



For Immediate Release
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Business and Professional Women's Foundation Scholarships Help Women Advance Their Careers through Education

Washington, DC -- Five women, including one veteran, are one step closer to fulfilling their dream of finishing school and advancing their careers, thanks to Career Advancement Scholarships from the Business and Professional Women's Foundation. A total of \$10,000 was divided among the recipients.

BPW Foundation established the Career Advancement Scholarship Program in 1969 to provide financial assistance to financially disadvantaged women seeking to further their education. Scholarships are provided to women 25 years of age or older, who wish to advance in their careers or are soon to enter or re-enter the workforce. This year's scholarships focused on recipients pursuing bachelors degrees in science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) or related fields. These fields are careers where women are traditionally underrepresented. One Seattle, WA recipient was awarded both a Career Advancement Scholarship and a Women Veterans Advancement Scholarship.

"BPW Foundation scholarships have a profound effect both on the women who receive them and on their communities. Many recipients use the degrees they earn with the help of a BPW scholarship to work in careers that directly impact the quality of life in their communities," explained Dr. Sheila Barry-Oliver, Chair of the BPW Foundation Financial Aids Committee. "Because of that fact, this year the initial application and screening process was made through BPW Foundation state and local Legacy Partners in Louisiana, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and Washington."

Scholarship recipients must have been accepted at an accredited educational institution and be within two years of completing their degree. Over the years demographics have shown that the average recipient is a 37 year-old single mother of two children. Twenty-five percent of the recipients have received public assistance at one time or another and 40 percent of the recipients are the first in their immediate family to earn a college degree.

“I am impressed by the quality of this year’s applicants and heartened by their stories and drive. The inclusion of a woman veteran this year is very welcome as we work to support this important group,” BPW Foundation CEO Deborah L. Frett said. “I am so pleased to be part of an organization with a program that has such a profound impact on women, with limited opportunities but unlimited potential.”

Career Advancement Scholarships are made possible through the long time generosity and commitment of BPW Foundation donors. For every gift given, 97% directly funds our programs supporting working women, their families and successful workplaces.

BPW Foundation supports workforce development programs and workplace policies that recognize the diverse needs of working women, communities and businesses. BPW Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) research and education organization. To learn more, visit [BPW Foundation - Business and Professional Women](http://www.bpwfoundation.org)

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