



For immediate release:
June 1, 2026

For more information, contact
Michele Bresler, Public Relations Chair
The Alumnae of Northwestern University
847-867-5412 or mbreslernua@gmail.com

Fifteen Students Awarded 2026 Alumnae Undergraduate Research Grants

EVANSTON, Ill. -- The Alumnae of Northwestern University is pleased to honor 15 students who have been named as recipients of the Alumnae Undergraduate Research Grants. Funding for these grants comes from The Alumnae's Centennial Endowment for Undergraduate Research, established in 2016 to commemorate the organization's 100th anniversary. The Endowment, administered by the Office of Undergraduate Research, supports students from all academic areas, giving them opportunities to develop and complete independent research and creative projects across a wide range of fields. These students will work with faculty sponsors this summer to explore answers to questions raised by research projects from many fields of study.

Peter Civetta, director, Office of Undergraduate Research, notes: "Given the challenges that research is facing these days, this partnership with The Alumnae allows new researchers to explore and engage with the problems of the world, seeking solutions that can better people's knowledge and experience. We are deeply grateful that The Alumnae lets us support students and research in this way."

Recipients of \$4,000 grants and their sponsors are:

1. **Daniela Caceres**, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences (WCAS), sophomore
"Representations of Lesbian Mormonism"

Sponsor: Allison Wade, assistant professor of instruction, Art, Theory, Practice

2. **Mia El-Yafi**, School of Communication (C), junior
"Exploring the Recent Surge in Nonprofit Unionization"

Sponsor: Daniel Galvin, assistant professor, Political Science

3. **Kunmi Faseru** (WCAS) junior

"Therapist Wellbeing and Caregiver Engagement in Trauma-Impacted School Settings"

Sponsor: David Johnson, assistant professor, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

4. **Linda Kong** (WCAS) First Year
 “Code as Verse: Evaluating Computational Thinking in the Poetic Composition Process”
Sponsor: Connor Bain, PhD, Computer Science and Learning Sciences

5. **Ghino Lee** (C) sophomore
 “Rodney King Audio Documentary”
Sponsor: Jennifer Jones, associate professor, Sociology

6. **Grace Morley** (C) junior
 “Examining Accessibility of Civil Court Forms Provided to Self-Represented Litigants in the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania”
Sponsor: Dr. Jona Goldschmidt, professor emeritus, Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, Loyola University Chicago

7. **Libby Nook** (C) sophomore
 “Reframing the Neo-Western Film: Landscape, Labor, and the Absence of Female Objectification”
Sponsor: Erik Gernand, professor of instruction, Radio/TV/Film

8. **Orion Rea** (WCAS) first year
 “Visualization of Gender and Emotion in Twelfth Century Devotional Objects”
Sponsor: Christina Normore, associate professor, Art History

9. **Jeter Riggs**, McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science (McC) junior
 “Reinterpreting Deering: Preservation, Renovation, and Institutional Identity at Northwestern”
Sponsor: Eric Vincent Garcia, associate professor of instruction, Civil Engineering

10. **Pratyush Shahir** (McC) junior
 “Development of a Biocompatible Middle-Ear Microphone Suspension System for Cochlear Implants”
Sponsor: Claus-Peter Richter, vice chair for research, Department of Otolaryngology

11. **Sandy Tecotzky** (WCAS) junior
 “The New York City Department of Street Cleaning's role in the embrace of progressivism in 1890s Lower Manhattan”
Sponsor: Keith Woodhouse, associate professor, History

12. **Alexa Nunez Magana** (WCAS) junior
 “Children Matter: The Impact of Older Siblings in the Linguistic Input of a Bilingual Child”
Sponsor: Adriana Weisleder, assistant professor, Communication Sciences and Disorders

13. **Maiya Wahl**, Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications (J) junior
 “Citizenship as Demonstrated by U Visa Applicants”

Sponsor: Clayton Brown, professor of instruction, Director of Undergraduate Studies, Radio/TV, Film

14. Jessica Webber (WCAS) sophomore

“How SMS Message Intervention on Child Restraint System (CRS) Installation Methods Affects Child Passenger Safety Scores (CPaSS)”

Sponsor: Michelle Macy, research professor for the director of Child Health Research

15. Charles White (J) junior

“The Latin Learner's First Words: Struggles and Solutions to Learning the Lexicon of a Dead Language”

Sponsor: Abbe Walker, assistant professor of instruction, Classics

#

The Alumnae of Northwestern University is an all-volunteer organization of women that raises funds for a wide range of projects to benefit Northwestern University, while sharing the University’s academic resources with the community through its Continuing Education program. Founded in 1916, The Alumnae has given more than \$10.6 million to the University in the form of grants, fellowships, scholarships, summer internships and endowed professorships. For more information, visit The Alumnae’s website (nualumnae.org) or its Continuing Education website (nualumnaecourses.org).