

Congratulations to the Altrusa International of Oshkosh 2022 Scholarship Winners

Breelyn Bruss

Breelyn is currently an undergraduate at UWO and will be continuing her journey of majoring in art education with a goal of becoming a K-12 art teacher. During her high school years at Oshkosh West, she participated in a Back to School Fair that collected and filled backpacks with necessary school supplies, hygiene products, food, etc. She also assisted with an annual summer K-8 track camp in which younger students work one-on-one with HS athletes and coaches and learn goal setting skills. During her volunteering hours at Boys and Girls Club, she was a reading tutor for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. She has continued to immerse herself in opportunities that directly work with and impact children. She is an award winning artist included her participation in Altrusa annual art show, ART IN THE GARDEN.



Mara Connell

Mara is a current student at UWO School of Nursing with a goal of obtaining a doctorate degree in nursing and working toward her goal of becoming a nurse anesthetist. During the Spring of 2020, when she started work in a Covid Unit, she discovered one of her first patients was hearing impaired and also had vision problems and was having difficulties communicating. She located batteries for his hearing aids and immediately he smiled and thanked her for this small kindness that helped him communicate and understand his treatment. She has volunteered at many local agencies including Evergreen Nursing Home, Feeding America Drive Thru Pantry, Zion Lutheran Church, Culver Center Vaccine Site, and a COVID-19 Vaccinator. She is the first generation in her family to attend college. Growing up on a farm has instilled in her a strong work ethic as well as a “can do” attitude.



Lydia C. Larsen

Lydia is an undergraduate at Univ of WI – Madison, pursuing a double major in genetics and genomics/life science communications. When she was young, she and her grandfather, who was a retired chemistry teacher, would collect samples from the Little Suamico River and study them under a microscope. She is currently employed at the Carol Lee Lab located at UW-Madison as a Research Assistant and Supplies and Culture Manager in Evolutionary Genetics. Some of her volunteer efforts include World Relief-Fox Valley (refugee resettlement volunteer) UW undergraduate Genetics Assoc. (member/outreach volunteer) and United Presbyterian Church (Scripture Reader). One of her professors wrote in a letter “Given her promise, this award would constitute a worthy investment in a young scientist’s career.”



Destinee Ramos

Destinee is Harvard bound where she will major in Sociology on the Pre-Law track with a goal of becoming a human rights lawyer. She is a first generation Dominican-American, and aspires to be a role model to other Latina girls to create a better future for themselves. As a student representative on the member of Neenah Joint Dist. Board of Ed, she provides student input on district-wide discussions. For 3 years she has taught advanced gymnastics classes to girls ranging from 3 to 12 years. She has participated in a nation-wide research project on the effects of social media on teenage girls. One of her letters of recommendation contained this message to Altrusa. “PLEASE DO NOT MISS THE OPPORTUNITY OF THIS AMAZING STUDENT. ...I know with certainty – will make a name for herself and be an important contributor to our society.”



Theresa Seering

Theresa is a graduate student at Carroll University pursuing a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies. Her travels have exposed her to many different cultures and countries ranging from remote villages in China to the migrant fields of North Carolina. These experiences have fueled her passion to constantly choose healthcare and seek to administer happiness to each patient. In the Fox Valley as a student at Lawrence University she was active in Lawrentians Enhancing Diversity in the Sciences (LEDS) and Lawrentians Assistants Reaching Youth (LARY). During the pandemic, she worked full time on the Theda Care surgical service floor. Her supervisor in that unit wrote in her letter of recommendation, “she is patient and kind, even in less than ideal circumstances ...and collaborates and maintains a positive attitude.

