



2024 Scholarship Recipients (12 Awarded)



Elise Norris
Cass Tech
High School

Earning a 3.72 GPA at Cass Tech High School, **Elise Norris** is dedicated to volunteering at Detroit Enterprise Academy and with LIFE Leader. "I have been volunteering at Detroit Enterprise Academy for 7 years, I volunteer my time whenever I am available during the weekdays."

After graduation, Elise plans to attend Wayne State University and major in accounting.

According to her counselor, "Elise Norris is a hardworking, intelligent and humble student with a pleasant personality and a joy to be around. Since I have known Elise, she has demonstrated a love of learning, and I am certain that she has the level of commitment necessary to succeed in college and beyond."



Jennifer Gaytan
Notre Dame Prep
High School

Earning a 4.089 GPA at Notre Dame Prep High School, **Jennifer Gaytan** is an art club youth coordinator for the breast cancer community. Jennifer said that "Reflecting on my high school career I truly believe that nothing is worth your time if you don't like doing it. I loved helping the cancer community, so I continued to help each year."

After graduation, Jennifer plans to attend the University of Michigan and major in engineering.

According to her counselor, "Jenny sets high standards for herself and works hard to maintain those standards."



Stephanie Lopez
Cesar Chavez
High School

Earning a 3.725 GPA at Cesar Chavez High School, **Stephanie Lopez** said that "One of the most difficult obstacles I encountered was in Geometry. The language barrier made it even harder to understand the material, as all my lessons and assignments were in English, a language I was still learning. Despite this, my determination to succeed, along with the support of my parents, kept me moving forward."

After graduation, Stephanie plans to attend the University of Michigan Dearborn and major in criminal justice.

According to her math teacher, "Stephanie sets an example in classroom and shows leadership on her basketball team."



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Nicolas Lopez-Gonzalez
Cesar Chavez
High School

Earning a 3.7475 GPA at Cesar Chavez High School, **Nicolas Lopez-Gonzalez** is part of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Civic Youth Ensembles, where he participates in the violin section 1 in the Civic Philharmonic Orchestra. Nicolas said “My path as a musician has been complex, from having to leave my country to starting over as a violinist. Adversities closed many doors in my life, but I always kept my goal clear: to play on stage and share classical music with its stories.”

After graduation, Nicolas plans to attend the University of Michigan and major in music performance.

According to the MSU school director, “I discovered that Nicolas is talented and intelligent, exceptionally kind, patient, and disciplined. He has always been willing to put in the hard work required to excel in a difficult discipline such as music.”



Bryan Pantoja
Cesar Chavez
High School

Earning a 3.963 GPA at Cesar Chavez High School, **Bryan Pantoja** said that “Since I was a child, my family always taught me that empathy and education would be two of the most important things guiding me throughout my life.”

After graduation, Bryan plans to attend the University of Michigan and major in biomedical research.

According to his math teacher, “Bryan is a consistent leader in the classroom and regularly takes time to explain concepts to his classmates.”



Benjamin Valles
Flushing High School

Earning a 4.015 GPA at Flushing High School, **Benjamin Valles** volunteers his time at elementary schools and says “Helping young students discover books they're excited about has been incredibly rewarding, as I've seen how even a small spark of interest in reading can open doors to new worlds for them.”

After graduation, Benjamin hopes to attend the University of Michigan and major in mechanical engineering.

According to his counselor, “Benjamin is an incredibly dedicated and resilient student who has demonstrated remarkable perseverance in the face of significant personal challenges. Throughout high school, Benjamin maintained an impressive GPA, exceeding a 4.0, while simultaneously managing multiple responsibilities, including tutoring, and working at both Adidas and Levi's.”



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Aaliyah Diaz
Waterford Mott
High School

Earning a 3.445 GPA at Waterford Mott High School, **Aaliyah Diaz** said, "Neither of my parents were able to attend college let alone even high school. From a very young age I've always known I wanted to attend college and be successful to make my parents proud and be able to achieve something that they couldn't."

After graduation, Aaliyah plans to attend the Oakland University and major in Criminal Justice with a goal to become an attorney.

According to her teacher, "she has always been a leader at school. As her confidence in her academics grew, so did her ability to motivate her peers."



Jazmin Hernandez
Waterford Mott
High School

Jazmin Hernandez attends Waterford Mott High School and says, "My dad sacrificed everything to become an American citizen and give my family and I everything. My dad is my biggest role model, and I want to continue to work hard and push myself everyday so I can achieve everything my dad couldn't."

After graduation, Jazmin plans to attend Oakland University and major in pre-veterinary medicine.

According to her employer, "Jazmin is not just a talented worker; she is also a person of strong character. She has shown empathy and respect towards colleagues and clients alike, making her a pleasure to work with."



David Barba
Western International
High School

Earning a 4.225 GPA at Western International High School, **David Barba** he said that "Ever since I was a child, I always knew I wanted to go to college. My parents always emphasized the importance of education. To them, education is priceless and can help you accomplish everything you can dream of. I want to go to college not just for me, but to show my parents that their sacrifices were worth it."

After graduation, David plans to attend the University of Michigan and major in Finance or Economics.

According to his teacher, "David is mature and receptive, knowledgeable and motivated. His work ethic coupled with his level of accountability and determination to master whatever is put in front of him make him an asset to wherever he may be. He is one of those students you wish you could have a classroom full of."



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Amy Gonzalez
Western International
High School

Earning a 3.6944 GPA at Western International High School, **Amy Gonzalez** said her goal is, “to pursue a career, I would treasure and secure a job that could support my family. I wanted to give my parents a break because although they would forever see me as their child, I saw the sacrifices they would make.”

After graduation, Amy plans to attend the University of Michigan and major in computer science.

According to her teacher, “She set an example for others with her kindness, empathy, sense of humor and enviable work ethic.”



Esmeralda Hernandez
Western International
High School

Earning a 3.7222 GPA at Western International High School, **Esmeralda Hernandez** said, “My parents always told us about the sacrifices they made coming to the United States. The older I got the more I understood their sacrifices, making me strive in school.”

After graduation, Esmeralda hopes to attend The University of Michigan and major in environmental engineering.

According to her teacher, “Esmeralda's warmth and compassion also set her apart. She consistently shows a sincere interest in the well-being of her peers and is known for her kind, supportive nature.”



Princess Nunez-Osorio
Western International
High School

Earning a 3.7027 GPA at Western International High School, **Princess Nunez-Osorio** said, “I overcame the language barrier by studying hard and relying on my trusted people. English helped me communicate more with those who are now my friends and my best support. English also increased my performance in classes and allowed me to ask teachers for help.”

After graduation, Princess plans to attend the University of Michigan and major in engineering.

According to her teacher, ““What stands out most about Princess is her resilience and growth in learning English. Her growth in this area since I have known her has been incredible. Now, as a senior, she is completely fluent in English and is the one helping translate her classmates' questions to me.”