



## **For Immediate Release**

July 22, 2024

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## **Ten Northwestern Students Granted 2024-25 STEM Scholarships By The Alumnae of Northwestern University**

Evanston, Ill.—The Alumnae of Northwestern University has selected ten students to receive the 2024-2025 Alumnae STEM Scholarships, which are awarded to students who excel in a STEM discipline: including science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Criteria for selection include academic excellence, honors achieved, and financial need. The intent of this scholarship is to free rising juniors from work commitments so they may more vigorously pursue their chosen area of study and other university projects.

“The Alumnae of Northwestern University is proud to support these talented and hard-working students desirous of pursuing STEM related studies in order to realize careers in diverse and highly competitive fields,” notes Elise Barack, chair of the STEM selection committee. “The process is time-consuming and difficult in that there are so many deserving students whose talents and diligence all deserve recognition.”

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

**Ally Peek, School of Education and Social Policy (SESP)**, from Chicago, Ill., is a member of the class of 2026 and a candidate for a master’s degree in education and social policy. She is majoring in neuroscience and plans to be a researcher in public health, focusing on psychological disorders with neurological mechanisms for schizophrenia. She is double majoring in social policy as well.

**Bhavi Barnwal, McCormick School of Engineering (MC)**, from Naperville, Ill. is a member of the class of 2026 and is seeking a bachelor of science degree as well as a master's degree of science with a major in biomedical engineering and computer science. She is committed to improving post-diagnosis and post-treatment devices to facilitate patients' return to normal life.

**Brookelyn Slonaker, School of Communications (C)**, from Dayton, Ill., is a member of the class of 2026 seeking a bachelor of science degree in communication sciences and disorders. She chose her field of study because it balances science and helping people on a day-to-day basis. She is concerned about the significant gap in services available to minority populations.

**Charles Kalousek, McCormick School of Engineering (McC)**, is from Palos Heights, Ill., is a member of the class of 2026. He plans to receive a bachelor's degree in computer science. His primary interest is in learning about the software involved in computer engineering and technology. He'd like to be a team leader in the tech field and would love to work for Walt Disney Imagineering.

**Hanna Rebecca Rodriguez, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences (WCAS)**, from El Paso, Texas, is a member of the class of 2026. She seeks a bachelor of arts degree with a double major in neuroscience and global health. Her ultimate ambition is to pursue a career as a physician with her current interests spanning surgery, neurology, obstetrics/gynecology, pediatrics and emergency medicine. She has a deep desire to contribute meaningfully to the advancement of healthcare.

**Jessica Kim, (WCAS)** from Suwanee, Georgia, plans to receive her bachelor of arts degree as a member of the class of 2026. Her double major encompasses neuroscience and global health. She hopes to do research on new medicines for neuro-regenerative disorders including Alzheimer's Disease and ADHD. She is currently doing research at Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago.

**Kelsey Davis, (WCAS)** from Houston, Texas, will receive her bachelor of arts degree as a member of the class of 2026, majoring in neuroscience. Through her coursework and extended studies, her goal is to reach a comprehensive understanding of the brain. She aspires to bridge the gap between science and its practical applications.

**Sophia Jedziniak, (McC)** from Montgomery, Ill., is a member of the class of 2026 with a major in civil engineering. She is seeking both bachelor's and master's degrees. Her focus is on structural engineering as it pertains to architecture. Due to our changing climate, she is concerned about the resilience of infrastructure and ways in which to mitigate the effects of climate instability. She is also passionate about education and the possibilities of teaching as a career.

**William Collins, (McC)** from Westborough, Mass., is a member of the class of 2026. He hopes to graduate with a bachelor of science degree in biomedical engineering. William hopes to use his STEM studies to prepare for a job in the healthcare industry, specifically focusing on regenerative medicine. Currently, he is working on a research project to create a device that can deliver oxygen to tissue that lacks sufficient blood supply.

**Xitlalli Castaneda, (McC)** from Berwyn, Ill., is a member of the class of 2026. She is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in mechanical engineering with a minor in computer science. Xitlalli has always had an intense interest in outer space so decided to focus on mechanical engineering with a concentration on aerospace. The master's degree in mechanical engineering will enable her to perfect prototypes to assist in overcoming the limitations of the human body. She also aims to help make the aerospace industry more sustainable.

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 with the community through its Continuing Education Program, now in its 55<sup>th</sup> year. Founded in 1916, The Alumnae has given more than \$10 million to the University in the form of grants, fellowships, scholarships, an endowed professorship, funding for special projects, and summer internships. For more information, visit The Alumnae website ([nualumnae.org](http://nualumnae.org)).

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