

Welcome to Scholar Recognition 2021

April 28, 2021 7:00 p.m.

Every year we honor high-school senior girls who excel in math, science and technology. This year our celebration is virtual, as we gather to **recognize 36 young women from all over the Seattle area for their achievements.** Our

agenda includes videos prepared by the honorees, information on AAUW programs shared by one of our members, and a great keynote speaker.

This year's keynote, "**Engineering Social Transformation**", will be presented by **Dr. Kelly Stevens**, Assistant Professor of Bioengineering and Lab Medicine and Pathology at the University of Washington. Dr. Stevens will talk about her role in a network of academics calling on national funding agencies to address disparities in their support of Black researchers. She has recently made this case as the lead author in a paper published in *Cell* entitled "[Fund Black Scientists](#)."



Congratulations to the scholars and thank you all for joining us for this very special event!

Not registered yet? Go to our website at www.aauw-seattle.org and follow the link.

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**Scholar Recognition 2021
is dedicated to the
memory of AAUW Seattle
branch member
Maureen Kremers**

Maureen played an important role in the Seattle branch – as *Catalyst* editor and as an ardent supporter of and volunteer and chair for Scholar Recognition. The latter meant so much to her that she left a bequest to the branch supporting the student awards.

A retired teacher and elementary school principal, Maureen was especially passionate about working on the STEM-education scholarship project for local high-school young women.

Some of Maureen's bequest went toward last year's as well as this year's scholars' awards. Her bequest also makes it possible for us to provide the gift boxes of refreshments to be sent to each student for this year's virtual event.

We are very grateful for Maureen's participation in our branch, and her generous support of this program.

— Judy Waring



***This newsletter is a publication
of the American Association of
University Women (AAUW)
Seattle Branch.***

Page one [Seattle cityscape](#) by
Michael Tompsett

Mission Statement

To advance gender equity for
women and girls through
research, education, and
advocacy.

Vision

Equity for all.

Values

Nonpartisan. Fact-based.
Integrity. Inclusion and
Intersectionality.



What is the Scholar Recognition Award? —Barbara Sando

The Scholar Recognition Program began as an AAUW Washington State STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) initiative. AAUW Seattle Branch has participated in the program since 2001 and it remains a key element of our mission to advance gender equity.

By honoring high school young women for their recent achievements in mathematics, science, and technology, the goal of the Scholar Recognition Program is to encourage award recipients to pursue further education and careers in the STEM fields – fields in which women remain underrepresented in the workforce.

Since 2000, thousands of young women in Washington State have been honored for their STEM achievements by local AAUW branches, including hundreds in the Seattle area.

Our 2021 Scholar Recognition Recipients

BALLARD HIGH SCHOOL

Dori Buttleman (Math) plans to study biochemistry and applied mathematics at a small college on the West Coast. She has pursued STEM through volunteering at Swedish Hospital and researching at King Co. Medical Society. She participated in cross country and track all four years in high school, and volunteered at a neighborhood hot-meal program and at Girls Rock Math as a camp counselor.

Philomene Sturgeon (Science) plans to study biochemistry and molecular biology in college. She completed the Biotech Academy at Ballard HS, pitched on the varsity softball team and volunteered at a local school. She won the Advisor's Choice Award at the Imagine Tomorrow Science Fair, a gold and a silver medal in the French National Contest and received the Scholar-Athlete Award twice.

Lianne Kistler (Technology) plans to attend college - still to be decided - and continue her pole vaulting there. In the meantime, she enjoys getting outside with friends and working out. She participates at Northwest Polevault Club. In the near future, she hopes to volunteer distributing COVID-19 vaccine. She intends to study the sciences, as she's leaning toward studying Medicine.



CHIEF SEALTH HIGH SCHOOL

An Nguyen (Math) - Congratulations on your achievements!

Leslie Jimenez Hernandez (Technology) plans to attend college, but is undecided as to where she will go at this time. She hopes to study political science and later go to law school. She is proud to have been voted Student of the Month for the science department at Chief Sealth High School by her instructors this year. In her free time, she likes to paint, draw and read.

Ilse Schmitz (Science) plans to attend the University of Washington to study a combination of STEM and visual arts; specifically, she is planning on mathematics and animation. She also wants to start a small business to sell her artwork. Art is her passion, but science and mathematics are a very close second! Ilse is currently working towards an International Baccalaureate diploma and is looking forward to finding her first full-time job over the summer.



CLEVELAND HIGH SCHOOL

Kidest Wasihun (Math) will attend the Foster School of Business at the University of Washington in the fall. She plans a business-related major such as finance, marketing, or human resources. Kidest has spent four years volunteering at her local Ethiopian Community Center, where she teaches young children the Amharic language. This past year, she has also worked at the Rainier Beach Action Coalition, working towards fighting food insecurity in southeast Seattle.



Fathima Garcia (Science) plans to study at Seattle Central College for two years, then transfer to Seattle University to complete her degree in business and marketing. Fathima has been active in student government all four years at Cleveland as president of her class and, this year, as president of the school. Fathima received the Golden Eagle Award her freshman year for demonstrating leadership. By continuing to pursue internships in college, Fathima will continue to further her leadership and experience.

Fiona Clayton (Technology) plans to attend a 4-year university and pursue environmental engineering. She plays varsity volleyball and basketball, as well as slow-pitch and fast-pitch softball. As an athlete, Fiona serves on two Washington Interscholastic Activities Association committees: the Leadership through Education, Athletics, and Personal Development Committee, and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee.

INGRAHAM HIGH SCHOOL

Leana Girton (Math) completed the International Baccalaureate Program last year and is currently taking classes at North Seattle College as a full Running Start student. She is an officer in the Girls Who Code and Girls in Science clubs and a captain of the Girls' Ultimate Frisbee team. Leana is considering bioengineering for her college major or another major with a biotech focus. She is an avid skier, hiker, and whitewater kayaker.



Carolyn Yee (Science) is currently completing the International Baccalaureate Program. She has greatly enjoyed taking IB science courses and sharing her love of science in the Ingraham MESA Club. Outside of school she enjoys dancing and playing tennis as well as volunteering with her school's chapter of the National Honor Society. Carolyn plans to attend college and major in an area of science. She looks forward to gaining new experiences and continuing to pursue her passion for science.

Daniella Hubble (Technology) is participating in Ingraham's full International Baccalaureate Program. She is a member of the National Honor Society, has been president of Ingraham's Key Club, and is a leader in her church's youth group. Her additional activities include membership in the varsity track and cross-country teams. Daniella is deciding which college to attend and will probably major in computer science.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Eden Yonas (Math) plans to attend the University of Washington. She would like to pursue a career in computer science but is also interested in marketing. Eden loves playing sports and volunteering at her local church. She also loves traveling and hopes that she will get the chance to do so in the near future.



Lesley Cardona Puente (Science) has achieved honor roll and academic excellence since the beginning of high school. Lesley has volunteered at many places, from being an OSPREY Camp mentor to tutoring elementary school students. It has always been about giving back to her community, who helped her get closer to her own goals. After high school she intends to pursue a career in nursing, to one day become a family nurse practitioner and potentially take her skills across the world to help those who don't have access to healthcare.

Hinda Ibraahim (Technology) plans to go to university and study computer science through engineering. She would like to double-major in business and possibly start her own tech company one day. Outside of school Hinda would like to continue her passion for social justice by joining a variety of clubs or organizations on campus. Hinda also plans to join outdoor adventure clubs on campus to find new hobbies.

NATHAN HALE HIGH SCHOOL

Anuk Centellas (Math) is a senior at Nathan Hale and uses she/her pronouns. Math has always been a strong point for her. During the last quarter of eighth grade, while taking Algebra I, she taught herself enough geometry that she was able to advance to Algebra II in Freshman year. Her proudest qualities are her adaptability, resourcefulness, and observational skills, all of which have been refined during the pandemic. She is very passionate about certain issues, usually related to equality and the environment. Since she is part of multiple cultures, she is used to combining different aspects of them to create her own ways. Anuk is very excited to have received this award and congratulates the other recipients!



Isabel Squier (Science) is a senior at Nathan Hale High School. In her free time, she enjoys playing ultimate frisbee, hiking and being outdoors, and writing. She is the coach of her school's mock trial team and Co-Editor-in-Chief of the newspaper, *The Sentinel*. In higher education, she is interested in pursuing environmental science and environmental law, as well as continuing to play frisbee and work on a student newspaper.

Hazel Lowy (Technology) plans on attending a 4-year college and majoring in computer science. She has been playing cello for over 8 years and is currently in a virtual orchestra. She enjoys working on her webcomic, which combines her interests in coding, drawing, and music composition. During quarantine, she and her friend inadvertently started creating a dystopian fantasy world that is now shaping into a book.

FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL

Chelsea Nguyen (Math) will be attending Boot Camp for the US Navy after graduation and plans to pursue a career in clinical psychology. Chelsea's interest in psychology was piqued when she participated in a program at the Asian Counseling and Referral Service. Chelsea believes that it's not only leaders who bring about change and, by joining the Navy, she will provide needed mental and emotional support in the military. She plans to work towards destigmatizing mental health and normalizing counseling and therapy.



Linda Giang (Science) has received a lot of encouragement during her years of education and will be a first-generation college student. During high school, she was able to take advanced placement classes that interested her, allowing her to challenge herself academically. She plans to attend the UW to study economics. Although she won't be pursuing a computer science degree, Linda will explore coding projects during her free time.

Bobbie Rae Patton (Technology) plans to study engineering and law next year. A true tech kid at heart, she was captain of her FIRST robotics team, 2421. In addition to robotics, Bobbie enjoys theatre, dance, and swim team. If you're looking for her, she's typically found baking extravagant 'masterpieces' with her sister or inserting quotes from 'The Office' into everyday situations.

GARFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

Arshnoor Kaur (Math) hopes to study computer science at the UW, but has applied to several other universities as well. She enjoys drawing, painting and crocheting. Her love of volunteering leads her to spend many hours each week helping at the Old Persons Commission. One of her proudest achievements was becoming a Questbridge Finalist in 2020.



Ashley Teofilo-Sarria (Science) plans to attend a 4-year university majoring in computer science or mechanical engineering. She began coding three years ago with Girls Who Code. Since then, she has interned at EY and taken AP computer science at her school to develop skills in Java, Python, HTML and CSS. Ashley belongs to a non-profit soccer club which combines teaching soccer and academics to low-income minorities aspiring to attend college. In her free time, she likes to work out and play/coach soccer.

Sophie Holland (Technology) has been a 4-year member of the cross country and track teams at Garfield High School, as well as joining the wrestling team her junior year. She hopes to translate the work ethic and motivation she developed through team sports to whatever university she chooses to attend. In her free time, she enjoys art, spending time with friends and family, listening to music and playing the guitar.

HOLY NAMES ACADEMY

Maura Switzer (Math) plans to study computer science in college. She is especially interested in human centered design. At Holy Names, Maura has been involved in the National Honor Society as an officer, and she was a nominee for the Junior Academic Award. Maura is a member of the varsity track and field team as a pole vaulter and plans to continue to compete in college. She was named a valedictorian of Holy Name's graduating class of 2021.



Mia Yamada-Heidner (Science) plans to attend a four-year university. Mia hopes to major in chemistry, chemical/biomedical engineering or computer science. As a Chinese adoptee, Mia would also love to minor in Chinese, to feel more connected to her roots. Last August she started "Sisters of China", a community organization that aims to unite Chinese female adoptees of all ages across the world. In her spare time, you'll find her connecting with other adoptees over Zoom, researching the use of conjugated polymers in drug delivery systems or making charcuterie boards for her family to enjoy.

Claire Zhang (Technology) intends to major in computer science in college, possibly with a second major in psychology or environmental studies. Throughout high school, Claire has enjoyed volunteering at the Seattle Aquarium and as a computer science teacher for middle and elementary school girls. She won the 2020 National Honorable Mention Award for Aspirations in Computing from the National Center for Women and Information Technology, and was also named National Merit Finalist—recognitions which, in addition to this Technology Achievement Award, Claire feels very honored to have received.

RAINIER BEACH HIGH SCHOOL

Tia Esperanzate (Math) plans to attend community college next year. Her goal is to explore a wide range of studies and participate in campus activities to help in her decision of what major to pursue. She has many hobbies in the arts, such as drawing, painting, knitting, sculpture, and playing the piano. She also enjoys playing golf. In her senior year she was recognized for her perfect attendance and was named to the honor roll.

Ayan Ahmed (Science) plans to attend college, but at this time is undecided on where she will go. While in high school she was a member of the drama club which she really enjoyed. Her favorite subject is science (all kinds) and is looking forward to majoring in some field involving science.

Rebecca Paez (Technology) plans to continue her pre-apprenticeship at Computing for All (CFA), as well as attend South Seattle Community College. CFA offers employer-mentored, project-based work programs that allow her to apply critical thinking to real-world work scenarios. She hopes to expand her coding skills and follow this line of studies into a career.



ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL

Sophia Turner (Math) is attending Wesleyan University in Connecticut this Fall and intends to study molecular biology and biochemistry as well as Spanish. She is passionate about learning new languages. She plays violin in the Roosevelt High School Orchestra and enjoys being part of the high school buddy program. Sophia has participated in sports such as cross country and track and has a love for being active in the outdoors.

Margaret Newstead (Science) will be attending Grinnell College (Iowa) where she plans to study chemistry and gender studies. She has participated in the National Honors Society. She loves to read and has taken advantage of extra time to do more reading during the pandemic. During high school she was a member of the Swim Team and she rowed at the Pocock Rowing Center. Margaret loves to spend time outdoors, biking, camping and skiing.

Van Le (Technology) is planning to attend the University of Washington in fall 2021. In the past year at Roosevelt, she joined the debating team. She enjoys sports such as badminton, biking and swimming. She is also very interested in interior design.



WEST SEATTLE HIGH SCHOOL

Jordan Allen (Math) plans to attend college and major in engineering or business. She is deciding between the University of Arizona, Cal-Poly, and the University of Washington. Running is a big part of her life; she has been running cross-country and track since her freshman year. Jordan is currently team captain! She has been a National Honor Society officer for the past few years and has loved planning volunteer events for members. Jordan thanks AAUW-Seattle Branch for this award!

Josephine Czeskleba (Math) plans to attend college and study math or statistics. She has always loved gymnastics and has studied it for 10 years. In the last year, she has also coached gymnastics. Some of her hobbies include sewing clothes, drawing, and walking her dogs. For the past year, Josie has volunteered for Youth Against Sexual Violence and Sunrise Hub West Seattle.

Evelyn Hootman (Science) plans to attend the UW for freshman year, then transfer to Boston University. She would like to study mathematical economics or econometrics, which applies statistical methods to economic data. She hopes to participate in study-abroad programs and become fluent in several languages; currently, she is learning Spanish and Mandarin. Video production is her creative outlet, and long-distance running aids her health in both body and mind. Being a National Honor Society officer allows Evelyn to connect with multiple communities, as well as organize volunteering opportunities and help those who need it—which is ultimately what drives her to do her best.



A Timeline of AAUW's Funding of Women's Education

AAUW has a proud heritage of helping women pursue higher education

- **After the U.S. Civil War**, AAUW founder Marion Talbot gave the call to support a fund for women's graduate education "to enable gifted women to use their intellectual powers for the good of humanity."
- **In 1888**, the first fellowship was awarded to Ida Street, a pioneer in the field of early American Indian history.



Ida Street



Marie Curie

- **By 1890**, AAUW had awarded the first European fellowship and by 1917 the Latin American Fellowship, which eventually evolved into the International Fellowship program that has funded women from more than 150 nations. AAUW's focus on graduate funding was designed to push more women to take on academic leadership roles and other important leadership positions.
- **In 1920**, AAUW members helped raise funds to purchase a gram of radium for Madame Marie Curie to use in her research. The Marie Curie Radium Fund eventually went into a fellowship to support a French or American woman studying chemistry, physics or radiology.
- **Post WWII**, AAUW launched a drive to raise funds to bring women from liberated countries to the U.S. to study.

- **By the 1950s**, AAUW had funded more than 1,100 women in over 40 countries.
- **In 1963**, AAUW, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of State, developed the African Educators' Program, which brought African teachers from newly independent African nations to study in U.S. colleges. AAUW also created a fund in honor of Coretta Scott King, supporting African-American women studying African-American culture, civil rights and peace.



Artist **Nell Painter** (left) with **Coretta Scott King** (right) and former AAUW President **Anne G. Pannell** (middle)



Astronaut and 1975–76 AAUW American Fellow **Judith Resnik**

- **In the 1970s**, AAUW grants allowed women to return to school, re-enter the workforce, and gain the skills needed to be competitive in the workplace. The new Selected Professions Fellowships aimed to bring more women into non-traditional fields such as law, business and medicine, and later on, science, technology, engineering and math as well.
- **As it entered the new millennium**, AAUW awarded \$4 million in fellowships and grants for the first time. The new International Project Grants allow International Fellowship alumnae to return to their home countries and work on projects that impact women and girls locally.

* Adapted by Gay Armsden from

www.aauw.org/resources/programs/fellowships-grants/funding-history/

Pay Equity--*Tonna Kutner*



Equal pay day this year was on March 24. This day means that women must work 365 days plus another 83 days to earn as much as a man earns in 365 days. For women of color overall it is much more than 83 extra days. In the past 25 years, the pay gap has improved only by about 8%. At this rate, it will be somewhere beyond 2069 before parity exists.

Did you know that due to COVID-19, as much as four times as many women as men dropped out of the labor force in 2020? This means it's even more important to insist on fair payment practices as women and men compete to rejoin the workforce. We're glad that The Equal Pay Opportunity Act passed in Washington State in 2018, but nationally we're still working on The Paycheck Fairness Act, which has been stuck in Congress for several years. **AAUW does research-based reports each year on the pay gap called, The Simple Truth about the Pay Gap.** See the Resources tab on www.aauw-seattle.org.

Best practices for young women facing the pay gap:

Research the typical pay for the job you're looking for. Do not make a salary offer; ask what the employer is proposing. If the salary is low based on your research, ask why. Remember there are many ways to bargain besides just salary dollars, including benefits, flex time, vacation, and the amount of time before the salary can be renegotiated. For more information on salary negotiation see the Resources tab on www.aauw-seattle.org.



AAUW Educational and Training Fund—*Gay Armsden*



Over 130 years, AAUW has given \$115 million to 13,000 fellowship, grant, and award recipients. Just this academic year, AAUW awarded nearly \$4 million. This funding has a tremendous impact, since it helps to ease the burden of student debt, which disproportionately affects women. The Education and Training Fund helps break down the barriers – such as inequitable access and harassment and discrimination -- that can prevent women from obtaining the education and careers they desire. **Since 2004, AAUW's educational funds have awarded 44 fellowships and 11 community action grants to students and nonprofits in Washington State.**

American Fellowships support women pursuing full-time study to complete dissertations, conducting postdoctoral research, or preparing research for publication. International Fellowships are awarded for full-time study or research in the U.S. to graduate and post-graduate women who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents, but who have earned a bachelor's degree in the U.S. Selected Professions Fellowships are awarded to women who intend to pursue a full-time course of study in the U.S. in a degree programs where women's participation has been low. Fellowships in MBA, Law, and Medicine degree programs are restricted to women of color, who have been underrepresented in these fields.

Community Action Grants provide grants for innovative programs that promote education and equity by encouraging girls to select, before entering college, the physical sciences or engineering as a career. The Education and Training Fund also funds research projects that will lead to post-doctoral publications in certain scientific fields and medicine, and awards grants to International Fellowship alumnae who have returned home overseas and plan to start projects in their communities that aim to improve the lives of women and girls.

With Gratitude for Scholar Recognition

—June Arnold

Every year it takes a whole lot of coordination to make the Scholar Recognition program happen. That was true this year in particular, as our program is virtual and all the things we normally just “do”, required some degree of reinvention. So, thank you to the following AAUW members for once again being school coordinators and collecting all the information for our Scholar nominees:



- ♦ **Joan Peterson** – Ballard High School
- ♦ **Rachael Foe** – Chief Sealth High School
- ♦ **Barbara Sando** – Franklin & Cleveland High Schools
- ♦ **Katherine Cleland** – Holy Names High School
- ♦ **Judy Waring** – Ingraham High School
- ♦ **Teresa Picarella & Senait Habte** – UW Making Connections
- ♦ **Fiona Goodchild** – Roosevelt High School
- ♦ **Marilyn Mears** – West Seattle High School
- ♦ **Cynthia Sheridan** – Nathan Hale High School

I would also like to say a special thank you to those who did so much behind the scenes:

- ♦ **Tonna Kutner** for her amazing production on the videos of our Scholar nominees, help with the e-invitations and delivery of the Pay Equity part of our program
- ♦ **Cynthia Sheridan** and **Fiona Goodchild** for their invaluable input as the committee who planned the virtual event and coordinated our keynote speaker
- ♦ **Marianne North** for managing all those RSVP's to the event
- ♦ **Cathy Anderson** and **Gay Armsden**, who produced two editions of the *Catalyst* for April – our normal edition and the special Scholar Recognition edition

And as always, our gratitude goes to the **school counselors**, **administrators** and **teachers** who take the time to nominate our Scholar Recognition recipients. Without them, this program could not happen.

Thank you all for being part of this beautiful group effort.

AAUW-Seattle Branch Officers 2020-2021

Elected

Co-presidents:

Lynn Dissinger & Fiona Goodchild -
president@aauw-seattle.org

VP Finance:

Barbara Sando - finance@aauw-seattle.org

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Cynthia Sheridan - programs@aauw-seattle.org

VP Membership:

Robin Hendricks - membership@aauw-seattle.org

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Rachael Foe - secretary@aauw-seattle.org

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Marketing & Communications:

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Board Members at Large:

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June Arnold - recognition@aauw-seattle.org

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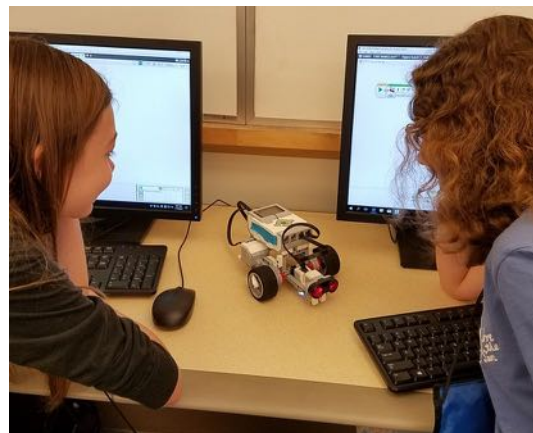
Tech Trek—*Tonna Kutner*

Tech Trek is an AAUW-sponsored program featuring an exciting week-long, residential, hands-on STEM camp for 7th grade girls who show promise in math, science and/or technology. It's held at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma where girls live in college dorms during the summer and take hands-on classes from an excellent group of female scientists. The camp is designed to create interest, excitement and confidence in young women at an age where they are sometimes likely to drop out of math and science studies.



All girls are sponsored, so there are no financial barriers to attending camp. We are particularly focused on getting girls to camp who might not otherwise be able to attend this type of enrichment. We look for the girls who would benefit most from this great experience and might not have other opportunities.

Starting around January 2022, we'll be looking for girls who entered 7th grade in September 2021 who qualify for Tech Trek 2022. For more information, see <https://seattle-wa.aauw.net/tech-trek/>. There are many volunteer opportunities as well, so contact us at techtrek@aauw-seattle.org.



College Students: Looking for a fun and meaningful volunteer opportunity?

Be a dorm monitor or student counselor at Tech Trek camp next year!

Contact techtrek@aauw-seattle.org



College Scholarship Program—*Gay Armsden*

Many AAUW branches in this state and around the country offer local scholarships to women enrolled in college. Our scholarship program is in its third year, having so far granted four substantial scholarships: three to women who have transferred from South Seattle College to Washington public universities, and one to a B.A.S. student at Seattle Central College.

For the academic year 2021-2022, we will be granting scholarships of up to \$11,000 to women in financial need and good academic standing who will be entering their junior year at a WA public college or entering a Bachelor's program at a Seattle District College (formerly community colleges). Contact us at scholarships@aauw-seattle.org for more information.