

HOPE

GIVING CIRCLE

Helping Others through the
Power of Education

Newsletter

HOPE GIVING CIRCLE

The HOPE Giving Circle brings together influential women in the community with a common goal of supporting women pursuing higher education at Harper College and empowering them to reach their full potential through scholarship support, mentoring and leadership development opportunities. The program provides financial support and on-going mentoring for female Harper College students who are completing their final year at Harper and continuing on to a four-year college or university to pursue a bachelor's degree. Each HOPE Scholarship award is valued at \$10,000. 100% of donations to the HOPE Giving Circle are tax deductible. Visit harpercollege.edu/hope to learn more.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The HOPE Giving Circle has **32 members**.

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED OR PLEDGES RECIEVED

\$224,000

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Our collective impact.

When the HOPE Giving Circle launched six years ago, the goal was to create a community of women who support fellow women striving to reach their educational goals. I believe we have done just that. And I marvel at how far HOPE has come in just these few short years. This academic year marks our sixth "class" of HOPE Scholars who have been supported through scholarship, mentoring and professional development opportunities.

At the HOPE Scholarship Awards event in August, HOPE members, supporters and friends were able to experience the mission in action. We were delighted to be able to gather both in person and virtually to celebrate the award of four \$10,000 scholarships to this year's exceptional female scholars. Since HOPE's inception, we've raised nearly \$224,000 and supported a total of 18 students – including 14 who have transferred to four-year institutions and celebrated some who have graduated with their bachelor's and either joined the workforce or are pursuing further education. It's wonderful and humbling to realize the impact we are making together.

Maliha, Marion, Samantha and Minhall – the 2021-22 scholarship recipients who you'll meet and learn about in the following pages -- exemplify the true mission of the HOPE Giving Circle. They are current and future leaders who, through our support, now have the opportunity to reach for their full potential. I believe the impact made through our collective efforts will reverberate for years to come.

My sincerest thanks for your support and enthusiasm for the mission of the HOPE Giving Circle.

Thank you,



Georgeanna Mehr, Chair
HOPE Giving Circle Executive Committee

Meet the 2021–2022 HOPE Scholarship Recipients!



Maliha Amir

Maliha Amir is working toward her Associate in Engineering Science. She is an Engineering Pathways student and maintains a 3.79 GPA. She is a first-generation college student; her father emigrated from Pakistan to pursue opportunities for his family in the United States. She comes

from a large family, including five siblings who are all in college. Her interest in engineering started very young. Maliha recalls disassembling and reassembling furniture her grandfather, a furniture maker, had put together just to see how things worked. She hopes to focus on electrical or mechanical engineering.

Marion Bensing

Marion Bensing is working toward her Associate in Science in environmental biology with the ultimate goal of going to medical school and becoming a pediatrician. Her dream to become a pediatrician is inspired by her childhood health diagnosis that greatly impacted her vision. She credits the treatment she received from her pediatrician as the catalyst for pursuing this goal. She maintains a 4.0 GPA.



Minhall Jamali

Minhall Jamali, a first-generation college student, is working toward her Associate in Arts with a focus on economics. She hopes to double major in economics and math at a four-year institution. She dreams of pursuing a career as a public policy advisor with the

government. Minhall is inspired to continue to the highest levels of education by her mother, who grew up in a small Pakistani village with few educational opportunities for women. Later in her career, Minhall hopes to earn her Ph.D. in economics and become a professor. She maintains a 4.0 GPA and is a member of the honors program.



Samantha Ernst

Samantha Ernst is working toward her Associate in Engineering Science at Harper with a specific focus on computer science. Samantha decided on this path after her dad, who was a Network Engineer at US Cellular, introduced

her to MIT's scratch, a block based visual programming language at age 11. She notes she enjoys the logic of programming language and pursued several computer science classes in high school, and now as an Engineering Pathways student at Harper. She plans to transfer to U of I after graduation from Harper. She maintains a 4.0 GPA and is part of the Harper Promise program.

The Power of Mentoring

At the HOPE scholarship reception in August, Linda Kolbusz-Kosan shared a message on the impact of mentoring from Harper students in their own words.

Here's a snapshot of what students had to say:

"The value of a HOPE mentor is having a person who can help guide you with their own experiences and knowledge as you navigate your academic, career, and personal goals."

"The value of a HOPE mentor is not only to open up networks and opportunities, but also makes me feel supported, loved and gives me confidence to overcome difficult times."

"Mentors are your constant cheerleaders rooting for you to get to the finish line!"

"I think of all of the HOPE ladies as my HOPE mentor(s)."



Updates from HOPE Scholarship Alumni

HOPE Giving Circle awards \$10,000 Scholarships

The HOPE Giving Circle awarded \$10,000 scholarships to four remarkable students during the scholarship celebration in August. The event marked a total of \$180,000 in scholarships awarded since HOPE's inception. Members, donors and friends gathered both in-person and watched virtually to celebrate the new class of recipients.

Scholarships are awarded to female students entering their second year at Harper who are planning to transfer to a four-year institution to complete a bachelor's degree. In addition to the scholarship, the HOPE Giving Circle provides mentoring, professional development and leadership opportunities. To watch the recording of the celebration or to learn more about HOPE please visit harpercollege.edu/hope.



Remembering Betty Hull

HOPE Charter Member Betty Hull passed away in August. Betty's passion for empowering women in their educational pursuits was acknowledged through her family's

request for memorial gifts to be made to the HOPE Giving Circle. Betty served on the HOPE Executive Committee and the HOPE Scholarship Committee. She will be missed.

HOPE SCHOLARSHIP GROWING IMPACT

2016 (HOPE Launch)	2021 (Cumulative)
28 Donors	93 Donors
\$20,000 Raised	\$224,000 Raised
One Scholarship	14 Scholarships (4 awarded for 2021-2022 academic year)
\$10,000 Awarded	\$180,000 Awarded

SABRINA: I graduated from DePaul in August with my bachelor's degree in accounting with a minor in management information systems. I have accepted an offer to join Deloitte as a Tax Consultant starting in January, and I am studying for the CPA exam in the meantime.

RACHEL: Hi HOPE Giving Circle Members! It has been more than six months since I started my full-time job at Aon. Work has been super busy, especially with my responsibility of managing the summer interns and studying for my actuarial exams. I still can't believe it's been more than four years when I got my HOPE scholarship, and I am so grateful to have all of you ladies as my mentors!

ARIANNA: Hello HOPE members! I recently graduated from Loyola University of Chicago in May with my bachelor's degree in biology. This September I will be heading to Sanibel Island, Florida to start a two-month internship at the CROW Clinic, a wildlife rehabilitation center. I hope you are all doing well and staying healthy!

OYINKANSOLA: I am currently finishing my studies in France at a university called ESMOD Paris and working at a PR firm. It's been a once in a lifetime opportunity and couldn't have done it without the women of the HOPE Giving Scholarship.

ARIANA: Hi everyone! I am looking forward to starting my second year at Dominican University and continuing my studies toward a degree in biology. I've been working more hours at my local public library and have been enjoying being surrounded by books! Well wishes to you all!

NICOLE: Hello HOPE Giving Circle members! This summer I was busy working on my physics research internship at NIU. For my project, I ran simulations on tau neutrino interactions and wrote a lot of code. I moved into my dorm at Illinois Tech and I am excited about the semester, learning more about aerospace engineering and Chicago!

KEELY: Hello HOPE family! A lot of great things are happening in my life. I have moved down to Houston, TX and I've started class at the University of Houston (it is HOT)! I am currently focusing on networking as well as perfecting my application to get into the university's top ranked entrepreneurship program!

JESSICA: I am super excited about finishing my fourth and final semester of nursing school at Harper and moving on to my BSN adventure at Purdue University.

AMANDA: Hello everyone, I just graduated from Harper College with my Associate in Science degree in May. I am looking forward to attending DePaul University this fall semester to major in Biology and minor in Chemistry and Mathematics.

JOIN THE HOPE GIVING CIRCLE

Membership: Begins with a minimum annual gift or pledge of \$1,000.

Supporter: Begins with a minimum annual gift or pledge of \$250.

100% of your donation is tax deductible and will be directed to the HOPE Scholarship Fund.

To join or learn more, contact **Shannon Hynes** at **847.925.6701** or at **shynes@harpercollege.edu**

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JOIN US FOR OUR *Fall Social Event*

Chicago Candy Companies, a seminar
from Harper Community Education

Tuesday, November 2, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

**Wojcik Conference Center
Harper College**

To RSVP, visit harpercollege.edu/hope or call **847.925.6701**

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS



Linda J. Lang



Sponsorship Opportunities Available

HOPE Giving Circle event sponsorships are currently available. Event sponsorships help underwrite the cost of these events so that **100%** of member donations can go toward scholarships.

Please contact Shannon Hynes at **847.925.6701** or **shynes@harpercollege.edu** for more information.