

News

PRINCETON: Women's College Club keeps assisting students

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The Women's College Club of Princeton annually awards college scholarships to young women attending Princeton public or private secondary schools who are in need of assistance to meet the high costs of tuition.

The culminating event of the club year is the Scholarship Tea, held in May, when the scholarships are presented to the recipients. This year, the event took place at the home of Virginia Mason on Ridgeview Road in Princeton on Wednesday afternoon. The students were invited to bring their parents and family members.

"It's the centerpiece of what we do," Women's College Club of Princeton President Carole Krauthamer said.

The club's scholarship committee works with guidance counselors from Princeton High School, the Hun School, Stuart Country Day School, and Princeton Day School beginning in January of each year, when schools compile the scholarship data. The committee reviews all paperwork and interviews each candidate. The choices are always difficult: the candidates are outstanding academically and sometimes gifted athletes, musicians, or writers who are also involved in numerous extra-curricular and community activities.

This year, the club received 32 applications for scholarships, according to Danuta Buzdygan, chairwoman of the club's scholarship committee.

The club honored 11 scholarship recipients this year, many of which were thankful for the extra financial support for their college education. Stuart Country Day School's Annaliza Reeves Carey, who earned the Women's College Club Scholarship Award and will attend Spellman College, said she is very grateful for the scholarship.

"College is a huge burden cost-wise and this really helps me with that," she said.

Princeton High School's Sarah Shanti Hossain, who earned The Molly Updike Award and will attend Williams College, agreed with Annaliza and said, "This is an unexpected relief of your burdens that you couldn't have planned for." Princeton Day School's Evelyn Estefany Esteban, who earned the Women's College Club Scholarship Award and will attend Boston College to study nursing, said she felt "very blessed because I come from a low-income family."

"It's helpful to have the extra support to pay for my education," she said.

Other recipients were grateful for the scholarships for different reasons.

Princeton High School's Tiffany Huang Fang, who earned The Douglas Bottomley Memorial Scholarship Award and will attend Columbia University to study fine arts and visual arts, said, "It's amazing to receive a scholarship, especially since the arts aren't always seen as the most promising career. It's nice that people can see a future ... beyond just painting."

Princeton High School's Caitlyn Nicole Bongiovi, who earned The Peterson Book Award/Women's College Club Scholarship Award and will attend Berkley College of Music to study film scoring, said, "It's nice to see that there's appreciation for people who aren't just going into science, math and business majors. It's nice to be recognized for music."

The other recipients were Princeton High School's Brittany Van Name, who earned the Women's College Club Scholarship Award and will attend Rutgers University to study business; Princeton Day School's Ronasia Scott, who earned The Mary Louise Gervato Memorial Scholarship Award and will attend Villanova University; Stuart Country Day School's Autumn Nicole Townsend, who earned the Women's College Club Scholarship Award and will attend Montclair State University to study psychology; Princeton High School's Pamela Torres, who earned the Women's College Club Scholarship Award and will attend Rutgers University; Princeton High School's Zoe Marie Lessard, who earned the Women's College Club Scholarship Award and will attend the University of Vermont; and Princeton Day School's Rory Elizabeth Finnegan, who earned The Florence Bell Hillier Award and will attend the University of Virginia. The second oldest women's organization in Princeton, the Women's College Club of Princeton was founded in January 1916, four years before the 19th Amendment gave

women the vote. Throughout its history, the club has helped young women of high scholastic achievement go on to colleges and universities, first, from 1916 to 1928 through interest-free loans only, then from 1928 through scholarships as well. The club no longer grants loans. Since 1916, the total amount given in scholarships has been \$359,000.

Today the club also serves the community with lectures and programs, field trips, and social events, including two main fundraisers held in the spring and open to the public.

Through its monthly meetings and programs, club members and guests have the opportunity to socialize and to broaden their knowledge of what's happening in their community as well as in the arts, business, education, medicine, and a wide range of other fields. Membership is open to all women, who are college-educated, live in the greater Princeton area, and who will pledge to actively support the mission of the club. For more information, visit <http://wccpnj.org/>.

