

# Colorado Women's Education Foundation announces its 2023 scholarship awards to high-achieving women pursuing economic self-sufficiency through education



CWEF's Board of Trustees announce the awarding of 35 scholarships totaling \$107,000 to women ranging in age from 25 to 54 years old, which is a 9% increase in number of recipients and 16% increase in total financial support. These 35 scholarships, ranging from \$2,000 to \$5,000, distribute financial assistance to 35 women working to achieve their educational and career goals and provide the opportunity for more economic self-sufficiency. A recipient shares, "I can't believe this, I am just so excited and filled with so many emotions. This scholarship will help me and my family get through my last year of this program. We have sacrificed so much in the pursuit of my master's degree in social work."

These high achieving women have an average GPA of 3.67, with 10 women maintaining a 4.00. They are attending 21 accredited educational institutions of higher learning and pursuing quite varied fields of study including accounting, animal science, business, counseling, educational leadership and policy, entomology, ethnic studies, herbalism, history, human services, nursing, occupational therapy, psychology, physical education, public health, quantitative finance, radiology, social work, and more. One recipient shares, "This scholarship means a lot for me and every woman like me out there. So, I would like to thank everyone who made this opportunity available for us."

With an average age of 34 years old, 23 or 66% are first-generation college students. Their programs range from one certification, to nine associates, nine bachelor's, 13 master's, and two doctorate degrees, with one woman in medical school becoming a physician. Almost half or 46% are earning advanced degrees. They reside in 14 different cities in Colorado and 60% of the women are racially diverse.

Seventeen of these women are caring for and/or supporting 38 dependents and 15 are single mothers. They vary in marital status: 21 are single, seven are divorced, and seven are married. Their average income is less than \$36,000. Another recipient shares, "This is the best news I have had yet! Thank you so much for all your help and support. You have no idea how much receiving this scholarship means to me considering my financial circumstances."

While these statistics offer insights about the scholarship recipients, they do not capture the full impact of the CWEF scholarships. The recipients share that the scholarships help them transcend serious financial constraints, but more importantly, they feel a sense of pride and emotional support knowing CWEF is investing in them and their future. Some have even expressed that the communication and encouragement they receive from CWEF is equally or more valuable to them than the funding itself.

CWEF's mission is to invest in women who are transforming their lives through education... for themselves, their families, and their communities. Since its inception in 1976, CWEF has provided over 700 scholarships to women totaling almost \$750,000.