



Scholarship Awards

AFT Connecticut awards two different scholarships each year, one for our members (**George C. Springer Scholarship**), and one for spouses/domestic partners, and children of members (**Sharon M. Palmer Scholarship**). Candidates are selected based on academic promise and financial need, among other criteria. The member applicant, or the AFT Connecticut member upon whom the applicant bases their eligibility, must be a member of an AFT Connecticut local in good standing.

George C. Springer Scholarship

CRISTIAN CALLE has been a member of the Hartford Federation of Paraeducators #2221 for 7 years. Cristian is a volunteer mentor in his community working with The Bridge Family Center, and volunteers at a local West Hartford Church. He recently graduated from CCSU, where he made the dean's list. Cristian has applied to UCONN with a goal of getting his master's in social work. Cristian will be using the scholarship award to help fulfill his dream of becoming a social worker. Cristian stated in his essay "The comfort of knowing that you are not outnumbered and that there is someone that is on your side, is very powerful."

KELLY OSBORN INGRASSIA, RN BSN is a member of the New Britain Federation of Teachers #871. She has been a nurse for over 20 years and is currently teaching and overseeing the CNA Program at New Britain High School. Kelly will be using her scholarship award to pursue her master's to become a better teacher and nurse educator. In Kelly's essay, she states "I look forward to being a union member for the rest of my career and appreciate that my children will be eligible to apply for union scholarships in the future because I am a member."

Sharon M. Palmer Scholarship

AVA LIU is the daughter of Bernard Liu, a member of A&R Employees Union #4200. Ava is a volunteer in her community as a Chinese Tutor, camp counselor to students with disabilities, and also helps out with her church youth group. Ava is also an accomplished pianist and in a competitive volleyball league. Ava has plans to study Biostatistics and Computational Biology at one of the several colleges she has been accepted to. In Ava's essay she states "If it were not for the union, I might have never seen my father growing up. Last minute briefs or hearings make for chaos in planning family time. Having a negotiated work environment creates clear expectations for both the employer and the employee's family."

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ISABELLE SEVIGNY is the daughter of Adam Sevigny, a member of the A&R Employees Union #4200. Isabelle is an active member of many school and community clubs including the Interact club which involves planning activities for the community and has been a soccer referee since 2018 and has been a member of the high honor and honor roll since 2018. Isabelle plans on attending Western New England University to pursue a degree in Management and Leadership. In her essay, Isabelle states "I am glad my parents will always have union jobs, where they'll have stability no matter what is happening in the world. The AFT union has helped my family feel comfortable taking the next steps through life and I hope to have a future job that offers me the same recourses."

JULIETTE LINARES is the daughter of Ivette Garcia Linares, who is a member of the New Britain Federation of Teachers. #871 Juliette has been the recipient of many awards and honors over the years and a member of multiple clubs including the National Student Speech Language & Hearing Association in which she is a national member and co secretary. She has also made the Seton Hall Dean's List multiple times. Juliette is currently a student at Seton Hall University where she continues to work towards her M.S degree in Speech and Language Pathology. In her essay, Juliette states "Enhancement of workplace conditions and compensation can only be achieved when workers unite and make their voices heard as one. Unions cannot simply institute change, members must be aware, involved, and knowledgeable advocates for fairness. As an aspiring Speech and Language Pathologist, I hope to provide future generations with a clear voice and an expansive vocabulary to advocate for fairness, democracy, and economic opportunity in their profession."

***Congratulations, and best wishes to
all of our scholarship winners!***