

The Colorado Women's Education Foundation announces its 2022 scholarship awards to high-achieving women pursuing economic self-sufficiency through education



CWEF's Board of Trustees announce the awarding of 32 scholarships totaling \$92,000 to women ranging in age from 25 to 59 years old, which is a 28% increase in number of recipients and 156% increase in total financial support. These 32 scholarships, ranging from \$2,000 to \$5,000, distribute assistance to 32 women working to achieve their educational and career goals and provide the opportunity for more economic self-sufficiency. A recipient shares, "Thanks so much for this opportunity to succeed with CWEF! I am lucky to experience the support and to build this relationship with wonderful women. I am very grateful."

These high achieving women have an average GPA of 3.73, with 11 women maintaining a 4.00.

They are attending 17 accredited educational institutions of higher learning and pursuing quite varied fields of study including accounting, animal science, biology, conservation, counseling, environmental science, herbalism, history, human services, information technology, mechanical engineering, Montessori education, nursing, paralegal, pre-law, psychology, public health, social work, song writing, and more. One recipient shares, "It is an honor to be chosen for this scholarship and my aspirations of becoming a Nurse Practitioner are moving forward. It's easing the financial burden of an advanced education and giving me the opportunity to learn valuable skills to serve my community."

With an average age of 36 years old, 16 or 50% are first-generation college students. Three women are obtaining certifications, seven are working towards associates degrees, 11 are earning bachelor's degrees, nine are pursuing master's degrees, and two women are in medical school to become physicians. They reside in 18 different cities in Colorado and 38% of the women are racially diverse.

Sixteen of these women are caring for and/or supporting 34 dependents and 13 are single mothers. They vary in marital status: 17 of them are single, eight are divorced, six are married, and one is widowed. Their average income is less than \$35,000. Another recipient shares, "This is amazing news as I'm taking more classes this semester and was definitely worried about juggling caretaking, housecleaning, and three hard classes! It is an amazing opportunity for me to focus on school and hopefully be able to graduate sooner."

The statistics describing these women only tell part of the story, however. The recipients tell CWEF the scholarships help them transcend serious financial constraints, but the most outstanding gift they receive is a sense of pride and emotional support because CWEF is investing in them and their future. Some recipients share that the communication and encouragement they receive from CWEF is equal to or even more significant in value to them than the funding they receive.

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 nearly 700 scholarships to women totaling almost \$640,000.