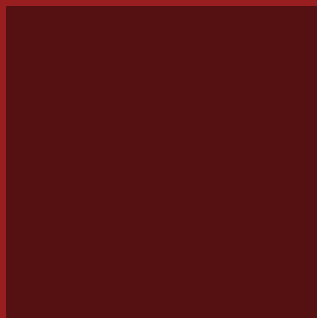
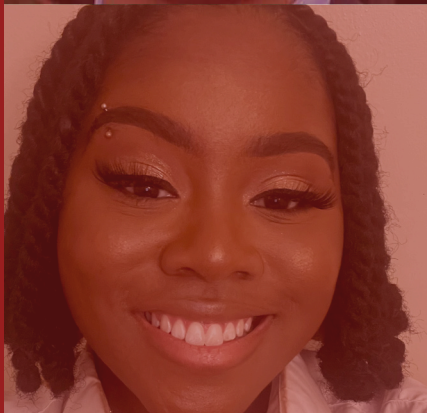
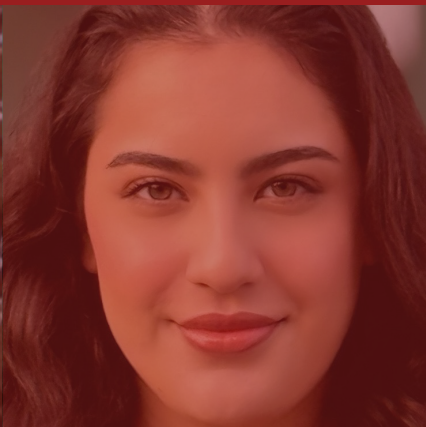




NAHRO-LDG SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Scholar Impact Report



LDG
DEVELOPMENT





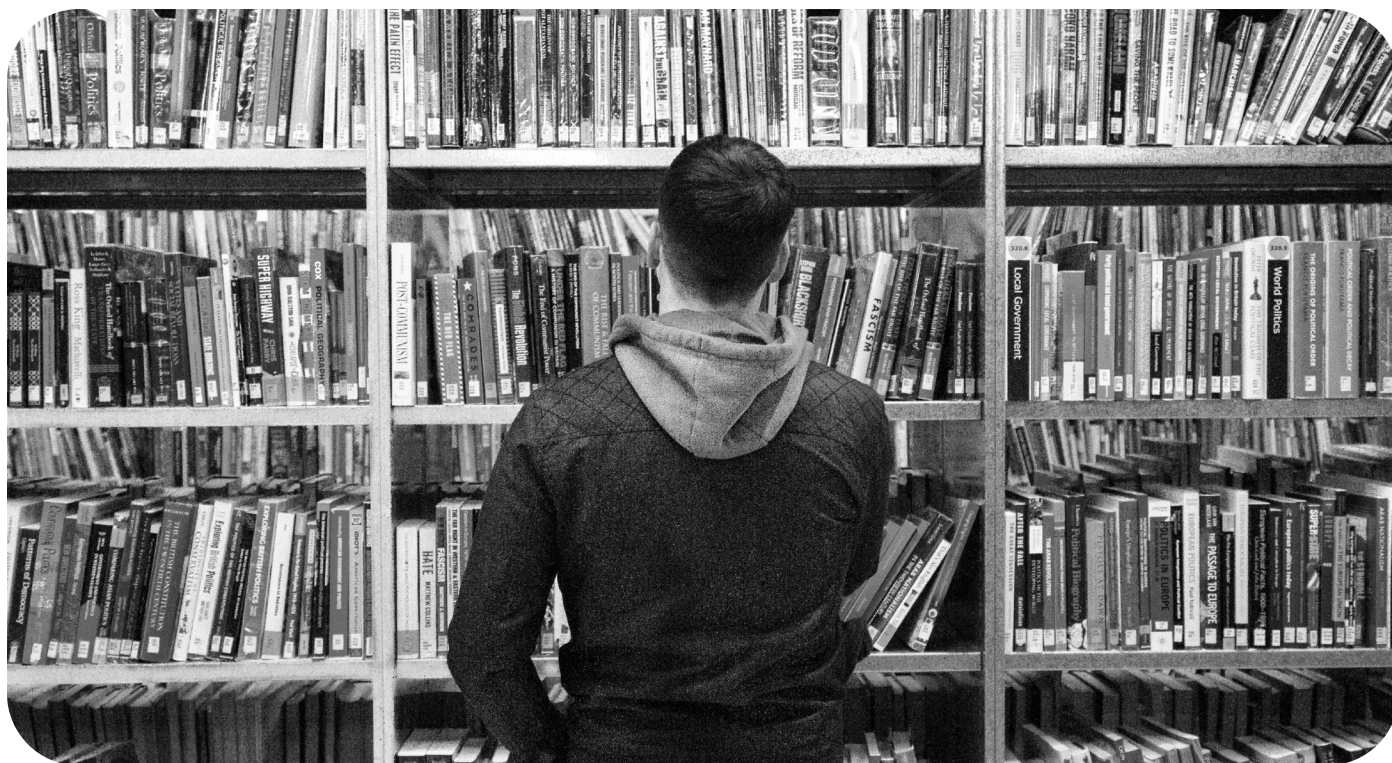
LDG
DEVELOPMENT



The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) and LDG Development are thrilled to present our first NAHRO-LDG Scholars Report, which shares the stories of 13 young people and how the scholarships changed their lives.

In 2019, noted affordable housing developer LDG Development and NAHRO embarked on a **10-year, \$1 million** initiative to provide scholarships and internship support to students who live in federally assisted affordable housing. To date, the program has helped **21** NAHRO-LDG Scholars achieve their dreams and find pathways to economic independence.

Scholars were excited to provide an update on the impact of the scholarship, which advanced their education and opened doors in fields such as healthcare, technology, philanthropy, and beyond. As we had hoped, NAHRO-LDG scholars remain driven, capable, and deeply committed to improving their communities.



Our scholars’ stories shed light on their educational journeys, professional accomplishments, aspirations, and the impact of our collective investment. To guide recipients’ responses, we asked them the following questions:

1

**Where are you now—
educationally or
professionally—and
what excites you most
about your current
endeavors?**

2

**In what ways did the
NAHRO-LDG
Scholarship influence
your path or open new
opportunities?**

3

**Looking ahead,
what impact
do you hope to make
in your chosen field?**



These students and their achievements underscore the meaningful role that the NAHRO-LDG Scholars Program plays in supporting emerging leaders from affordable housing communities. We are grateful for LDG’s partnership in helping turn aspirations into reality.

SUPPORTING SCHOLARS, STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES



An affordable home and quality education are not just steppingstones to opportunity- they are investments in the success of our youth. We're incredibly grateful to LDG Development for their commitment to our scholarship program and to our scholars. LDG and NAHRO are truly building communities together.

MARK THIELE,
Chief Executive Officer, NAHRO



Providing ambitious young people resources they need to complete their education and develop their professional skills is a way to invest in futures and enhance lives. At LDG Development, we know that building high-quality affordable housing is just the start. We're excited for our scholars, what they've achieved, and all the great things they'll go on to do.

CHRIS DISCHINGER,
Co-Founder and Co- Principal of LDG Development.



VALERIA ROCHA
2019 Scholar

I am currently working at an immigration law firm, where I continue to support individuals and families navigating complex immigration processes. This work remains deeply meaningful to me, as it connects closely to both my personal background and professional goals. Every day, I see firsthand how this work impacts lives by helping people find stability, security, and a sense of hope. Despite the challenges in this field, it is incredibly rewarding to advocate for individuals who may otherwise feel voiceless.



At the same time, I am preparing to take the LSAT as I work toward the next step in my journey: attending law school. I'm excited to continue building the skills and knowledge necessary to expand my impact as a future attorney.

The NAHRO-LDG Scholarship played a pivotal role in my academic and professional development. It not only provided financial support, but also opened doors to opportunities that helped shape my path. The encouragement and investment from NAHRO & LDG Development reinforced my commitment to public service and gave me the confidence to pursue a career in law. I continue to carry that support with me as I move forward.

As I pursue a legal career, I hope to continue advocating for underserved communities, particularly in immigration and housing. I am especially interested in working within the housing space to help ensure that individuals and families have access to safe, stable, and equitable living conditions. My goal is to use my legal training to empower communities, address systemic challenges, and create meaningful, lasting change.

I remain deeply grateful to NAHRO and LDG Development for their continued support and belief in scholars like me. The opportunities you've provided have had a lasting impact on my journey, and I'm honored to carry that forward in the work I do.

NATASHA WHITE

2019 Scholar

After earning my bachelor's with the help of the LDG-NAHRO scholarship, I advanced from a teacher's assistant to a special educator. I have since earned a master's degree in instructional design and am looking into earning additional certifications to advance in administration.

The scholarship allowed me to open doors into the world of education and expand my expertise and position. I have been trying different subjects and learning more about how special education works as a whole.

I hope that my story along with my perseverance can help others like me be successful and push beyond their fears to achieve their full potential. I chose the demographic I work with because I am still growing and was so much like them. If I am able to give them a glimpse of what it feels like to push past the hard part, I feel like I have definitely done my part as an educator.





KATIE BAKER
2020 Scholar

I graduated last March with a bachelor's in computer science from Stanford. During my senior year, I took an entrepreneurship class focused on startups, and my team and I explored how to create a product in the music education space. We ended up spinning a company out of that class (songscription.ai) and I've been working on it full-time since graduation. We recently raised a \$5M seed round, and I'm now based in the Bay Area, continuing to build out the product alongside the rest of the team, which has grown to almost 10 people! I'm excited to keep building, learning, and hopefully growing!

The financial assistance was incredibly helpful during my time at Stanford. Rather than needing to work a campus job, I was able to focus fully on my CS coursework, which was particularly helpful in such an expensive area.

Through songscription, I hope to bring new technology to the world that inspires more people to pick up instruments and stick with them. Beyond that, I also hope to use the experience I've gained (and continue to gain) from building a startup to help educate others. The world of startups and venture capital was entirely foreign to me just a few years ago, and I've since gained a lot of knowledge that I believe others would benefit from as well. If this startup creates a significant financial upside, I'd also like to use that success to help people.





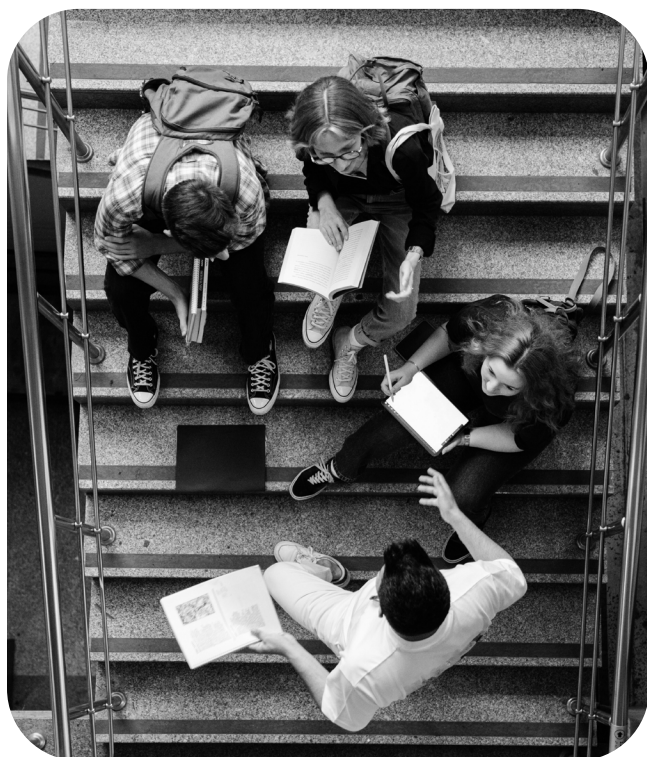
ABBY STRONG
2020 Scholar

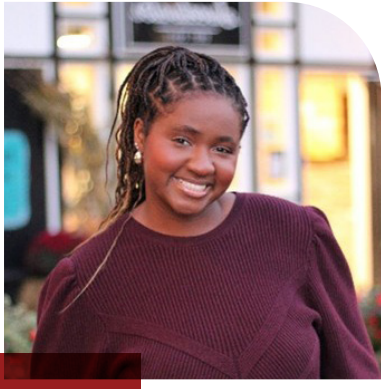
I am currently a traveling nurse in the adult med-surg & stepdown specialties. I have been a nurse for 3.5 years now. I am at the point in my career where I am considering going back to graduate school for my nurse practitioner degree. Nursing can be an extremely rewarding profession when you are helping to take care of people when they need it most. What I am most excited about is the difference I will continue to make with my patients and to see how the health care profession advances throughout the years.

The NAHRO-LDG Scholarship has helped pave my path to becoming a nurse in a multitude of ways. First, the generosity of giving the youth to help them advance is extremely inspiring. It has helped me with connections for further scholarships and allowed me not to have such a financial burden while obtaining my degree.

I hope that I can help touch the lives of people when they need it the most. Everyone is in a vulnerable position when they are admitted to the hospital as it can be a very scary experience going through health struggles. I hope that I can provide comfort to my patients and inspire them to keep striving to get better, one step at a time. I also hope that every one of my patients remember how important it is to celebrate the “smaller” things in life and to hold their loved ones closely.

I would just like to say that I feel it is very important to make the most of everyone moment you have with everyone, never give up on your dreams, and to be the change you want to see in the world.





DESCHALYN RIASE
2021 Scholar

My most recent professional accomplishment is that I completed an internship with the Gilbert Family Foundation as a Philanthropy Intern on the NFX Team! NFX funds scientific and medical research that aims to advance treatment options for neurofibromatosis (NF) – a rare disease – and brings us closer to a cure for NF. In my role, I contributed and provided support with the execution of beNeFit XIII, a large-scale fundraising gala that raised over \$11 million to advance a cure for NF and improve the lives of NF patients worldwide.

A few key projects I was able to work on include managing a silent auction, raising NF awareness through creating an educational series on social media, and Salesforce data management. This internship gave me the opportunity to not only develop new technical skills but sharpen my existing ones, learn new software, gain hands-on experience in the philanthropy space, and cultivate new relationships. I'm most excited about supporting mission-driven work and

organizations that create and deliver tangible/meaningful community impact throughout the communities they serve.

The NAHRO-LDG Scholarship had such a profound impact on my life. As a result, I was able to graduate from Central Michigan University with two degrees completely debt free and not only obtain experience but explore diverse career paths working as an intern for different organizations dedicated to social and community impact. This also allowed me to gain clarity on the type of work and career I'd like to pursue, in addition to building up my resume with strong work experiences that set me apart.

The NAHRO-LDG Scholarship was a prodigious amount of financial support that truly made all the difference in me being able to afford and complete my postsecondary education. I am truly appreciative and will always be grateful for this scholarship and what it's enabled me to achieve.

I hope to build a career centered on service, creating meaningful impact in the communities around me, and expanding opportunities for others. Through my work in the nonprofit sector, I want to support and strengthen the efforts of mission-driven organizations, helping to address important social issues and expand equity, access, resources, and opportunities for communities, especially ones whom are underserved and marginalized so that more people have access to the resources, opportunities, and support they need to live. Whether through strengthening donor engagement, supporting impactful programs, or helping organizations secure the resources they need to grow, I hope to contribute to work that uplifts communities and creates opportunities for others, just as others (much like NAHRO) have invested in and supported me along my journey.



KAREN MEDINA
2021 Scholar

I graduated Cum Laude in December of 2025 with my Bachelor of Health Sciences and minor in Philosophy from Texas State University in San Marcos. As of right now, I am working as a phlebotomist at We Are Blood, a nonprofit blood center that collects, tests, and distributes blood donations to hospitals and patients in need in the Central Texas area. My main goal is to continue to grow in the healthcare field and learn all that I can, including developing my clinical skills and potentially continuing my education by returning to university in the future.



The NAHRO-LDG program opened many possibilities for me since I am a first-generation American and college student. In the beginning of my journey in high school, I had no means or hope of attending university if it weren't for the help of my scholarships. Over the past four years, I have been able to experience a new city, friends, and an excellent education that I would otherwise not have. I was a part of many organizations in my university such as Student Support Services Association, Women in Medicine Student Organization, First-Generation Low-Income Partnership, etc. Although I am not where I dream to be professionally and my goals have changed throughout my undergraduate journey, my interest in healthcare has never wavered. I continue to hold a passionate desire to help others while simultaneously creating a stable and exciting future for myself.

Looking ahead, I hope to make a meaningful impact by contributing to patient care and supporting individuals with the knowledge and skills I have accumulated over the years with my background in healthcare. Whether through direct clinical work or continuing education, I aim to be someone who provides compassionate, reliable care and makes a positive difference in the lives of everyone I encounter.

Once again, I wanted to thank you and everyone involved with the NAHRO-LDG Scholar program for the continued support and for the opportunities provided to me throughout my academic journey, including the investment into a future I could only dream of.



YVONNAH MARSHALL
2021 Scholar

I remain incredibly grateful for the support I received and for the opportunity to share an update.

Since my last reflection, my career has grown in ways I could not have imagined. After completing my administrative internship at Sanford Health, I was hired full-time as a Process Improvement Analyst. Over the past year, I worked closely with inpatient nursing and hospital leadership to improve patient flow and throughput at a Level 1 Trauma Center. It was an incredibly formative experience that deepened my passion for operational strategy and system-level impact.

Recently, I transitioned into a new role as a Business Analyst with Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota. In this position, I continue to leverage data to drive decision-making; now at a broader systems level within healthcare finance and insurance operations.

The NAHRO-LDG Scholarship shaped my journey in ways that extend far beyond financial support. As a first-generation college graduate, the scholarship provided both stability and confidence during a pivotal part of my life. It allowed me to focus fully on my education, pursue many great career opportunities, and say “yes” to experiences, such as my internship, that ultimately launched my career. More importantly, it affirmed that investing in students has ripple effects far beyond graduation.

Looking ahead, I hope to continue building my career focused on improving systems that directly impact people’s lives, particularly individuals and families navigating complex healthcare or housing challenges, as I once faced.

Receiving the NAHRO-LDG Scholarship remains one of the most meaningful milestones in my journey. It was more than financial assistance, it was belief, encouragement, and opportunity. I carry that with me in every role I take on.

Thank you again for continuing to celebrate and support your scholars. I am proud to be part of this network.





ROZ AL JANABI
2022 Scholar

I graduated in May 2025 with an honors bachelor's degree in biology with an emphasis in Cellular, Molecular, and Biomedical Sciences, along with a minor in Business. Currently, I am working in the healthcare field as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), where I am gaining hands-on experience caring for patients and learning more about the day-to-day realities of medicine. I am also preparing to apply to medical school. This time has been incredibly meaningful because it allows me to strengthen my clinical experience while continuing to grow personally and professionally as I pursue a career in medicine.

The NAHRO-LDG Scholarship had a tremendous impact on my undergraduate journey. It helped relieve a significant amount of financial stress, which allowed me to focus more on my education and fully engage in opportunities that enriched my academic and personal growth. Because of this support, I was able to dedicate more time to my studies, pursue meaningful experiences, and continue striving toward my long-term goals. I am forever grateful for this support, as it empowered me to dream bigger and continue moving forward in my journey.

Looking ahead, I hope to make a meaningful impact in healthcare by becoming a compassionate and dedicated physician. I want to advocate for patients and provide care that not only addresses medical needs but also supports individuals and families during vulnerable moments in their lives. My goal is to contribute to improving access to quality healthcare and to serve communities with empathy, integrity, and dedication.

I am deeply thankful to NAHRO and LDG Development for investing in students like me. Their support has played an important role in helping me reach where I am today, and it continues to inspire me as I work toward my future in medicine. I hope to one day give back in the same way by supporting and encouraging others who are pursuing their own educational and professional dreams.





**JAQUELINE
FERNANDEZ**
2023 Scholar

Hello, I am Jaqueline Fernandez and I am from Los Fresnos, TX. I graduated high school in 2023, so I have been a scholarship recipient for 3 years now! I am currently a 3rd semester nursing student at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. I will be graduating this December, and I am currently in my maternal and pediatric clinical rotation. I can confidently say I have found the department where I wish to work. I participated in a delivery for the first time, and it was a life-changing experience. I am currently working on applying as a nurse extern at my local hospital in the labor and delivery department.

The NAHRO-LDG Scholarship has been fundamental to my nursing education. A nursing education is not flexible. Most of the time, you have to accommodate the program's schedule, so maintaining a job along with Saturday clinicals or afternoon test review sessions is difficult. Overall, I am appreciative of this scholarship as it minimizes a financial burden that makes higher education a big stressor. I have been able to dedicate most of my time to my studies!

I have come to realize that nursing is the foundation of our health care system. Nurses spend 12 hours at the bedside. Therefore, you have the responsibility to advocate for your patients. I hope to be the voice for my patients when their voices are not being heard. Additionally, I hope to make a mother's birth a positive experience. The delivery of a child is something beautiful. I would like to promote a positive attitude to make a woman's experience that much more special.

I would like to thank LDG and NAHRO for this opportunity. Education is vital in our current society, so I thank you for helping invest in my education. I hope to be able to impact my community at large while keeping in mind that my contributions are a direct extension of your efforts.



JA'KEASIA PITTMAN

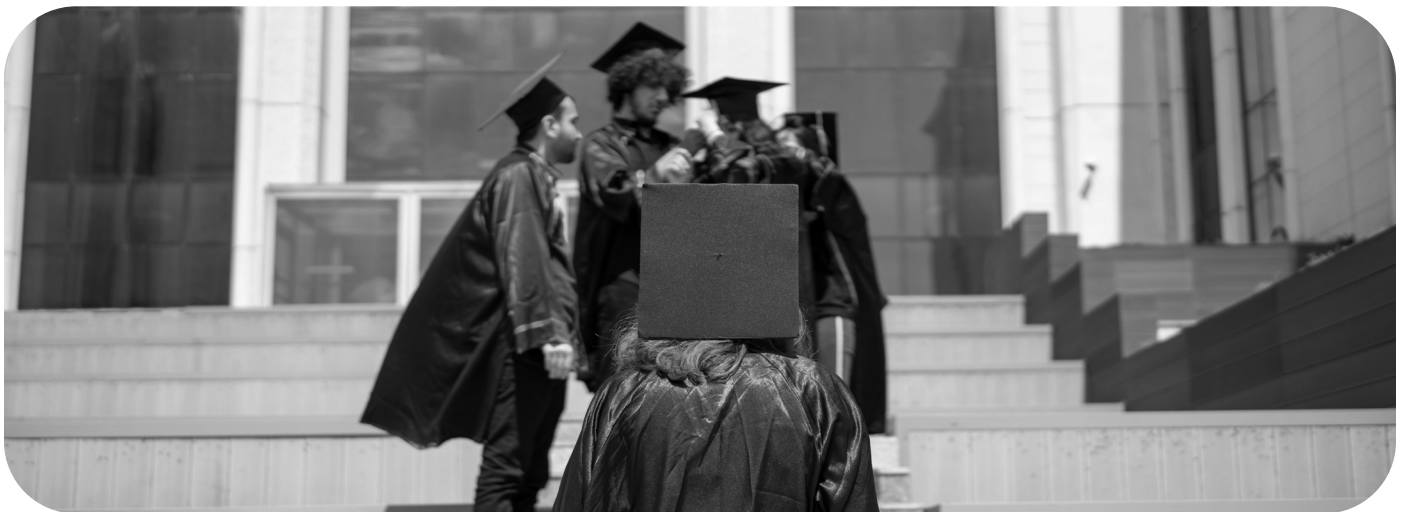
2023 Scholar

I am currently working in the healthcare field while continuing to build my clinical experience and expand my knowledge. I've had the opportunity to work closely with patients and families in a hands-on setting, which has strengthened my skills in communication, critical thinking, and compassionate care. What excites me most right now is the ability to make a direct impact in people's daily lives while continuing to grow professionally and explore new opportunities within healthcare.

The NAHRO-LDG Scholarship played a meaningful role in my journey by reducing financial stress and allowing me to stay focused on my education and career goals. Beyond the financial support, being selected as a scholar gave me a sense of validation and motivation to continue striving for excellence. It also reminded me that there are organizations that believe in investing in future leaders, which encouraged me to remain committed to my path and pursue opportunities with confidence.

Looking ahead, I hope to make a lasting impact by providing high-quality, patient-centered care and advocating for individuals who may not always have a voice in their healthcare experience. I want to contribute to creating a more compassionate and accessible healthcare environment, while also mentoring and supporting others who are beginning their journeys. Ultimately, my goal is to combine skill, empathy, and leadership to positively influence both individuals and the broader community.

I am truly grateful for the support I received as a NAHRO-LDG Scholar. That investment has continued to influence my growth and determination. I hope to one day give back in similar ways by supporting and uplifting others who are working toward their goals. Thank you for continuing to stay connected and for recognizing the journeys of your scholars.





EBONY GEE
2023 Scholar

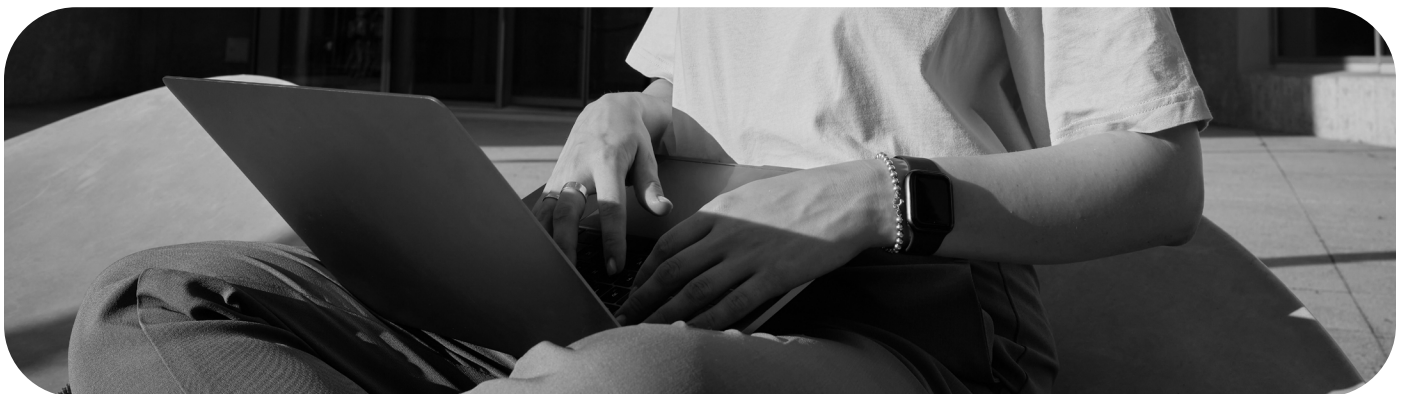
Currently, I am at Cedar Crest College studying Nuclear Medicine. I have made the dean's list multiple times and have maintained a GPA over 3.5 since my sophomore year. I've also just completed my certificate in Healthcare Management. This will be my last year at Cedar Crest, as I will be finishing my degree with their partner school.

As of now, I've been accepted into the Nuclear Medicine Institute at the University of Findlay in Ohio. I would say I am most excited about finally starting clinicals and actually learning about my major! I shadowed in a St. Lukes hospital over the summer, and I fell in love with the career.

This scholarship has influenced my path by actually allowing me to have one. If I didn't have this scholarship, I would have had to take out loans or continue working full-time, not being able to seek higher education. With the support of this scholarship, combined with my commitment to working full-time, I have been able to maintain financial stability while successfully covering the remainder of my tuition.

I hope to make a meaningful impact by focusing on patient care, bringing compassion to people in vulnerable states, and helping them understand their diagnosis and/or treatment. By entering nuclear medicine, I aim to play a critical role in detecting and monitoring diseases, helping patients receive timely and effective treatment. Seeking medical help can be scary and unpredictable. So, with every patient I have, I hope that I can make patients feel supported and ease any anxiety they may have.

This scholarship provided me with the support I needed to continue pursuing my education. Working with this organization has helped me grow and learn in ways I never imagined, and I will carry those experiences, lessons, and values with me as I move forward in both my professional and personal life.





DYLAN LYNCH
2024 Scholar

I'm a mechanical engineering sophomore at Lamar University here in Beaumont, Texas. I'm active on campus with the engineering orgs here, considering a masters, and living life! I'm most excited about my engineering internship this summer. I'll be at the Valero Port Arthur refinery as a mechanical engineering intern.

The NAHRO-LDG scholarship enabled me to live on campus, not have to work to pay for college, and be able to devote the time needed for a good college career and prepare for my career and life after college. That alone has been the most helpful thing that NAHRO and LDG have provided for me, opening opportunities for a successful future.

I hope to make an impact by helping to sustain and strengthen the Oil and Gas industry, or at least by ensuring the work my company does continues to evolve and stay relevant. One of the most exciting Valero Port Arthur refinery is its partnership with the Diamond Green Diesel facilities, where renewable diesel and even sustainable aviation fuel are produced from animal fats and waste materials. I'd love to be part of expanding efforts like these, where traditional energy and innovative renewables work hand in hand to shape the future of the industry.

I am so proud of where I came from. Being raised in my housing authority gave me and my family a start in life that I can never pay back. I'm thankful again to those that considered me for this scholarship, who continue to pick those like me, and strive to support kids and college students alike.





MIKAYLA SIMMS
2024 Scholar

I am currently in my junior year at Towson University, in my second semester of the Nursing Program. I've completed my psychiatric clinical and am currently in my Medsurg rotation on the cardiac telemetry floor at Johns Hopkins Hospital. I enjoyed both clinicals, but I'm most excited to embark on my journey this summer.

I landed a Nursing Student Externship at MedStar Hospital on their ICU/Cardiac Telemetry Unit. I'm really excited to enhance my skills while learning other skills that will help me be an impactful and diligent nurse. Which all brings me one step closer to either being a Family Nurse Practitioner or a CRNA. With this, I hope that I am able to make a lasting impact on patients' health, decrease hospital visits, and make personal/meaningful relationships with my patients. I also hope to bring down anxiety surrounding medical professionals. Overall, like everything I choose to embark on in life, I want to continuously learn as a nurse and be great at what I do.

The NAHRO-LDG scholarship has singlehandedly allowed me to be able to attend Towson. Without this, I would not be able to afford the out-of-pocket costs of TU's tuition and the nursing program. So, this scholarship really is the reason why my dreams are actively coming true. With help from NAHRO and LDG, I can afford the additional costs of supplies and textbooks and pay for parking at the hospitals. Truthfully, without this support I don't know what I would have done.



NAHRO-LDG SCHOLARS

2019:	CARVIS PROBY VALERIA ROCHA NATASHA WHITE	2023:	JACQUELINE FERNANDEZ EBONY GEE JA'KEASIA PITMANN
2020:	KATIE LYNN BAKER JACQUELINE RODRIGUEZ ABBY STRONG	2024:	SANIAYA BETHEA DYLAN LYNCH MIKAYLA SIMMS
2021:	YVONNAH MARSHALL KAREN MEDINA DESCHALYN RIASE	2025:	ALLISON LU MARCELINE SANG TYZHAЕ WILLIAMS
2022:	ROZ AL JANABI VIC'NEISHA LOVETT TONI STEWART		



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NAHRO THANKS YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO
READ THESE REFLECTIONS AND CELEBRATE THE
JOURNEYS OF THESE REMARKABLE SCHOLARS.
WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING THIS WORK
TOGETHER, LIFTING UP AND INVESTING IN THE NEXT
GENERATION OF LEADERS!



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