bachelor's degree in nutrition and dietetics and a Master of Science in Community Health, and she is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition at the University of North Florida. Robin serves as the Graduate Director of the Coordinated Program in Nutrition and Dietetics Practice and as an Assistant Professor at La Salle University. She recently led the program's successful reaccreditation and teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in Medical Nutrition Therapy, Advanced Nutrition and Metabolism, and Clinical and Community Practicum. Robin serves on the board of the Pennsylvania Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics as Chair of the Professional Development Committee and is also Chair of the Lower Merion School District Parent Nutrition Committee. She contributes to national efforts as an expert reviewer and through the Nutrition and Dietetics Educators and Preceptors Development Committee. She also advocates for the profession through legislative efforts and state conference presentations. Robin was selected as the Outstanding Dietetic Educator for the state of Pennsylvania in 2025.

"Receiving this scholarship is a great honor that helps ease the financial demands of pursuing my doctorate in Clinical Nutrition. It allows me to focus on my passion for advancing the profession of dietetics, especially in increasing compensation, empowering dietitians to negotiate salaries confidently, recognize their value, and develop as leaders. This award validates my commitment and motivates me to continue working toward positive change for dietitians. I am truly grateful for this support and the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the field I deeply care about."



Mei Leng Iao, MS, RD, CSO, CNSC

Loma Linda University

Mei Leng Iao, MS, RD, CSO, CNSC, holds a Master of Science in Applied Statistics and Analytics and a Master of Science in Nutritional Science. She is an experienced oncology dietitian with more than fourteen years of clinical experience in both hospital and outpatient settings, providing individualized nutrition care to patients with cancer and other chronic diseases. Mei is currently pursuing a Doctor of Public Health in Epidemiology from Loma Linda University, where her research explores how nutrition and public health data can improve chronic disease prevention. She is passionate about using evidence based and data driven approaches to enhance patient outcomes, reduce health disparities, and expand access to quality nutrition programs in diverse communities. Her professional goal is to bridge clinical nutrition and public health research by developing community-based programs that promote long term wellness. Mei also hopes to serve as an educator and mentor to future dietitians and public health professionals, inspiring them to use science and compassion to make a lasting difference in population health.

"Receiving this scholarship means encouragement and recognition for my long journey from a clinical oncology dietitian to a public health researcher. It eases my financial burden and allows me to focus on my DrPH in Epidemiology, where I study how nutrition and data can improve cancer prevention and population health. This award reminds me that every step from hospital care to community research has purpose. It strengthens my commitment to transform data into meaningful change and to mentor future students who share the same passion for helping others through science and compassion."



Kiersten Korber, MS, RDN
Michigan State University

Kiersten is an RDN and second-year PhD student studying Human Nutrition at Michigan State University (MSU). She earned both her Bachelor of Science in Dietetics and her Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics from MSU, where she also completed her dietetic internship. She is currently involved in the Pre-, Peri-, and Postnatal Michigan Archive for Research in Child Health (MARCH) Growth Study, investigating how metabolic health factors and antimicrobial exposures impact the gut microbiome during pregnancy and infancy, and how these factors influence child growth trajectories. She remains open to different career possibilities but is drawn to a path that combines research, teaching, and mentorship in a role that allows her to make a meaningful contribution to the field.

"Receiving this scholarship is both an honor and an incredible encouragement. It allows me to focus fully on my research in nutrition and dietetics while continuing to learn and grow as a future leader in the field. This support lessens financial pressure and reminds me that my work not only matters, but others believe in the potential of what I'm striving to do. I'm sincerely humbled and grateful for this investment in my education and for the opportunity to keep pursuing research that can improve health outcomes for mothers, infants, and communities everywhere."



Sitoya Mansell, MPH, MS, RDN, LD, MCHES, FAND
Loma Linda University

Sitoya is an accomplished dietitian and a current doctoral candidate in Preventive Care (DrPH) at Loma Linda University School of Public Health. She holds two master's and two bachelor's degrees in nutrition and public health. She is the owner and founder of a nutrition private practice and works as a Public Health Nutritionist. Sitoya is a member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and the California Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. She has demonstrated her ability as an exemplary leader in her field, consistently dedicating her time and expertise to numerous professional groups. From 2019 to 2023, Sitoya took on several leadership roles, including Member, Vice Chair, Chair, and Past Chair of the IDEA Committee for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, showing the dedication that she has towards cultivating an inclusive and equitable environment in her profession. Her exceptional endeavors and outstanding service to the dietetics field have been greatly honored, as evidenced by her prestigious designation as a Fellow of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (FAND). Her track record of exceptional leadership experience in fostering nutritional health and her passion for offering personalized nutrition and advancing health equity, makes her an excellent humanitarian and servant leader.

"As the extremely high cost of tuition and student debt has become a major concern among students, the Foundation's scholarships allow students the opportunity to concentrate on what is most important, "their educational journey" and not their finances. Receiving this scholarship offers financial relief, as it reduces financial cost, enhances academic focus, promotes personal growth, and allows me to move closer to achieving a long-term goal of mine and advancing my career."



Kwynn L. Mason, MPH, RD, LDN, INFCP, CLS
Saybrook University

Kwynn Mason is a native of Cleveland, OH. She has been a dietitian for 13 years and currently is a supervisory dietitian for outpatient clinical nutrition. Kwynn is MB-EAT trained, a certified lactation specialist and an integrative and functional nutrition certified practitioner. Kwynn holds a BA from Case Western Reserve University in Nutritional Biochemistry and Metabolism, a Master of Public Health from the University of Toledo in Nutrition and Epidemiology and is a doctoral student at Saybrook University focusing on Integrative and Functional Nutrition. She plans to write her dissertation on the lived experience of food insecurity among low-income minorities. Outside of professional work, Kwynn is the mother of a 4-year-old and is helping raise her 12-year-old nephew. She is an active member of her church and sorority, which fuels her commitment to service and community. Kwynn enjoys travelling, exploring new experiences, working out with her CrossFit community, and celebrating life with friends. In the future, Kwynn hopes to continue working with the underprivileged communities. She aims to provide them with functional nutrition education and empower them to take charge of their health.

"I am truly thankful for this scholarship award. I found out last week that I lost any further financial aid due to a calculation error. This error left me with a balance for the current fall semester and having to owe in the spring. I am heading towards the dissertation phase of my doctoral degree. This scholarship should be enough to carry me through to my degree or leave me a manageable balance! From the bottom of my heart, THANK YOU!"



Reilly Warren, MS, RD, CSG, LD
Rutgers University

Reilly Warren is enrolled in the Doctor of Clinical Nutrition program at Rutgers University and currently serves as a Clinical Nutrition Manager at a Level 1 trauma center. A Registered Dietitian for seven years, she brings five years of specialized experience in renal nutrition, in addition to her leadership in acute care and renal settings. Reilly has been published in a professional journal, presented a poster at a national conference, and served in multiple leadership roles with the Nevada Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Through these experiences, she has strengthened her expertise in clinical practice, research, and professional collaboration, while also advocating for high standards in patient care. With a strong passion for bridging the gap between research and clinical practice, Reilly aspires to expand her impact by teaching others the importance of research and translating complex scientific findings into practical knowledge that directly improves patient outcomes. She is particularly interested in pursuing a career as a Medical Science Liaison, where she can integrate her clinical expertise, research experience, and communication skills to foster collaboration among healthcare providers, researchers, and the broader medical community to improve patient outcomes through innovative nutrition leadership.

"Receiving this scholarship has been an incredible support in my educational journey. It has significantly reduced the financial stress of pursuing my doctorate, allowing me to remain focused on my studies and professional growth. I am sincerely grateful for this opportunity, as it not only alleviates my financial burden but also enhances my ability to achieve my academic and career goals."



Christina G. H. Young, RDN, CLC

University of Hawaii at Manoa

Christina Young is a Native Hawaiian Registered Dietitian and Certified Lactation Counselor in her fourth year of her PhD in Nutritional Sciences at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Young's dissertation research is on Hānai Waiū O Nā Kānaka 'Ōiwi (Breastfeeding of Native Hawaiians) to explore the perceptions of breastfeeding by pregnant Native Hawaiian women across the State of Hawai'i and identify the support system of breastfeeding using an indigenous lens. She is proud to integrate 'Ōlelo Hawai'i (Hawaiian language), indigenous research methodologies, and form a community advisory committee to guide her PhD research in community needs. After she graduates, Young hopes to mentor students and teach in higher education institutions on nutrition, food systems, and indigenous research.

"Receiving this Foundation scholarship strengthens my commitment and desire to the research I am doing with the Native Hawaiian community. Throughout my educational journey, Native Hawaiian health has been an area of nutrition I have always been passionate about. Receiving this recognition allows me to focus more on my community's needs within the context of my research and provide more opportunities to strengthen the health of Native Hawaiians through breastfeeding practices."

Commission on Dietetic Registration Expanding the Reach of Dietetics Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the Commission on Dietetic Registration

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Your generosity creates opportunities. Scholarships like this one ease financial burdens and make it possible for students to continue their education and clinical training without interruption. For many of us, your support is the difference between moving forward or stepping away from our dreams. By investing in students, you are not only advancing the future of nutrition and dietetics, you are also promoting equality by ensuring that individuals from all backgrounds have the chance to succeed. Thank you for believing in us and for helping to break down barriers so we can reach our full potential.

- Deiascha-Britte Bancayanvega

Meghan Aubuchon

University of Mississippi

Meghan Aubuchon is a graduate student from Slatton, Mississippi pursuing her master's degree in food and nutrition services at the University of Mississippi. She graduated from Itawamba Community College with her Associate of Arts with a concentration in Nutrition in 2022. She preceded to obtain her Bachelor of Science degree in Dietetics and Nutrition from the University of Mississippi in 2024 as Magna Cum Laud and an Honor's Scholar. She is a member of Phi Kappa Phi, Mortar Board alumni, and a Phi Theta Kappa alumni. With a background in various volunteer and work experiences in community nutrition settings as well as having her own lived experiences she's learned from, she aspires to work in the field of community nutrition to help serve underserved populations, including those experiencing food insecurity and homelessness in her home state of Mississippi.

"Receiving this scholarship means the world to me! This helps to ease the financial burden that often goes along with getting a college education. Also, I am a first-generation student, so knowing that someone believes that my education is worth funding means so much to me!"

Gysel Hadasa Avendano

Loma Linda University

Gysel Hadasa Avendano was born in the United States and moved to Mexico at the age of five. She spent most of her childhood there before returning to the U.S. alone at sixteen in pursuit of a better future. Despite limited financial support from her parents due to economic differences between the two countries, Gysel remained determined to work hard and follow her dreams. She earned her associate degree in Pre-Nutrition and Dietetics in May 2022 and began her combined bachelor's and master's program in Nutrition and Dietetics at Loma Linda University in 2023. Now in her final year, she continues to grow academically, professionally, and personally through her studies and clinical experiences. Gysel is passionate about helping others feel better about themselves and live healthier, more fulfilling lives. Her professional goals include earning her Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist (CDCES) credential, working in community nutrition, and eventually opening her own private practice focused on holistic health and wellness.

"Receiving this scholarship truly means a lot to me. As someone who came to the United States alone and has had to navigate many challenges without much support, this financial assistance brings tremendous relief. It helps ease the financial burden and anxiety that often come with pursuing higher education on my own. Most importantly, it allows me to focus more fully on my studies and professional growth rather than on financial stress. I'm deeply grateful for this opportunity and the encouragement it provides to continue striving toward my academic and career goals."





Deiascha-Britte Bancayanvega

Bradley University

Deiascha Bancayanvega is a compassionate and determined health professional completing her Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics at Bradley University, with plans to become a Registered Dietitian in 2026. Her educational journey has not been easy. She has faced discrimination and barriers that too often make it harder for people with disabilities to enter and thrive in healthcare. Despite these challenges, her determination remains strong. Deiascha firmly believes that individuals with disabilities, especially those who are low vision or blind, have a rightful place in healthcare and should never be excluded by gatekeeping systems. She has served communities in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Peru, and the United Kingdom, offering nutrition counseling, education, and advocacy. Her passion is to advance women's and children's health while working to break down barriers so others can pursue their goals without fear. Deiascha's story reflects resilience, hope, and a steadfast belief in equality for all.

"I am honored to receive the Commission on Dietetic Registration Expanding the Reach of Dietetics Scholarship. This award is more than financial support; it symbolizes hope for the blind community and others who face barriers in education and professional training. It inspires me to continue advancing in nutrition and dietetics while helping to ensure that others can pursue their dreams without limits."



Samantha Bergstedt

St. Catherine University

Samantha Bergstedt grew up in Maple Grove, MN. She had a deep passion for the medical world and helping others but was a bit lost on how to translate this into a job. Then, she took nutrition foundations. In this class, she began to see how much food influences health and the role she could play in helping others reach health in all realms of the world. Samantha began her undergraduate career at St. Catherine University, where she graduated summa cum laude with a major in Nutrition and Dietetics, with a minor in psychology. She is continuing on at St. Catherine's and is currently in her last year of her master's in nutrition and dietetics. Samantha aims to enter the clinical world of dietetics to gain a broad understanding of the role dietitians play in the healthcare field. Currently, she does not have one specific specialization but is interested in pediatrics, oncology, and eating disorder recovery. Throughout her education, research, and work, Samantha aims to provide support to those in need and decrease the burden of social determinants of health. She believes all humans deserve safe, healthful food that will support their success.

"I am deeply grateful for receiving this scholarship. It will be of critical support as I continue my education in the field of dietetics. This scholarship will allow me to focus on my studies and work toward becoming the best dietitian I can be for my future clients and coworkers. I am so excited to enter this amazing field and support its expansion and growth."



Francine Julius Bioco

Texas Woman's University

Francine is a graduate student and dietetic intern working towards becoming a Registered Dietitian. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics and is currently completing her master's degree in nutrition at Texas Woman's University. Her focus is on maternal and child nutrition, with a strong interest in clinical dietetics and research. She is passionate about increasing access to health literacy, promoting culturally sensitive care, and improving health outcomes through evidence-based nutrition.

"I am honored to receive this award as a minority in the dietetics profession. Being considered for this scholarship not only validates my journey but also inspires me to encourage others from similar backgrounds to continue striving for representation in our field."



Catherine Brown, CDM, CFPP

The Culinary Institute of America

Catherine Brown is a five-year Marine Corps veteran, trained in leadership and public affairs. After serving, Catherine devoted herself to raising her children and learning to grow food. In 2008, Catherine created White Mountain Organics and started small-scale market gardens growing premium produce. In 2014, Catherine enrolled at White Mountains Community College, graduating with AS degrees in Baking and Pastry and Culinary Arts. Catherine continued her education at Kansas State University, earning a BS in dietetics. Catherine has been featured on The Chew and KSU's Global Campus network. After interning at award-winning bakeries, Catherine landed at DiCocoa's Cafe, where she remained until the cafe closed in 2020. Catherine next took the role of Culinary Arts instructor at Region 9 School of Applied Technology, teaching culinary and baking and pastry arts, nutrition, and horticulture to high school students until 2024. Currently, Catherine is working with Maine DOE, Child Nutrition, on a two-year grant-funded project. In this role, Catherine is instrumental in facilitating relationships between Maine farmers and K-12 school nutrition staff, breaking down barriers and increasing local ingredients and scratch cooking in school meals. Catherine is currently enrolled in the MPS, Sustainable Food Systems program at the Culinary Institute of America.

"This scholarship allows me to continue my food journey by completing the Master's in Sustainable Food Systems at the Culinary Institute of America. I started this program with renewed conviction and a sense of purpose that I directly attribute to being a recipient of this scholarship. I was not certain how I would fund this next step, but I was determined to find a way forward that did not include adding to my student loan debt. I have now accomplished that goal and am grateful for your vote of confidence. I will make a difference in this profession. Thank you."



Jordan Callahan, NDTR

Tarleton State University

Jordan Callahan is a senior at Tarleton State University majoring in Nutrition Science with a concentration in Dietetics, and a minor in Kinesiology. She is a graduate of Tarrant County College and became a Dietetic Technician, Registered in 2024 using the Associate's pathway. Jordan has a background in restaurant management and a lifelong passion for nutrition. She is currently employed by the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program under Texas A&M's AgriLife Extension Service as a Youth Nutrition Educator and works with low-resource community members in Tarrant County, Texas. She wishes to continue her education and become a Registered Dietitian and plans to enroll in an MS-DI program in the Fall of 2026. Her professional goals are to expand her experience working with infants and children, and to make a positive impact on her community while elevating the dietetics profession.

"The wonderful opportunity to be a recipient of a Foundation scholarship allows me to focus on my education and becoming the best nutrition professional I can be. It is my goal to extend the impact of this beyond my own needs and use my education to impact my community, and to strengthen the voice of the dietetics profession. Nutrition is my passion, and I am incredibly grateful to continue working, learning, and living for my passion. This scholarship is undoubtedly one of the most impactful gifts I have been given, and I cannot fully express how thankful I am."



Kristi Lynn DiDonna

The University of Alabama

Kristi DiDonna was born in Scotia, New York. She graduated from Scotia Glenville Senior High School in 2004 and entered directly into the workforce. In 2011, Kristi began studying culinary arts at Schenectady County Community College while working full-time and graduating with a 4.0 GPA and high honors. She dedicates her time annually baking and selling hundreds of cupcakes to raise money for the Stephen Piorkowski Epilepsy Scholarship Fund. In 2019, Kristi became prediabetic and realized she needed more education to help live a healthier life. She went back to Schenectady County Community College from 2019 to 2023 and obtained an associate in science in nutrition while working full-time, earning high honors and a 3.9 GPA and serving as Vice President for Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society. She began attending the University of Alabama in the summer 2023, is now an Accelerated Master's Program student and serves as the President for Distance Student Dietetic Association. Kristi plans to earn her RDN certification and become a Public Health or Community Nutrition Manager. She plans to teach nutrition education, open a community garden and traveling farmers markets to combat food insecurity within her community.

"Receiving this scholarship is extremely meaningful to me. I actually began crying and jumping due to the relief of stress of worrying how I was going to pay for the next semester. I am beyond grateful, words cannot describe. I can now continue with my studies in confidence and not have to worry whether I will be able to attend another semester. This scholarship reduces the financial burden and stress and helps me focus more on my educational goals."



Hannah Friedt

University of Northern Colorado

Hannah Friedt is a Dietetics and Nutrition graduate student at the University of Northern Colorado, where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Dietetics in 2024. She also holds an Associate of Science degree and Certified Nursing Assistant licensure from Bismarck State College. Her goal is to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist, focusing on empowering patients through evidence-based nutrition education, with an expected completion in 2026. Hannah's decision to pursue dietetics was influenced by personal experiences, particularly supporting her sister through a complex medical condition and her own journey with end-stage renal disease and kidney transplantation. These experiences deepened her appreciation for the role of nutrition in prevention and recovery, inspiring her to mentor with the National Kidney Foundation, where she supports individuals with kidney disease and those undergoing transplants. Her background includes roles as a Certified Nursing Assistant in cardiology, labor and delivery, and long-term care, as well as experience in medical claims management. Through these positions, she developed strong communication, critical thinking, and patient-centered care skills, which she applies in nutrition and healthcare. Hannah is passionate about promoting healthy lifestyles and patient advocacy, eager to continue growing as a healthcare professional through a dietetic internship and beyond.

"I am extremely grateful to receive the Foundation's 2025 Commission on Dietetic Registration Expanding the Reach of Dietetics Scholarship. Being awarded this scholarship allows me to focus my attention on my studies and dietetic internship, both of which will contribute to my continued learning and shape my future as a dietitian. On top of that, it has helped prove to myself that the dedication I have to dietetics and nutrition will serve me greatly once I graduate and begin working as a registered dietitian."



Victoria Llerena, BFA
Loma Linda University

Victoria (Tori) is a Latinx woman and native Southern California resident with a strong interest in art, nutrition, and the medical field. Growing up, she aspired to become both an artist and a veterinarian, allowing for a challenging experience when it came to choosing colleges upon graduation. She began her journey by obtaining her Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Digital Media, focusing on film editing and graphic design. The call towards medicine became stronger, however, and Tori changed her focus, becoming a registered veterinary technician (RVT). During this time, she discovered her passion for medical nutrition therapy (MNT) and its impact on improving patient outcomes in her animal patients. After experiencing personal medical issues and the profound impact of nutrition on health, she decided to pursue a graduate degree to become a registered dietitian (RD). Due to her exposure to feeding tubes and critical care, Tori has a strong interest in clinical MNT and would like to work in nutrition support to help the most vulnerable, including pediatric patients. She also has a passion for nutrition education, using her BFA skills to create nutrition-focused content, including her current ad-free plant-based recipe website <https://alkhemymau.com/>.

"Embarking on a journey towards a graduate degree is a challenging yet ultimately rewarding experience. My greatest discovery was not only my resilience but also recognizing how much support I truly have in my life. I am fortunate to have my family, fiancé, friends, and colleagues believe in me during both the best and roughest times. Now, with the gift of this scholarship, I am humbled to have the Foundation believe in me as well. This award encourages me to continue striving to become a great clinical registered dietitian. Thank you for believing in me."



Alexis Mahoney
Northern Illinois University

Alexis Mahoney is currently a second-year graduate student in the MS/DI at Northern Illinois University. She enrolled in the eating disorders and obesity certificate program to advance her knowledge in these topics to prepare for an eventual career as a diabetes educator. Helping others navigate their diabetes diagnosis is very important to her as I have watched those in my life try to learn to adapt. As a dietitian, she hopes to enhance the quality of life of my clients and enable them to maximize their health outcomes.

"The Foundation has been a source of inspiration and support the last two years. I was grateful to have won the same scholarship for the 2024 school year, and it is hard to put into words how alleviating the financial support was. Graduate school has come at a time in my life where I have severe personal stressors outside of my MS/DI, and receiving the scholarship from the Academy brought me a moment in time where I could take a deep breath and be okay."



Madison Myers
Radford University

Madison Myers began their academic journey at Frederick Community College before transferring to Radford University, where they are currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Foods and Nutrition. Upon graduation, they plan to continue their education by obtaining a master's degree in nutrition and completing a dietetic internship, with the goal of becoming a registered dietitian. With a strong passion for both clinical and sports nutrition, they aim to build a career that blends their love for health, performance, and patient care. Their interest in sports began in second grade when they first stepped onto the soccer field, and that same enthusiasm continues to drive their professional goals today. After shadowing a dietitian in a dialysis clinic, they felt a meaningful connection to the work being done and a strong desire to make a difference in that setting. This experience deepened their interest in clinical nutrition and affirmed their commitment to working with patients managing chronic conditions. Motivated, hardworking, and passionate about improving lives through nutrition, this student is eager to make a lasting impact in the field and grateful for the support that brings them closer to achieving their goals.

"This scholarship has allowed me to focus more on my education rather than the financial burden of school. Being awarded it has shown me that my hard work and dedication are truly paying off. It's incredibly rewarding to feel seen and supported by my community, and that recognition inspires me to continue striving for excellence and to give back in meaningful ways."



Anastasiia Nabar

Cedar Crest College

Anastasiia Nabar is a dietetics student from Pennsylvania currently pursuing her bachelor's degree in nutrition. Growing up in Ukraine, she always had a strong interest in nutrition and its connection to movement that began during her professional ballroom and folk-dance training at the age of 5 years. At the age of 15, her father suddenly died of cancer, motivating her to look deeper into health and its holistic relationship to all aspects of life. After high school, she travelled and lived in various parts of Ukraine, Germany, India and USA which exposed her to other cultures and their local food traditions. While researching the deeper causes of diseases and holistic approaches in healing the body, she received yoga teacher certification, that helped to raise her awareness about the body-mind connection. In spring 2025, she graduated Suma Cum Laude with associate's degree in medical laboratory technology and transferred to the DPD Nutrition program. She is planning to get master's degree with dietetic internship to become a Registered Dietitian and combine her holistic health experience and education in medical laboratory technology to contribute to community health. Her passion is to support community health using nutrition to increase the quality of life.

"For a long time, I had the desire to get a college education and become certified in the dietetics field. But only in 2023 I got the opportunity to finally settle and start my college education in the USA. Since I immigrated to the US on my own at eighteen, I did not have support to start my educational path straightaway, because I had to work to establish myself. This scholarship will help me to reach my educational goals and dreams with full focus and allow me to continue my planned enrollment for the next academic year."



Anabella Rodriguez Romero

Queens College

Anabella Rodriguez is a dedicated and eager nutrition student pursuing her Bachelor's and master's degree in nutrition

and Dietetics at Queens College. She has firsthand experience working as a Nutrition Assistant for a Nutrition, Endocrine, and Exercise program in New York City, where she supports patients managing and navigating medical conditions such as diabetes, obesity, thyroid disease, and eating disorders. Through her education and professional experience, Anabella has developed a profound understanding of the essential role nutrition plays in disease prevention and overall health. She is deeply passionate about the prevention and management of chronic diseases and believes that nutrition education is one of the most powerful tools for improving health in underserved communities. Driven by her aspiration to empower, educate, and inspire others, Anabella is working toward becoming a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist. She is committed to sharing her knowledge and experience to help individuals make positive, sustainable lifestyle changes that promote a healthier, happier, and more balanced life.

"Receiving this scholarship has incredibly motivated me to continue pursuing my studies and believing in my dreams. Knowing that I will be receiving this support has provided significant financial relief, allowing me to focus more on my education. I feel deeply honored, grateful, and inspired by this opportunity. This scholarship reminds me that dedication and sacrifice are valued, and it strengthens my commitment to making a positive impact as a future Registered Dietitian Nutritionist."



Gabriela Salas

University of Alabama

Gabriela Andrea Salas is a senior at the University of Alabama, pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Food and Nutrition through the Didactic Program in Dietetics. She is focused on completing her degree. Gabriela is of Cuban Ecuadorian descent and was born in Miami, Florida, on February 24, 1995. Her educational journey has been extensive, lasting nearly two decades as she searched for the right program. She is determined to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist and dedicate her career to helping underserved populations, with a particular emphasis on women's health. Growing up in a single-income household and experiencing poverty firsthand, Gabriela understands that underprivileged individuals often struggle not just to survive, but to thrive when it comes to their health. She is passionate about enabling this population, especially women and children, to lead healthy lives, despite the rising costs of food and the limited access to grocery stores that offer a wide variety of healthy options.

"To be invested in is to be believed in. I feel utmost pride knowing my hard work is recognized. This encourages me to keep braving forward in my pursuit of permanent change to our healthcare system."



Araceli Sanchez

University of the Pacific

Araceli grew up in Sacramento surrounded by family members diagnosed with diabetes. This sparked her interest in how impactful food is for our health. She pursued her interest in nutrition and received her bachelor's in clinical nutrition at UC Davis. During her time there, she volunteered over 300 hours at local food banks, food distributions, and tabling events, providing healthcare resources for the Sacramento community. Currently, she is pursuing her master's degree in clinical nutrition at the University of the Pacific. During her time at the University of the Pacific, she has worked teaching diabetes education classes in Spanish for individuals in Sacramento. Her expected graduation is December 2025. While being a full-time student, she has also worked at a restaurant to help pay bills and still maintains a 4.0 GPA. In the future, Araceli would love to work in the clinical setting and work to prevent chronic disease development in low-income communities. She also has an interest in public policy and clinical skills to accomplish these goals. She also plans to dedicate time to caring for her parents and grandparents.

"Being the recipient of this scholarship has not only supported me, but also the dreams of my family. Being a first-generation student has allowed me to pursue higher education when no one before was able to. Knowing I have support from many other people outside of my family, friends, and community is an incredible blessing. I can now dedicate more time to my studies and focus on being the best dietitian I can be."



Yamne Sanchez Tame

Madonna University

Yamne Sánchez is a Latina woman, a nutrition professional originally from Mexico, and currently completing her Dietetic Internship in Michigan. She holds a bachelor's degree in nutrition and food science and a master's degree in Clinical Nutrition from Universidad Iberoamericana Puebla. Certified as a Health Coach and trained as a Diabetes Educator in Mexico, Yamne migrated to the United States two years ago, where she has worked as a Health Coach, Health Educator, and facilitator for the Diabetes Prevention Program with the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan. Her goal is to become a Registered Dietitian in the United States to continue making nutrition education accessible to everyone, especially those in greatest need by promoting health, prevention, and empowerment through evidence-based nutrition.

"Receiving this scholarship has had a profound impact on my educational journey toward becoming a Registered Dietitian. I deeply believe in hard work, passion, and resilience; however, I am also aware that even from the privilege of being a Latina woman with the opportunity to pursue her professional dreams, the world is still full of barriers and challenges. This scholarship represents for me that much-needed helping hand to break down walls and overcome those barriers, making my path possible and meaningful"



Anthony Saucedo

Madonna University

Anthony Saucedo is a bilingual first generation Latino born and raised in southwest Detroit. He and his brother are the first in their family to attend a college/university. He was raised by a non-English speaking immigrant mother with a first-grade education and is finishing his last semester of graduate school at a small university in Livonia, Michigan (Madonna University) with an anticipated graduation date of December 2025. He recently finished his internship which was financially and extremely hard due to having to dedicate more time to my internship without receiving a single dollar in return. After the completion of his internship, he began working at a nearby hospital as a student dietitian and has found it to be a very rewarding experience. Anthony plans on continuing to work in clinical setting. After working in-patient, he would like to work in an outpatient setting to get more variability and a change of environment. In the future, he would love to own his own private practice helping those in need on MNT.

"Receiving this scholarship means the world to me. This scholarship means that I get some support to focus on my last semester of graduate school. Throughout my educational journey I have always prioritized work due to school payments, rent, and groceries. Without the stress of having to worry every month about school payments I will be able to focus on being a student and maintaining a good GPA."



Samantha Sharp

Teachers College, Columbia University

Samantha Sharp is a graduate student in the MS-RDN Nutrition Education program at Teachers College, Columbia University. After spending her childhood and adolescence in Hong Kong, Samantha moved to London to complete her Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Medical Sciences at University College London, where she graduated with highest achievement honors and published research on relative energy deficiency in sport (REDs) in female endurance athletes. Her experience spans clinical, community and research settings. From eating disorder care, to nutrition education in NYC public schools and under-accessed communities in the Philippines, to developing culturally inclusive nutrition education programs for families with the NYC Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence. Samantha's professional goal is to specialize in gastrointestinal and women's health nutrition, combining evidence-based science with compassionate, culturally sensitive care. She hopes to continue to contribute to community health initiatives and advocacy work, while she pursues her goals in clinical dietetics.

"This scholarship greatly supports my ability to fully dedicate myself to my studies in dietetics. Undertaking an intensive program at Teachers College, Columbia University, it can be challenging to find educational funding that doesn't require me to stray from academic focus. For my efforts be recognized by the Academy is an honor, and truly makes me feel supported in my work. This scholarship has empowered me to strive for even greater, more ambitious dreams in the field of dietetics, and support my vision of developing more inclusive nutrition guidelines, with accessible care for all."



Arrington Jade Wright

Delicious Living Nutrition

Arrington Wright has been a devoted, determined, and hardworking nutrition student striving to become a Registered Dietitian. Currently, she has just completed a unique dietetic internship within the last few weeks. She has waited for this moment and is ecstatic to start thinking about future positions. She is passionate about working with oncology patients, whether that is inpatient or outpatient. She wants to assist in areas of our healthcare system where nutrition needs more support. Her primary goal as she steps into this next phase of her professional career is to shine a light on supporting, guiding, and healing patients with food!

"Receiving this scholarship has been a blessing. I have worked extremely hard to get where I am right now, but it takes money to accomplish my goals, and I have needed help. Paying for a higher education degree can be expensive and cause a lot of stress, so receiving this generous scholarship will provide logistical support while I fund my education. Thank you!"

Commission on Dietetic Registration Expanding the Reach of Dietetics: Scholarship for Interns

Funded by the generosity of the Commission on Dietetic Registration

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Your kindness has truly transformed my life. As a first-generation international student facing debt and financial difficulties, I often feared that I would not be able to complete my internship. This scholarship has lifted that burden and allowed me to focus on what truly matters - learning, growing, and preparing to use dietetics to help others. Beyond financial aid, your support gives students like me the opportunity to develop into future leaders and make a lasting impact. Thank you for your generosity, for giving us hope, and for believing in us.

- Sruthi Vobbiliseti, MS

AIAnoud Dabbas

Tulane University

AIAnoud Dabbas (or just Anoud) grew up in Jordan with her parents and brother. She lived there until she was 18, where she was part of the national track and field team for long jump and triple jump. She then moved to California to attend UC Davis, initially majoring in design before realizing her passion in clinical nutrition and switching majors during her second year. She also minored in psychology for a deeper exploration between mental and physical health. During her time at UC Davis, she gained experience in various nutritional roles while also joining clubs like the Surf Club to remain in touch with the ocean. After graduating, she worked for a year as a Nutrition Consultant until she moved to London to complete her master's in eating disorders and clinical nutrition. She is currently working on completing her dietetic internship at Tulane University which has an emphasis in community work so that she could get accredited as a Registered Dietitian. Anoud aspires to ultimately work within the realm of community nutrition, whether in Jordan or elsewhere because she believes nutrition is a basic need that is starting to seem like a privilege and she hopes to change that.

"No words can truly describe how it felt to receive this scholarship; I was in tears reading the email. Getting this scholarship made me feel seen and showed me that the determination I've put over the past 5 years has paid off. Becoming a dietitian is a taxing yet rewarding journey. This scholarship comes at a crucial time as I complete the final steps toward accreditation. It will ease the financial burden of tuition, allowing me to remain focused on my goals, get accredited, and begin helping my community sooner. I hope to pay it forward once I am licensed."

Geanna Mendez, MPH

PHFE WIC Dietetic Internship Program

Geanna Mendez, maiden name Gallegos, was born and raised in Los Angeles County, California. She has been married for 4 years and has a 3-year-old daughter. In 2017 she received a B.S in Food and Nutrition- Dietetics from Cal Poly Pomona. Then in August 2024 she graduated with a MPH focused on dietetics from UNC Chapel Hill. Geanna aspires to provide effective nutrition education for Californians and for use across the USA. She strongly supports prioritizing childhood nutrition because it sets long-term habits for adulthood.

"This has been a great help to my educational journey! I am working part time while completing this internship and raising a toddler with my husband, so finances have been stressful. This scholarship provides immense relief knowing I now have support for the internship finances."





Airele Muscetta, MS, DTR
California State University

Airele Muscetta has overcome significant challenges on the path to becoming a nutrition professional. After earning her GED in her twenties, she went on to pursue higher education in her thirties with determination, ultimately graduating with a master's degree in nutritional science and education with a 4.0 GPA. In addition to her academic success, she is a mother of two boys and is approaching 13 years in recovery from addiction and an eating disorder. She is currently completing her dietetic internship, the final step toward becoming a registered dietitian. Her professional goal is to work with diverse populations, using her lived experience and academic training to support others in achieving healthier lives. Right now, she is wrapping up the needed training to achieve this in her dietetic internship at California State University, Chico, and will be ready to sit for the Registered Dietitian Exam by summer 2026.

"Receiving this scholarship is an incredible honor and a tremendous support in my educational journey. Pursuing a dietetic internship is both a rigorous and costly step toward becoming a registered dietitian, and this award significantly eases the financial burden. It allows me to focus more fully on my training, professional development, and service to others rather than financial stress. This scholarship not only helps me achieve my career goal of becoming a dietitian but also allows me to give back to the community and uphold the values of the profession."



Elizeth Parrish
Sodexo

Elizeth Parrish is a first-generation college student who graduated Summa Cum Laude from Metropolitan State University of Denver in 2024. She has recently completed her master's degree in nutrition and will be starting her dietetic internship this fall, as she continues to work towards her goal of becoming a registered dietitian. She has extensive experience working in hospital settings, which has prepared her to better serve and support the community. She has always been passionate about nutrition and hopes to advocate for others and help people feel heard when managing their health.

"I am honored to receive this scholarship. It has significantly lightened my financial burden as I begin my dietetic internship, allowing me to focus on learning and growing in this field. I am so incredibly grateful for this award and the opportunity it has given me to complete my education and achieve my dream of becoming a Registered Dietitian."



Rachel Roberts, MPH
Nutrition Ink

Rachel Roberts has been a Health and Wellness Consultant for private, non-profit, and public sectors for over 10 years. Prior to transitioning to the health and dietetics profession, she was a strategic Human Resources executive for fortune 100 companies, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, diagnostic laboratory, and the U.S. Marine Corps. She is a skilled health educator and certified Lifestyle Coach for the National Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP). Through partnerships with Live Well San Diego, County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, faith-based organizations, and other community-based organizations, she promotes health initiatives that help high risk individuals adopt healthy lifestyle habits. She facilitated DPP over the past 9 years and helped individuals achieve modest weight loss, access support groups, and improve overall health and well-being.

"The scholarship expands my opportunity to complete my journey of becoming a community-based RDN serving South Los Angeles residents that are often disproportionately impacted by inequitable healthcare."



Edgar Soto

Hunter College

Edgar Soto is an aspiring Registered Dietitian that lives and breathes nutrition. It encompasses every aspect of his life and is his favorite topic to talk about. His love of nutrition can be traced back to his upbringing in The Bronx, New York. His mother introduced him to the nutrition world with Mexican cuisine, and he then went on a voyage to experience many cuisines around the world. Edgar holds a bachelor's degree in nutrition and dietetics. He also holds a master's degree in education. With this degree he has been able to teach math and science in various schools around New York City. This made it possible for him to transition into nutrition education as he applied to the Hunter Dietetic Internship. Edgar has one more school year to finish. He plans to take the certification exam to become a registered dietitian and work in the field of pediatrics.

"This scholarship comes at a time when I was struggling to find a way to finance my dietetic internship. I had to take out student loans to pay for my previous degree, and I have worked many hours to make sure I am able to keep my head above water. I am able to relieve a huge amount of pressure of my shoulders and now I am able to focus even more on my dietetic internship."



Shelby Stevens

Wellness Workdays Dietetic Internship

Shelby grew up in rural Maine and now resides in her hometown, where she's completing a distance dietetic internship (DI) through Wellness Workdays. Her goal is to be an outpatient dietitian and collaborate with the local food pantry, helping patients in her community thrive despite high rates of food insecurity and chronic disease. She has a special interest in serving older adults. Shelby earned a BS in animal and veterinary science at the University of Maine; a master's in nutrition interventions, communication, and behavior change at Tufts; and a Didactic Program in Dietetics certificate at Simmons. While earning her master's, she interned with the Food Security Coalition of Cambridge Health Alliance. Recently, she completed the community nutrition rotation of her DI with Healthy Oxford Hills, a community health initiative and project of the local critical access hospital. In the many years she spent saving for her dietetic training, diverse experiences gave Shelby a broad skillset that will make her more effective in her future role. She's been a personal care aide; a special education, biology, anatomy, and physiology teacher; a political organizer; a speaker for a nonprofit focused on equitable food systems; and an ophthalmic technician serving primarily geriatric patients.

"This truly is a dream come true because it means I will, as long as I don't lose Medicaid, be able to complete my internship. I saved for years to be able to do my DI and was already struggling to afford basic necessities because I can only work part-time. My disability also prevents me from doing most jobs I'm qualified for. Now, my nonprofit employer drastically cut my hours for budget reasons, so the likelihood of my being able to complete my DI without this generous gift would have been even lower than before."



Laura Vanderlinde Padgett, MS

Bastyr University

Laura Vanderlinde Padgett grew up in Washington state, where she developed a strong passion for nutrition during her high school and college years. She earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees in nutrition from Central Washington University and is currently completing her dietetic internship at Bastyr University, with plans to sit for the RD exam in the summer. Alongside her studies, she works in an eating disorder treatment center, where she supports individuals in their recovery journeys. Looking ahead, she aspires to continue this work as a registered dietitian, with a particular focus on the pediatric population. She is also committed to addressing health disparities by working to reduce barriers to nutritional care in underserved communities.

"Receiving this scholarship is incredibly meaningful to me. It has allowed me to reduce my work hours and dedicate more time to my internship and education, setting me up for a stronger, more successful year. Beyond academics, it also gives me the opportunity to engage more fully in community and educational events, which I deeply value. I am truly grateful to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and its generous donors for their support in helping me pursue my goals."



Sruthi Vobbilisetti, MS

San Diego WIC Dietetic Internship

Sruthi Vobbilisetti is a first-generation international student who recently earned her master's degree in Nutritional Science (DPD) from California State University, Chico. She is currently completing her dietetic internship with San Diego WIC Dietetic Internship program, gaining hands-on experience in clinical, community, and food service nutrition. Driven by a deep passion for serving underserved communities, Sruthi is committed to making healthy food and nutrition education accessible to all. She uses motivational interviewing during counseling sessions to truly understand individuals' needs, approaching every person with empathy, cultural humility, and an open mind. Sruthi is dedicated to supporting policies that promote wellness and health equity, and she aspires to become a registered dietitian who inspires hope, empowers communities, and creates a lasting, positive impact on the nation's health.

"Being awarded this scholarship is extremely meaningful to me. In addition to relieving some of the financial strain of my internship, it serves as a reminder that my diligence and enthusiasm for dietetics are appreciated. I'm inspired and encouraged to keep going forward in my quest to become a dietitian and improve the lives of others because of this support."



Rebecca Youngeun Rosenstein, PhD

Program Johns Hopkins University

Rebecca Rosenstein earned a BA in biochemistry with a minor in chemistry from the University of Colorado, Boulder and an MS in physiology and biophysics from Georgetown University. She recently graduated with her PhD in applied nutrition from the University of Maryland, College Park (2025) and completed her RDN courses at the same time. Her dissertation was titled, Exploring Challenges and Strategies Related to Plant-Based Dietary Patterns in Community-Dwelling Older Adults with Hypertension. During her doctoral program, she worked as the project manager for the DASH-Plus project where she coordinated with 16 sites across 8 counties in Maryland to help create a sustainable, community-based hypertension management program and deliver nutrition education for older adults in partnership with Extension. Her research interests are diet-related chronic disease prevention and management, community-based participatory research, and health promotion and education. She is passionate about using nutrition for chronic disease prevention and management at the individual and community level with a special interest in plant-based approaches. She is looking forward to learning from everyone during her time as a Johns Hopkins dietetic intern and contributing to patient care.

"When I read the email congratulating me as a recipient of this year's Foundation scholarship for interns, I was immediately overjoyed. I am incredibly grateful and honored to have been selected. It means a lot to me to be able to pursue my dream of becoming an RDN without further delay due to financial reasons and it provides me with more mental energy to focus on meeting the challenges of the dietetic internship. I hope that I will one day be able to help support future students like me. Thank you again for this opportunity."

Conagra Foods Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of Conagra Foods

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, It is becoming more and more difficult for students who face financial hardships to achieve their goal of becoming a registered dietitian, and your donation could help one more future dietitian be able to afford to take those steps to achieve their goals and help people become healthier.

- Amber O'Shea

Amber O'Shea

Gulf Coast Dietetic Internship

Amber grew up in central Florida and currently lives in Alabama. She has rich and varied education background, including a bachelor's degree in sociology and psychology, a master's in journalism, and just received her master's in nutrition from the University of Alabama. She has worked as a social worker, a photographer, and as an administrative assistant at a television station. Amber loves cooking and baking, in addition to reading, writing, and photography. She is currently enrolled in a distance internship program with Gulf Coast Dietetics. Her goal is to become involved in public health teaching nutrition education, with a focused interest in diabetes education. She is considering becoming a certified diabetes education and care specialist after becoming an RDN.

"This scholarship means that my path toward becoming an RDN is this much more within reach, especially given the current state of the economy and the difficulty in affording the internship and life in general. Every ounce of help is a great help to achieving my goals."



Corinne H. Robinson Graduate Memorial Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of friends, associates, and Hershey Foods

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Your generosity has a lasting impact on students like me who are working hard to pursue their dreams in nutrition and dietetics. Scholarships not only relieve the financial burden of higher education, but they also give us the gift of time to focus on our studies and prepare to serve our communities as future health professionals. Your support shows us that our efforts are recognized and valued, and it inspires us to carry that same spirit of giving forward in our own careers. Thank you for investing in our future and helping us make a difference.

- Joylene Mela

Laura Martin

University of Alabama

Laura Martin is a former classroom teacher and lifelong lover of cooking who decided to make a career pivot after becoming a parent. She is currently pursuing her master's in clinical nutrition at the University of Alabama in the hopes to combine her passions in education and nutrition. Ultimately, Laura hopes to work with new moms and mothers to be as they navigate the journey of perinatal health.

"What an honor to receive a scholarship that will directly aid in my aspirations of becoming a licensed dietitian. I am so grateful and humbled."



Joylene Mela

D'Youville University

Joylene Mela is originally from Wisconsin and made the big decision to move to Buffalo, NY to attend D'Youville University. She is currently completing her final year in the university's rigorous 5-year combined degree program in nutrition and dietetics, where she has gained both academic knowledge and practical experience to prepare for a career as a registered dietitian. Making the move from Wisconsin to Buffalo was a significant leap, but it has given her the opportunity to grow personally and professionally while pursuing her passion for nutrition. Throughout her education, she has developed a strong interest in functional nutrition and its ability to address health concerns by focusing on root causes and supporting the body as a whole. With graduation approaching this spring, she is eager to begin her professional journey in the field of dietetics, with the goal of specializing in functional nutrition. Her aspiration is to empower individuals to improve their health and quality of life through evidence-based nutrition strategies. She is grateful for the support she has received along the way and looks forward to giving back to the field and the communities she serves.

"Receiving this scholarship has been an incredible blessing in my final year of my educational journey. This support has given me encouragement and motivation, reminding me that my hard work and passion for helping others through nutrition are valued. I am deeply grateful, and it inspires me to continue working toward making a positive impact in the field of dietetics."



Cynthia Poe Wolfram Scholarship for the Future of Elder Care

Funded by the generosity of Cynthia Wolfram, RDN, LD, FAND

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, As a mom working full time while enrolled in a dietetic internship, these scholarships may mean students won't have to pick up extra shifts or they can enroll their child in their favorite sport. These scholarships mean one less monthly bill which is a huge stress relief. It allows students to focus on their studies and work, leading to a more successful internship experience.

- Ashley Shaner

Ashley Shaner MS, NDTR

Be Well Solutions

Ashley received her Bachelor of Science in Biology from Penn State University and her Master of Science 2011 in Nutrition from Kent State 2014. She is a mom of two kids and currently working in a skilled nursing facility as the Dietary Director. Ashley is completing her dietetic internship with Be Well Solutions with the goal of finishing the program in April 2026. Her dream is become a registered dietitian working with elderly in a long-term care setting.

"Because I am a full-time working mom while enrolled in my dietetic internship, this scholarship will help relieve the added stress of making an extra monthly payment."



Diabetes Dietetic Practice Group Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the Diabetes Dietetic Practice Group of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to you for your generosity in supporting students like me in achieving their academic dreams. Without your assistance, many like myself may have considered giving up and never fulfilling their full potential as clinicians, educators, and researchers. The funds you donate will have long-lasting impacts on my family and I, but also in the long-term, contribute to elevating and expanding the academic and research contributions of our profession

- Elizabeth Hanna, MS, RDN, CDCES



Elizabeth Hanna, MS, RDN, CDCES

Rutgers University

Elizabeth Hanna is a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist and Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist with over 17 years of experience providing personalized nutrition care and medical nutrition therapy. Her passion for nutrition began in childhood when she witnessed her father struggle with chronic disease and learned firsthand about the vital connection between food and healing. His passing at an early age became the inspiration for dedicating her career to helping others discover the transformative and restorative power of nutrition. She earned her BS in Nutrition and Food Science from Montclair State University in 2006 and my MS in Nutritional Sciences from Rutgers University in 2013. She is currently a PhD candidate in Nutritional Sciences at Rutgers University, with an expected graduation date in 2027. She works with both adults and children, specializing in weight management—including bariatric surgery and weight loss medication therapy—as well as comprehensive diabetes care and education for individuals with Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes. In addition, Elizabeth completed advanced training in Adult and Pediatric Weight Management through the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Passionate about advancing health through nutrition, she is dedicated to empowering individuals to build sustainable, healthy habits and achieve lasting well-being.

"I am truly honored to receive this scholarship which will provide me with vital support to continue my studies and pursue my long-standing goal of earning the highest degree in my field. This award strengthens my commitment to advancing nutrition research skills I can use to elevate the profession and contribute meaningfully to the field of Nutritional Sciences. It also motivates me to persist in completing my Doctorate despite the challenges I face as both a working professional and mother. I extend my deepest gratitude to the Foundation for selecting me for this prestigious honor."



Carina Johns

Brigham Young University

Carina Johns is a graduate student at Brigham Young University pursuing a master's degree in Nutritional Science and Dietetics. After being diagnosed with type 1 diabetes during her early college years, Carina discovered a passion for clinical nutrition and diabetes education leading her to pursue a career in dietetics. She completed her didactic program in dietetics at BYU, preparing herself with the knowledge and skills to turn her passion into a profession. During her studies, she has gained hands-on experience as a food service student manager, a volunteer with community nutrition programs and diabetes camps, and through research focused on diabetes nutrition education and management. Carina is especially passionate about supporting individuals with type 1 diabetes and their families by providing practical and effective nutrition care strategies. Her professional aspirations include becoming a Registered Dietitian and earning the Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist credential. She hopes to work in a clinical setting, combining patient care, research, and education to improve health outcomes and quality of life, empowering those with diabetes to live a life with diabetes—not for diabetes.

"This scholarship is proof that others believe in my goals and future as a dietitian. It not only provides financial support but allows me to pursue my passion and for becoming an expert in my field. I am grateful for those who support aspiring students like myself and am inspired to carry this generosity forward to my future patients."

Dietetics in Health Care Communities Dietetic Practice Group Board Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the Dietetics in Health Care Communities Dietetic Practice Group of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Your investment in students eases financial strain, promotes confidence and brings them one step closer to their goals. Your support contributes to healthier families, schools, and workplaces through the future work of these dedicated professionals.

- Eryn M. Bollish

Eryn M. Bollish

San Diego State University

Eryn Bollish is currently pursuing her master's degree in Nutritional Sciences while completing the DPD program at SDSU. Her experiences fighting food insecurity include working at the Associated Students Pantry providing food and food referrals, participating in the annual 'Aztecs Rock Hunger' food drive and volunteering at BrightSide to promote healthy food access. Eryn's interest in sports nutrition led her to volunteer at the SDSU Adaptive Fitness Clinic. During her sports nutrition internship at CSU San Marcos, Eryn provided nutritional counseling to student athletes and assisted in the planning and operating of community nutrition events. At SDSU, Eryn conducted research with Dr. Hong on watermelon and CVD factors. She was honored to present at nutrition conferences CAND in Long Beach and ASN in Orlando, FL. Currently, Eryn is employed as a patient dietary specialist at a residential eating disorders facility where she has gained invaluable experience working alongside the RDN, therapists, psychologists and nursing staff to provide optimal care for patients. After graduating in December 2025, Eryn will apply for her Dietetic Internship where she is excited to gain experience in various rotations. In addition to working as an RDN, Eryn's professional goals include teaching and sharing her knowledge of nutrition!

"Receiving this scholarship is an incredible honor and provides meaningful support during my educational journey. It not only eases the financial burden but also inspires me to keep pushing forward with purpose. Choosing to go back to school later in life has presented unique challenges both personally and financially. This scholarship renews my hope and strengthens my commitment to make a difference in the lives of others by combining my skills and passion for nutrition."

Anna Rose Goldstein

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Anna Rose grew up outside of Boston, Massachusetts and earned her undergraduate degrees in Nutrition and Spanish at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, NC. Since high school, she has always been interested in community nutrition, interning and volunteering with local organizations throughout her high school and college careers. After graduation from NC State in 2021, she worked as a WIC nutritionist back in Boston and knew that she wanted to return to school to become a Registered Dietitian. Anna Rose is currently in her final year of her master's program in Public Health at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. After this summer, she will have completed her final rotations for her dietetic internship and will prepare to sit for the RD exam. Following graduation, she hopes to continue working within communities as a dietitian in a local health center.

"I am so grateful to have the honor of receiving this scholarship from the Foundation. I am so proud to have been chosen to be a recipient and I am especially excited that I was awarded a scholarship from the Dietetics in Health Care Communities Dietetic Practice Group, as I am so excited to work in the community following my graduation with my master's degree in public health. I will continue to gear my studies toward community-based nutrition and focus my work on improving community health in my future career."



Dietetics in Health Care Communities Dietetic Practice Group Horizon Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the Dietetics in Health Care Communities Dietetic Practice Group of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Your generosity provides more than financial support--it brings peace of mind in a season of life that can feel overwhelming. Graduate school and clinical rotations are already demanding, and the financial burden on top of that can take up a lot of mental real estate. Every contribution helps relieve tuition costs, allowing students like me to redirect funds toward everyday living expenses. That relief eases stress outside the classroom and creates space to focus fully on becoming the best student possible. Your support truly helps us thrive, both academically and personally.

- Michayla Mears



Julianna Davis

University of Texas at Austin

Julianna Davis is a 4th year nutrition student at the University of Texas at Austin. She is from a small town called Shiner, TX, and has fallen in love with the abundant and diverse opportunities in Austin. This fall, she began her first year of the Integrated Coordinated Program in Dietetics. By the completion of this accelerated program in May 2027, she will have completed her dietetic internship and receive her master's in nutritional science. Julianna desires to become a registered dietitian and treat patients with eating disorders. She has a passion for nutrition education and hope to develop curriculum and teach nutrition courses at a community center.

"I am beyond grateful to be the recipient of the 2025 Dietetics in Health Care Communities Dietetic Practice Group Horizon Scholarship! This generosity will help me pursue my career in dietetics. I can use this money to support my tuition costs for my dietetic internship and graduate program. Overall, this scholarship allows me to take another critical step to becoming a registered dietitian and being an advocate for greater nutritional health in America. I am honored to receive this scholarship!"



Michayla Mears

University of Tennessee

Michayla Mears is a graduate student in the University of Tennessee's Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics master's program. Originally from Arkansas, she developed her passion for nutrition as a teenager when dietary and lifestyle changes helped her restore her own health. This experience gave her a deep respect for the power of nutrition in both prevention and treatment and inspired her to pursue a career that reflected that passion. Initially working toward a degree in Biology with the intention of becoming a Physician Assistant in integrative and functional medicine, Michayla discovered her true calling through her nutrition minor and the support of the faculty in UT's Department of Nutrition. Michayla has gained experience in clinical nutrition, public health, and community nutrition, strengthening her ability to apply evidence-based practice in diverse settings. She is particularly drawn to the meaningful connections built through patient interactions, which she believes are at the heart of effective nutrition care. Currently, Michayla is most interested in devoting her career to advancing the role of nutrition in women's health. She aspires to blend clinical expertise with compassionate, collaborative care to help individuals improve their quality of life.

"Receiving this scholarship has been especially meaningful because it relieves the stress of continuing my education at the university that first taught me to love nutrition and dietetics. As an out-of-state student, I was committed to staying at Tennessee, but without my undergraduate scholarship, the cost of tuition weighed heavily on me while completing my master's and supervised practice hours. This support has lifted some of that burden, allowing me to focus fully on my growth and development as a future dietitian."



Emily Schmall, MS

Virginia Tech

Emily Schmall is a current dietetic intern with the Virginia Tech Dietetic Internship Program in the Northern VA region. She completed her undergraduate degree in 2024 and master's degree in 2025, both at Virginia Tech. Emily conducted research on the effects of ultra-processed food intake on the effects of energy intake and reward processing during her time at Virginia Tech. Emily hopes to pass her RD exam by August, with aspirations to work as a clinical dietitian or work in a private practice that focuses on eating disorders.

"I am extremely grateful and honored to receive the Foundation's 2025 Dietetics in Health Care Communities Dietetic Practice Group Horizon Scholarship. The impact this will have on my educational journey is huge and opens many doors for me. I now am less stressed about my financial situation and am able to focus more clearly on my internship."

Dietitians in Medical Nutrition Therapy Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the Dietitians in Medical Nutrition Therapy Dietetic Practice Group

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, I am deeply honored and grateful for your support. This scholarship provides essential financial assistance, allowing me to continue my studies and move closer to becoming a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN). Your generosity alleviates my financial burden, allowing me to focus on my education and professional development. Moreover, this support sets a positive example for my daughters and community, underscoring the importance of pursuing dreams and the transformative power of generosity.

- Maria de Lourdes Trujillo, MS

Maria de Lourdes Trujillo, MS

University of New Mexico

Maria Trujillo holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry, bacteriology, parasitology, and microbiology from the Instituto Politécnico Nacional in Mexico City, as well as a Master of Science in Cellular Biology. For six years she worked in a biotechnology lab researching Type 1 Diabetes, developing protocols, and engaging with patients, resulting in several published works. Driven by a passion for nutrition, she launched the bilingual website "Sabores De Mexico," delivering culturally tailored nutrition guidance for Hispanic audiences in accordance with MyPlate standards. As an undergrad, she served as President of Kappa Omicron Nu, earned the IPE Honors Certificate, facilitated learning for peers, and volunteered for Feed New Mexico Kids. She also worked as an online learning assistant, providing academic support to students. Currently, Maria is completing the Nutrition and Dietetics program and gaining valuable clinical experience through medical nutrition therapy, providing patient care, and collaborating with healthcare professionals. Since her previous graduate work was in science, she is also taking required courses from the Nutrition Master's program to fulfill the competencies. My diverse background demonstrates her commitment to nutrition and patient care.

"I'm genuinely grateful to be chosen as a recipient of the Foundation's 2025 Dietitians in Medical Nutrition Therapy Scholarship. This honor and your generosity mean a great deal to me. With this financial support, I can continue my education in nutrition and dietetics while pursuing my dream of becoming a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist. The scholarship helps cover university fees, thereby relieving financial stress and allowing me to focus on academic and professional growth. Your belief in my potential encourages me to excel and inspires my family and community. Thank you for supporting my goals and helping me make a difference."



Dorothy MacRae Hyman Memorial Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of LTC Norman W. Hyman, USAF, Retired

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Scholarships open doors for students who might otherwise face financial barriers. They allow them to thrive academically, diversify the field, and feel that their hard work is valued. Your support is more than financial assistance; it is an investment in future health professionals who want to serve communities and make a positive impact on public health. By helping students reduce financial stress, you give them freedom to focus on learning, growing, and developing into professionals ready to help others. Investing in someone's education is one of the most meaningful gifts you can give, because its impact multiplies in their communities.

- Erika Freire

Erika Freire

University of Montevallo

Erika Freire is an international student from Ecuador pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Exercise and Nutrition Science with a concentration in Nutrition and Wellness at the University of Montevallo. Her academic journey has been shaped by a strong commitment to excellence, resilience, and a passion for advancing the field of nutrition and dietetics. During her studies, Erika has combined classroom knowledge with hands-on experiences in clinical and community settings. She completed a summer internship in clinical nutrition at a hospital in Quito, Ecuador, where she gained valuable exposure to patient care and the importance of cultural humility in providing effective nutritional guidance. She has also engaged in research and leadership roles that highlight her dedication to the profession and her ability to contribute meaningfully to the academic and professional community. Erika's short-term goal is to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist and begin her career in a clinical environment, building a strong foundation in patient care and evidence-based practice. In the long term, she aspires to establish her own private practice and return to Ecuador to help address child malnutrition and improve access to nutrition care for vulnerable populations.

"Receiving the news of this scholarship truly filled me with gratitude, pride, and motivation. Being selected for the Dorothy MacRae Hyman Memorial Scholarship is such a meaningful recognition of the hard work I've put into my studies. This support will help me cover tuition and educational expenses, easing financial stress so I can stay focused on learning and professional growth. As I finish my bachelor's degree and prepare for graduate school and a dietetic internship, this award strengthens my confidence and inspires me to keep working toward my goal of becoming a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist."

Zoe Papas

Simmons University

Zoe Papas is a Greek-Peruvian-American who grew up with a love of food and a love of sharing their culture with people through food. Papas initially thought about attending culinary school; however, at the end of high school, Papas decided to accept an offer from Simmons University to receive a degree in nutrition and dietetics. Currently, Papas is in the last year of a bachelor's degree program with a graduation date in May 2026, and also works as a diet technician at Franciscan Children's Hospital under Aramark Healthcare. Through Papas' experiences in education and at work as a diet technician, Papas has a desire to pursue continued education in an MSDI program with a focus on learning more about pediatric, infant, and maternal nutrition. Eventually, Papas would like to become accreditation as a Registered Dietitian and work with children and mothers of all cultures, and help them thrive in a way that best suits them.

"This scholarship means the world to me. Receiving this scholarship is an honor, as it signifies that the Foundation acknowledges my work ethic and that it continues to support me in pursuing a career in dietetics. With the help of the Foundation, I can focus on my academics, work experience, and extracurricular activities, rather than worrying about financing my education. I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity and for the scholarship provided for me by this organization."





Noelle Manzo-Pietrefesa

Rochester Institute of Technology

Noelle Manzo-Pietrefesa is an undergraduate student at Rochester Institute of Technology, where she is majoring in Dietetics and double minoring in Exercise Science and Spanish. She has been an athlete for much of her life, which sparked her passion for health, fitness, and the role nutrition plays in performance and overall well-being. Alongside her studies, she has worked in food service for several years, gaining valuable skills in communication, adaptability, and teamwork. At RIT, Noelle is working toward becoming both a certified personal trainer and a registered dietitian. She hopes to combine her knowledge of exercise and nutrition to help individuals build sustainable, healthy lifestyles. With her Spanish studies, she aspires to extend her work to communities where English is not the primary language, ensuring more people have access to guidance and support in reaching their health goals. Her long-term vision is to empower others by making fitness and nutrition approachable, inclusive, and impactful.

"I'm currently a second year in college full-time, maintaining a high GPA while working 2 jobs. I support myself financially, so an opportunity like this is greatly appreciated, and allows me to better focus on academics without worrying about financial hardship."

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas D. Masters Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of Dr. and Mrs. Thomas D. Masters

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Thank you for your generosity and commitment to the future of dietetics. Your contributions directly support motivated students who will become leaders in evidence-based, ethical nutrition care. Because of you, students like me can pursue our passion for improving health through nutrition.

- Leah Hoefert

Leah Hoefert

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Leah Hoefert, from Alton, Illinois, is pursuing her passion for nutrition and dietetics through both academic study and professional involvement. She graduated from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 2024 with a bachelor's degree in food science and human nutrition, concentrating in dietetics. Leah chose to continue her education at Illinois through the combined Master of Science in Clinical and Community Nutrition on the non-thesis track and plans to take the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Registration Examination after graduating in May 2026. Currently in the dietetic internship portion of her program, Leah is eager to begin her clinical rotation in October and will further explore her passion for community nutrition during her spring 2026 placement at the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District with WIC dietitians. While she is still discerning her long-term career path, Leah dreams of attending culinary school in the future to merge her nutrition expertise with her love of cooking. She hopes to shift nutrition education from simply telling people what to eat to showing them how to enjoy nourishing their bodies. Leah also serves as Co-Social Media Chair for the Illinois Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, a role she has held since May 2024.

"Receiving this scholarship is both an honor and a motivation. It validates the hard work and accomplishments I have achieved so far and encourages me to continue striving for excellence as I move forward in my dietetics career. In a field where imposter syndrome is common, this recognition reminds me that my efforts are meaningful and valued. The financial support eases the stress of balancing expenses with academics, allowing me to focus more fully on learning and growing. This award inspires me to carry the same drive into my future professional practice."



Dr. Jane White Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the Tennessee Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Your generosity truly changes lives. Scholarships lift financial stress and give students the chance to focus fully on classes, research, and opportunities that prepare us for our careers. When you give, you are not only helping cover tuition and books, you are also investing in our growth and in the people we hope to serve through our future work. Your support encourages us to keep striving toward our goals, and we are deeply thankful for the belief you place in us.

- Andrea Colina

Andrea Colina

National Healthcare Corporation and University of Alabama

Bio Andrea Colina, originally from Venezuela, graduated from Lipscomb University in May 2025 with a Bachelor of Science in Dietetics. She is currently completing her dietetic internship with NHC, gaining hands-on experience in clinical nutrition, patient care, and foodservice management. At the same time, she is pursuing her Master of Science in Human Nutrition through The University of Alabama's online program. Andrea's long-term goal is to become a Registered Dietitian and work in a clinical setting. She is especially passionate about improving access to nutrition care for individuals facing language barriers, helping bridge the gap in healthcare for Spanish-speaking populations. Her experiences as a student leader, intern, and volunteer have strengthened her commitment to serving others through both knowledge and compassion.

"Receiving this scholarship has been such a blessing in my journey. It has been a great financial help and it has given me the peace of mind to focus on my internship and graduate work. It is encouraging me to keep working hard for my career and for what I want to be able to do for my patients one day. This support is not only helping me reach my goals but also motivating keep using my education to make a difference in the lives of others. I am beyond grateful."



Dr. Margaret Ross Memorial Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of LT COL Ruby W. Linn, RD

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Every talented student deserves the opportunity to develop and contribute to the community. Your generous donations empower students to feel confident, while pursuing their education and professional goals.

- Vy Phan

Vy Phan

Teachers College, Columbia University

Vy Phan is a candidate in the MS-RDN Integrated Track (Class of 2027) at Teachers College, Columbia University, where she specializes in Nutrition Education. She received her B.S. in Nutrition from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in December 2024. Vy's passion for nutrition and dietetics was sparked by her own journey to understand the relationship between food and the body. This experience led to a profound mindset shift, inspiring her to help others focus on the quality of nutrient-rich foods rather than just the quantity. She wants to help people to overcome common misconceptions about diet and embrace food as a tool for health and well-being. Beyond her academic pursuits, Vy finds joy in design and drawing. She is dedicated to becoming a Registered Dietitian who can make nutrition knowledge accessible and inspiring. Through visual communication, she aims to bring the "magic of food" to life.

"Receiving this scholarship is a great honor and brings me immense happiness. I was overwhelmed with joy and pride because it is a valuable recognition of my dedicated efforts throughout my journey. I feel more confident in my abilities, telling myself that I can overcome all challenges and push beyond my comfort zone to test my potential."



Dr. Marie E. Knickrehm Memorial Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the Nebraska Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and Marie Knickrehm

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Your generosity directly supports our growth as future professionals and empowers us to give back to the communities we will one day serve. Thank you!

- Hannah Marie Harrison



Alexis Brownsen

University of Nebraska Lincoln

Alexis Brownsen earned her undergraduate degree from South Dakota State University, studying Nutrition and Dietetics. She is currently pursuing her master's degree and completing her dietetic internship at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. Her professional aspirations include working in either an inpatient or outpatient setting and being part of an interdisciplinary team to ultimately have positive impacts on her patients' health.

"Receiving this scholarship has a tremendous impact as it will aid in supporting me as I work on completing my dietetic internship and master's program. This award allows me to focus more on my studies and rotations while also providing me with motivation as I meet my program requirements."



Hannah Harrison

University of Nebraska Medical Center

Hannah Harrison earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Nebraska-Kearney. During her time there, she competed in track and field, where her experiences as a student-athlete shaped her appreciation for the role nutrition plays in both performance and overall health. She is currently completing her final semester at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, where she is earning a master's degree in medical nutrition. While athletics first sparked her interest in dietetics, her passion has since expanded to focus on rural healthcare. Through her clinical rotations in central Nebraska, Hannah witnessed the impact that access to nutrition education and individualized care can have in improving health outcomes, particularly in rural, underserved communities. She believes registered dietitians are uniquely positioned to bridge critical gaps in care by providing evidence-based nutrition guidance while also advocating for sustainable, community-driven solutions that address systemic barriers to health. Hannah's professional goal is to deliver accessible and culturally competent nutrition services to rural Nebraskans. She is committed to equipping these communities with the tools, resources, and support needed to thrive, advancing both individual health and the future of the dietetics profession.

"Receiving the Foundation scholarship has reduced the financial burden of continuing my education and allows me to stay fully focused on my academic and professional goals. It helps cover tuition, travel for required rotations, and essential living expenses — relieving financial stress and supporting my success in the program. This support also enables me to remain active in campus and community initiatives that have shaped me as a leader and future dietitian. Most importantly, this scholarship is not only easing my current challenges but also investing in my future contributions to the field of dietetics."



Mary Kasten

University of Nebraska Medical Center

Mary Kasten has been interested in the healthcare industry for many years. She grew up in Potter, Nebraska, a small town in western Nebraska. She first started her path towards becoming a registered dietitian by studying exercise science and nutrition at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. From there she was able to gain experience in the nutrition field and learned about the field through her professors and mentors. She is currently in her graduate program for medical nutrition at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. She is discovering areas of interest to find where her passion lies before graduating and becoming a registered dietitian.

"Receiving this scholarship has been an incredible support on my educational journey. It has eased the financial burden of pursuing my degree, allowing me to focus more on my classes and developing throughout my rotations."



Christina L. Nelms, MS, RDN

Rutgers University

Christina Nelms has been a dietitian for 24 years, specializing in pediatric nutrition, primarily in nephrology practice. She aims to educate others in this specialty area and has helped create Pediatric Renal Nutrition Academy (PRNA) and has been involved in educating others at this event for the past 8 years. She is a frequent speaker at local, state, national and international conferences and webinars, including the National Kidney Foundation meetings, the Annual Dialysis Conference, the International Pediatric Renal Nutrition meeting and the International Society of Renal Nutrition and Metabolism meeting. She has authored 3 textbook chapters and been part of several research articles. She is part of the Pediatric Renal Nutrition Taskforce, a group of international pediatric renal dietitians and pediatric nephrologists developing clinical practice recommendations (CPRs) for nutrition care for children globally. She was the lead author for the assessment CPR and is currently leading the transplant CPR. She is in the last year of her Doctorate of Clinical Nutrition program through Rutgers University and hopes to be a clinical research dietitian, helping answer clinical questions that arise in practice and improving pediatric nutrition practice in doing so.

"I decided to pursue my doctorate at age 42. I had wanted it for many years and finally, my kids were in school, and I was able to follow this dream. I have always loved learning, and I pursued a DCN program without any specific career advancement in motion --- just because I felt that having my doctorate would bring my knowledge and expertise to a higher level for all professional pursuits. I didn't have employer funding and so receiving scholarships along the way has been an immense blessing in allowing me to continue this pursuit! I am so grateful!"

Dr. Mary Ruth Bedford Dietetic Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of Dr. Mary Ruth Bedford

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, These scholarship help make advanced education attainable for many RDs.

- Jessica Belknap, MS, RD, DipACLM, CLC

Jessica Belknap, MS, RD, DipACLM, CLC

Pacific University

Jessica is a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist at Portland Providence Medical Center in Portland, OR. She is a Diplomate of the American College of Lifestyle Medicine, a Certified Intuitive Eating Professional Counselor, a Certified Lactation Counselor, and a Plant-Based Chef and Recipe Developer. Jessica believes that health exists on a continuum that varies with time and circumstance for each individual. She also believes that all people, body shapes, sizes, abilities, goals, and health conditions are worthy of optimal nourishment and deserve to maximize the quality and quantity of life years and knows that one of the best ways to do that is to eat well! Through the incorporation of plant-based and plant-forward nutrition, Jessica guides her clients in navigating health challenges and diagnoses, building a healthy relationship with food and their bodies, and fueling for optimal health and performance through Medical Nutrition Therapy counseling. Once Jessica completes her DHSc degree, she hopes to land a leadership role in a large hospital system, with the goal of elevating the role of, and equity for, Registered Dietitians in healthcare.

"This scholarship brought a Doctor of Healthcare Science degree within reach"



Edna Page Langholz Memorial Graduate Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the Warren Foundation and friends of E. Langholz

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Every scholarship directly supports a committed and unique nutrition professional for whom the recognition and assistance are truly invaluable. I have personally experienced the encouragement and relief these scholarships provide.

- Claire Burton

Claire Burton

Virginia Tech

Claire earned her B.S. in Nutritional Science with a minor in Hispanic Studies from Pepperdine University in the spring of 2024. During her undergraduate years, she served as a research assistant for the National WIC Association, Treasurer of the Nourish Nutrition Club, and a vocalist on the university's worship team. She is now pursuing her M.S. in Nutrition and Dietetics at Virginia Tech, where she recently completed her first year. While at Virginia Tech, Claire contributed to the community as a nutrition counselor, offering individualized health guidance and behavior change counseling to students and staff. She has recently finished her foodservice and community nutrition supervised practice experiences and will complete her clinical nutrition rotation this fall. Her professional interests include sustainability, community-based work, long-term care, and serving Spanish-speaking communities and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Upon graduating in December, she plans to sit for the RDN exam. Outside of academics, Claire enjoys spending time outdoors—running, swimming, cycling, and camping—as well as singing, cooking international cuisine, and reading.

"I am truly honored and thankful for this generous gift. Knowing that this award has eased my financial burden brings me great relief. Yet, a scholarship represents more than financial support—it is a source of recognition and encouragement that inspires me to strive for excellence throughout my coordinated program."



Edward W. and Lena B. Winslow Memorial Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the estate of Ruby Linn

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, I am so grateful for this scholarship. As an immigrant, it is not easy to pursue higher education while taking care of myself, and this support means I can continue studying in the school of my dreams. More than just motivation, this scholarship inspires me to believe that one day I can also become a donor and help other students achieve their dreams. Your generosity has given me not only the opportunity to keep moving forward, but also the hope to one day give back and create the same impact for others.

- Paola Daleska Hernandez Munoz

Paola Daleska Hernandez Munoz

Teachers College, Columbia University

Paola Daleska Hernández is an immigrant from Venezuela pursuing her master's degree in nutrition and exercise physiology at Teachers College, Columbia University. Growing up, she experienced the challenges of limited access to proper nutrition and health education, which inspired her to dedicate her life to helping others live healthier lives. At Columbia, Paola is focusing her research and training on women's health, hormonal balance, and sports nutrition. She is passionate about supporting athletes, women, and immigrant communities by creating accessible, culturally inclusive nutrition education. Alongside her studies, she has worked with organizations such as Peloton, Exos, Common Threads, and BronxWorks, leading workshops and wellness programs that empower people to take charge of their health. Paola's long-term goal is to become a Registered Dietitian specializing in sports and women's health. She hopes to bridge the gap in nutrition education, support underserved communities, and one day create programs that not only improve health outcomes but also inspire the next generation to see wellness as a right for all.

"Getting this scholarship means so much to me. It's not just financial help, for me means a motivation to keep working hard on my studies and my dream of becoming a Registered Dietitian so I can give back to my community and support women's health"



F. Lucille Johnson Memorial Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the bequest of F. Lucille Johnson

The Power of Generosity

Your generous donation to the Foundation scholarship program has a profound impact on students pursuing careers in nutrition and dietetics. By easing the financial burdens that many face, you help make education more accessible and open new doors for future Registered Dietitian Nutritionists. Your generosity not only empowers students to reach their goals but also supports the advancement of the profession and its positive impact on the health and well-being of communities everywhere. Thank you for your meaningful support.

- Emma Hutt



Tannis Catlett

University of Michigan

Tannis Catlett is a graduate student at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. In 2024, she completed her second bachelor's degree in nutritional sciences from the University of Wisconsin—her first was from Hampshire College in food studies and cognitive science in 2010. She originally hails from Houston, TX, and has studied at academic institutions in Massachusetts, New York, Wisconsin, and now Michigan. In the School of Public Health, she is pursuing a degree in nutritional sciences and dietetics to earn credentials as a registered dietitian by the summer of 2026. Her goals beyond becoming a registered dietitian include working in clinical settings and conducting research in chronic disease prevention and diagnosis response. She chose dietetics to help people through a medium she is familiar with—food. After over a decade of working in the hospitality field, she turned to academia to achieve a new goal: working in the non-profit sector to help more people than a restaurant can reach. Population health is her goal, and her program at the University of Michigan is helping her succeed.

"Receiving this scholarship has been a vital source of support in my educational journey in dietetics. It has eased the financial burden that often requires balancing full-time work with demanding academic and clinical commitments. This support has empowered me to focus more fully on my studies and professional growth without sacrificing my well-being. Ultimately, it brings me closer to achieving my goal of becoming a registered dietitian and making a meaningful impact on population health."



Emma Hutt

Rutgers University

Emma Hutt is a graduate student in the combined Master's and Dietetic Internship (MS/DI) program at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ. Growing up in Tinton Falls, NJ, Emma was always surrounded by family members who loved to cook, sparking her passion for food at a young age and inspiring her to pursue a degree in culinary arts. During her culinary education, she developed a strong interest in healthy cooking and realized she wanted to deepen her understanding of nutrition. After earning her associate degree in culinary arts, she returned to Rutgers to pursue a career in nutrition and dietetics. Since then, Emma has gained valuable experience working as a diet aide in a hospital, conducting research, volunteering with sports dietitians, and participating in professional nutrition conferences. These experiences have strengthened her commitment to becoming a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist. Now in the MS/DI program, she is continuing to build her clinical and community nutrition skills as she works toward her goal of becoming a compassionate and well-rounded dietitian.

"Receiving this scholarship has had a profound impact on my educational journey. It has not only eased some of the financial burden I face as a graduate student, but it has also motivated me to stay focused on my goals and persevere. With this generous support, I can dedicate more time to my coursework, internship experiences, and volunteer activities that help me as I pursue my passion for dietetics."



Parker Johnson

Oklahoma State University

Parker Johnson is a PhD student in nutritional sciences and a dietetic intern at Oklahoma State University, where he received his BS in nutritional sciences. He is from Edmond Oklahoma and has lived in the state his entire life. Parker aims to become a registered dietitian and work in academia or industry in the realm of precision nutrition. Parker's research interests are micronutrients, genetics, and how different dietary patterns can impact disease risk, per an individual's genetic makeup.

"This scholarship is a great blessing and will help set me up for future success as a dietitian and as a researcher. This scholarship in one sense is a vote of confidence. To be chosen to receive this award further strengthens my resolve and encourages me to press on during difficult times. It shows that others believe in me and see a bright future worth investing in."



Nicholas Siegel

Boston University

Nicholas (Nick) earned his Bachelor of Science in biochemistry from Stony Brook University before enrolling in Boston University's DPD/MS/DI program. Throughout his career, Nick has gained experience working with clients in a senior living home, college athletics, an inpatient eating disorder hospital, a veteran's hospital, and clinical research. While he enjoys counseling and learning about clients' lived experiences, he has taken a particular interest in nutrition research and has worked with researchers at BU, Tufts, and in industry at ZOE to explore the implications that nutrition has on a population as a whole. Through these experiences, Nick has realized the importance of precision nutrition and personalizing the diet to the individual instead of using a one-size-fits-all approach. Nick is starting his dietetic internship in January, and while he is still exploring future opportunities, he is sure the future will involve working with people and precision nutrition in some capacity. He is excited for what the future holds and wants to make beneficial changes to people's health and well-being.

"During the course of my graduate education, I have had to hold multiple part time jobs in order to support myself through school. Now that my Dietetic Internship is starting, this scholarship will allow me to work less and focus more on my hands-on learning. This will allow me to get the most out of the DI experience and I will be a stronger clinician because of it."



Ramakwende L. C. Zoma, MPM

Pennsylvania State University

Originally from Burkina Faso, West Africa, Ramakwende L.C. Zoma earned a bachelor's degree in human nutrition and food technology from the University of Joseph Ki-Zerbo in 2012. She is currently completing her master's degree in nutrition and dietetics at Penn State University alongside her dietetic internship. Ramakwende has contributed to community nutrition initiatives both internationally and within the United States. Driven by a passion for maternal and child health, she aims to apply her expertise in clinical and community settings, developing and implementing nutrition programs that promote healthier, more resilient communities.

"I am truly grateful for this scholarship, which has lessened the financial demands of my studies and allowed me to focus on my academic and professional growth. It inspires me to continue working toward my long-term goal of fostering healthier communities."

Frances A. Gallagher Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the Indiana Dietetic Association

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Your generosity brings relief during this challenging time of obtaining an education. Even what might seem like a modest scholarship goes directly toward essentials like transportation to clinical sites, groceries, and professional resources, things that quickly add up when there's no income. This support gives me the chance to stay focused on learning and building my skills instead of worrying constantly about finances. It also shows me that there are people who truly care about helping students like me succeed.

– Sophia Pirela

Sophia Pirela

Andrews University

Sophia Pirela graduated from Purdue University with a BS in Nutrition and Dietetics, where she earned Nutrition Science Honors. She's now pursuing her MS in Nutrition and Wellness at Andrews University while completing her dietetic internship. Alongside school, she has worked at WIC for the past eight months, where she provides nutrition support to women, infants, and children. This hands-on experience has strengthened her passion for preventive care and one-on-one counseling. Her goal is to become a Registered Dietitian who helps people build healthier relationships with food in ways that feel balanced and realistic. Through her education, internship, and work experience, Sophia is developing the skills to become an evidence-based, compassionate dietitian who truly listens to her clients and helps them create lasting change.

"This scholarship helps ease the financial burden and lets me focus on making the most of my dietetic internship experience. This support truly makes a difference in helping me succeed."



Frances E. Fischer Memorial Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the estate of Frances E. Fischer, friends & associates

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Thank you for seeing me, and thank you for valuing my opportunity for an education. Without people like you, I would be unable to fulfill my academic and professional potential. I want nothing more than to help make the world a happier and healthier place for as many people as possible. Donations like yours make that real for me. Your donations remind me I am doing this work for a reason—for the community that exists all around me. Your donations have made a tangible difference in my life and others. YOU did that. Thank you.

- Brooke Ashley Trogdon

Macarena Sabina Victoria Cañardo Casali

Boston University

Macarena Cañardo was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and moved to the United States at the age of three. As a proud Latina and member of the Hispanic community, she is passionate about supporting individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds. Macarena is currently in her final year of the DPD/MS+DI program at Boston University and looks forward to beginning her dietetic internship in January. She is eager to soon find out where she will complete this next step in her professional journey. Her current areas of interest include clinical nutrition, gastrointestinal disorders, pregnancy and lactation, and eating disorders. In the short term, Macarena aims to begin her career in a clinical setting while continuing to build her social media platform, where she shares evidence-based nutrition education and culturally relevant content inspired by her Argentine and Latinx heritage. Long-term, she aspires to deliver a TED Talk or speak at professional conferences, work part-time as an adjunct professor while still seeing patients, and publishing a practical handbook for new professionals entering the field. Above all, Macarena hopes to inspire others to cultivate healthier, more joyful relationships with food that honor both health and culture.

"Receiving this scholarship has been both humbling and motivating. It reminds me that my hard work and dedication to becoming a dietitian are recognized and valued. This support strengthens my confidence and encourages me to keep striving toward my goals, even when the path feels demanding. More than financial assistance, it represents belief — in my potential, in my future contribution to the field, and in the difference I hope to make through nutrition."

Domonique Christian, MS, NDTR

University of North Texas

Domonique earned dual bachelor's degrees from the University of Texas at Brownsville and the University of Arizona, followed by master's degrees from Capella University. She holds the NDTR credential and is a certified Bariatric Counselor. Currently, she is pursuing a Master's in Lifestyle Sciences and Coaching at UNT Health Fort Worth and will begin her dietetic internship with Nutraceo this winter. Her own journey as a bariatric patient ignited her passion for supporting others in the bariatric community—empowering them to advocate for themselves and navigate their paths to success. Domonique is equally committed to helping medical professionals deliver compassionate, patient-centered care and aspires to become a bariatric dietitian.

"This scholarship means that I will have less of a financial load and will be able to complete my education timely without any delays. I am excited to complete my program and start my internship to become a dietitian and serve the community in which I live!"





Tiara Crump

University of Birmingham at Alabama

Tiara has a strong background in nutrition and wellness, with a passion for helping others improve their health through sustainable lifestyle changes. Currently, she is pursuing graduate studies in Nutrition Science while completing a dietetic internship, gaining both the academic foundation and clinical training necessary to become a registered dietitian. With professional aspirations to establish a private wellness practice, Tiara is committed to integrating evidence-based nutrition with a holistic approach to empower individuals to achieve long term well-being.

"Receiving this scholarship really means a lot. It contributes to my success, by alleviating the financial burden that attending college can have on students. I am very grateful for this opportunity and excited to continue my educational journey."



Jadyn Gardner

University at Buffalo

Jadyn Gardner is an aspiring dietitian from Savona, NY. She earned her major in Nutrition: Dietetics and Sports Nutrition, along with minors in Public Health Education and Psychology, from Commonwealth University - Mansfield Campus in May of 2025. During her undergraduate studies, she served as treasurer of the Student Dietetic Association (SDA) Club and the Mansfield University Community Health (MUCH) Club. Additionally, she spent three semesters working as a Peer Health and Wellness Educator on campus. Jadyn also spent five years working in the foodservice industry, where she proved to be a valuable team member. Now embarking on her graduate studies, Jadyn is deeply passionate about the preventive power of nutrition and aims to make a meaningful impact on people's lives. She is thrilled to be working towards her Master of Science in Clinical Nutrition at the University at Buffalo and is expected to graduate in May of 2027. She has a strong enthusiasm for health and wellness, especially in the field of women's health.

"Receiving this memorial scholarship has been both an honor and a tremendous source of motivation. It has eased a significant part of the financial burden of graduate school, allowing me to focus more fully on advancing my education and developing the skills I need to make a meaningful impact in the field of nutrition as a future RD. This support reaffirms my future goals, career aspirations, and commitment to promoting overall health and well-being for all."



Holly Ann Gramling

University of Nevada Las Vegas

Holly Gramling is a student at University of Nevada Las Vegas pursuing a master's degree in nutrition science along side of completing her dietetic internship to become a Registered Dietitian. Holly's professional aspirations include building a private practice as registered dietitian with a focus on women's health. She hopes to combine clinical experience with research and community education to help people to make sustainable, healthy choices. Holly looks forward to using her education and knowledge to contribute to the health and well-being of others.

"Receiving this scholarship means so much to me as I often feel like what I am trying to accomplish gets overlooked. I put in a lot of work trying to balance my life as a full time student and mom. This recognition makes me feel more supported and encourages me to finish this last stretch strong!"



Anna Jacobs

Simmons University

Anna Jacobs is a student in the MS/DPD program at Simmons University, studying Nutrition and Health Promotion. With a BA in American Studies from Smith College, she is a career changer who spent her twenties working in arts administration and garden education. She aspired to become a dietitian specialized in gastroenterology and women's health.

"I am incredibly grateful for this scholarship, which gives me the financial ability to fund my education. As a career changer, it can be challenging to juggle the responsibilities of adult life, work, and a rigorous education. Receiving this scholarship eases the financial burden of my education and allows me to spend more of my time focused on my course work and on deeper learning."



Mallory Lewis

Boston University

Volunteering with her mother, as a child, at a shelter for women and children of domestic violence, Mallory learned that food is more than nutrition and sustenance. It can be healing, love and community. That foundation inspires her objective to learn more about nutrition and help others. She wants to work in a clinical setting with people experiencing chronic illnesses. Her undergraduate degree is in biological sciences, and she is currently completing her DPD and master's degree in nutrition. Recently, she completed a practicum with a clinical and private practice dietitian and will use what she learned to further her career.

"Receiving this scholarship is a big help as I continue my education. Earning a scholarship not only helps me financially, but reassures the importance of my journey. Knowing that generous people are supporting me and believe in me is a great honor. The journey to earn a master's degree and dietitian credential is very expensive, so any amount of financial assistance helps. With this money, I can continue my education with slightly less to worry about financially."



Colton Maslanka

The University of Southern Mississippi

Colton Maslanka is a proud Marine Corps veteran and dedicated father of three who never imagined returning to school after his time in the service. His journey has been shaped by resilience, discipline, and a strong desire to create a better future for himself and his family. Currently, Colton is pursuing a Master of Science in Nutrition and Food Systems, combining his passion for health with his commitment to helping others. His professional aspirations include becoming a weight management dietitian, where he hopes to guide individuals toward healthier lifestyles through personalized nutrition support. Looking ahead, Colton also envisions opening his own consulting business and gym, creating a space where fitness, nutrition, and accountability come together. His experiences as a veteran and parent drive his determination to succeed, while his educational path equips him with the knowledge and tools to make a lasting impact in his community. Colton's story is one of perseverance, growth, and dedication to both his family and his future profession.

"Receiving this scholarship fills me with immense joy and gratitude. It not only eases the financial burden of pursuing my education but also motivates me to continue striving for excellence. This generous support allows me to focus more on my studies and personal growth, bringing me closer to achieving my academic and career goals."



Rikki McDonald

University of Tennessee

Some days, Rikki looks in the mirror and finds it hard to believe how far she has come. She grew up in a single-parent household where college was rarely discussed, as she and her mother both knew it was not something they could afford. Neither of her parents attended college, and her mother, who struggled with dyslexia, had a difficult time guiding her academically. After high school, Rikki continued working in the service industry in her hometown until she was diagnosed with lupus in 2014 at the age of 22. Now studying at the University of Tennessee, she is grateful for having incredible opportunities and an environment to learn under such talented educators.

"I am grateful for this scholarship and believe the hardships I have managed to overcome have helped to prepare me mentally, physically, and emotionally to work with people. All I have ever wanted to do is help people and share knowledge."



Cole Murphy, CSCS

King's College

Cole is a driven sports scientist with a passion for athlete performance and well-being. He currently works at the Gatorade Sports Science Institute, where he contributes to cutting-edge research on new Gatorade products, field testing to advance evidence-based strategies to optimize athlete's performance and building education materials to share externally. Cole earned his undergraduate degree in nutrition, exercise, and health sciences and is pursuing a master's in nutrition and Dietetics, with plans to become a Registered Dietitian. His long-term goal is to combine his expertise in sports nutrition and anecdotal knowledge in endurance training - particularly ultra running - to develop innovative and science-backed services that help athletes optimize their performance and health.

"This scholarship has lifted financial stress that will allow me to channel more focus to the program. It is a giant step in my staircase to where I want to be for my career and is helping me get to my final goal of becoming a dietitian."



Kara Pastorik-Mabey

University of Utah

Kara Pastorik-Mabey is a graduate student at the University of Utah studying sports nutrition. She completed her undergraduate schooling at Utah State University, where she received two bachelor's degrees in dietetics and kinesiology, along with a minor in hunger studies. At USU, Kara worked as an orientation leader, welcoming and empowering incoming college students. She was then promoted to a prominent leadership role as student coordinator, responsible for developing orientation leaders, teaching leadership skills, and serving students. Kara's favorite part of this was being able to empower students who felt college was not possible for them. She also worked with her professor to develop the Utah Double-Up Food Bucks Program, reduce food waste and repurpose it for students in need. Kara has worked as a SNAP Educator, directed the Meals on Wheels program in her community, and has been a teaching assistant for chemistry and nutrition courses. This past summer, she completed her supervised practice rotations. She is currently an intern for Real Salt Lake and the Utah Royals professional soccer club. Kara's passion for nutrition comes from her many years spent in athletics. She enjoys the science behind nutrition and how it affects every aspect of our lives.

"This scholarship means that I can stress less about the financial aspect of school and focus more on my academics. School gets more and more expensive every year. When both my husband and I are in school pursuing careers in healthcare, it adds up quick! Being able to have any amount of aid helps me to focus on developing my skills so that I can be a better dietitian, instead of worrying about how I'm going to pay for it."



Adeline Peat

Tufts University

Adeline Peat is a first-year graduate student at Tufts University's Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, where she is pursuing a master's in nutrition with concentrations in agricultural, food, and environment as well as climate, sustainability, and food. She earned her undergraduate degree in Nutritional Science from Penn State, graduating with a 3.93 GPA and serving as department marshal for her class. While at Penn State, she co-founded the university's Food Recovery Network chapter, which has redirected over 20,000 pounds of surplus food to fight waste and food insecurity. She also contributed to the POLARIS project, researching food sovereignty challenges facing Indigenous communities. Committed to advancing food equity, Adeline is passionate about serving marginalized populations and integrating research, policy advocacy, and community engagement to create more resilient food systems. Her long-term goal is to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) and pursue a career across nonprofit, clinical, and international settings, applying evidence-based nutrition to improve public health and equity.

"As a first-year graduate student at Tufts' Friedman School, receiving this scholarship has been both motivating and reassuring. It affirms that my hard work and commitment to addressing nutrition inequities are valued, and it lightens the financial stress that comes with pursuing advanced education. This support allows me to focus more fully on my studies and research, while reinforcing my commitment to serving communities that are most vulnerable to nutrition-related health disparities."



Helena M. Roura, MS, MPH

SUNY Oneonta

Helena M. Roura, MS, MPH, is a Long Island-based graduate student in SUNY Oneonta's Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics program and is currently completing her supervised clinical rotation at Stony Brook Southampton Hospital. Her path to dietetics reflects a balance of rigorous scholarship and firsthand experience in how nutrition can change lives. Throughout her undergraduate and graduate studies at Stony Brook University, where she earned dual bachelor's degrees in Sociology and Anthropology, graduating magna cum laude, and later completed dual master's degrees in nutrition and public health, Helena demonstrated how the science she studied could transform her own health, deepening her belief in the body's remarkable ability to heal through food and lifestyle. A lifelong community volunteer and advocate for health equity, Helena is passionate about bridging science and compassion in patient care. She is particularly interested in how social determinants influence health outcomes and hopes to contribute to interventions that make nutrition care more inclusive and accessible. Her work spans nutrition education, community wellness initiatives, and clinical practice. She aspires to become a registered dietitian who blends clinical expertise with public health leadership, empowering individuals and communities to build resilience, vitality, and a lifelong connection to nourishment.

"Receiving the Frances E. Fischer Memorial Scholarship is an incredible honor that reaffirms my commitment to becoming a registered dietitian nutritionist. As a graduate student in SUNY Oneonta's Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics program, currently completing my clinical rotation at Stony Brook Southampton Hospital, this support allows me to focus more deeply on patient care, clinical learning, and professional growth. It represents the generosity of those who believe in the next generation of dietitians and inspires me to carry that same spirit of mentorship, compassion, and lifelong learning forward throughout my career."



Brooke Ashley Trogdon

Georgia State University

Raised in rural Georgia, Brooke fostered a love for preparing family meals at an early age. Undergoing her own health and fitness journey when she started college, she chose to pivot her passion for biology into the health sciences. Brooke recently graduated with her bachelor's degree in public health at Georgia College & State University (GCSU) and is now pursuing her master's degree through Georgia State University's (GSU) Nutrition Coordinated Program. During her undergraduate degree, Brooke founded a chapter of Students for Sensible Drug Policy and conducted mentored research investigating peer support and the efficacy of collegiate recovery programs for people with substance use disorders. Her work is being published in GCSU's undergraduate research journal. Brooke seeks to explore how peer support can aid recovery from nutrition-related behavioral disorders. Furthermore, she is currently president of GSU's Body Talk club which emphasizes leading conversations around body acceptance and how to pursue health at every size. Brooke aspires to be a science communicator, serving through both content creation and private nutritional counseling.

"Receiving this scholarship has removed a significant financial burden, allowing me to focus on my studies. It means I can dedicate my energy to becoming the best dietitian possible instead of obsessing over loan limits and basic needs like health insurance. Beyond the financial relief, this scholarship reminds me that my fight to champion health equity will not go unnoticed. I must acknowledge the legacy of my Mammaw, Laura Scogin, who passed due to type 2 diabetes and coronary artery disease complications. This support strengthens my commitment to improving quality of life and longevity for people with chronic nutrition-related illnesses."

G. Jane Hartman Memorial Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the Staff Division of Dietetic Services, State of Maryland, Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene, friends & colleagues of Maryland; K. E. Manchester; Mrs. Thomas C. Pears III, Pears Estate

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, As a student who has directly benefited from your generosity, I want to share just how impactful your support truly is. For many of us, the cost of education isn't just tuition—it's textbooks, supplies, technology, and the basic ability to stay afloat while pursuing our goals. Your donations open doors that might otherwise remain closed. Your contributions are more than just gifts; they are investments in real people working hard to change lives!

- Jacob Gargis

Nadia Boston

University of Pittsburgh

Nadia Boston recently graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a bachelor's degree in nutrition science. She spent the summer working as a dietetic technician at UPMC Altoona. She is currently enrolled in her combined dietetic internship and master's program at the University of Pittsburgh. Her current professional aspirations are in community nutrition or foodservice.

"Receiving this scholarship is incredibly exciting to me as it makes me feel recognized for my academic and professional accomplishments. Being one of the students selected out of the many who applied, I feel like I have been doing well in my educational journey. It motivates me to keep trying to gain new experiences and push myself to continue working on becoming an expert in the nutritional field."

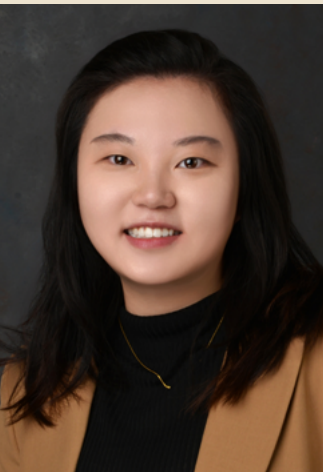


Mengling Cao

James J. Peters Veterans Affairs Medical Center

Mengling Cao is a dietetic intern who recently completed her dietetic internship at the James J. Peters Veterans Affairs Medical Center in the Bronx, NY. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and a master's degree in nutrition, reflecting her strong commitment to evidence-based practice. She is particularly interested in applying her clinical knowledge to the management of chronic diseases, with the aim of enhancing patient outcomes and quality of life. Her professional goal is to become a Registered Dietitian specializing in clinical nutrition, with a focus on providing personalized medical nutrition therapy to support chronic disease management.

"I am honored to have been selected for this scholarship. This recognition serves as a meaningful endorsement of my commitment to the field of dietetics and motivates me as I prepare for the RD exam and continue to deepen my knowledge in nutrition. It encourages me to engage more fully in the learning opportunities and experiences that will contribute to my development as a future dietitian."





Jacob Gargis

West Virginia University

Jacob Gargis has always been passionate about healthcare, with a strong interest in helping others through nutrition. He earned his bachelor's degree in nutrition and Dietetics and is currently pursuing his master's degree to become a registered dietitian. Jacob's ultimate goal is to work with children, particularly in burn units, where he hopes to make a lasting impact on their recovery and overall well-being through specialized nutritional care. His dedication to both his studies and his future profession reflects his deep commitment to improving lives through compassionate, science-based care.

"As any student knows, school requires not only hard work but also a significant financial commitment. As a non-traditional student balancing two jobs while attending school, I face many challenges. Any financial assistance can greatly reduce the stress of both academic and personal responsibilities, allowing me to stay focused on my studies. This scholarship will provide the support I need to purchase essential supplies at the beginning of the year—items I might not otherwise be able to afford. I am sincerely grateful for this opportunity and your support."

General Mills Bell Institute of Health and Nutrition Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the General Mills Bell Institute of Health and Nutrition

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Your support allows students like myself, who are balancing the demands of professional and academic work, to pursue a rewarding career as an evidence-based healthcare practitioner. Scholarship monies ease the financial aspects associated with higher education-related expenses and allows students to focus more deeply on their studies and professional growth. By sharpening our skills, we strengthen our commitment to providing compassionate, evidence-based nutrition care. Thank you for making this possible and for affirming our dedication to improving the health and well-being of others.

- Michelle Nezoslosky, MPH



Michelle Nezoslosky, MPH

Kansas State University

Michelle Nezoslosky is an aspiring Registered Dietitian with over a decade of healthcare experience. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from College of the Holy Cross and a Master of Public Health from Boston University School of Public Health. Inspired by the transformative power of nutrition in her own life, she is now pursuing a career in dietetics and completing her coursework at Kansas State University, with anticipated graduation in May 2027. Michelle blends healthcare expertise with professional writing and medical communications, creating clear, accessible content to empower individuals in making informed health choices. In her future career as a dietitian, she envisions opening a wellness space on the Upper East Side of New York City, combining personalized nutrition counseling with wellness education, and is committed to promoting compassionate, evidence-based care.

"Receiving this scholarship is a deeply meaningful honor that affirms my dedication to pursuing a career in dietetics. It represents not only recognition of my hard work, but also encouragement to keep moving forward with purpose. This support helps ease the financial aspect of my education and allows me to fully engage in evidence-based nutrition learning and hands-on experiences. Knowing that others believe in my potential inspires me to continue learning, growing, and giving back through compassionate, inclusive nutrition care that empowers individuals to build lasting, healthy relationships with food and their well-being."

Geraldine M. Piper Memorial Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the estate of Geraldine M. Piper

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Thank you for investing in the future of our profession and ensuring the next generation of dietitians feel supported-- both financially and personally!

- Mary Madelyn Hart

Mary Madelyn Hart

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Madelyn Hart graduated with her Bachelor of Science from the University of Tampa in 2024 and is now a second-year MPH candidate studying nutrition and dietetics at UNC Chapel Hill, expecting to graduate in May of 2026. With varied passions in the field, she hopes to work at the nexus of community nutrition and research to understand the barriers and facilitators of food security. Madelyn intends to support interventions and research that highlights the strengths of communities most impacted by food insecurity, while also creating equitable, justice-oriented interventions that center the self-stated needs and desires of the communities they're seeking to support.

"This scholarship has made a significant impact on my educational journey; easing the financial burden of pursuing higher education. It's heartening to feel so supported by the Academy while pursuing my RD license, and it means the world to know that I am entering a career field so supportive of its junior members."



Gerber Endowment in Pediatric Nutrition Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the Gerber Foundation

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Thank you for investing in students like me. Your generosity does more than provide financial support, it fuels our dreams, reduces stress, and allows us to fully commit to our education and future careers. Because of your kindness, I can focus on becoming a registered dietitian and preparing to serve my community through healthcare and nutrition. Scholarships like this remind us that we are not alone in our journey; we have people who believe in our potential and want to see us succeed. Your gift truly makes a lasting impact, and I am deeply grateful.

- Cassy Tigner

Cassy Tigner

University of Memphis

Cassy Tigner earned her bachelor's degree in dietetics from Mississippi State University and is currently pursuing a master's degree in clinical nutrition at the University of Memphis. She is completing her supervised practice rotations, gaining experience in clinical, foodservice, and community nutrition. Cassy's professional goal is to become a registered dietitian where she hopes to support children and families in building healthy habits from an early age. She is passionate about combining evidence-based practice with compassionate care to make a lasting difference in the lives of children.

"Receiving this scholarship has been an incredible blessing in my educational journey. It has not only eased the financial burden of pursuing my degree but has also encouraged me to stay focused and motivated as I work toward becoming a registered dietitian. This support allows me to dedicate more energy to my studies, clinical experiences, and community involvement, rather than worrying about financial strain. Most importantly, it reminds me that others believe in my potential and goals, which inspires me to continue striving for excellence and to give back through my future career in healthcare and nutrition."

Morgan Wittenauer

Indiana University Indianapolis

Morgan Wittenauer is passionate about making nutrition accessible, inclusive, and empowering for all. She is currently enrolled in Indiana University Indianapolis's combined MS+DI program, completing master's coursework while simultaneously completing 1200+ hours of supervised practice at a variety of high quality sites across Indiana. With a background in food service management and community nutrition- including meaningful experiences with programs like WIC- she has seen firsthand how critical it is to meet families where they are, providing practical, culturally sensitive nutrition support that respects their lived realities. Wittenauer's interests lie at the intersection of nutrition and public health, particularly in school nutrition programs where there is the opportunity to shape lifelong habits and address health disparities from a young age. She has an aspiration to either work in a clinical pediatric space or within the domain of school nutrition. Wittenauer believes in starting nutrition education early, using food as a tool for both prevention and treatment of chronic conditions, and ensuring every child has access to nourishing meals that support their learning, development, and well-being.

"My journey to becoming an RD has been full of twists and turns, and I am so grateful to be less than a year out from sitting for the RD exam. The nutrition community is so strong, and I am so honored to have been chosen for the Foundation's 2025 Gerber Endowment in Pediatric Nutrition Scholarship by some of the leaders in our field. I truly put 100% into everything I do, and I am just so pleased that my effort has been seen and appreciated, and it feels like this scholarship is the culmination of years of hard work."



Irene J. Jones Memorial Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of Irene J. Jones

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Thank you for your support. This means so much to me as a student managing the stress of graduate school and life responsibilities. Graduate school is not easy and having support with big or small makes a real difference. This scholarship will help me cover tuition or materials for my nutrition program but it's not just about the cost. It also reminds me to keep going and motivates me to push forward toward my goal, becoming a dietitian and help my community. Thank you for believing in me.

- Takreed Ali



Daniella Abel

La Salle University

Daniella Abel is a second-year intern in La Salle University's Master's Coordinated Program (MCP) in Nutrition and Dietetics Practice. In the spring of 2025, she graduated with a BS in Nutrition at La Salle University. She will graduate with her MS in Nutrition in the spring of 2026. Daniella is passionate about delivering nutrition education to diverse populations. She has a particular interest in women's health, behavioral health nutrition, endocrine disorders, and gastrointestinal disorders. Furthermore, she also has professional interests in food insecurity, addressing the nutritional needs of the older adult population, and advocating for federally funded nutrition programs. Currently, Daniella is participating in a year-long clinical nutrition internship at a large hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She plans to sit for the RD exam this summer and continue professionally in a clinical nutrition or community nutrition setting.

"Applying for the Foundation's scholarship program over the last four years has been a blessing. Through the generosity of others, I have been supported through my educational journey. This allows me to focus on the present -- making an impact on the lives of the patients I see through my internship opportunities. In other words, the impact of the Foundation's scholarship program is felt beyond the student and to the communities served."



Takreed Ali

University of Michigan

Takreed Ali is a graduate student in the nutritional sciences dietetics program at the University of Michigan. She is a detected student, single mother and a caregiver balancing academic work with family responsibilities. Her passion for nutrition stems from a strong desire to help individuals and families live healthier lives take great professional goal is to become a registered dietitian and work in clinical and community settings with a focus on maternal and child health, chronic disease prevention and culture tailored nutrition care. She is committed to advancing public health through education, advocacy, and evidence-based nutrition practice.

"I am happy and honored to receive this scholarship. It eases my financial burden as a graduate student and motivates me to continue working toward my goal of becoming a dietitian. I am very grateful to the foundation and its donors for their support and helping me move forward."



Katie Elliott
Montana State University

Katie Elliott is pursuing her master's degree in dietetics at Montana State University after earning her Bachelor of Science in Food and Nutrition in 2025. Having witnessed firsthand how nutrition can profoundly improve lives, Katie was inspired to enter the field of dietetics to empower others in cultivating confident, sustainable, and joyful health. Throughout her academic journey, Katie has embraced opportunities to grow as both a leader and a learner. She served as president of the Montana Student Dietetics Association, conducted undergraduate research on the chemical components of food, and completed an internship focused on sustainable food practices. Whether through academics, leadership, or volunteer experiences, Katie strives to use her skills to support and uplift others. Katie is excited to begin building a professional career as a registered dietitian nutritionist. She looks forward to combining her academic knowledge, leadership experiences, and passion for serving others to make a meaningful difference in the lives of both individuals and communities.

"Receiving this scholarship from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics is deeply motivating for me. There have been many challenges throughout my educational path, and this support is such an encouragement and affirmation of all that I have poured into my journey so far. Easing my financial burden, this scholarship allows me to better invest in the things that matter during this season of preparation. As I begin my Masters degree this fall, I am thrilled and energized knowing that the Foundation viewed me as someone worth investing in."



Hannah Gandell
University of California, Berkeley

Hannah Gandell is currently obtaining her Masters in Nutritional Sciences and Dietetics at the University of California, Berkeley. Hannah started her collegiate career with a Bachelor of Science in public health, pre-med, from American University in Washington, D.C. After her graduation in 2021, she entered the public health field as a Public Health Associate with the CDC working on the COVID-19 response in North Carolina. Finding a passion in the nutrition aspect of health and healthcare, Hannah chose to switch careers and pursue a new future in the field of dietetics, obtaining her post-baccalaureate degree in Human Nutrition from Winthrop University in South Carolina. Hannah has chosen to finish her dietetic education with UC Berkeley's top-tier graduate program and has an expected graduation date of May 2027. Although she expects her interests to shift and evolve with more education and clinical experience, Hannah's current interests include women's nutrition, prenatal/fertility nutrition, functional and integrative medicine, and diabetes nutrition and education.

"I'm incredibly grateful to have been considered and selected by the Academy for the Irene J. Jones Memorial Scholarship. I'm in the process of earning my masters degree at the University of California, Berkeley, and the additional help from this scholarship will be useful in the coming semester, ensuring that I can use my energy to focus on learning all the new things my graduate program has to offer. I can't wait to excel in this program and use my knowledge and skills to eventually earn the RD credential and pass on my knowledge to those who need it."



Grace Gonzalez

University of California, Los Angeles

Grace Gonzalez is an aspiring Registered Dietitian currently pursuing a master's in public health with a focus in community health sciences at University of California Los Angeles. She earned her B.S. in Nutrition and Dietetics from California State University, Long Beach, where she also completed an honors thesis on meal kits and their impact on student nutrition and cooking self-efficacy. With a background in culinary arts, Grace has transitioned from being a professional chef to focusing on nutrition and public health. Her experience as an Instructional Assistant at Long Beach City College and a Basic Needs Peer Ambassador at CSULB has deepened her commitment to supporting student well-being and addressing food insecurity. Grace's passion lies in improving access to nutritious food and educating others about healthy eating, particularly in underrepresented communities affected by food insecurity and chronic conditions caused by food choices and environment. She envisions a future managing a public health program and potentially teaching at the college level. Outside of academics, Grace enjoys cooking, practicing yoga, and spending time with her family, including her two beloved cats.

"Receiving this scholarship is a significant milestone in my educational journey. It helps to alleviate financial stress, allowing me to focus more on my studies and professional goals. This support reinforces my commitment to becoming a Registered Dietitian and making a positive impact in the field of nutrition. The scholarship not only provides crucial funding but also motivates me to excel academically and contribute meaningfully to my community. I am deeply grateful for this opportunity and am determined to honor the Foundation's investment in my future through dedication and hard work."



Kelli Kirkley

Mayo Clinic

Kelli grew up in a small central Wisconsin town in a lower income single-mother home. Life wasn't always easy, but each struggle helped to shape her into a hardworking and resilient adult. She didn't take the typical path and took nearly eight years off from college after high school before finally returning and completing her bachelor's degree in 2023. She went to school online through The University of Alabama all while working one to two jobs and actively serving as a military spouse. Life still wasn't easy, but she learned a great deal on time management, organization, sacrifice, and adaptability. She would continue on with The University of Alabama's graduate program, succeeding all expectations as she graduated with a 4.0 GPA. She is currently participating in the Mayo School of Health Sciences Dietetic Internship in Rochester, MN, where she will finally complete her journey of becoming a registered dietitian next fall. She hopes to continue working in the clinical nutrition field after her internship. She may one day return the military community, where she would work as a registered dietitian for the Army's Holistic Health and Fitness program. For now, she's excited to see where life takes her.

"Receiving this scholarship means that a little less stress will be put on my financials, and little more focus can be put into my coursework! Finishing up my journey to become a registered dietitian has meant going almost a full year without pay as I complete my dietetic internship. This scholarship will help to offset some of the financial burden of life while I complete my clinical hours."

**Lizbeth Soto Hernandez**

University of the Pacific

Lizbeth Soto is a first-generation student who comes from an immigrant and low-income family. She is an aspiring future practitioner in the field of dietetics who looks forward to making an impact in the lives of many people. Her passion for helping people in need reflects in her efforts and academic standing. Liz completed her pre-requisites at San Joaquin Delta College, then transferred to UC Davis where she completed her undergraduate BS in Clinical Nutrition. She is currently completing her master's in clinical nutrition at The University of the Pacific. Her professional aspirations include gaining knowledge working as a clinical Dietitian in the inpatient healthcare sector. She has a passion for helping her community who is historically an underserved community and who would greatly benefit from the guidance of a community member as she is.

"Receiving this scholarship is of great help being a first-generation student who comes from a low income family. Growing up my parents were not able to afford college for me. I always knew I wanted to get a higher education for a brighter future. However, there was always a financial burden following me. I had to work two jobs while being a full-time student to pursue my educational career. This scholarship has alleviated some of that financial burden."

**Regina Vitale**

Long Island University Post

Regina is a full-time student who recently received her bachelor's degree in nutrition and has stayed committed in obtaining her future career as a dietitian. She believes that her prior careers have led her up to this point in helping her realize what her dream job was later in life. She is a mother of three who hopes to be a positive remodel to her children and anyone else looking to follow their dreams.

"I am beyond excited to have been selected to receive this scholarship from the academy. I will continue to work hard at obtaining my dream career as a Dietitian and for my goal to make a positive impact in this ever-evolving field. Thank you for helping me along my educational journey!"

James V. and Karen P. Lacey Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of Karen P. Lacey, MS, RDN, CD, FAND

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Your generous contribution creates opportunities that open the door to diversity in perspectives within this field of healthcare, thus creating and improving better support for the community and our patients.

- Naomi Ying Tian Tan

Naomi Ying Tian Tan

Eastern Michigan University

Naomi Tan is a focused and driven international student. Growing up in Malaysia shaped her to be passionate about food and health while prioritizing her cultural identity as a Sarawakian. Malaysia is a melting pot of multiple cultures and is rich in culinary diversity, with food being a symbol of community and identity within her heritage. Her passion and love for food and health eventually led her to discover the field of nutrition and dietetics during her years completing A-levels. After a year of undergraduate studies in Exercise Sciences, Naomi's love for dietetics pushed her to change majors and countries, landing her at Eastern Michigan University. While she is still actively exploring this field, sports nutrition is an area she is particularly interested in, with her fascination in optimizing human performance through food and nutrition. Naomi hopes to one day work with elite sports organizations competing internationally as a sports medicine specialist.

"Being a recipient of the Foundation's 2025 James V. and Karen P. Lacey Scholarship has given me the opportunity to pursue my dreams in the United States to become a registered dietitian nutritionist. As an international student, the cost of education in the United States has been challenging to manage, especially with the constraints of a student visa. This scholarship has lifted a weight off of my shoulders. I am excited to see where the dietetics program takes me."



Janette Smith Memorial Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the bequest of Janette Smith

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Thank you for believing in students like me. Your support doesn't just pay bills; it keeps our passion alive during some of the toughest parts of this journey. Becoming a dietitian requires a lot of heart and a significant amount of unpaid hours, and scholarships like this enable us to stay focused on our purpose: to help people live healthier, happier lives with access to good food and quality care. Please keep supporting future dietitians. We're ready to change the world, and we need a little help getting there!

- Inna-Dominique L. Espinoza, MPH



Nicole Barker, MS, CLC, NDTR

West Chester University

Nicole Barker completed both her Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics in Spring of 2020 and Accelerated Master of Science in Community Nutrition in Summer of 2021 at West Chester University. Nicole went on to pass the Registration Examination for Dietetic Technicians shortly after graduating. She has been working as a NDTR at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, King of Prussia campus for the last four years. In addition, Nicole is also a Certified Lactation Counselor assisting lactating parents with meeting their breastfeeding goals. Pediatric nutrition has always been at the forefront of Nicole's interests in the field of Nutrition and Dietetics. She believes that proper nutrition is the key to adequate growth and development and feels as though these messages are best established during the early stages of life. She is now completing her dietetic internship with West Chester University and aspires to one day work as a Registered Dietitian who specializes in eating disorders and disordered eating recovery.

"I was overwhelmed with joy and gratitude upon opening the 2025 Foundation Scholarship email. Receiving this scholarship validates all of the hard work and dedication I have put into years of education and work experience in the field of Nutrition and Dietetics. Being awarded a scholarship through the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation will positively impact my academic journey, as it will greatly reduce financial stress during my Dietetic Internship and allow more time to focus on being present during my rotations."



Emily Dow, PhD, RDN

Arizona State University

Emily Dow, PhD, RDN is a nutrition scientist and dietitian who recently completed her dietetic internship through the Individualized Supervised Practice Pathway. She earned her doctorate in Exercise and Nutritional Sciences from Arizona State University, where her research focused on the gut-brain axis, functional foods, and exercise-based lifestyle interventions. Emily is currently a postdoctoral scholar in the Athleat Field Lab at ASU, where she continues to investigate strategies to support digestive health, performance, and overall well-being in both athletic and clinical populations. Her long-term goal is to pursue a career as a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist, educator, and researcher, combining clinical practice with teaching and mentorship to advance preventative health through nutrition and exercise.

"Receiving this scholarship has been an incredible honor and a tremendous support as I completed my dietetic internship. It eased the financial burden of this pivotal step in my journey, allowing me to focus fully on developing the skills and experience I need as a future Registered Dietitian Nutritionist. This support reinforced my commitment to advancing in the field of nutrition and dietetics and has made a lasting impact on my educational and professional path."

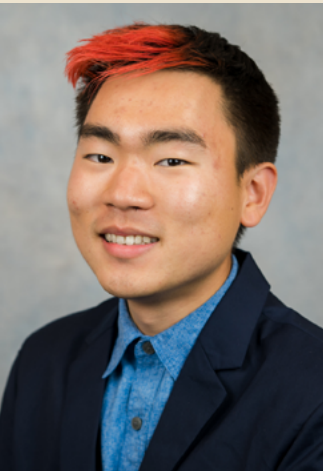


Inna-Dominique L. Espinoza, MPH

James J. Peters Veterans Affairs Medical Center

Inna Espinoza is a proud first-generation Filipina from Sterling Heights, Michigan, whose passion for nutrition began during an elective class at Michigan State University. She went on to earn dual Bachelor of Science degrees in Human Biology and Nutritional Sciences and later completed her Master of Public Health in Nutritional Sciences at the University of Michigan. Throughout her academic journey, she remained committed to food access and culturally inclusive care, teaching nutrition with Gleaners Food Bank's Cooking Matters program and gaining clinical and communications experience with Michigan Medicine's Bariatric Surgery Clinic and Joy Bauer, MS, RDN. Inna recently completed her dietetic internship at the James J. Peters VA Medical Center in the Bronx, where she discovered her love for inpatient clinical nutrition and caring for complex medical populations. She is now beginning her career as an inpatient dietitian in New York City, eager to apply her skills in acute care while continuing to advocate for culturally competent practice within the profession. She is deeply grateful for the support that has helped her reach this milestone!

"Receiving this scholarship means so much to me, especially for a field I am deeply passionate about. As I recently completed my Bronx VA Dietetic Internship and am currently transitioning into my first role as an entry-level dietitian in New York City, this support comes at a pivotal time. It eases the financial burden of student and relocation expenses, allowing me to focus fully on growing as a clinician and serving my patients with excellence. I am incredibly grateful for this investment in my future and motivated to give back to the profession that has given me so much!"



Justin Han, MPH

Brigham and Women's Hospital

Justin Han is a current dietetic intern at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, MA. He received both his Bachelor of Science (BS) in Nutritional Sciences and Master of Public Health (MPH) at Cornell University, where he also completed the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD). Justin's overall career goal is to become an RD trained in both clinical nutrition and public health practice. With a background in community outreach, food systems research, and nutrition education, he hopes to combine both community-level interventions and individual-level nutrition counseling to create a population-level impact in promoting optimal nutrition.

"Receiving this scholarship has made my journey to becoming a registered dietitian so much more real. After receiving my MPH, I knew I wanted to complete the dietetic internship to fulfill my career goal in being an RD experienced in both clinical and public health practice. This scholarship will help finance the costs of completing this internship and I am so grateful for this award!"



Elizabeth Kaul, MS

Viterbo University

Lizzy Kaul is a dietetic intern completing her training with the Minnesota Vikings through the University of Viterbo's dietetic internship program. She earned her Master of Science in Nutrition at the University of Minnesota and is passionate about the intersection of performance nutrition, clinical care, and community wellness. Lizzy's professional experiences span clinical research, sports nutrition, and eating disorders, where she has worked closely with athletes and patients to promote evidence-based nutrition practices. As a registered dietitian nutritionist in training, Lizzy brings both clinical expertise and a passion for education into her work. She aspires to become a board-certified specialist in sports dietetics and continue advancing athlete health and performance at the professional level. At the same time, she is committed to bridging clinical and community nutrition by mentoring future students and supporting families through nutrition education and wellness programs. Lizzy is motivated by the belief that nutrition plays a key role in building resilience—whether on the playing field, in healthcare, or in everyday life.

"Receiving the Janette Smith Scholarship has been an incredible encouragement in my educational journey. It represents more than financial support—it is an affirmation of the hard work, dedication, and passion I've poured into the field of nutrition and dietetics. This scholarship provides me with the freedom to focus on my clinical and sports nutrition training without the overwhelming burden of financial stress. Most importantly, it reminds me that I am part of a community that believes in my potential and is invested in my growth as a future registered dietitian."



Jaurice Salas, MS

Public Health Foundation Enterprises

Jaurice was born and raised in Los Angeles and holds both a bachelor's and master's degree in Nutritional Science from California State University, Los Angeles. She is currently completing her dietetic internship with PHFE WIC, the final step toward becoming a Registered Dietitian, with plans to sit for the RD exam by summer 2026. Jaurice also works as a degreed nutritionist at WIC, where she provides nutrition counseling and support to diverse communities. She aspires to advance into a supervisory role once she becomes an RD, while continuing to develop her skills and expertise. Passionate about pediatric nutrition, she hopes to work in the PICU or NICU, though she remains open to exploring other specialties as her experience grows. Jaurice is dedicated to using her education and practical experience to make a meaningful impact on children's health and well-being, and she looks forward to contributing to the field of dietetics in a variety of clinical and community settings.

"I am truly grateful to be awarded this scholarship. Completing my dietetic internship is the final step in becoming eligible for the RD exam, and this support eases the financial challenges that come with this crucial stage. Having already earned my master's degree, I am committed to applying both my academic knowledge and internship experiences toward becoming a skilled and compassionate dietitian. Thank you so much for investing in my future in the dietetic field!"



Fernanda Sato, MS

University of Maryland Medical Center

Fernanda Sato, MS, is a dietetic intern at the University of Maryland Medical Center. Originally from Brazil, she moved to the United States at the age of 15 and completed the last two years of high school before pursuing higher education. Fernanda went on to earn both her bachelor's and master's degrees in nutrition and food science from the University of Maryland, College Park. Fernanda's passion for nutrition began with a deep interest in the relationship between food and health. She strongly believes that nutrition can change, and even save lives by preventing disease, improving quality of life, and supporting patients through treatment and recovery. During her academic journey, she gained experience in clinical nutrition research and community-focused projects, which further strengthened her commitment to advancing the field. As she continues her internship, Fernanda is eager to explore the many facets of dietetics. While her ultimate goal is to specialize as an oncology dietitian, she remains open to diverse opportunities that will broaden her clinical expertise and professional skills. She also has a strong interest in research and hopes to contribute to evidence-based practices that improve patient care and outcomes in nutrition and health.

"Receiving the Foundation Scholarship has been an incredible relief and support for me. The expenses of a dietetic internship can feel overwhelming, but this award has lifted a significant burden. Because of it, I can focus fully on my internship experience and dedicate myself to growing into the best registered dietitian I can be. This scholarship not only eases financial stress but also motivates me to give my very best in this next step of my educational journey."



Stephanie White, DTR

Arizona State University

Stephanie White is a graduate student in Nutritional Science (Dietetics) building on a strong academic foundation in dietetics. She has hands-on experience in community nutrition programs, including work with WIC and behavioral health. Currently completing her dietetic internship, she is preparing for a career as a Registered Dietitian with a focus on older adult nutrition, community health education, and evidence-based interventions that improve quality of life. Her long-term goal is to integrate clinical expertise with community-based programs to advance healthy aging and improve nutrition outcomes within the forensic population.

"Receiving this scholarship has been an invaluable investment in my educational journey. It has allowed me to pursue my studies with greater focus and determination, while easing financial pressures. This support not only advances my academic and professional goals but also strengthens my commitment to contributing meaningfully to the field and to the communities I will serve."

Jessie C. Obert Memorial Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the estate of Jessie C. Obert

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Your contribution can cascade through communities. By investing in RDNs, you empower not just an individual practitioner, but the families and communities that practitioners will support throughout their career. A mother who learns from that RDN may teach her children what she has learned about nutrition, and they will teach their children, and so on. What could be more meaningful than such a multigenerational impact? Thank you for supporting the future of dietetics, and the health of our communities.

- Lani Miller, RD



Jacob Duncan

Teachers College, Columbia University

Jacob Duncan is an aspiring dietician from New York City. He attended Howard University for his undergraduate degree and is currently working towards his master's degree at Teachers College, Columbia University. He plans on becoming a practicing dietician who works in private practice as well as work in his community as well as other disenfranchised communities to bring nutrition education to people that need it the most.

"I am very appreciative to be selected to receive this scholarship. This scholarship will help to alleviate some of the stress of the loans that I will still have to take out to continue with my education."



Lani Miller, RD

Arizona State University

Whether in a private practice, community clinic, or hospital wing, Lani - who graduated from Loma Linda University in 2015 - has dedicated her career as a Registered Dietitian to ensuring individuals have access to the information and resources needed for a long healthy life. This passion has led her from specializing in individual wellness to the broader "upstream" work of public health, and now the study of sustainable food systems. Following her graduation in spring of 2026, Lani hopes to pursue work abroad in food access. She firmly believes that food and food systems have the potential to unify people across cultures, regions, and political divides. Lani is honored to serve on the board of Communities in Schools of Whatcom-Skagit, WA, a nonprofit dedicated to supporting youth on their path to graduation and lifelong achievement. This organization addresses the root causes of health disparities to build a brighter, more equitable future for all. When not experimenting in her kitchen or rewilding her yard, Lani is probably wandering in the forests of the Pacific Northwest in search of blackberries.

"Pursuing a graduate degree at this stage in my career is a true privilege. While I do not need an MS to practice as an RDN, I was really drawn to study sustainable food systems and see how I could help make our global food system more equitable. At times, however, I struggle with imposter syndrome, and wonder whether I have a place in this work. Receiving this scholarship reassured me that I can and should do this work, and that other RDNs are supporting me!"

**Mikena G. Ruth**

Montana State University

As a full-time graduate student and intern with Montana State University's Master's and Dietetic Internship program, Mikena has dedicated her life to the pursuit of knowledge and achieving whatever it may be that she sets her sights on. She currently has 4 degrees, which include three Associate's (General Studies, Science, and Oregon Transfer) from Blue Mountain Community College and a bachelor's in nutrition with a Public Health minor from Oregon State University. As of now, Mikena is also an intern with Food + Planet, an international organization looking at sustainability and dietetics, where she has been helpful in the development of the 2025 Sustainability and Food Insights Dietitian Survey. It is with this organization that Mikena is researching the connection between sustainability and traditional dietetic roles, sustainable diets, and how to bridge that gap for future generations of Dietitians. In the future, Mikena would love to be able to help out her home community in Oregon through various outreach and community-oriented preventative programs.

"Receiving this scholarship means that I will be able to finish my graduate and internship year without much financial strain or stress. I am in one of the last steps before starting my future career, and it would have been absolutely devastating to have to put it on pause when I'm so close. Now, I can focus on all of the learning and experiential opportunities and really make the most of my time in the MSU MDI program during this last year."

**Eva Wood**

Iowa State University

Eva Wood is a fifth-year student at Iowa State University, pursuing her Bachelors and master's degrees in Diet and Exercise. Upon program completion in May 2026, Eva intends to complete her Dietetic Internship and earn her Registered Dietitian credentials. Eva currently conducts research as a Graduate Research Assistant for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, assisting in state-wide nutrition education initiatives. Her research has helped her gain a passion for accessible nutrition education for all. Eva is excited for her future as a Registered Dietitian, as she is only at the beginning of a fruitful career!

"Receiving the Jessie C. Obert Memorial Scholarship is a huge honor! I cannot thank the Foundation enough for this opportunity. This scholarship has alleviated financial stress during my last year of schooling, and it allows me to save more money for my Dietetic Internship. Now, I can put more time and energy into my studies and research responsibilities."

Judith Rodriguez Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of Judith Rodriguez, PhD, RDN

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Your generosity is truly a blessing to students and emerging dietetic professionals who are working tirelessly to advance their education and careers. Your support provides more than financial assistance—it opens doors to opportunities that might otherwise remain out of reach. By funding scholarships and grants, you are directly investing in the future of nutrition and dietetics, empowering us to continue our training and research. Most importantly, your contributions extend far beyond the classroom; they help us pursue work that will improve the health and quality of life for countless individuals across the country.

- Alexis D. Briley, MS, RDN

Alexis D. Briley, MS, RDN

Northern Illinois University

Alexis Briley, MS, RDN, is a renal dietitian with Fresenius Medical Care of North America in Greenville, North Carolina. She holds a bachelor's degree in nutrition and Dietetics and a master's degree in nutrition science from East Carolina University. Currently, she is a doctoral candidate in the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences program at Northern Illinois University, where her research focuses on creating a digital media platform to provide nutrition education for individuals with chronic kidney disease (CKD) in stages 3, 4, and 5 to improve renal health outcomes. She was inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society in recognition of her academic achievements and is actively involved with the Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics Foundation, the National Organization of Blacks in Dietetics and Nutrition, the American Society of Nephrology, and the National Kidney Foundation. In 2023, she was honored with the Kidney STARS Award for doctoral students committed to advancing kidney health. Outside of her professional work, she enjoys staying active, spending time with family and friends, and traveling. Most importantly, she is a proud mother to her son, Alex, who will graduate from the University of North Carolina Greensboro in Spring 2026.

"Receiving this scholarship from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics has been an incredible blessing in my educational journey. It has not only helped ease the financial burdens and stress that often accompany graduate studies, but it has also given me the freedom to focus more fully on my academic and professional goals. This support reaffirms my commitment to pursuing a doctoral degree and inspires me to continue striving toward my dream of a career in academia, where I hope to contribute to advancing the field of nutrition and mentoring the next generation of professionals."



Katharine S. Middleton Memorial / Chicago Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the estate of K.S. Middleton via the Chicago Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, I want to start by saying thank you for believing in our potential as students. By investing in us, you are creating opportunities for us to use our training to make a lasting difference for our patients. As a future dietitian, I understand the importance of evidence-based practice in our field. By being able to prioritize my education even more with the help of a scholarship, you are directly investing in the future of healthcare by providing me with this aid and reducing my financial stress.

- Paige Helfen

Paige Helfen

Rush University

Paige is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Clinical Nutrition through the Dietetic Integrated Track at Rush University Medical Center. She earned her undergraduate degree in Dietetics from Michigan State University through the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD). In addition to her full-time studies in Chicago, Paige is a certified 200-hour yoga instructor at a local studio and works part-time as a waitress. Professionally, she is passionate about serving the oncology population and aspires to work in an outpatient setting, providing compassionate, evidence-based nutrition support to those in need.

"Receiving this scholarship has been an honor as I pursue my education in nutrition and dietetics. It has provided me with a reduction of stress to my financial burdens as well as motivation to pursue my passion for nutrition. With this support, I am going to be able to develop the knowledge and skills needed to provide evidence-based nutrition care to a multitude of patient populations."

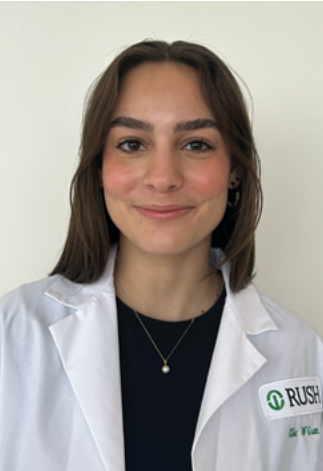
Wesley Kim

Rush University

Wesley Kim is originally from Vernon Hills, Illinois, but now resides in Michigan. He received his undergraduate degree in dietetics from Michigan State University (MSU). While at MSU, he was president of the university's Food and Nutrition Association, a member of MSU's Food Security Council, and participated in research for three years. He is a current second-year graduate student at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois, pursuing a Master of Science in Clinical Nutrition. While at Rush University, he has practiced medical nutrition therapy in the inpatient setting, conducted cooking classes for underserved communities, and continues research in food insecurity. Wesley Kim will graduate and complete his master's program in April of 2026, when he will take the Registered Dietitian Exam and become a registered dietitian. He aspires to work in renal and transplant population once he earns his credentials.

"Being awarded this scholarship means that I can devote my time and effort to becoming a successful, competent entry-level dietitian. I have worked multiple jobs while in school, and at times I have had to make the difficult decision to choose work or professional opportunities. Having the opportunity to now focus on my education and research in nutrition will help further progress my work in promoting evidence-based practice in underserved patient populations."





Eleanor Wilson

Rush University

Eleanor (Ellie) Wilson, originally from Evanston, IL, is a second-year student and dietetic intern pursuing a master's in clinical nutrition at Rush University in Chicago. Ellie graduated from the University of Vermont in 2024 with a bachelor's in nutrition, dietetics, and food science. She was inspired to pursue a career in dietetics by her love for cooking and desire to work in the healthcare field to help others. Ellie is passionate about clinical nutrition and hopes to work in pediatrics or critical care someday. Ellie is also interested in nutrition support and aspires to become a Certified Nutrition Support Clinician in the future. She is also involved in a master's research project looking at frailty in liver disease patients and hopes to continue to contribute to nutrition research throughout her career.

"Receiving this scholarship has made a huge impact on my educational journey. Many of my decisions regarding my education revolve around finances and this scholarship has given me a sense of relief and validation that I chose the right career. This scholarship allows me to continue my education without added financial stress."

Kathryn E. Smith Memorial Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the Virginia Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Your generosity helps open the door for dedicated students who might otherwise be unable to afford this path. By supporting scholarships, you are not only investing in our education but also in the future of healthcare, ensuring more qualified dietitians can serve the communities that need them most.

- Emmalina Jennings



Emmalina Jennings

Virginia Tech

Emmalina Jennings grew up viewing food as something to be restricted and controlled, shaping an early relationship with nutrition rooted in fear rather than nourishment. Over time, she came to understand the profound impact food has on health, well-being, and quality of life. This shift became even more meaningful as she gained a deeper understanding that not everyone has consistent access to healthy foods, an insight that deepened her appreciation for food as fuel, medicine, and a source of joy. Emmalina is currently completing her dietetic internship through Virginia Tech while simultaneously pursuing a master's degree in applied nutrition and physical activity. Her clinical, community, and foodservice training has strengthened her commitment to helping others build healthier, more compassionate relationships with food. With a passion for healing the emotional and psychological dimensions of eating, Emmalina aspires to specialize in eating disorder nutrition counseling. She hopes to empower individuals to trust their bodies, cultivate sustainable nourishment, and rediscover joy in eating. Through her future work as a Registered Dietitian, she aims to advocate for improved access to nutritious foods and to support individuals in transforming their relationships with food—just as she transformed her own.

"Receiving this scholarship has been an incredible support, and I am truly grateful. At a time when affording food, rent, and gas is harder than ever, this award helps ease the financial stress I have felt throughout my Dietetic Internship and graduate studies. With less worry about meeting basic expenses, I can focus more fully on my educational journey and the steps toward becoming a Registered Dietitian, rather than how I will afford to get there."

Kellogg Child Nutrition Graduate Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the Kellogg Company

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Your generosity makes a huge difference in students' lives. The act of kindness you provide makes the difference for a student to turn their dreams into reality with a lessened financial burden. Thank you for your kind consideration and heart for giving back.

- Juliette Jorgenson

Juliette Jorgenson

University of The Pacific

Juliette Jorgenson is an MSCN student at UOP. She is currently completing her last clinical rotation before becoming RD-eligible and sitting for the exam in the early months of the new year. Outside of the hospital, Juliette is a personal trainer and a Pilates instructor. She loves helping her clients find joy through movement. Her background lies in Education and Nutritional studies from Chapman University. She aspires to work with patients in oncology and pediatrics, and to someday open a private practice.

"I am so thankful for the opportunity to receive this scholarship - it is a contribution to my academic success this year."



Alyssa Jane Villena

Bastyr University

Alyssa Jane (AJ) Villena is a graduate student in the Master of Science in Nutrition with Didactic Program in Dietetics at Bastyr University in Kenmore, Washington. After receiving her M.S. in 2026, she will continue to complete a dietetic internship and national exam to pursue her ambition of becoming a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist. AJ is passionate about providing care for underserved populations and enjoys supporting her community by volunteering in clinics, food banks, and supporting the clinical nutrition team at her nearby hospital. With a background in clinical and food service, AJ strives to reduce health disparities in her community through nutrition in a way that is safe, sustainable, and empowering.

"Words alone truly cannot express how grateful I am for receiving this scholarship. Thank you for supporting me through my educational journey as an aspiring dietitian at Bastyr University."



Laura E. Heston Memorial Education Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the Northwest Ohio Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Have you ever wanted to accomplish something, but you have a brick wall blocking your path from doing so? The brick wall can be taken apart brick by brick, but it takes a long time. For students today what they want to accomplish is higher education, but financial burden is their brick wall standing in their way. They can move it on their own, but with your help we all can do it together.

- Kaytlynn Schroeder

Kaytlynn Schroeder

Bluffton University

Kaytlynn Schroeder graduated Valedictorian of Leipsic High School Class of 2024. Now she is a sophomore at Bluffton University. Kaytlynn is maintaining a high GPA throughout college, while also being involved in student organizations. This year, Kaytlynn is Co-President of the Bluffton University Nutrition Association. In the future Kaytlynn wants to be a Clinical Dietitian in a hospital setting.

"Receiving this scholarship means so much to me for many reasons. I am grateful to be able to continue my educational journey with less financial burden. Receiving this scholarship also encourages me to continue my hard work and striving towards a career that will fulfill me in the future. I am so thankful for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation for providing students with these opportunities!"



LaVerne and Edwin Domel Memorial Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of Suzanne D. Baxter, PhD, RD, LD, FADA, FAND, and David W. Baxter

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Your donation eases burdens and help change the future for not only a student but for their loves ones as well.

- Julie Weissert

Julie Weissert

University of North Florida

Julie Weissert has worked 18 years in the hospital industry, 3.5 years in the diet office at local hospitals, and other various jobs encompassed in the marketing realm. Currently she is enrolled in the FEM program at University of North Florida with a graduate date of May 2026. She is currently working as a Nutrition Educator at WIC. Her professional aspirations include working in clinic settings, most likely in maternal health and to expand her education and enhance my nutrition knowledge.

"I began the journey to earn my degree and become an RD over 7 years ago. Not only am I student, but I am a wife, a mother, and an employee. As I am in my last year, I am struggling to stay the course and finish. This scholarship has encouraged me that others support me and see my hard work and that in itself encourages me to dig a little deeper and finish stronger."



Lois M. Jackson Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of Lois M. Jackson

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Thank you for your generosity and vision in supporting students like me. Scholarships make it possible for aspiring professionals to pursue their education.

- Hailey Jaeger



Jeffrey Hale, RD, LD, CDCES

University of South Carolina

Jeff is a registered dietitian with additional credentials as a CDCES practicing in a variety of areas of nutrition and dietetics since graduating from Concordia College-Moorhead in Minnesota and completing his internship at the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC). Some of his most favorite areas of practice include acute care pediatrics, eating disorders, cardiac rehab and endocrinology. Most recently, Jeff has been working at a FQHC specializing in diabetes and weight management in Sumter, SC and last year started his master's in nursing at the University of South Carolina. Jeff's professional aspirations are somewhat unorthodox given his desire to shift from direct nutrition and dietetics care to a more hybrid blend of nutrition care through the scope of a registered nurse and eventual advancement to a nurse practitioner. He hopes to use his future degrees to promote nutrition as primary intervention to prevent and manage lifestyle-related chronic disease as he fully embraces the concept that "Food is Medicine."

"This scholarship has alleviated a great deal of stress for me and allowed me the ability to better focus on my studies and not have to worry about how to afford several, various needs while attending school. I am so incredibly grateful for all the donors who understand the daily burdens of students and support them through their generous donations to the Foundation Scholarship. Thank you, Donors!"



Hailey Jaeger

Concordia College

From a young age, Hailey has always had an interest in food as her mom was always cooking meals at home. She realized quickly how important food was for relationships. She swam competitively in school and college and continued to develop my appreciation for food. She is now a graduate student in Concordia's Master of Science (MS) and combined Dietetic Internship (DI) program and has an interest in later pursuing a master's degree in physician assistant studies. She believes there is an under-representation of nutrition in the medical field. As a future RD, and aspiring PA, she will be an advocate for the prevention and treatment of diseases through nutritional intervention, along with any necessary medications. Hailey believes that nutrition and exercise are the keys to living a healthy and fruitful life and want to help future clients and patients build these habits so they can achieve their highest quality of life. Her experience as a collegiate swimmer has taught her the importance of discipline, teamwork, and leadership. Those skills she has continued to refine as team captain. These qualities have made her successful in both the classroom and her personal life, and she is eager to apply them to her future work in healthcare.

"Receiving this scholarship has been a wonderful encouragement and affirmation of my path toward becoming a registered dietitian. It eases the financial strain of trying to balance graduate school with part-time work and allows me to focus more on my studies, research, and clinical experiences without constantly worrying about how I will afford tuition and living expenses. This support not only helps me continue progressing toward my professional goals but also reminds me that others believe in my ability to make a difference in nutrition and healthcare. When others see my passion, it encourages me to set large goals."



Gloria Charles Mazinga

University of Michigan

Gloria Charles Mazinga is a master's student in clinical nutrition at the University of Michigan, specializing in dietetics. She holds a global health certificate from the University of Malawi and a bachelor's degree in food, nutrition, and dietetics from the University of Eastern Africa, Baraton. At 19, she became the youngest registered dietitian in Malawi after enrolling in university at 14, motivated by her parents' use of therapeutic diets for her Crohn's disease. Her clinical experience includes developing nutrition care plans at Kamuzu Central Hospital, creating oncology protocols at Malawi National Cancer Center, and caring for pediatric cancer patients at Baylor College of Medicine's clinic in Lilongwe. Gloria has worked on projects in Kenya with the U.S. Agency for International Development and continues her community nutrition efforts through the Youth in Missions Organization. In the U.S., she volunteers with the AMEN Free Clinic and the Refugee Garden Initiative. Gloria is active in research with Michigan Medicine's neurocritical care team, and in Malawi, studying pediatric cancer, and has conducted research on HIV/AIDS nutrition in Kenya. She is co-president of the African Graduate Student Association at the University of Michigan, Student Admissions ambassador, and a National Science Foundation's International Global Scholar Award Recipient.

"The scholarship has reduced my financial stress and enabled me to focus on my studies. Oftentimes, finding peace of mind in graduate school is rare due to the financial, academic, and social factors that intertwine. Fortunately, with the strengthened focus and expanded reach, I will be able to achieve several milestones in my graduate studies and lead exemplarily as a public health advocate and resource."

Loyal E. Horton Memorial Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of family and friends of Loyal Horton

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, For many aspiring nutrition professionals, the costs of education and daily living are a significant barrier. Pursuing a degree in this field is an immense financial commitment. Your investment can help alleviate this burden, allowing these future professionals to focus on their studies without the added stress of financial hardship.

- M. Elise Kreilich, MS, RDN, LDN



M. Elise Kreilich, MS, RDN, LDN

Louisiana State University

Elise is Cajun girl born and raised in Houma, Louisiana. She graduated with a BS in Nutrition - Dietetics from Louisiana State University in 2009 and finished her concurrent MS and dietetic internship in 2010 at the University of Memphis. She married her husband Alex Kreilich shortly after and moved to Florida to begin working at Winter Haven Hospital. After a year and a half, she started working in the area of nutrition that would become her passion- kidney disease. She spent the next thirteen years as a renal dietitian working directly with ESRD patients, collaborating with other healthcare professionals, managing dialysis clinics, and leading the care teams in improving processes and quality outcomes. It was Elise's dream to pursue a PhD in nutrition to conduct research, find ways to improve patient outcomes on a broader scale, and contribute to the knowledge and training of future professionals through teaching. In 2024 she moved back to Baton Rouge to join the team at LSU as a PhD student and teaching assistant, and her research focus is on delaying and preventing ESRD in patients who have CKD. She expects to graduate in December 2027.

"This scholarship means a great deal to me. I left the healthcare industry to come back to school with the hope that I could contribute in a meaningful way to bigger solutions for people with nutrition-related metabolic diseases. This scholarship will help me with that goal."

LTC. Eleanor L. Mitchell Memorial Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of family, army dietitians, friends & associates of LTC. Eleanor L. Mitchell

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Thank you for investing in students like me who are working to make a difference through nutrition and health. Your generosity doesn't just provide financial support; it provides hope, motivation, and the ability to focus fully on our education and future impact. Because of your contributions, I'm able to pursue my master's in dietetics and nutrition with less financial stress and more dedication to learning. Your support helps shape the next generation of dietitians who will improve lives through compassionate, evidence-based care. Thank you for believing in our potential.

– Ryan Toney



Isabella Mahboob, CPT

University of Florida

Isabella Mahboob is an undergraduate student pursuing a degree in dietetics at the University of Florida. She is a certified personal trainer and group fitness instructor with experience in both individual and group-based health promotion. Isabella has worked with the South Florida community as a nutrition educator for children, teaching the value of healthy eating and active lifestyles. At UF, she serves as a program assistant at the InMotion Center, where she helps deliver fitness programming, health assessments, and community wellness initiatives. Her academic and professional interests lie at the intersection of nutrition, fitness, and behavior change, with a focus on using evidence-based strategies to improve health outcomes. Isabella aspires to become a registered dietitian specializing in clinical practice, where she hopes to provide patient-centered care and support long-term lifestyle change. In the future, she aims to expand her impact by advancing accessible and practical nutrition education that empowers individuals and communities to lead healthier lives.

"There are not enough words to fully express the feeling I had when I saw the recipient email. I felt truly seen. Being able to pursue dietetics in college is an incredible honor, and now I feel immense gratitude knowing the Academy has chosen to support my journey. Coming from a background where pursuing higher education is not favorable, I am reminded daily of the obstacles before me. Yet, the Academy has shown me that there is light at the end of the tunnel, that I am on the right track, and they have restored my faith."



Kendall J Ross

University of Vermont

Kendall Ross is a second-year master's student studying at the University of Vermont to become a dietitian. Her background includes maternal healthcare, birth work, integrative health and hospitality. She expects to enter into the field of dietetics with an integrative approach to serve prenatal and postpartum women. Her dream is to begin her own practice for nutrition counseling specifically for prenatal and postpartum care along with supporting women through hormone health and fertility.

"Receiving this scholarship was encouraging and extremely helpful as I am pushing through the hardest part of my program. The investment that I have made to become a dietitian feels overwhelming but getting help through this scholarship program feels very helpful."



Ryan Toney

University of Alaska Anchorage

Ryan Toney is a lifelong Alaskan currently pursuing a master's degree in Dietetics and Nutrition. He holds a bachelor's degree in Languages with a concentration in German and is a certified Personal Trainer, Nutrition Coach, and CrossFit Level 1 Trainer. Ryan's passion for dietetics was shaped by personal experiences that deepened his understanding of the powerful relationship between nutrition, health, and physical activity. After completing his master's degree, Ryan plans to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist and pursue a PhD focused on the role of nutrition in preventing or reducing muscle wasting in patients with cancer or a PhD focused on sports nutrition. His long-term goal is to connect research and practical application to empower others to live stronger, healthier lives through informed, sustainable nutrition strategies.

"Receiving this scholarship has been an incredible honor and encouragement as I continue my master's in dietetics and nutrition. It has allowed me to focus more deeply on my studies and research without the added stress of financial strain. I'm truly grateful for this opportunity and motivated to give back to the profession by helping others build healthier, more sustainable lifestyles through evidence-based nutrition and compassionate counseling."

LTC. Helen M. Davis Memorial Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of Ruby W. Linn, friends and associates

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Every dollar you invest in future dietitians fights against the harmful, anecdotal nutrition advice being strewn across the internet. Investing in nutrition education is foundational in reducing health care burdens for millions of Americans. Thank you for improving the health and wellbeing of our communities.

- Emily Chichlowski, MS



Emily Chichlowski, MS

Children's Hospital Colorado

Emily received her master's degree in nutrition from Metropolitan State University of Denver in May 2025. She went on to join Children's Hospital Colorado's Dietetic Internship in August 2025 and will complete her internship and sit for her board exam to become a Registered Dietitian (RD) in the summer of 2026. Nutrition is Emily's second career, as she spent her nearly first decade out of undergrad working in supply chain management for Abbott Nutrition and Abbott Vascular. Emily is eager to be in a more patient facing role in the health care world as an RD. She hopes to work in inpatient clinical nutrition once she is licensed and dreams of opening a private nutrition counseling practice one day.

"I am honored to have support from the Foundation and the team behind the Helen M. Davis Memorial Scholarship as I complete my dietetic internship. Completing my degree and these clinical requirements has taken a village, and I am incredibly grateful for all of the educators, mentors, and supporters who have invested in me."

LTC. Jeanne P. Sanford Memorial Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of family, friends, and military dietitians of LTC. Jeanne P. Sanford

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, You make a big impact on the lives of students by providing them with peace of mind and ease of access to education. This not only impacts the individual receiving it, but it goes beyond by overflowing hope and generating positive change into the lives of all of the people they will touch when they are able to complete their program and begin their careers as dietitians.

– Alacyn White

Alacyn White

Texas Woman's University

Alacyn is aspiring to be a dietitian. She was born and raised in Fort Worth, Texas. She completed her bachelor's in nutrition and dietetics from Texas Woman's University in 2024. She completed her dietetic internship program at Medical City Dallas in May 2025. Alacyn is currently completing her master's in nutrition from Texas Woman's University with an estimated completion date of May 2026. She aspires to be a clinical dietitian upon graduating and passing credentialing examination with plans to move into a leadership role either in the clinical or food service setting.

"Receiving this scholarship has been such a blessing. It has helped relieve some of the stress and pressure I have been feeling about paying for courses. It is a reminder to keep my head up and finish my master's program strong."



Lydia J. Roberts Memorial Scholarship in Public Health Nutrition

Funded by the generosity of a bequest from the estate of Lydia J. Roberts

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Your financial support makes it possible for students of all backgrounds to become dietitians. Dietetics needs to reflect the diversity of the world, for food and nutrition shape the lives of us all. As a recipient of an Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics scholarship, I can say that focusing on my studies is much easier when I do not have to worry about juggling additional jobs to make ends meet.

- Vanessa Tran

Vanessa Tran

University of Washington

Vanessa H. Tran is currently a graduate student and dietetic intern at the University of Washington, Seattle. Before pursuing her MPH, she obtained her B.A. in Ethnic Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. Her interest in public health nutrition was ignited while volunteering with urban farms and farmer's markets in her hometown of San Francisco. She aspires to improve the nutrition and health of populations through community advocacy, engagement, and education.

"It is an honor to receive this scholarship from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics! Being a recipient affirms my dedication to public health nutrition and will support my educational journey as I complete my master's in public health and dietetic internship."



Major Helen Burns Gearin Memorial Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of Ruby W. Linn, friends and associates

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, The cost to achieve the RDN credential can be an insurmountable barrier to many individuals who would contribute immensely to our field. In this time of misinformation, wellness culture, and renewed focus on nutrition education across medical professions, it is more important than ever that our profession is well educated, well-staffed, and capable of both educating and communicating effectively. In addition, dietitians with terminal degrees are desperately needed to support medical school nutrition education initiatives. Thank you.

- Stacy Pelekhaty, MS, RD, LDN, CNSC

Stacy Pelekhaty, MS, RD, LDN, CNSC

Rutgers University

Stacy Pelekhaty has been a dietitian since 2009, and a Certified Nutrition Support Clinician since 2010. Her primary practice areas are nutrition support, trauma critical care, necrotizing soft tissue infections, and extracorporeal membrane oxygenation. Caring for complex populations with limited published literature motivated Stacy to obtain her master's degree and become a lead investigator on several research projects to expand knowledge and improve clinical practice. She believes passionately in the power of community, and seeks to support dietitians interested in research, professional writing, and advanced practice through volunteer positions and mentorship. Stacy is currently pursuing her Doctor of Clinical Nutrition and aspires to forge a path combining clinical practice and academic appointment.

"Being recognized with the 2025 Major Helen Burns Gearin Memorial Scholarship validates my commitment to this profession and advancing my education in the field of clinical nutrition. Knowing that others value my contributions enough to invest in my future motivates me to continue pursuing my professional and educational goals."



Marie and August LoPresti, Sr. Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of relatives, friends, and associates of Mr. and Mrs. LoPresti

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Your contribution to our scholarship form opens doors of opportunity for dietetics students all across the country. Every dollar you donate could be the difference that helps a student pursue their passion of becoming a registered dietitian and subsequently making a positive impact on the health of the community. Your support helps students overcome financial barriers and allows them to be fully engaged in their education and make meaningful contributions to the health of our society. Thank you for fueling the next generation of dietitians!

- Hannah Plank

Kamryn Brooks

University of Dayton

Kamryn is a senior Nutrition and Dietetics major at the University of Dayton. She began her journey in the field at Sinclair Community College in the Dietetic Technician program in 2022 obtaining her associate's degree before transferring to UD to complete her bachelor's degree in 2024. She is a CrossFit Level 1 trainer, engaging in CrossFit training, adult fitness, and youth development. With a lifelong background in athletics and sports performance - having played softball since age 4 and engaged in sports performance training since age thirteen she developed an intense interest in the relationship between nutrition, overall well-being and performance. Her own experiences of navigating food choices for performance sparked her passion for dietetics and commitment to helping others make informed decisions. She aspires to become a registered dietitian specializing in sports nutrition to support athletes achieve peak performance, while empowering her community to embrace evidence-based nutrition to become the healthiest version of themselves.

"Receiving this scholarship impacts my educational journey by allowing me to keep my priority set on my academics. Being recognized validates that I am capable of making an impact within the field of dietetics and emphasizes that I am on the right path in my professional and academic endeavors."

Hannah Rose Plank

Bowling Green State University

Hannah Plank is a third year Dietetics major with a minor in health promotion. She is extremely passionate about helping people live lifestyles that are healthy and balanced, but also realistic for them as an individual. In her daily life, she prioritizes exercise and a diet focused on foods that fuel my body and make her feel good. Her hobbies include lifting at the gym, running, and cooking new, nutrition-packed recipes. She loves to travel for mission/service trips, and this past summer she went to Belize to assist with food distribution among impoverished communities there. She is very involved in extracurricular activities at BGSU, holds a leadership position in the Student Nutrition Association, and the campus food pantry. She aspires to be a registered dietitian and has a keen interest in sports nutrition.

"Receiving this scholarship will allow me to have an opportunity to fully pursue my passion of helping those around me live a healthy, balanced lifestyle. The support from the Foundation inspires me to work towards my career goals of becoming a registered dietitian and bettering my community. I was overjoyed to find out that I was a recipient of this scholarship and now I have new enthusiasm to fully immerse myself in my journey to become a dietitian."





Jordan Plas

Bowling Green State University

Jordan is a current student in BGSU's undergraduate didactic program in dietetics. She began her education by getting an associate's degree in culinary arts before discovering dietetics. She is currently gaining experience in the healthcare field by working at a surgical center in Columbus, OH. When she's not studying, she enjoys playing volleyball, cooking and spending time with her family. Jordan aspires to become a dietitian and work in maternal dietetics, pediatric dietetics, or in an eating disorder treatment center.

"Receiving this scholarship has allowed me to have peace of mind and focus on my studies. I am incredibly grateful to the generous donors who have made this scholarship possible."

Marilyn Briggs Haschke Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of faculty members of the Dept. of Clinical Nutrition, Univ. of Texas Southwestern Medical Ctr. at Dallas; George Briggs; Naomi Bay; friends, family, and colleagues.

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Thank you for supporting our scholarship program. Your generosity has the power to change lives. As a scholarship recipient, I can personally attest that this not only helps financially but also emotionally and academically. Your kind support helps take a major weight off students' shoulders, allowing us to focus more on our studies and less on how we're going to pay for school. I hope you know how much that means. Thank you for your life-changing support.

- Wai Hei Ting



Wai Hei Ting

University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

Wai Hei Ting is a dedicated and driven student currently pursuing a master's degree in clinical nutrition at UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, Texas. Originally from Hong Kong, Wai Hei moved to Texas with his family in 2021 and has always been passionate about nutrition and dietetics since graduating from college. With a strong commitment to educating and helping people with nutritional needs, Wai Hei has been working toward becoming a registered dietitian, intending to make a meaningful impact in the clinical industry. Receiving this scholarship has allowed Wai Hei to focus more fully on education, his long-term goal, and to continue to inspire people and give back to the public in the future.

"I am honored and delighted to be selected as a recipient of this scholarship. It significantly reduces my financial burden, allowing me to fully engage in my program without the constant stress of financial constraints. This opportunity motivates me to work even harder and reinforces my commitment to giving back to the community once I obtain my license."

Maxine F. and Arlene M. Wilson Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of Patsyjane H. O'Malley, RD

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, You are the reason for my financial concerns being lifted. I have been working full time and completing school at the same time. Thank you for your generosity and your investment in my professional growth.

- Brett Lemma, MS, RD, CDN



Robert Dunn, RD, LDN, CNSC

University of Rhode Island

Rob Dunn is the Clinical Nutrition Manager at the Mass General Cancer Center. He is a registered dietitian and certified nutrition support clinician. His primary clinical interests involve optimizing the care of patients who require enteral and parenteral nutrition support as well as helping patients maintain strength and quality of life during cancer treatment. Rob received a bachelor's degree in nutrition from the University of Massachusetts in 2026 and completed a dietetic internship at Massachusetts General Hospital in 2017. He began his career as a dietitian at MGH, where he had the opportunity to care for hospitalized patients of all ages and disease backgrounds. Prior to his current role, Rob managed two teams of dietitians at Salem Hospital, a member of the Mass General Brigham system. Currently, Rob is enrolled in a Master of Science in Dietetics program at the University of Rhode Island. He is committed to pursuing pioneering research in supportive care for patients with cancer while working to build highly reliable systems of nutrition care delivery.

"I am so incredibly grateful to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation, and I am honored to receive the Maxine F. and Arlene M. Wilson Scholarship. I am returning to school to complete a Master's degree, and this scholarship helps remove financial barriers/stressors as I continue my education."



Brett Lemma, MS, RD, CDN

University at Buffalo

Brett Lemma is pursuing his Master of Business Administration degree from the University at Buffalo and is graduating in December 2025. He also has a master's in nutrition and dietetics from D'Youville University which he graduated in May 2022. He has a strong passion for nutrition and wants to use this MBA degree to advance the profession. He aspires to start his own private practice and use his business knowledge to provide jobs for dietitians. He wants to play a key role in providing fair wages.

"I am honored to have been selected to receive this scholarship. This scholarship gives me confidence in the profession with the Foundation showing that they are committed to investing in the growth of future dietitians."



Heidi L Shaffer, RD, CDN, CNSC

Rutgers University

Heidi earned her Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics from Cedar Crest College in 2007 and completed her Dietetic Internship through Penn State. She is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Clinical Nutrition at Rutgers University. She has been practicing as a Registered Dietitian in the Lehigh Valley area of eastern Pennsylvania since 2008. Her primary experience was working with a wide variety of disease states in a hospital setting. In 2018, she obtained her Certified Nutrition Support Clinician (CNSC) and came to NYC to pursue her passion for nutrition support. She currently covers a surgical/trauma intensive care unit and is part of the surgical ICU research committee. They promote and enhance protocols and share these innovations through research and publication. Her future aspirations include becoming involved in additional research, education, and leadership opportunities.

"Pursuing a graduate degree has been a goal for quite some time. Receiving this scholarship can help me focus more on the future rather than the costs of the present. Thank you for believing in my potential and awarding me this scholarship!"



Grace Scarborough, RDN, CD

Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Grace Scarborough is a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist based in Seattle, WA, with a passion for public health, kidney nutrition, and helping individuals develop healthy relationships with food. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nutrition from Central Washington University and has experience across clinical and community settings, including chronic kidney disease prevention, health communications, and eating disorder support. Grace is currently pursuing a Master of Public Health to strengthen her skills in community-based program development and public health leadership. She has contributed to research, presented at professional conferences, and developed educational programming to help people make informed, sustainable health choices. Her professional goals focus on combining nutrition expertise with practical programming to empower individuals with the skills and resources to take an active role in their health. She hopes to create programs that provide clear, evidence-based guidance and make nutrition both accessible and enjoyable for a wide range of communities. Through her work and ongoing education, Grace aims to make a meaningful impact on individuals and the communities she serves.

"Receiving this scholarship has been both affirming and impactful. It eases the financial burden of graduate school and allows me to focus more fully on my educational and professional growth. Beyond the practical support, seeing others in my field believe in and support my goals is motivating and energizing. This scholarship not only makes my educational journey more achievable but also reinforces my confidence in pursuing meaningful work. I am grateful to the Foundation for this support and the encouragement it represents."

Maye Musk Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of Maye Musk

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Through your generosity, you are helping to save lives. Nutrition plays a vital role in overall health, and as experts in food and nutrition, Registered Dietitians are uniquely positioned to help people reduce their risk of chronic diseases, including heart disease, the leading cause of death in the U.S. The road to becoming a registered dietitian is difficult and demanding, requiring a graduate degree and completion of a 1,000-hour unpaid internship. Your support lessens the financial burden dietetic students face, allowing us to focus on their education.

- Christina Greene Hall

Christina Greene Hall

University of Vermont

Christina is a second-year graduate student pursuing her Master of Science in Dietetics at the University of Vermont, where she is also completing her dietetic internship. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Professional Studies from Johnson State College in 2012 and spent the next seven years working in the media field. In March 2020, Christina lost her job when her employer closed due to the pandemic. While losing her job was difficult, it gave her the space to reflect on her true passions and long-term goals. She made the life-changing decision to return to school and follow her passion for nutrition. In May 2024, Christina earned a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Food Sciences with a concentration in Dietetics, graduating as the top student in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at the University of Vermont. Christina plans to practice as a registered dietitian nutritionist with a focus on preventing chronic diseases in perimenopausal and menopausal women. She is passionate about helping women enhance their healthspan and quality of life through evidence-based practice.

"I am honored to be awarded the 2025 Maye Musk Scholarship. Returning to college as a non-traditional student has presented many unique challenges, but I've faced each one with determination and overcome them. This scholarship is a meaningful acknowledgment of the hard work, dedication, and sacrifices that have brought me to where I am today on my educational journey."



Mead Johnson Nutrition Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of Mead Johnson Nutrition

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, As a graduate student pursuing my dream of becoming a registered dietitian, I can personally attest to the impact of your generosity. Scholarships make it possible for students like me, who come from non-traditional backgrounds and often balance rigorous academics with challenges, to dedicate ourselves fully to our training. Your support does more than ease financial stress, it opens doors for future professionals who will go on to serve diverse communities with knowledge, compassion, and cultural understanding. By investing in us, you are shaping the future of healthcare and empowering the next generation of leaders.

- Gemma Palacios

Dania Abdulkarim

Syracuse University

Dania Abdulkarim is a graduate student pursuing a Master of Arts in Nutrition Science at Syracuse University. With a background in medicine, she transitioned to nutrition to combine her scientific knowledge with a passion for improving health through food. She is actively involved in the Central Region Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and participates in community wellness events in Syracuse. Dania aspires to become a registered dietitian providing culturally sensitive clinical care for diverse families and children.

"Receiving this scholarship has been an incredible encouragement on my journey to become a registered dietitian. It reduces the financial pressure of graduate school and allows me to focus more fully on my Master of Arts in Nutrition Science at Syracuse University while raising a young family. This support reminds me that the dietetics community believes in my goals and inspires me to keep working toward providing culturally sensitive, evidence-based nutrition care in the future."

Sharon Bonsu, MS

Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center

Sharon Bonsu is dietetic intern at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston, Texas. She received her Master of Science in nutrition at The University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Sharon's passion for nutrition comes from a desire to reduce health disparities in underserved communities. With her commitment to the field of nutrition and dietetics, she hopes to be an advocate for greater cultural inclusivity and empower the public. Sharon desires to help individuals make sustainable health changes while emphasizing systemic improvements in nutrition and public health.

"Being a recipient of the 2025 Mead Johnson Nutrition Scholarship is an honor. This scholarship allows me to continue to put hard work and effort into my education and career path of becoming a Registered Dietitian. This scholarship is a reminder of my goal of making an active contribution to the field of nutrition and dietetics. The reason that I am able to write this today is because others saw my own potential to greatly contribute to this field. I'm deeply grateful for this opportunity and motivated to continue to pursue excellence."





Savanna Bowen

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Savanna Bowen is currently a dietetic intern at UNC Greensboro who became interested in nutrition through sports. She has always had an interest in the gut microbiome and Gastrointestinal (GI) disorders which has led her to desiring a job as a clinical dietitian. These interests sparked a strong curiosity about the role of nutrition in health, performance, nourishment, and preventative “medicine”. Currently, she is completing her dietetic internship, where she continues to build on a solid foundation of academic knowledge and hands-on experience. Over the years, she has taken on various roles within the nutrition field, including volunteering in community settings, working as a dietary aide, and observing an outpatient Dietitian specializing in GI disorders to broaden her skills and deepen her understanding of diverse populations and nutritional needs. Her ultimate goal is to become a clinical dietitian specializing in GI disorders, where she hopes to help others navigate their health journeys with compassion, evidence-based care, and a personalized approach. She is eager to continue learning and growing as she works toward becoming a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist.

“Receiving the Mead Johnson Nutrition Scholarship is an incredible honor and will be a meaningful support in my educational journey. It has not only lightened the financial burden of pursuing my studies but has also affirmed my commitment to advancing in the field of nutrition. As I prepare to begin my supervised practice rotations, I’m filled with excitement for the hands-on learning opportunities ahead yet, I know these next steps come with challenges. This scholarship eases that financial burden tremendously, allowing me to focus fully on gaining the experience I need to grow as a future nutrition professional.”



Anna Faye Dupree, MS

Emory University Hospital

Anna Faye was born and raised in Calhoun, Georgia, where she spent her childhood in a bustling household with five siblings. In addition to spending quality time with family and friends, her hobbies and interests include cooking, traveling, running, and gardening. Currently, Anna Faye is a dietetic intern at Emory University Hospital. She graduated from the University of Georgia with a Master of Nutritional Sciences and a Bachelor of Science in Family and Consumer Sciences in Dietetics. Her journey is defined by a steadfast dedication to nutrition education, empathy-driven practice, and a commitment to fostering healthy communities. Anna Faye loves working with kiddos and aspires to become a registered dietitian specializing in pediatrics. She also plans to earn her CDCES credential to be better equipped to work specifically with children and families affected by Type 1 Diabetes.

“Being a recipient of this scholarship is a tremendous honor and a true blessing. Receiving this scholarship has alleviated the anxiety associated with balancing academic commitments and work to make ends meet. It has provided me with a sense of security and expanded my capacity to focus on my educational pursuits. I am deeply grateful to be the recipient of this scholarship.”



Brianne Johnson

University of Alabama

Brianne Johnson, originally from Mechanicsville, Virginia, is an aspiring dietitian who is currently pursuing her master’s degree while completing her dietetic internship at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. She is set to graduate in August of 2026 and plans to take her RD exam following graduation. She earned her bachelor’s degree in nutrition and dietetics at Virginia Tech, graduating in May of 2025. While there, she worked alongside the sports dietitians to help optimize the nutrition of the men’s and women’s basketball players. She is currently exploring different specialties in clinical nutrition to determine what she is passionate about. Her current goal is to pursue a career in pediatric nutrition, specifically working in the neonatal intensive care unit. She currently works as a milk tech in the NICU’s nutrition management center to gain experience. Brianne has always been passionate about helping children and babies and wants to turn that passion into a career.

“Receiving this scholarship emphasizes the passion I have for nutrition and dietetics. I truly appreciate that my hard work and dedication is being acknowledged. This scholarship means that people are recognizing the importance of dietitians and the importance of pouring into the future of dietetics by helping fund students’ educations. This scholarship will allow me to worry less about funding and place a greater focus on my education.”



Margaret McCann

University of Minnesota

Margaret has called several places home, including Delaware, Rhode Island, and now Minnesota. Each community has offered a unique cultural perspective, deepening her understanding of diverse health needs and fueling her passion for public health. She began her academic journey at Wesley College in Dover, DE, and completed her undergraduate studies at Johnson & Wales University in Providence, RI, where she was a student-athlete, resident assistant, and on-campus research intern. Now pursuing advanced studies in nutrition at the University of Minnesota, Margaret is especially passionate about pediatric nutrition and combating childhood obesity through food education. With a strong love for cooking, she aims to empower children and families with the skills and confidence to prepare nutritious, affordable meals. She believes the kitchen can be a powerful place for learning and change. Through her volunteer work at food pantries and her commitment to serving underserved populations, Margaret is driven by a desire to promote health equity and lifelong wellness. She is excited to bring her energy, creativity, and passion for nutrition into the Minneapolis community, where she hopes to make a lasting impact, one healthy meal at a time.

"I am sincerely grateful to have been selected as a recipient of the Foundation's 2025 Mead Johnson Nutrition Scholarship. This scholarship is a tremendous support toward my education and career passions. It will ease financial pressures, allowing me to focus more fully on my studies, volunteering in my community, and pursuing my passion for public health nutrition with confidence. This scholarship not only helps me move forward academically but also inspires me to give back and make a meaningful impact in the lives of others."



Keely McCullough

Long Island University Post

Keely McCullough is a first-year graduate student in the Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetic Internship program at Long Island University Post. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition with a minor in Chemistry from SUNY Plattsburgh. Keely aspires to work in pediatric nutrition due to her love of working with children. She hopes to specialize in supporting children with Celiac Disease and food allergies, inspired by her personal connection to Celiac Disease. Her ultimate goal is to empower children to be able to advocate for themselves with these diagnoses.

"This scholarship means the world to me. Never in a million years did I actually believe that I would have even been considered, let alone receive one of the scholarships. Receiving this scholarship shows that all my hard work is paying off and being appreciated. This really helps me believe in myself and my abilities in my educational journey as I start my Master's."



Gemma Palacios

Georgia State University

Gemma Palacios is a Mexican-American graduate student pursuing a Master of Science in Nutrition through the Coordinated Program in Nutrition at Georgia State University. Coming from a non-traditional background, she brings resilience and perspective to her journey in dietetics. Gemma aspires to become both a registered dietitian and a lactation consultant, with plans to work closely with mothers and babies in clinical settings after graduation. In the meantime, while completing her degree, Gemma dedicates her free time to social media content creation, where she shares her experiences of surviving graduate school as a student with a non-traditional path. By documenting the real journey of becoming an RD, she hopes to inspire more Hispanics to enter the field of dietetics, recognizing how greatly they are needed within the diverse populations that healthcare serves. Since her current scope of practice is limited until she earns her RD credential, Gemma focuses on content that reflects both the challenges and rewards of graduate training, offering representation and encouragement to future students. She is passionate about building visibility for Latinas in dietetics and helping create a more inclusive and culturally competent healthcare workforce.

"I am truly grateful to have been selected as a recipient of the Mead Johnson Nutrition Scholarship. As a Mexican-American student pursuing my master's in nutrition science through a non-traditional path, this support allows me to continue working toward my dream of becoming a registered dietitian and lactation consultant. I hope that by sharing my journey, I can inspire other Latinas to pursue a career in dietetics, knowing that there are opportunities and scholarships available to support them along the way."



Alexa Grace Somerville, MPS

University of Minnesota

Lexi Somerville has a master's degree in nutrition and Dietetics from the University of Minnesota and is currently dietetic intern with the UMN ED-TEP Concentration. She is eager to explore the many avenues of the dietetics field through her internship, gaining meaningful experience with diverse populations. Lexi has a particular interest in working with children and hopes these rotations will guide her toward a career she loves. Her goal is to help all types of people and communities by listening deeply and exploring every option—even when it feels like none exist—to support their health and well-being.

"Receiving this scholarship has eased the financial burden of my dietetic internship, covering key expenses and allowing me to focus on learning and professional growth. It has provided peace of mind and affirmed that the hard work I've invested in my education is valued and supported."

Mead Johnson Nutrition Scholarship in Memory of Joncier Greene

Funded by the generosity of Mead Johnson Nutrition

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, You have no idea how much your generosity means to students like me. What might seem like a small act of kindness to you, has made a huge difference in my life. Your support has lifted a heavy weight off my shoulders and reminded me that I'm not alone. Because of you, I can keep studying, dreaming, and believing in a brighter future. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

- Gabriela Domenica Madrunero Flores



Gabriela Domenica Madrunero Flores

Brooklyn College

Gabriela Madruñero is from Guayaquil, Ecuador, and after the pandemic, she made her dream of studying in the U.S., true. She began her academic journey in Middlesex College (NJ), to then transferred to Brooklyn College (NY) as a junior, majoring in Health and Nutrition Sciences with the desire of becoming a Registered Dietitian. Gabriela's interest in nutrition grew from a deep desire to help people prevent diseases (like her grandmother's diabetes) by living healthier, more balanced lives. Alongside her studies, Gabriela is also pursuing her passion for fitness by working towards becoming a Certified Personal Trainer, combining her knowledge of both nutrition and physical activity to guide people toward healthier lifestyles. Before transferring to Brooklyn College, Gabriela gained valuable experience working in a hospital, which gave her insight into the challenges and rewards of supporting patients in achieving better health. Reason why, in the future, Gabriela aspires to establish her own private practice, where she can help individuals prevent and improve their quality of life through nutrition and fitness strategies. Gabriela views her scholarship as an important step in achieving these goals and is deeply grateful for the opportunity to continue moving forward.

"Transferring to my new school has been both thrilling and overwhelming. Being an international student can sometimes feel very lonely, especially without the financial support of my family or anyone nearby to lean on. I haven't been able to secure an on-campus job, which is the only place international students are allowed to work, making it difficult to support myself. Receiving this scholarship has been a lifeline — it lifted a heavy weight off my shoulders, will allow me to fully focus on my studies, and reminded me to always believe in my potential, like the foundation did."

National Dairy Council Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the National Dairy Council

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Your generosity has created life-changing opportunities for students like me. This scholarship not only lifted a financial burden but also affirmed my story, my dreams, and my commitment to serving others matters. Through your support, I can focus on excelling academically instead of working about how to cover basic costs. Not only are you funding education, you are investing in a future leader, consultant, and educator who will bring practical nutrition solutions to underserved communities. Thank you for believing in me and making it possible to pursue my goals with hope and determination.

- Kourtney N. Calhoun

Kourtney N. Calhoun

Prairie View Agriculture & Mechanical University

Kourtney N. Calhoun is a dedicated student at Prairie View A&M University, pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Human Nutrition and Food with a minor in Entrepreneurship. Her journey in higher education began in 2017 and has been shaped by resilience, determination, and a commitment to growth. Living independently while maintaining a full-time work schedule, Kourtney has balanced academic responsibilities with the challenge of financial hardships, yet she continues to excel, earning her highest GPA after changing her major to Nutrition. Her passion lies in bridging the gap between education, wellness, and access to healthcare. Drawing from her experiences, Kourtney aspires to become a consultant and educator who empowers underserved communities through nutrition outreach, private practice and community-based programs. She is especially committed to developing practical solutions for young adults and students who may not otherwise have access to reliable nutrition education. On campus, Kourtney serves as the Event Coordinator for Leaders Innovating for Tomorrow (LIFT) and has been accepted into the Women's Council under Miss Prairie View A&M University. She also participates in volunteer opportunities within her college, demonstrating her dedication to service, leadership, and community engagement alongside her academic and professional pursuits.

"This scholarship is both a blessing and a turning point in my education journey. As my first scholarship, it not only eases the financial burden of my outstanding balance but also affirms that my story, vision and commitment to serving others truly matters. Living independently and working full time has come with challenges. This support allows me to focus on excelling academically and brings me closer to my goal of becoming a consultant and an educator, creating practical nutrition solutions for underserved communities and students in need."

Keziah Serosh, MS

Oakwood University

Keziah Serosh comes from Pakistan and holds both a Bachelor's and a master's degree in food sciences and human nutrition from Kinnaird College for Women. Recently, she immigrated to the United States with her family to pursue her professional dream of becoming a registered dietitian. Navigating a new country, raising a young child, and completing her supervised practice internship have presented significant challenges, but Keziah's hard work, determination, and resilience have allowed her to remain focused on her goals. Passionate about nutrition, she strives to make a meaningful impact by helping individuals and families achieve healthier lifestyles through education and personalized care. Her journey has instilled in her a deep appreciation for the value of perseverance, and she is motivated to leave her mark in the field of nutrition. Keziah's professional aspirations include completing her internship, earning her RD credential, and contributing to programs that promote preventive health and wellness. By combining her academic training, practical experience, and personal insights, she hopes to improve the well-being of the communities she serves, inspire others to prioritize nutrition, and create a lasting, positive impact in the lives of those she works with.

"Receiving this scholarship is one of my biggest personal achievements. As a mom, a student, and someone starting life in the U.S. from scratch, I often juggle many responsibilities that can feel overwhelming. This support has lifted a significant financial burden and, more importantly, renewed my motivation to pursue my rotation hours with enthusiasm. It reminds me that my hard work is recognized and valued, and it gives me the encouragement I need to continue moving forward with confidence in my educational journey."



National Organization of Blacks in Dietetics and Nutrition Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of members and friends of the National Organization of Blacks in Dietetics and Nutrition Member Interest Group of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Your financial support can be the difference between a student completing their program or stepping away due to financial hardship. Scholarships like this one allow aspiring dietitians to focus fully on our education and internship experiences without the added strain of working multiple jobs or sacrificing our wellbeing. In a time where public trust in science and healthcare is waning, your support helps students like me stay in school and become the kind of healthcare professionals our communities need. Thank you for believing in us!

- Dana Chamberlain, CLC

Joy M. Banks, MPA

The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Joy M. Banks is a second-career student pursuing a master's in nutrition sciences and a dietetic internship at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) with plans to graduate in May 2026. Her career goal is to become a Registered Dietitian specializing in clinical dietetics and community public health, with a focus on reducing health disparities in underserved communities. Her "why" behind her new career path involves a motivation to make a lasting impact on public health and inspire others to prioritize their wellness. Health is everything, and Joy is excited to one day be able to impact the lives of people in need. Joy envisions a future where personalized nutrition care is at the heart of healthcare. She hopes that nutrition will become a key component of preventive healthcare, leading to healthier, more resilient communities and thriving individuals. Joy plans to bridge the gap between her prior career in public administration and health, with a focus on dietetics and wellness.

"I want to extend my deepest gratitude for your generous support through this scholarship. This investment in my education is not only helping me pursue a master's in nutrition sciences—it is helping me build a future and create meaningful change in my community. It has given me the freedom to continue striving toward my goal of becoming a Registered Dietitian, a role through which I hope to address health disparities and promote wellness in underserved communities."

Dana Chamberlain, CLC

University of Connecticut

Dana Chamberlain is a second-year master's student in the Coordinated Dietetics Program at the University of Connecticut, where she will graduate with an M.S. in Health Promotion Sciences in May 2026. She earned her B.S. in Nutritional Sciences from UConn in 2021 and took time after graduation to explore her options before committing to dietetics. Her early experience as a dietary aide at a local hospital sparked a deeper interest in patient care, which led her to a position at WIC, where she has worked for the past three years. Through WIC, Dana earned her Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC) credential and discovered a passion for childhood nutrition. Her current research at UConn focuses on improving health and nutrition programming in under-resourced schools. Dana hopes to contribute to meaningful, system-wide change by advocating for equitable nutrition policy.

"Thank you so much to those who have donated and continue to donate to make this scholarship possible! Going back to school while managing my finances independently and being unable to work during the academic year has been a significant challenge. I do my best to work during breaks, but it's not always enough. Your generosity allows me to focus more fully on my education. I'm incredibly grateful for your support!"





AnnaLisa Hutchinson, MS

Sodexo

AnnaLisa Hutchinson was born and raised in Orlando, Florida. AnnaLisa is currently enrolled in the Sodexo Dietetic Internship Program, where she will complete over 1,000 hours of rigorous supervised practice. She attended the University of Georgia and earned a bachelor's degree in Dietetics with a minor in Culinary Science and Nutrition. She also earned her master's in Nutritional Science at the University of Georgia with an emphasis in Community Nutrition. While at UGA, AnnaLisa worked with the Olympic Sports Nutrition team for three years, immersed in the dynamic world of performance nutrition. AnnaLisa has also worked in community nutrition at a teaching kitchen, a state-of-the-art performance club, and at her church, where she improved nutrition for students and executed large-scale events. AnnaLisa is the proud recipient of several awards and scholarships, including the Georgia Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Outstanding Dietetics Student (DPD) and the University of Georgia Presidential Leadership Scholarship. Throughout her education, she focused her course research on women's functional and integrative nutrition, an emerging and fascinating field of dietetics. AnnaLisa is passionate about preventative and integrative nutrition and plans to pursue a career there.

"First and foremost, I am incredibly honored to have been selected as a recipient of this prestigious scholarship. But more than that, as a person of Jamaican and Panamanian descent, I am grateful that I have the opportunity to use this scholarship to pave the way as a dietitian of color. Knowing that people who look like me are underrepresented in the field of dietetics inspires me to continue to pursue diversity and accessibility in the field, while providing culturally sensitive care to my future patients and clients."



Terez Quainton

Wayne State University

Terez Quainton is in her final year of the Master of Science Coordinated Program in Dietetics at Wayne State University and is expected to graduate in May 2026. Her journey to dietetics has been shaped by both personal and academic experiences. Before pursuing this path, she earned a degree in Spanish and taught English as a Second Language, where she discovered her passion for education and empowering others. Her decision to become a dietitian was inspired by her family's health history, particularly her mother's battle with end-stage renal disease. Witnessing these challenges reinforced for Terez the critical role of nutrition in managing chronic illness and motivated her to pursue a career focused on prevention and education. She aspires to specialize in chronic disease prevention, with a particular focus on cardiovascular health, while serving underserved communities. Terez is committed to breaking down barriers to health by ensuring access to practical, compassionate, and effective nutrition education. Beyond her professional goals, she enjoys volunteering and hopes to contribute to community initiatives that empower individuals of all ages to lead healthier lives.

"Receiving this scholarship means a lot to me, because it will help ease my financial burden and support me through the last year of my program. It's both encouraging and a reminder of how far I've come, as well as of the support that motivates me to keep going and give my best. I look forward to graduating, making a difference in the field of nutrition and dietetics, and one day being able to help students on this journey, just as I have been helped and supported"

NDEP Future Educators Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the Nutrition and Dietetic Educators and Preceptors of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Your generosity has the power to strengthen student confidence and future of our profession. Every contribution can make a difference. A scholarship can allow a student to focus fully on their education and goals, offering motivation during challenging times. Your support can be the encouragement that keeps a future dietitian moving. By investing in students, you're helping to shape the next generation of nutrition leaders. Together, we can ensure the next generation of nutrition professionals has the opportunity to thrive.

- Katherine Price, NDTR

Katherine Price, NDTR

Winthrop University

Katherine is completing her Master of Science and Dietetic internship through Winthrop University. She recently began her supervised dietetic internship in Charlotte, North Carolina. Katherine earned her Bachelor of Science in Dietetics and Applied Nutrition from Johnson & Wales University Rhode Island, in December 2023. At JWU she specialized in Culinary Nutrition. During her time at JWU she led a Food Recovery club that reduced food waste and supported students with food insecurity. As a graduate assistant at Winthrop, Katherine discovered a passion for mentorship and teaching. She assisted students in food labs, supervised counseling as a DTR, and helped organize the farmers' market for students. She is currently working on developing an engaging, evidence-based social media platform to guide the public toward trustworthy nutrition information and to make healthy eating approachable and enjoyable! Professionally, she hopes to build a strong foundation in clinical nutrition while integrating her love of culinary nutrition into patient education. Her long-term goals include teaching in a university setting, leading cooking and nutrition workshops, and mentoring future dietitians.

"Receiving this scholarship has strengthened my confidence in completing my dietetic internship. The financial support has eased much of the stress and allowed me to focus more on learning, applying my knowledge, and volunteering my time to help others. This opportunity has reinforced my passion for nutrition and reminded me that others believe in my potential and commitment to this field. I am deeply grateful for this support and inspired to continue growing as both a student and future professional."



NDEP Graduate Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the Nutrition and Dietetic Educators and Preceptors of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Your generosity has had a direct impact on my life. This scholarship eased the financial strain of my education, allowing me to continue my studies without taking on debt or postponing my upcoming wedding. Because of your support, I can focus fully on becoming the best dietitian I can be and give back to the profession that has given me so much. Please know that your investment not only supports students' education but also touches our lives in deeply meaningful ways. Thank you for believing in us.

- Kristine Kittridge, MS, RD, LD, CNSC

Kristine Kittridge, MS, RD, LD, CNSC

Rutgers University

Kristine Kittridge is a dedicated nutrition professional and doctoral student passionate about advancing the field of dietetics through education, mentorship, research, and community impact. She earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees in nutrition and dietetics from the University of Maine. Kristine is currently pursuing her doctorate while working full-time and serving as a preceptor, guiding future dietitians through their training. In addition to her academic and professional commitments, Kristine has been an active volunteer with the Maine Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. She has served in various leadership roles, including Board President and Delegate to the Academy's House of Delegates, contributing to advancing the profession at both the state and national level. Her professional journey reflects a commitment to supporting others in their growth, particularly through teaching and precepting. She aspires to pursue translational research that will expand the body of evidence supporting the work of dietetics professionals, as well as to teach in dietetics programs to help prepare future practitioners. With a strong passion for lifelong learning, service, and mentorship, Kristine aims to continue advancing the profession while giving back to the community of educators and preceptors who have supported her journey.

"Receiving this scholarship from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation has been both an honor and an encouragement. It not only helps relieve the financial burden of pursuing my education, but it also reinforces my commitment to the profession. Knowing that leaders and mentors within the field believe in my potential motivates me to continue striving toward my goals and to one day give back to future students and interns. This support makes a meaningful difference in my journey and reminds me that I am part of a community dedicated to advancing nutrition and dietetics together."



NDEP Preceptor Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the Nutrition and Dietetic Educators and Preceptors of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, You are helping to build a brighter future for our profession and, consequently, a brighter future of health for generations to come. Enabling individuals to expand their knowledge in the area of nutrition and dietetics will produce outcomes that cannot possibly be predicted at this moment in time. Your contributions are making educational realities from what may have only remained dreams or goals.

- Aimee Courville Serio, MS, RDN, LDN

Aimee Courville Serio, MS, RDN, LDN

University of Kansas Medical Center

Aimee Serio holds a Bachelor of Science in Dietetics from the University of Southwestern Louisiana and a Master of Science in Applied Life Sciences from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. She has 17 years of experience in acute care and clinical nutrition management and currently serves as an assistant professor in Nutritional Sciences and the Director of Clinical Education for the MSNS Program at Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University in Baton Rouge, LA. In this role, she is committed to educating and mentoring students in their quest to fulfill their educational and professional goals in the field of nutrition and dietetics. Aimee has been enrolled in the Doctor of Clinical Nutrition program at the University of Kansas Medical Center since 2022 and anticipates graduating in 2026. Aimee's short-term goal post graduation is to have her research study published, and her long-term goal is to work toward promotion to associate professor after five years in her current position.

"This scholarship holds significant value to me as it has been conferred by my professional peers. It is particularly rewarding, given my experiences in serving both as a preceptor and an educator. Also, being recognized as a non-traditional student with over 15 years of experience as a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist makes this scholarship even more meaningful as I continue to advance my education and teach future generations in our ever-growing profession."



New Jersey Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Advancing Dietetics Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the New Jersey Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

The Power of Generosity:

Dear donors, future dietitians are grateful for the opportunity to pursue their careers in dietetics through your funding. For students like me who are passionate about making an impact in nutrition but face financial challenges, your contribution allows them to prioritize their educational path and engage in experiences that would otherwise be inaccessible. This scholarship encourages students from diverse backgrounds to grow professionally, ultimately fostering a more inclusive field of dietetics. Not only does the Foundation's support empower students, but this award also provides a platform to highlight the lived experiences of various students, inspiring the next generation of dietitians.

- Sarah Liz, MS

Sarah Liz, MS

Morrison Healthcare

Sarah Liz is a recent graduate from Montclair State University with her master's degree in nutrition and food science. Currently, she is completing her dietetic internship and working as a WIC (Women, Infants, Children) Nutritionist, where she provides nutrition counseling to low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum mothers, assesses dietary risk factors, and manages special formula approvals for children with medical conditions. Over the past year, she has conducted research on gastrointestinal and feeding symptoms, their impacts, treatments, and clinical trial needs in patients with peroxisomal disorders. These experiences have strengthened her ability to provide evidence-based nutrition care, conduct meaningful research, and advise on the health needs of underserved populations. Ultimately, she strives to obtain her registered dietitian credential, specializing in maternal and child health nutrition to promote equitable access to quality and culturally competent nutritional guidance for high-risk populations, particularly the Hispanic community. With a passion for acquiring new knowledge, promoting personal growth, and developing her skill set, she hopes to have the opportunity to positively impact the lives of others and support the future well-being of families through her work.

"I am proud to be a recipient of this scholarship, which recognizes my leadership skills and passion for nutrition. My mission as a dietitian is to help families thrive, particularly Latinx individuals, by promoting healthier food choices and enhancing their overall well-being. Through actionable research, community initiatives, and clinical efforts, I aim to address barriers that impact food security, nutrition education, and dietary preferences. This award enables me to continue this educational journey and build my expertise. I am empowered to create significant contributions to the field, represent Hispanic dietitians, and bridge the gap between nutrition, health, and cultural heritage."



New Jersey Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the New Jersey Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, As someone who chose dietetics as their second career, I desperately wanted to be in a career that I loved. However, starting it was a leap of faith because of the large financial costs for education and living while studying. For many students, this prevents them from changing careers. Work is a huge part of life, and it has the potential to bring so much joy and purpose. In this field, we are lucky to use our skills to improve individual lives and society. Thank you for your support.

- Arnina Wiles, MPH

Arnina Wiles, MPH

Rutgers University

Arnina is in her first year of pursuing a master's in clinical nutrition at Rutgers School of Health Professions. Prior to this, Arnina obtained her Master of Public Health in Nutrition at Rutgers School of Public Health. She has experience working in the non-profit sector implementing health education programs for children and older adults in the low-income population. Through working with populations with complex health needs and her public health background in the barriers to healthy eating, Arnina decided to become a Registered Dietitian so she can better equip others to achieve optimal health through nutrition. She hopes to work with the geriatric population in clinical settings and continue working in public health nutrition.

"I am so grateful and blessed to be a recipient of this Foundation scholarship! Choosing to pursue dietetics as my second career has been a leap of faith, especially considering the financial cost of a master's degree. With this scholarship, the financial stress is alleviated a little, allowing me to better focus on my studies. I am so grateful to the donors and the Academy for this opportunity and providing support to me and other aspiring dietitians."

Ohio Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the Ohio Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Your donations help us access our education, support the communities we serve, and help our families.

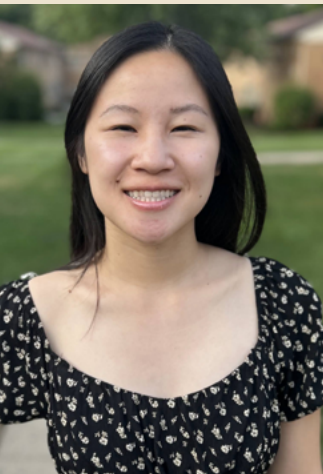
- Gale Housley, MS, CPHT, ISSA CPT, SC Master Gardener Certified, IFC

Gale Housley, MS, CPHT, ISSA CPT, SC Master Gardener Certified, IFC

The Ohio State University

Gale Housley graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Arts in public health and a minor in psychology with dual leadership distinctions in professional civic engagement and research. She earned her Master of Science degree in human nutrition from Winthrop University. Gale is a personal trainer and certified pharmacy technician. Her love for nutrition and health afforded her an opportunity to work with health centers and pharmacies to advocate for patient medical needs; as a Nutritionist II, team lead at the Lowcountry WIC program, she served women, infants, and children. Her future aspirations are to become a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist (CSCS), International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC), and Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) credentialed. Her future areas of interest include nutrition through the early lifespan (Woman, infants, & children), weight loss/bariatrics, and nutrition in the Bible/apologetics of Christianity. Her prior experience also includes sports entertainment and athletics in the field of professional wrestling as well as athletics weight cuts.

"I have an abundance of gratitude to be a scholarship recipient this year. Programs like this are critical for students like me. We can only hope even more funding will continue to be available as time goes on."



Patsyjane O'Malley Memorial Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of a bequest of Patsyjane O'Malley

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, this scholarship has truly lifted a weight off my shoulders, allowing me to pursue my academic journey without the overwhelming burden of financial stress. Your generosity has given me the chance to continue my education with greater focus, determination, and peace of mind. Thank you for investing in students like me. You're making a lasting difference in our lives and futures.

- Isabel Johnston



Lindsey Anderson Lee

Teachers College, Columbia University

Lindsey Anderson Lee is a graduate student at Teachers College, Columbia University, where she is pursuing a Master of Science in Nutrition (expected graduation in 2027). She earned her Bachelor of Science in Business Management with a minor in Psychology from Brigham Young University in 2022, graduating summa cum laude. Her professional background spans business consulting, clinical psychology, and health research, including work at the Huntsman Cancer Institute and BYU's Pediatric Sleep Lab. Lindsey has taught health education to diverse populations, managed research teams, and published on topics such as circadian misalignment, diet, and cancer prevention. Currently, she serves as an Updates Editor for the PBS/Teachers College "In Defense of Food" curriculum, revising nutrition education materials to align with the latest research. Lindsey aspires to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist and establish a private practice focused on fertility and women's health. Drawing on both personal experiences and research expertise, she aims to provide evidence-based nutritional counseling that is compassionate, inclusive, and accessible. Her long-term vision is to advance public health through education, clinical practice, and advocacy for women navigating fertility challenges.

"I am deeply grateful to receive this scholarship. Beyond the financial contribution, it represents recognition of my commitment to advancing the field of nutrition education. Knowing that others believe in my goals encourages me as I continue my graduate training at Teachers College. This award affirms the importance of the path I've chosen and reminds me that even small acts of support can have a meaningful impact. I appreciate the Foundation's generosity and encouragement, which strengthen my resolve to pursue a career dedicated to improving health and well-being through evidence-based nutrition counseling and education."



Noelle Armstrong MS, RD, CDN

New York University

Noelle Armstrong is a Rehabilitation Sciences PhD candidate at New York University and Registered Dietitian. Noelle's education began at the State University of New York at Oneonta, where she received a Bachelor of Science in Dietetics with a minor in Chemistry. Noelle continued her education at Boston University, where she received a Master of Science in Nutrition. While in Boston, Noelle worked at Tufts USDA Human Nutrition Research Center for Aging and completed her dietetic internship at St. Elizabeth's Medical Center through Boston University. In addition to being a full-time doctoral student, Noelle currently works as a private practice dietitian and an adjunct professor at New York University's Department of Nutrition and Food Studies. Her research focuses on the connection between nutrition and other lifestyle behaviors and mental health. Noelle plans to explore the use of nutrition counseling and lifestyle interventions as an adjunctive therapy in the prevention and treatment of mental illnesses like anxiety and depression. Noelle hopes to improve the mental health and wellbeing of individuals with mental illness through nutrition.

"I'm honored to receive the 2025 Patsyjane O'Malley Memorial Scholarship from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation. As an RD working towards my doctoral degree this scholarship will help support me and my research. I truly appreciate the work of the Foundation and thank you for recognizing my hard work and dedication to the field of nutrition."



Emma Baumangelis

Bastyr University

Emma Baumangelis earned her Bachelor of Arts in Integrative Physiology from the University of Colorado Boulder, where she developed a strong foundation in human biology and a passion for understanding the connection between science and health. She is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Nutrition at Bastyr University, where she is also completing her Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD). Through her graduate studies, Emma is building the skills and knowledge needed to integrate nutrition science into practical, evidence-based care. She is especially interested in the role of nutrition in chronic disease prevention and management, as well as in promoting overall wellness across diverse populations. Her long-term goal is to become a registered dietitian and to work in a clinical or community setting where she can help individuals make sustainable lifestyle changes that improve their health and quality of life. Emma is deeply grateful for the support of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation, which allows her to pursue her education with greater focus and determination.

"Receiving this scholarship has meant so much to me. It's helped lighten the financial load of grad school and has allowed me to focus more on learning and growing as I work toward becoming a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist. Beyond the financial support, it's also been a huge confidence boost, knowing that others believe in my path and potential. I'm truly grateful for this support and excited to keep moving forward in my journey to help others through nutrition."



Lillian Caldwell

University of Missouri

Lillian Caldwell's interest in dietetics and GI research is largely motivated by her experience with celiac disease. She is currently completing work for her Master's in Dietetics at the University of Missouri. After graduation, she wants to continue investigating how the intestinal environment and diet influences digestive health and immunity and is considering PhD programs in nutrition and translational science.

"Receiving this scholarship is both an honor and a source of encouragement as I continue my graduate studies. It supports the dedication I have put into my academic studies and research while also giving me the freedom to pursue opportunities that support my training as a future dietitian. This scholarship allows me to stay focused on my goals and reminds me that there are people invested in my success."



Laura Gallegos

Texas Woman's University

Laura Gallegos is an ambitious intern that strives to give back to the community while representing the field with passion. She inspires individuals to make mindful decisions in changing their wellbeing in health, fitness, and their mindset. She has a B.S. in Nutrition Science, Certified Personal Trainer, currently pursuing her master's in nutrition science, and a current intern in the Dietetic internship at Texas Woman's University. Her aspirations are to discover which rotations align to her liking, take in all the new learning and knowledge in the internship, and master the skills to excel in the field and make a difference in people's lives.

"The Patsyjane O'Malley Memorial Scholarship will be helpful in supporting my career and ambition to becoming a future registered dietitian. I am extremely grateful for this opportunity for students like myself who have a passion to help others and be able to educate many people in the future."



Kristina Glaser

Loma Linda University

Kristina Glaser is a graduate student pursuing a Master of Public Health in Nutrition at Loma Linda University. She is passionate about improving both individual and community health through nutrition education and increasing access to care. Kristina is currently completing her clinical rotations in a hospital setting, the final step toward earning her degree. Her professional goal is to work as a clinical dietitian, providing compassionate, evidence-based care to individuals during pivotal moments in their health journey. In the long term, she hopes to combine her clinical expertise with her public health background to advocate for policies and programs that enhance nutrition access and improve health outcomes in underserved communities.

"This scholarship will be applied toward my clinical rotation. It will help cover the associated costs, allowing me to focus fully on gaining hands-on experience and expanding my knowledge of dietetics in a clinical setting. This aligns with my goal of becoming a clinical dietitian after graduation, where I hope to help individuals improve their nutrition and overall health during critical moments in their care."



Shannon Guerin Van Deusen

Oregon State University

Shannon is a mother of two college-aged children and has been married for over 26 years. Shannon received a Bachelor of Arts in Music from Western Oregon University in 1999. She then became a hairdresser and has had a 25-year career, traveling across the United States to teach other hairdressers. After her battle with breast cancer in 2018 and 2019 and meeting a Registered Dietitian through treatment, Shannon decided a change in careers was in order and started at Oregon State University, where she earned her postbaccalaureate degree in Nutrition/Dietetics in June 2024. Shannon is currently working toward her master's degree in professional dietetics at Oregon State University and is in the internship portion of her degree. She will graduate in June 2026. Shannon aspires to become a Certified Oncology Dietitian to help others fight their battle with cancer by providing compassionate, empathetic support throughout their treatment. Shannon is looking forward to a new career where she believes she can help patients during cancer treatment.

"Receiving this scholarship has helped increase my confidence that I have made the right decision to pursue a career in dietetics. Being recognized by the Academy and having the support of other, accomplished dietitians has furthered my commitment to working hard as I finish my education."



Anthony Herbert, CPT

Texas Woman's University

Anthony Herbert is a current graduate student and dietetic intern that is planned to complete his MS/DI program in December 2025. He was drawn to the field of nutrition and dietetics due to the preventative measures nutrition has on chronic illness. Anthony has seen the impact nutrition has on treating chronic diseases from childhood experiences and was inspired to pursue a career that everyone could benefit from. Anthony has begun paving his way in the field of nutrition and dietetics by starting a small business that helps others find their love for health and wellbeing. He has started coaching a diverse community of individuals, utilizing his personal trainer certification and his abundance of knowledge in nutritional science. Anthony has assisted in the development of a new, health focused menu, for a growing foodservice operation and began translating the complex science behind the nutritional changes to the community they serve. He has professional aspirations to continue consulting with other businesses to advocate for sustainable practices they could implement to not only better severe community but assist in preventing the development of chronic diseases.

"Receiving this scholarship is extremely impactful towards my educational journey. It will assist in funding my educational expenses and the remaining portion of my dietetic internship. Having been extremely limited in the amount of hours I am able to work on the weekends to help cover educational and personal expenses, this additional financial support will alleviate some unnecessary stress. I am appreciative of this assistance and know that I will be able to complete the remaining portion of my dietetic internship and education, free of financial burdens."



Isabel Johnston

The University of Alabama

Isabel Johnston is from Cumming, Georgia and is the oldest of three siblings and a proud role model to her two younger brothers, ages 18 and 10. She recently graduated from The University of Alabama Summa Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree in food and nutrition with honors distinction. During her senior year, she began her master's studies through the accelerated program and is now in her final year. Isabel is passionate about working with children and aspires to become a pediatric dietitian, where she can help give lifelong impacts on young patients.

"Receiving this scholarship has been such a meaningful gift in my educational journey. It not only relieves the financial stress that often weighs heavily on students but also gives me the freedom to fully focus on my studies and future career goals. With this support, I am able to pursue what I love with greater confidence and determination, knowing that my hard work is being recognized and supported. This scholarship allows me to move forward, stay motivated, and reach my full potential without the constant worry of financial barriers standing in the way of my success."



Amanda Langer

Saint Louis University

Amanda is a graduate student at Saint Louis University pursuing a Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics. A lifelong St. Louis resident, she has always valued the sense of community and opportunity the city provides. After earning her bachelor's degree at SLU, she chose to continue her graduate education there, drawn by the university's supportive academic environment and engaged faculty. Her passion for nutrition stems from a deep appreciation for the role food plays in overall health and well-being. Amanda is dedicated to helping individuals understand the impact of nutrition on their daily lives and to empower them to make informed, sustainable food choices. She believes food is a powerful tool for maintaining health, preventing disease, and enhancing quality of life. By combining her academic knowledge with real-world application, Amanda aims to contribute to a future where nutrition is recognized as a fundamental part of health care and daily living.

"This scholarship has given me the opportunity to further my education in the field of nutrition and dietetics while easing the financial challenges of pursuing a higher education. Beyond the financial support, it has encouraged me to move forward with confidence and reminded me that others believe in my ability to reach my goals. I am truly grateful for this investment in my future and the chance to continue growing in a field I am so passionate about."



Monica Minnieweather, RDN

University of California, Berkeley

Monica is a Registered Dietitian who graduated with her Bachelors in Dietetics and Nutrition Science from San Francisco State University and is currently pursuing her master's in public health at the University of California, Berkeley. Monica's passion for dietetics stems from her upbringing, having immigrated to the United States of America as a child and faced the trials of having an undocumented status, financial insecurity, and food instability. These experiences are what have shaped her interest in public health and nutrition and encouraged her pursuit to create meaningful impacts through policy and research at the state and federal level. Currently, working at Womens, Infants and Children or WIC, Monica is motivated to continue learning and helping individuals who come from her similar background, with the hope to create lasting change in the future.

"I am truly grateful and honored to be selected as a recipient of the 2025 Patsyjane O'Malley Memorial Scholarship. As I pursue both my educational and professional goals of creating a meaningful impact in public health nutrition, this scholarship serves as not only a financial relief, but also the opportunity and encouragement to keep chasing my dreams. Thank you to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation for investing in my future!"



Nissa Newman

University of Pittsburgh

Nissa is from Atlanta, GA and is in her last year of University of Pittsburgh's Accelerated Dietitian Nutritionist Program. She graduated from Pitt in May 2025 with a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition Science and a certificate in Global Health, and will graduate in May 2026 with a Master of Science in Dietetics. She will be completing a maternal and pediatric specialty rotation during her Supervised Experiential Learning this year and hopes to work with this population as a registered dietitian. She is passionate about childhood nutrition education and building healthy habits for kids to be able to grow up and live a healthy lifestyle.

"Receiving a scholarship from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation means to me that my work as a dietetics student is paying off and has had a true impact on myself and my community. It also eases some of the stress of paying for an education and motivates me to continue giving my all as I come closer to becoming a registered dietitian."



Reniel R. Nodarse, MBA, RDN, LDN, MUA

University of North Florida

Reniel R. Nodarse, MBA, RDN, LDN, MUA, is a doctoral candidate in the Doctor of Clinical Nutrition program at the University of North Florida. He is a registered dietitian with a strong background in clinical practice, leadership, and health promotion. Reniel's career has centered on advancing evidence-based nutrition care, supporting interdisciplinary teams, and advocating for the role of dietitians in improving patient outcomes. Currently, his doctoral research focuses on designing and evaluating an innovative, RD-led wellness program for nurses. This program addresses the unique challenges of shift work, stress, and burnout among healthcare providers, with the goal of enhancing both personal well-being and professional performance. Reniel's broader academic interests include sustainable food systems, informatics, and leadership development within the nutrition profession. Upon completing his doctoral degree, Reniel aspires to continue blending clinical expertise with research and program development, working to implement scalable wellness initiatives in healthcare settings while mentoring future dietitians. His long-term vision is to advance the field through scholarship, advocacy, and service, contributing to healthier workplaces and stronger patient care systems. He also aspires to give back to the profession by taking on a professor position at a university to hopefully be a leader for future Registered Dietitians.

"Receiving the Patsyjane O'Malley Memorial Scholarship is both an honor and a source of encouragement as I continue my doctoral journey in clinical nutrition. This support affirms the value of my work and eases the financial pressures of advanced education, allowing me to focus more fully on research, patient care, and leadership development. It motivates me to carry forward Patsyjane O'Malley's legacy of dedication and service while pursuing innovative approaches to improve health and wellness in nursing and dietetics. This scholarship has strengthened my commitment to academic excellence and to making a meaningful impact in my profession."



Alexandra Papadakis, RD, LDN

Yale University

Alex is a Registered Dietitian from Massachusetts with a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics from the University of New Hampshire. She completed her dietetic internship at Simmons University in Boston, specializing in community nutrition and health promotion. Since becoming a registered dietitian, Alex has worked in diverse settings, including inpatient clinical care and, most recently, public health community services at a Boston-based nonprofit. Passionate about health equity and removing social barriers to care, Alex is now pursuing her MBA at the Yale School of Management to strengthen her leadership, nonprofit management, and healthcare strategy skills. In her free time, Alex enjoys participating in community service, running with her two sisters, and spending time with friends and family.

"Receiving a scholarship on behalf of the Foundation is an incredible honor. This support not only lightens the financial hardship of pursuing a graduate degree but also empowers me to focus more fully on my studies and development while in the program. Knowing that others believe in my potential inspires me to give back to my community and pursue opportunities during my time as a student that will make a positive impact. I am so incredibly grateful for this investment in my educational journey."



Carsen Sporleder

Northwest Missouri State University

Carsen Sporleder, originally from Unionville, Missouri, graduated with her B.S. in Nutrition and Dietetics from Northwest Missouri State University in May 2025. She previously attended North Central Missouri College to obtain her Associate of Arts while using her A+ Scholarship and playing softball. Being an athlete growing up, she became curious about how to fuel her body for performance and decided this would be a rewarding career path. Currently, Carsen is a dietetic intern at Northwest Missouri State University and also getting her M.S. in Nutrition. Her passion is in sports nutrition but also feels compelled to working in the oncology unit. She is embracing her dietetic internship journey and is also excited to see what the future holds.

"Receiving this scholarship helps me create a brighter future for not only myself, but each and every client I encounter. Being able to receive help to pay for my graduate degree is incredibly helpful, especially because it was not a requirement at the beginning of my education journey. I'm so thankful to have the opportunity to pay for part of my education with an Academy scholarship."



Ruoqi (Cynthia) Su

Cornell University

Ruoqi (Cynthia) Su is a passionate and multilingual nutrition professional originally from Xi'an, China. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics from New York University, where she also completed DPD coursework and minors in Psychology and Japanese. Currently, she is pursuing a Master of Science in Nutritional Sciences with Dietetic Internship (MS/DI) at Cornell University, expected to graduate in May 2026. Cynthia's graduate research focuses on Zoom-based facilitated discussions with mothers of preschoolers as part of a digital health intervention promoting mindful parenting and healthy family routines. She is currently completing her community nutrition rotation with Cornell Sports Nutrition, supporting collegiate athletes in fueling, hydration, and nutrition education. She has also taught fifth graders about healthy snacking through local school outreach and served as the Social Media Chair for Cornell's Nutrition Graduate Student Organization. Inspired by her family's experiences with chronic disease, weight stigma, and body image concerns, Cynthia is deeply committed to building a career grounded in empathy, cultural understanding, and evidence-based care. After graduation, she aims to practice as a clinical dietitian, advocate for nutrition equity, and later pursue a PhD to contribute to research in family and community nutrition.

"This is more than just a scholarship—it's a deep affirmation of the path I'm walking. As an international student, financial and visa limitations often weigh heavily on my journey. But this support lifts some of that burden and allows me to focus on what truly matters: becoming a dietitian who serves with empathy, cultural humility, and evidence-based care. It gives me the freedom to grow, to give back, and to believe that my dreams are possible."



Krystal Welp, MS

Metropolitan State University of Denver

Krystal Welp earned her Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics from MSU Denver in 2025 and holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of Colorado at Denver. Her passion for nutrition began with a personal journey managing chronic migraines and vertigo through dietary interventions. Through her academic training, Krystal developed expertise in medical nutrition therapy, food policy, motivational interviewing, and nutrition counseling. She served as a tutor in MSU Denver's Nutrition Department, guiding undergraduate and graduate students in mastering complex concepts, and contributed to clinical research at the Sie Center for Down Syndrome at Children's Hospital Colorado. With more than a decade of experience on interdisciplinary government consulting teams, Krystal excels at translating complex information into accessible language for diverse audiences. Her long-term goal is to establish a private practice focused on chronic disease management, where she can provide evidence-based, personalized nutrition counseling to her community.

"Receiving this scholarship has been invaluable during an intensive, unpaid year of dietetic rotations. With over 40 hours per week at these rotations and a significant financial burden, I wasn't sure how I would manage without support. This scholarship allows me to focus on excelling in each rotation, developing my skills, and maintaining my well-being, bringing me closer to becoming a registered dietitian and establishing a private practice focused on providing culturally sensitive, evidence-based, and personalized nutrition care."

Pediatric Nutrition Practice Group, Glenda Bible Memorial Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the Pediatric Nutrition Dietetic Practice Group of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Receiving this scholarship is not just about continuing my master's degree, but also about making a significant impact in the field of pediatric inpatient clinical nutrition.

- Gretchen S Coonrad, RD, LDN

Andrea Adler, RD, CSPCC, LD

Oklahoma State University

Andrea Adler obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Medical Dietetics from "The" Ohio State University in 2002 and is currently working on her Master of Science in Dietetics from Oklahoma State University (the other OSU). She has worked as a Pediatric Dietitian at the Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital for over 20 years and has been an Advanced Practice Dietitian for over 13 years. She is currently a Board-Certified Specialist in Pediatric Critical Care Nutrition (CSPCC). Andrea has been a dietitian working with the neonatal population since 2004 and branched out to work with pediatric intestinal failure/transplant and pediatric liver transplant patients since 2014. She is currently RD Co-Chair of the Pediatric Intestinal Failure Work Group Subcommittee for American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (ASPEN) and Chair of the Membership and Engagement committee for ASPEN. Andrea received the 2022 Recognized Neonatal Dietitian award in October 2023 from Pediatric Nutrition Practice Group (PNPG) from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND).

"PNPG is one of the two practice groups from AND that I belong. After landing a job in pediatric nutrition, one that I thought I would never do, I have dove feet first and have now made pediatric nutrition my career. Receiving a PNPg scholarship shows my commitment to pediatric nutrition and that the Foundation honors my continued education for a master's degree."

Gretchen S Coonrad, RD, LDN

Rush University

Gretchen S Coonrad, RD, LDN, started her career in a long-term care facility as a Food Service Manager. There she learned the impact a Registered Dietitian played in caring for patients. Initially returning to school, she completed her Didactic Program in Dietetics at Loyola University Chicago and then her Dietetic Internship at the University of New Hampshire. Upon completion, she passed her Registered Dietitian examination and worked as an inpatient Clinical Dietitian for several years, initially as a generalist and eventually more in critical care. After several years, a unique opportunity was presented to develop the Registered Dietitian role in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at a teaching hospital. There, she spent five years developing a role that involved working with a team caring for the tiniest patients. Ready to return to inpatient clinical work after 14 years away from dietetics, where she cared for her three children, she struggled to make forward progress without her MS, ultimately enrolling at Rush University in the Fall of 2023, to pursue her master's degree in clinical nutrition. Over the past year, she has resumed working, currently as a per diem RD in adult and pediatric inpatient care, desiring to return to pediatric critical care.

"Receiving this scholarship will enable me to complete my path to a master's degree. As a Registered Dietitian, it is challenging to find inpatient clinical positions when a master's degree is required. Pursuing my master's degree will allow me to return to work in the area I am passionate about, pediatric inpatient clinical nutrition, where I hope to positively impact patients and their families."



Pennsylvania Sara Clemen Parks Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the Pennsylvania Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Many nutrition and dietetics students, like myself, find pursuing their career goals difficult due to financial strain or hardship. Your support allows aspiring nutritional professionals the ability to complete their degree requirements and enter a career they are passionate about.

- Michaela Master, MS, CLC, NASM-CPT

Michaela Master, MS, CLC, NASM-CPT

West Chester University of Pennsylvania

Michaela Master completed her B.S. in Nutrition and Dietetics and M.S. in Community Nutrition from West Chester University of Pennsylvania in 2018 and 2021, respectively. After completing her degrees, she worked as a WIC Clinical Nutritionist for the Foundation for Delaware County WIC Program. While working as a Nutritionist, she completed her Certified Lactation Counselor certification through the Academy of Lactation Policy and Practice (ALPP). Additionally, she completed her Personal Trainer certification through National Academy of Sports Medicine (NASM). Michaela has worked as a group fitness instructor at SPENGA and YogaSix studio locations. She is currently pursuing the Post-Master's Dietetic Internship Certificate through West Chester University of Pennsylvania and will graduate in May 2026. Upon taking the RDN exam, she hopes to combine her education in nutrition and fitness to bring an all-encompassing guidance to her clients to live healthier lives. Ultimately, she hopes to obtain a PhD in Nutrition and become a university professor to inspire and educate future Nutrition and Dietetic students.

"It is an honor to receive the Pennsylvania Sara Clemen Parks Scholarship. Knowing that the time, effort, and work I've put into building my career as a Nutrition and Dietetics professional is recognized by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation is motivating me to continue my educational journey. Completing the Dietetic Internship program has been a goal of mine for many years and with the help of this scholarship that goal will be fulfilled."



Polly Fitz Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the Connecticut Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, It is a daunting task to re-enter graduate level studies in a new field as a second career. It can be easy to doubt yourself: can I still do academic work at this level? Can I succeed in a completely new field? Your support gives me confidence that this pursuit of mine is not solely a personal passion but has genuine promise and value to others. Thank you for making this possible!

- Christy R. Morris

Christy R. Morris

University of New Haven

Christy Morris is a wife, a proud mother of two beautiful sons, and a passionate advocate for dietetic treatments to medical conditions. Christy's education was originally in English and Communications and she enjoyed a successful career, first in marketing and then as a paralegal. After taking time at home to raise and educate her sons, one of whom suffers from a genetic condition which has required medical dietary treatment, she developed a passion for dietetic medical care. Christy is hoping to specialize in administration of the ketogenic diet for the management of childhood seizures.

"Receiving the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation's 2025 Polly Fitz Scholarship has been extremely encouraging to me. It is heartening to know that others believe that this course of study is a good and beneficial path for me to follow. This is particularly true for me as a second career wife and mother re-entering the workforce in an area that is different from my previous career. Knowing that the Foundation and the grantors are in support of this pursuit gives me further drive to apply myself to my full ability."



Quindara Oliver Dodge Memorial Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of Ruby Linn, friends & associates

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Your generosity reaches far beyond financial support—it changes the day-to-day reality for students like me. Scholarships make it possible to focus fully on clinical training, advocacy, and professional development without the constant weight of financial stress. For me, this award means I can dedicate myself to becoming the kind of dietitian who helps close critical gaps in care for people with complex chronic illnesses. Your support gives students the breathing room we need to grow into strong clinicians, educators, and leaders. Thank you for believing in our potential and investing in the future of the profession.

- Maeve Maguire

Maeve Maguire

Saint Elizabeth University

Maeve Maguire is a Master of Science in Nutrition student and Dietetic Intern at Saint Elizabeth University in New Jersey. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Foods and Nutrition and an Associate of Science in Math and Science, maintaining a 4.0 GPA throughout her studies. Her dedication has been recognized through multiple honors, including the Outstanding Dietetics Student Award in New Jersey and the Departmental Academic Excellence Award at Saint Elizabeth University. Maeve's path to nutrition was shaped by her experience of living with chronic illnesses, including Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome and Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome. Navigating these conditions highlighted major gaps in nutrition care for patients with complex health needs and inspired her to become a clinician who can help close those gaps. She hopes to build a career that blends clinical care, education, and advocacy. Her goals include establishing a private practice focused on chronic illness nutrition therapy, teaching at the university level, and helping shape healthcare policy to make nutrition services more accessible and equitable.

"Receiving this scholarship is both an honor and a source of real relief. It recognizes the dedication I've poured into my education while managing significant health challenges, and it gives me the stability I need to stay focused on my goals. This support lifts a weight off my shoulders, allowing me to concentrate on my master's program and dietetic internship without the constant pressure of financial stress. More than anything, it affirms that my work to make nutrition care more inclusive and evidence-based matters, and it motivates me to keep pushing forward in this field."



Renee G. Paolantonio Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of Patricia F. Widner

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, You are so kind to not know what someone may be going through and still decide to help them out in such a huge way. I will forever be grateful to the Foundation and the generosity of its donors for making the path we dietetic interns and students walk a little easier. As an international student, it is touching to see others who do not even know me impact my life so positively. I just want to say a heartfelt thank you to you.

- Khushi Jariwala



Khushi Jariwala

Marywood University

Khushi Jariwala is an ambitious graduate student and dietetic intern in the field of Sports and Human Performance Nutrition. Her foundational background was established in Mumbai, India, where she earned her Bachelor of Home Science in Food, Nutrition and Dietetics (Honors) from the esteemed SVT College of Home Science. During this time, an influential internship under a leading Indian sports dietitian, Shreya Adhav, solidified her passion for the role nutrition plays in athletic performance. Driven by the goal of obtaining the Registered Dietitian (RD) credential, Khushi relocated to the United States and is currently pursuing her Master of Science in Sports and Human Performance Nutrition at Marywood University. She holds a Graduate Assistantship, through which she actively applies her expertise by delivering sports nutrition education to NCAA Division III teams, conducting body composition testing, and developing practical fueling strategies. Her most rewarding work to date: building their first-ever fueling station. Khushi's professional aspiration is to become a Certified Specialist in Sports Dietetics (CSSD). Her extensive experience, which includes professional development with organizations like My Sports Dietitian and the SHPN DPG, demonstrates her commitment to a high-performance career focused on optimizing the health and competitive potential of athletes.

"Winning this scholarship means I can actually focus my time and energy on learning the most during my dietetic internship instead of worrying about my finances."



Sampanna Maharjan, MS

Marywood University

Sampanna Maharjan is currently pursuing a master's degree in nutrition and Dietetics at Marywood University. She is passionate about promoting health and wellness through evidence-based practices and is currently working as a yoga instructor at her university, advocating for a holistic approach to health. She completed her Bachelor's and Post Graduate degrees in Dietetics and Nutrition at Tribhuvan University in Nepal. Her current research focuses on the relationship between food insecurity and diet quality among international students. Sampanna's long-term goal is to work in a clinical setting and expand her expertise through social media outreach and personalized counseling.

"This scholarship plays a crucial role in helping me to continue my studies in Nutrition and Dietetics. It has strengthened my commitment to academic excellence and motivated me to pursue my master's degree and internship with even greater dedication. As an international student, I am working diligently to make my mark in this field, and this support will immensely help me reduce my financial burden-allowing me to focus on my studies. I aspire to build an impactful career, and I am truly appreciating this recognition."

Rita Campbell Weaver Memorial Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the Paul Bechtner Foundation

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Thanks to your support, I can now focus more fully on my studies without the added stress of financial insecurity. It is a huge help as I navigate the financial challenges of graduate school and an unpaid dietetic internship.

- Annalise Traub

Annalise Traub

University of California, Berkeley

Annalise Traub graduated from UC Davis with a Clinical Nutrition degree in 2022. For the past three years, she was working as a Community Nutrition Educator with CalFresh Healthy Living, a SNAP Education Program. Her interest in nutrition started in high school, when she became fascinated by how the food we eat can prevent disease. Since then, Annalise has grown a passion for treating illness through Medical Nutrition Therapy at the individual level, in addition to preventing illness at a population level. She started her Master of Public Health in Nutrition at the University of California, Berkeley in Fall 2025. She will soon start her Dietetic Internship and looks forward this next step toward becoming a Registered Dietitian!

"I'm so grateful and honored to have been selected by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation for this scholarship. Having an unpaid dietetic internship and graduate school tuition is a significant financial hardship for me, but receiving this award will help ease that burden. I'll be able to focus more on my studies with less worry and feel more confident throughout my educational journey."



Ruby P. Puckett & Elizabeth Frakes Food Management Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the Management in Food and Nutrition Systems Dietetic Practice Group of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, I appreciate your kindness and dedication to helping students like me. Many of us come from families and backgrounds where higher education feels out of reach, yet you made it possible. Thank you so much!

- Daniella Christina Hernandez

Daniella Christina Hernandez

Texas Christian University

Daniella Christina Hernandez is a first-generation Hispanic Latina pursuing her Master's in Dietetics at Texas Christian University. She graduated from high school in May 2021 and earned her Associate of Arts in December 2021 at a community college. Drawn to healthcare from a young age and inspired by a love of food, Daniella set sights on becoming a registered dietitian. She transferred to TCU in August 2022, applied to the Combined Dietetics Program, and by the grace of God, was accepted. She earned her Bachelor of Science in May 2025 and is now completing her Master's. Growing up in a low-income community, Daniella saw firsthand how minority groups are disproportionately affected by all-cause mortality and chronic diseases such as diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular disease. She also recognized the need for nutrition education on reducing food waste, improving nutritional quality, and reframing the inherited mindset around food, such as "finish your plate before you leave the table". Many minority communities face lower income, limited access to healthcare, live in food deserts, lack access to providers, and have experienced language barriers. Her mission is to meet people where they are at and help communities build healthier habits with dignity and cultural respect.

"I grew up in a low-income community. My family's income has never been consistent, and we have only been able to survive life's storms with God's kindness, love, and grace. This scholarship is important to me because it allows me to take a break from juggling work and school obligations so that I can concentrate on my studies and learning opportunities. I can prioritize my health without feeling like I'm falling behind on my finances."

Faith Sasken

University of Idaho

Faith Sasken has a bachelor's degree in food and nutrition from the University of Idaho (U of I) as of May 2025. She is currently in her 2nd year in the U of I's master's in dietetics program, set to graduate in May of 2026. During her time at U of I, she's gotten the opportunity to work with the performance dietitian and their fueling center which sparked her interest in sports nutrition. Beyond that, she aspires to be a tactical dietitian and work with active-duty military members. She pursued dietetics due to her own struggles with food and battling with an eating disorder.

"Given the stresses of college and busy school schedules it makes working difficult. This scholarship helps ease the burden on tuition, school loans, as well as paying for those "hidden fees" that tend to come up in college."



Sharon Leppert Memorial Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of David Leppert, family, and friends of Sharon Leppert

The Power of Generosity:

Dear Donors, Your generosity doesn't just lighten financial burdens - it gives us the courage to push through the challenges and the confidence to pursue our dreams. Beyond that, the stories and memories behind each scholarship remind us that we're a part of something much bigger, something built on kindness, dedication, and shared commitment to lifting others up.

- Kelly Knoll, MS, RD, LRD

Kelly Knoll, MS, RD, LRD

North Dakota State University

Kelly Knoll, originally from Mandan, North Dakota, has always had a strong passion for physical activity and nutrition. With these interests, choosing Nutrition and Dietetics as her field of study was a natural decision. She earned her bachelor's degree in nutrition science in 2023 and her master's degree in Exercise Science and Nutrition in 2024 from North Dakota State University (NDSU). Currently, she works as an inpatient clinical dietitian at Sanford Health where she enjoys working with a wide variety of patients and conditions. After receiving the Health, Nutrition, and Exercise Sciences Emerging Researcher Award in 2024, Kelly became inspired to further explore the field of research and the evolving role of dietitians. She has decided to pursue a PhD in Exercise Science and Nutrition at NDSU to deepen her knowledge and contribute to advancements in nutrition science.

"I'm grateful to the Foundation and the generous donors behind each impactful scholarship. Being awarded a scholarship is so exciting and motivating as it further affirms your hard work during a challenging journey. I look forward to continuing my education and, like this scholarship has done for me, passing along a helping hand to others."



Texas Association of Local WIC Directors Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of the Texas Association of Local WIC Directors

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Scholarships like these mean the world to students who are paving their way through their education. There are many students like myself, who are counting on scholarships, loans, and grants to work their way to their dreams of being a Registered Dietitian. Without scholarships, I would never have been able to get many of the volunteer opportunities that led me to be accepted to my dream master's and dietetic internship program. This financial assistance allows students to better perform in the classroom, while balancing the many other aspects of being a college student. Thank you for your support!

- Kerri Peterson



Rana Chammas, MS

University of Houston

Rana is a resilient mother of five, a first-generation college student, and an immigrant who moved to the United States three years ago. She faced cultural adjustments, language barriers, and the challenges of raising a family in a new country, yet she remained determined to pursue her dream of becoming a dietitian. Rana earned her master's degree in clinical nutrition and is now completing her dietetic internship, gaining the practical training needed to enter the profession. Her journey reflects not only perseverance but also a commitment to public health and nutrition. Passionate about improving community well-being, Rana aspires to become a dietitian who combines science with compassion, helping individuals make informed choices while advancing broader efforts to promote equitable access to nutrition. She hopes her example will empower her children to value education, embrace resilience, and pursue their own dreams with confidence.

"Receiving the 2025 Texas Association of Local WIC Directors Scholarship is both an honor and a source of encouragement in my educational journey. This award eases financial pressures, allowing me to focus more fully on my studies and professional growth. It affirms my commitment to advancing public health and supporting families through equitable access to nutrition and care. Beyond financial support, it serves as a reminder that the work I am pursuing matters and is recognized. This scholarship strengthens my resolve to continue learning and contributing to healthier, stronger communities across Texas."



Allison Henry, MS

Aramark

Allison Henry obtained a DPD from Iowa State University (ISU) in Ames, Iowa. She graduated from ISU in May of 2025 with a B.S. and M.S. in Diet and Exercise. During her time at ISU she was an undergraduate and graduate research assistant for a community nutrition lab. The lab collaborated with ISU Extension and Outreach 4-H to develop and implement online nutrition education classes for youth across Iowa. Allison mentored students and aided in developing manuscripts that explored the acceptability of the online format of the classes and participants' cooking self-efficacy. She also worked for ISU Extension and Outreach 4-H as the Healthy Living Programs Assistant where she was able to expand her experience with program development and implementation to all areas of wellness, mental health, physical health, and nutrition. Allison is currently enrolled in Aramark's Dietetic Internship completing supervised hours in clinical, community, and food service settings. After the completion of her internship she plans to take the RD exam. Her professional interests include working in community nutrition and public health with underserved populations as a Registered Dietitian.

"Receiving this scholarship allowed me to pursue educational opportunities outside of my supervised practice that are essential to my growth as a person, professional, and community member. After my supervised practice I aim to enhance my professional development by searching for opportunities in specialized areas such as pediatrics/child nutrition, oncology, and/or multicultural nutrition counseling."



Kerri Peterson

Florida State University

Kerri Peterson hails from Texas and is a first year Master of Science and Dietetic Internship student at Florida State University majoring in Sports Nutrition/Exercise Physiology. She completed her undergraduate degree in Human Nutrition and Dietetics at the University of Arkansas, graduating with honors distinction and completing a thesis titled, Influences of Social Media on Nutrition Perceptions and Body Image Among Female College Students: A study of Health Impacts and Behavioral Responses. During her undergraduate degree, she gained experiences in sports nutrition, long-term/rehabilitation nutrition care, and community nutrition, working for the campus food pantry. She hopes to become a Registered Dietitian and work in performance nutrition, helping athletes reach their peak potential through the power of food. She is also passionate about food insecurity and providing community resources. She currently works as a graduate assistant in a Cardiovascular Nutrition Lab at Florida State.

"This scholarship means the world for me in my journey to becoming a registered dietitian! I am so thankful for the support of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics not only financially, but for providing the resources for me to be successful in my undergraduate and now graduate studies."

Velmabelle Cornford Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of Velmabelle Rupert Cornford

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, your generosity has the power to transform lives. Every dollar you give to our scholarship program opens doors for hardworking, deserving students who might not otherwise afford a college education. These scholarships fuel dreams and strengthen communities. By investing in education, you are investing in a brighter, more equitable future.

- Kylee Lubis, MS



Kylee Lubis, MS

Garden to Table Nutrition

Kylee Lubis holds a master's degree in nutrition and dietetics and a bachelor's degree in finance. She is currently completing her supervised practice hours with Garden to Table Nutrition as she works toward becoming a registered dietitian. Her unique academic background blends health sciences with business, allowing her to take a holistic and practical approach to client care. In addition to her academic and clinical training, Kylee teaches Pilates part-time and works one-on-one with clients to support their wellness goals through movement and nutrition. Her passion for helping others is deeply personal: she lost her father to a heart attack at the age of 40, and more recently, navigated her own autoimmune diagnosis. These experiences have inspired her to specialize in supporting women with autoimmune conditions. She is committed to empowering others through evidence-based nutrition, sustainable lifestyle strategies, and compassionate care.

"I am grateful beyond words to receive this scholarship! This will help pay approximately 1/3 of my dietetic internship tuition, which will provide immense financial relief and allow me to focus on my supervised practice and studying for the RDN exam. Paying for the past few years of graduate school has not been easy, and this really helps alleviate some of that burden."

Venesa W. Strong Memorial Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of Lester M. Strong

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, I want to express my deepest gratitude for your consideration and commitment to investing in the next generation of leaders. The future of a student is not a distant ideal, but a tangible outcome shaped by opportunities and resources, and your generosity provides the pivotal support that turns academic aspirations into reality. Your contribution does more than just pay a bill. It removes a financial barrier that stands between a deserving student and their full potential, ensuring that talent and ambition, not financial constraints, determine their success.

- Rachel Vanderbeek



TrudyAnne Larkins Coe

Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center and Texas Woman's University

TrudyAnne is a current dietetic intern at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center. She is concurrently completing her MS in Exercise and Sports Nutrition at Texas Woman's University and plans to graduate in December 2026. She graduated with her BS in Dietetics from Brigham Young University in April 2025. Growing up, TrudyAnne always enjoyed focusing on health and wellness. She was raised in a very active household by her parents with her four brothers. When she came to BYU, her life experiences led her to change her major to dietetics and she has not looked back since. TrudyAnne has always had many interests. She enjoyed learning about sports nutrition and eating disorders while at BYU. She also worked as the Lead NICU Diet Technician in a Level 3 NICU while in her undergrad, which taught her valuable lessons about clinical dietetics. She appreciates developing dietetic research as she worked as a research assistant focusing on weight management in children with Cystic Fibrosis and looks forward to completing her thesis in the coming year. Now in her internship, TrudyAnne is gaining new experience in many fields of dietetics and she looks forward to career opportunities to come.

"Receiving this scholarship means so much to me. For years I have dreamed of receiving higher education, but financial responsibilities have always weighed as a concern. I'm beyond grateful for this scholarship in easing that burden and supporting me in continuing my education. I plan to utilize this scholarship to achieve my goals of becoming an RDN, so I can share more science-based knowledge with those whom I interact with. This support now will help me to turn around and support upcoming RDNs behind me, something I look forward to having the chance to do in my future."



Rachel Vanderbeek

University of the Pacific

At 41, Rachel Vanderbeek recently accomplished a significant milestone, graduating with her bachelor's degree while navigating the responsibilities of being a single mother to two children. This achievement is a testament to her resilience, discipline, an unwavering commitment to building a better future for her family. With her educational foundation, she is setting her sites on becoming a registered dietitian by completing a master's degree program at the University of the Pacific. Leveraging her life experiences and newly acquired knowledge to empower others through nutrition is her ultimate goal. Her background has instilled strong skills of multitasking, problem-solving, and time management, which she is eager to apply in a professional setting. This pursuit is driven by her deep desire to help people lead healthier lives, a passion that has been honored by her personal journey. She is confident that her determination and unique perspective will make her a valuable asset to the field. Her ultimate goal is to not only excel in her chosen career, but also to serve as an aspiration to her children, proving that it is never too late to pursue your dreams.

"Receiving this Scholarship is an honor that will significantly impact my educational journey by alleviating the financial burden of tuition and allow me to focus more on my studies. This support helps me to pursue my academic passions without financial worry and dedicate more time to research and hands-on projects. My goal is to Become a future dietitian and work in public health, and the scholarship is a stepping stone toward achieving that dream, and to excel in my studies for my future career."

Virginia F. Harger Memorial Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of Virginia F. Harger

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, Your financial support helps ensure students can complete the long educational journey to become a Registered Dietitian. Your commitment to us is a commitment to your future health.

- Khanh Vu, RD, LD



Sergio Garcia Jimenez

Idaho State University

Sergio Garcia comes from a small town called Burley, Idaho, where he found his love for nutrition at his first year of community college. He then transferred to Idaho State University, where he competed in Division 1 track and field and finished his bachelor's degree in nutrition and dietetics. He is currently finishing his master's degree and internship rotations this upcoming winter. After passing the RD exam, he wants to work in food service management or work with the oncology dietitians at the St. Luke's Cancer Center in Boise, Idaho.

"This scholarship has helped me put more time and focus toward my externships and graduate degree!"



Khanh Vu, RD, LD

The Ohio State University

Khanh is a registered dietitian from Columbus, Ohio. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Medical Dietetics from The Ohio State University in May 2022. She currently works in healthcare foodservice management, as the Administrative Dietitian for Nutrition Services at Nationwide Children's Hospital. Khanh's experiences in healthcare food service management drove her interests in operations management, process improvement, and leadership development. This led her to pursue a Master of Business Administration at The Ohio State University with plans to graduate in May 2027. Khanh aspires to be a leader in healthcare foodservice operations, school foodservice, and/or federal child nutrition programs. She hopes to continue advancing her career at the intersection of nutrition, business, and technological advancement.

"Receiving this scholarship is an honor as it supports the necessity of nutrition and dietetics professionals in foodservice management across many sectors, including healthcare and K-12 schools. It encourages me to continue my educational journey fearlessly in pursuit of a Master of Business Administration (MBA) to elevate the role of nutrition and dietetics professionals as leaders in their field."

Vivian M. Roberts Memorial Scholarship

Funded by the generosity of a bequest from the estate of Vivian M. Roberts

The Power of Generosity

Dear Donors, I am privileged to be the recipient of a generous scholarship from the Academy Foundation. It is evident amongst my peers that we are all in the middle of trying to be all-in for our dietetic education while also managing the stressors of life and financial demands. Scholarships from generous donors like yourself permit us to take a breath, to say yes to opportunities to learn, and to feel supported by the greater nutrition world as future clinicians.

– Mary Proctor

Mary Proctor

The Ohio State University

Mary Proctor is a second-year graduate student in the first cohort of the accelerated Master of Dietetics and Nutrition at The Ohio State University. Mary completed her final year of undergraduate education simultaneously with her first year in the master's program, graduating summa cum laude with a double major in Human Nutrition, Dietetics, and Hispanic Linguistics. Growing up in Dublin, Ohio, Mary learned what a dietitian was in high school and was inspired to pursue a career at the intersection of nutrition and health. Mary hopes to stay in central Ohio and work as a pediatric dietitian, motivated by the potential to provide preventative medical nutrition therapy to redirect the trajectory of children's lives through rewiring their relationships with food, their bodies, and their ability to consume nutritionally balanced diets. Mary hopes to build on opportunities she is already pursuing, assessing the nutritional status of children with neurodevelopmental disabilities in the Nisonger LEND program, and counseling patients with gastrointestinal symptoms and conditions.

"Receiving the Vivian M. Roberts Memorial Scholarship aides me in my pursuit of a career in pediatric dietetics by lessening the financial burden of my graduate education, enabling me to dive deep into experiences that would otherwise be deferred. I will complete a master's capstone and say yes to valuable experiences in the field."

