

2021-2022 Scholarship Recipients

Maliha Amir, 2021-2022 Recipient

Hello HOPE Giving Circle members! I wish you from the bottom of my heart to have a Happy Valentine's Day with your loved ones. I hope you enjoyed the holiday season with your family and friends. In the fall of 2021, I took 18 credits as well as I was working part time. The time management was rough but with a little bit of effort in making a schedule and sticking with it, I was able to finish strong this semester. After the semester is over, it is now time to start applying to transfer schools. With Pathways Program to University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, the transfer journey process is simple, however, I am planning to apply to other schools such as University of Wisconsin-Madison and University of Illinois at Chicago. As of spring semester, I am planning to take 18 credits and the class that I am most excited about is where I get to build my own 3-D Printer! Thank you so much for all your effort in supporting my education. Without your support, I would not have come this far. I am looking forward to seeing you at the next HOPE Circle event!



Maliha Amir

Marion Bensing, 2021-2022 Recipient

Happy Valentine's Day to members and supporters of the HOPE Giving Circle! I hope you all had a well-deserved relaxing holiday season and were able to find the time to spend with your family. Since we last saw each other, some exciting life events have occurred. This past fall I was able to maintain my 4.0 GPA after taking organic chemistry, physics and honors speech. I was also accepted into one of my first transfer schools, Loyola University Chicago. In the meantime, I've been wrapping up on my other transfer school applications which include Northwestern, Boston College, Marquette University, etc. In regard to extracurriculars, I was elected president of Phi Theta Kappa for Harper's PTK chapter. This position has allowed me and my fellow officers to plan out multiple cultural events and service projects including habitat restoration outings at Deer Grove Forest Preserve and a tie dye mask making event. I've also been involved as president in my Scientific Journal Discussion Club which has grown with new membership. I can't wait to see what the spring holds and I credit my success to all of you supporting me. Thank you all so much and I look forward to seeing you again soon!



Marion Bensing

Samantha Ernst, 2021-2022 Recipient

Hello and Happy Valentine's Day, Hope Giving Circle members! I hope you are all doing well! The previous fall semester was pretty difficult for me, but I'm happy to have made it through and I'm hoping that the time-management skills I developed last semester will help me during the spring semester! I have just finished applying to colleges. I will be graduating this spring with an associate degree in engineering science and am hopeful that I will be able to transfer to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I'm excited for this spring semester because it is heavy in computer science courses, which will allow me to delve deeper into my major. I will be working part-time as a student aide at Harper as well. Over the fall semester, I've learned how difficult it can be to balance school with work; I had to cut back on my hours part of the way through the fall semester to focus on my education. This scholarship will allow me to focus full-time on my studies once I transfer, which will be extremely valuable. Thank you all so much, and again, Happy Valentine's Day!



Samantha Ernst



Minhall Jamali, 2021-2022 Recipient

Hello HOPE Giving Circle Members! I hope your 2022 kicked off to a great start. I'd like to deliver some quick updates about myself. This semester was stressful, as I was taking 19 credit hours, but I was able to come out successful. My mentor Linda has been a great support system throughout all of this. I've also made some great friends and finally felt a part of Harper's campus, as my first year was fully online. As for activities, I became the co-captain of Harper's Speech and Debate team. Currently, we are preparing for state and regional tournaments. Lastly, I have begun my college applications, having my eye on UIUC specifically. I have also begun applying to internships, with a focus in finance and public policy. I'm truly excited for what's in store next semester. Overall, I feel extremely grateful for being a part of this community and I know I will cherish it for years to come. Once again, thank you for your support!

We asked, HOPE alumni answered! How did receiving the HOPE Scholarship impact your life?



Keely McEney, 2020-2021 HOPE Recipient

Without the HOPE Scholarship, I would have never been able to apply and get accepted into the Wolff Center for Entrepreneurship (at University of Houston), the number one entrepreneurship program in the country. I am so grateful for the countless opportunities I have been given that will impact my life forever.



Amanda Mirczuk, 2020-2021 HOPE Recipient

The HOPE Foundation has generously offered a myriad of opportunities for me to continue cultivating myself into a more well-rounded individual. With the HOPE Scholarship, I have been able to advance my education at DePaul University as a STEM major, I have been welcomed into a group of accomplished women who regularly model many of the same core values and principles that I hold in high acclaim, and I have had the incredible privilege of being advised by my admirable mentor, Dr. Anna Marie Yates.



Jessica Shi, 2020-2021 HOPE Recipient

Because of HOPE, I will be able to continue my BSN education at Purdue University in January 2022 and become one step closer to my dream goal — CRNA!



Aleska Schwartz, 2019-2020 HOPE Recipient

The HOPE program has taken financial stress off of the transition from Harper to UIUC. I am very thankful for HOPE and with my career beginning soon, I am very excited to give back to the program that has given me so much.



Sabrina Martinez, 2018-2019 HOPE Recipient

Receiving the HOPE Scholarship has impacted my life because it has helped me feel more confident in my ability to succeed. It made it possible for me to attend DePaul University, which has led to many opportunities, and I am extremely grateful and blessed to be a HOPE alumna.



Arianna Mormino, 2018-2019 HOPE Recipient

Receiving the HOPE scholarship has changed my life in so many ways and has truly been a blessing to me. Whether it be through the support I've gotten from the Giving Circle, the guidance and encouragement I've received from my mentor Linda Kolbusz-Kosan, or the leadership opportunities that I have been able to be a part of with the scholarship, HOPE has helped shape me into the confident, independent scholar and woman I am today.



Emma Rutherford, 2018-2019 HOPE Recipient

The HOPE scholarship has allowed me to fully pursue my passions and dreams. The scholarship has helped me surmount my college debt and has afforded me the opportunity to make lifelong bonds with the lovely women of the HOPE community. It has also inspired me to build my career and work hard so that I can be give back to the HOPE scholarship program and provide more women the same opportunity I was graciously given. When we come together, we can build a safer, more empowering tomorrow for our sisters and daughters.



Rachel Kereszturi, 2017-2018 HOPE Recipient

HOPE inspires me to pay it forward and makes me want to help change the lives of future HOPE recipients.



Kayla Karbowski, 2016-2017 inaugural recipient

I am working at Clinton Elementary School as a special education teacher in U-46 and I am a Special Olympics coach in the district. This past fall I started classes at Northern Illinois University for my approval in English as a second language and some online classes through Learner's Edge to increase my knowledge of teaching reading and classroom management. I am grateful for the HOPE Giving Circle and am blessed for the support they have given me through the years. It is crazy to think I am now in my third year of teaching. I wish everyone the best and hope everyone is staying safe!



THE HOPE GIVING CIRCLE

The HOPE Giving Circle brings together influential women of diverse backgrounds with a common goal of supporting women in achieving their educational goals and empowering them to reach their full potential. Members combine their resources to make a greater collective impact on the lives of women pursuing higher education at Harper College. Through scholarship support, mentoring, professional development opportunities and other means, the HOPE Giving Circle is committed to creating and enhancing educational and leadership opportunities for women.

Learn more or join today: harpercollege.edu/hope

SAVE THE DATE

HOPE Giving Circle Women at the Table *Breakfast and Panel Discussion*

Friday, April 8

8 a.m.

Join members and supporters of the HOPE Giving Circle for an engaging panel discussion featuring women in media and communication. Hear from inspiring women on the opportunities, successes and challenges facing women who have carved out careers in media and communication.

Learn more by visiting harpercollege.edu/hope

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