



For Immediate Release

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For more information contact:

Michele Bresler, chair, Public Relations

The Alumnae of Northwestern University

847-869-1010; 847-867-5412 – [mbreslernua@gmail.com](mailto:mbreslernua@gmail.com)

PHOTOS AVAILABLE

### **Eight Northwestern Students Granted 2023-2024 STEM Scholarships By The Alumnae of Northwestern University**

EVANSTON, Ill. --- The Alumnae of Northwestern University has selected eight students to receive 2023-2024 Alumnae STEM scholarships, which are awarded to students who excel in a STEM+ major (science, technology, engineering, mathematics, economics, and journalism). Criteria for selection include academic excellence, honors achieved, and financial need. The intent of this scholarship is to free students from work commitments so they may more vigorously pursue their chosen area of study and other university endeavors.

Carol Willis, president of the Alumnae, notes: “Our members are proud to support these talented and hard-working students pursuing STEM careers in diverse, highly competitive fields.” Elise Barack, chair of the STEM Committee, adds that “after reviewing 32 applications, the selection process was arduous given the outstanding qualifications of all the applicants.”

#### **Recipients of STEM Scholarships are:**

**Catherine Choi, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences (WCAS)**, from Bayside, NY, is a member of the class of 2025, as a candidate for a Bachelor of Science degree. Catherine is majoring in Global Health and Neuroscience and plans to apply to medical school while completing an accelerated MPH. Her goal is to become a surgical oncologist. She is also interested in serving communities where healthcare and medical expertise are most needed.

**Courtney Sandilar (WCAS)** from Glen Allen, VA, is a member of the class of 2024 and a candidate for the Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in cognitive science. She focuses on linguistics and communication sciences with the intent of becoming a pediatric speech

pathologist. Her plans include pursuing a master's degree to enable her to obtain a professional license.

**Felicia Mou (WCAS)** from Georgetown, IN, is a member of the class of 2025, and is a candidate for a Bachelor of Arts degree. She has a double major in neuroscience and psychology. She is interested in the mental health of children, with a goal of advancing their well-being. She plans to earn a PhD in Clinical Psychology.

**Isabella He (WCAS)** from Pittsford, NY, is a member of the class of 2025 and will earn a Bachelor of Arts degree. Her major is in biological sciences, which she hopes will lead her to medical school. She plans to pursue a joint MD/PhD degree and to work as a physician scientist in her own lab. She declares that her inspiration is her mother, a cancer survivor.

**Julia Paska (WCAS)**, member of the class of 2025, is from Carol Stream, Ill. She is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree with a concentration in biological sciences. Her future goal is to attend medical school with the intent of influencing the way that health care is delivered. She has studied health disparities in the general population and seeks to rectify these inequities.

**Melany Morales (WCAS)** from Hershey, PA, expects to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 2025. She is a double major in neuroscience and psychology. She finds neuroscience interesting due to its multidisciplinary applications. Wanting to understand the human brain and how it works, she plans to focus on its development over time. Research is a passion that she hopes will enable her to become either a clinical psychologist or a neuroscientist.

**Sophia Akinboro (WCAS)** from Brea, CA is a member of the class of 2025 and will earn a Bachelor of Arts degree. Her majors are global health and neuroscience. She hopes to pursue an MD/PhD dual degree after graduating from Northwestern. Utilizing a global perspective stimulated by her studies, she plans to give back to her community and other underserved populations by providing community-centered care to those dealing with health issues.

**Youssef Abdelhalim (McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science)** from Harrisburg, PA, is majoring in mechanical engineering with a concentration in aerospace. A member of the class of 2025, he expects to graduate with a Bachelor of Science as well as a Master's degree. He hopes to become an automotive/aerospace engineer with the intention of going into industry to lead teams of innovators who could revolutionize the aerospace industry. The end goal is to help create more sustainable air travel.

The Alumnae of Northwestern University is an all-volunteer organization of women that raises funds for a wide range of projects to benefit the University, showcasing the University's academic resources through its Continuing Education program, open to the community. Founded in 1916, the group celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> year of its continuing education programming in 2019. Since its beginning, the Alumnae has given more than \$9.5 million to the University in the form of grants, fellowships, scholarships, and an endowed professorship, as well as funding special University projects and summer internships. For more information, visit The Alumnae website ([www.nualumnae.org](http://www.nualumnae.org)).

NR 2023-24 STEM/mb