



2025 Scholarship Recipients (13 Awarded)



Selena Alegria-Guerrero
Cass Tech

Earning a 3.80 GPA at Cass Tech High School, **Selena Alegria-Guerrero** said “Family is the heart of Mexican culture, and my family has always emphasized unity and resilience. I grew up watching my parents work tirelessly to provide for us.”

After graduation, Elise plans to attend the University of Michigan and major in business/marketing.

According to her counselor, “Selena consistently provides thoughtful work that reflects strong critical thinking.”



Nayeli Cabrera
Cass Tech

Earning a 3.72 GPA at Cass Tech High School, **Nayeli Cabrera** enjoys volunteering for Create for Kids. Nayeli said “This club allows students to come together and organize creative projects to donate to children in the hospital. This club allows me to put a smile on a sick child’s face and helps inspire them to have strength.

After graduation, Nayeli plans to attend the University of Michigan and major in Political Science.

According to her counselor, “Nayeli leads in group discussions / projects and has a good rapport with other students.”



Alexander Apolonio
Notre Dame Prep

Alexander Apolonio plans to attend Oakland University after graduation. He carries a 3.72 GPA at Notre Dame Prep High School and wants to major in Architecture, a goal that came from working with his father in the family construction business.

Through his school he volunteers to help the homeless. “Through volunteer work I have learned that nothing in life is guaranteed, I must take advantage of every opportunity I get.”

His program advisor describes him as “a wonderful citizen of the school community who is ready to mentor others.”



Nicole Betancourt
Notre Dame Prep

Nicole Betancourt attends Notre Dame Prep where she carries a 3.68 GPA. She is the captain of the Cheer Team and through her involvement with the team she “learned the importance of working with all kinds of people and depending on one another.”

Rated a “seek out” candidate by her Religion teacher, Nicole is described as “a driven person with great confidence in herself and strong interpersonal skills.”

Nicole wants to attend the University of Indiana majoring in marketing with a focus on business marketing and brand management.



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Felipe Mireles
Waterford Mott

Described by his math teacher as having “impeccable character” and being “selfless in terms of helping his classmates achieve their highest academic success” **Felipe Mireles** wants to attend Michigan State University majoring in Biomedical Sciences.

Felipe attends Waterford Mott High School where he carries a 3.16 GPA with a heavy honors class schedule.

Felipe credits his parents sacrifices and hard work for motivating him to “achieve my academic and career goals.” “I strive to one day be able to give back to my parents and make a difference with my career.”



Xiomara Ortega
Detroit Cristo Rey

Xiomara Ortega attends Detroit Cristo Rey High School where she carries a 3.96 GPA. Her goal is to attend the University of Michigan and major in Biomedical Engineering for a career in Dentistry.

Xiomara’s Latin teacher describes her as “extremely motivated” saying she “focused on college from her freshman year.” She spent four years on the student council and volunteered for numerous clubs while being a member of the National Honor Society.

Through her community service Xiomara “learned that all (volunteer) work is beneficial no matter how small the action is and to lead or contribute means it should come directly from the heart.”



Megan Casas
Saginaw United

A senior at Saginaw United High School, **Megan Casas**, carries a 3.27 GPA. She plans on attending Delta College and majoring in the Art program next fall.

Rated a “seek out” candidate by her Art teacher Megan is described as one who “helps motivate friends both academically and in their personal lives.”

She has been creating her own characters and putting them into art pieces that earned her spots in art shows since elementary school. Megan is in honors art at Saginaw high and is looking forward to her career as an artist.



Jayleen Enriquez-Vasquez
Western International

Jayleen Enriquez-Vasquez attends Western International High in Southwest Detroit where she carries a 3.27 GPA with numerous AP and Honors classes in her schedule. She wants to attend the University of Michigan Dearborn in the fall, majoring in business.

She started her own nail business as a sophomore and has run it successfully since that time. That experience helped set her up for success at U of M.

“I see education as a way to open doors for the future” she says. Her Recommender adds “Jayleen is dedicated to her education and has remained clear eyed even while juggling her nail business.”



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Pedro Hernandez
Western International

Pedro Hernandez has a 3.86 GPA at Western International High School. His academic advisor rates him “extraordinary” describing Pedro as one who “exudes discipline and optimism”.

Pedro volunteers at the Detroit Recreational Center and his high school pool helping teach younger swimmers, setting up the pool and encouraging the team members when they become anxious before competitions. “I love seeing the kids outperform their own expectations” he says. Through volunteering he “learned that a good way to give back to your community is giving back to the place where community thrives.”

He wants to attend Central Michigan in the fall with a career goal of being a pharmacist.



Andrea Rodriguez
Western International

Andrea Rodriguez wants to attend the University of Michigan and major in Mechanical Engineering. She is on the school robotics team and is interested in motorsports and the automotive industry. With a 4.16 weighted GPA she ranks #3 in her class at Western International High School.

Her math teacher and robotics coach describes her as having “an impeccable work ethic combined with an incredible natural intelligence.” “I have never been more sure that a student will succeed in life than I am with Andrea” he says.

Andrea credits her older sister with inspiring her. “To me College always seemed like an unreachable imaginary thing” she says. But when her sister engaged a school counselor to help convince her parents she could attend and succeed in college, Andrea set her sights on doing the same. Her hard work and academic success show she is ready.



Liliana Garay-Ramirez
Western International

Liliana Garay-Ramirez attends Western International High School. She carries a 3.18 GPA with numerous AP and Honors classes on her transcript. Liliana wants to attend Wayne State University and major in healthcare with a goal of becoming a pediatric nurse.

She credits her Honduran heritage and her mother for her strong work ethic. “My upbringing has taught me to form my goals and to shape what I want my future to look like” she says.

Her teacher describes her as “a great leader who is charismatic and motivational towards her peers, dedicated to the Southwest Detroit Community and committed to community service.”



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Fernando Cuellar
Western International

Fernando Cuellar says the school did not come easy for him until he met his third-grade teacher. “She was patient when others were not, kind when I felt defeated, and confident that I could learn if I just believed I could.” “The confidence she helped me build carried me far beyond her classroom” he says.

With a 3.45 GPA at Western International High School, Fernando wants to attend the University of Michigan, major in engineering and become an automotive engineer.

Fernando volunteers on Detroit Beautification Day painting walls, picking up trash and planting flowers. “It is hard work but seeing a once forgotten block come to life brings incredible pride” he says adding “I plan to continue volunteering and take on leadership roles, inspiring other to contribute.”



Adriana Olivares-Hernandez
Western International

Adriana Olivares-Hernandez attends Western International High School and has a 3.72 GPA. Her transcript has a heavy AP and honors courseload. Her goal is to attend Wayne State University in the fall to major in medicine and become a pediatrician.

Adriana sights her older sister who was the first in her family to attend college as an inspiring role model. “I see her as hardworking, intelligent and independent” she states. That helped shape Adriana’s goals and set her sights on healthcare.

A self-described introvert Adiana says a challenge she faced was to overcome her shyness and poor communication skills. By working with others and rotating groups in an engineering class she developed her communication skills becoming more comfortable with strangers and achieving an A in the class.