

**DIANA CHASON**

HOME Hinesville, GA
SCHOLARSHIP \$5,000
SPONSORED BY Leson Chevrolet, Harvey, LA & Agency 720
ATTENDING Savannah Technical College, Hinesville, GA
AREA OF STUDY Automotive Technology
STATUS Full-time student (over 25 years)

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With the help of the WRN Scholarship, I can learn the many techniques to improve a vehicle's longevity and performance. I am working with computers to maintain a vehicle's electrical system, which is more important than ever. I'm also learning patience and the critical thinking necessary to solve problems. With my passion for automobiles and my ambition, my goal is to work as maintenance and repair technician, and maybe one day teach what I've learned to other women."

**ANNA HAGLER**

HOME Grand Blanc, MI
SCHOLARSHIP \$5,000
SPONSORED BY Lafontaine Automotive Group & GMW1 (WRN 20 Group)
ATTENDING Kettering University, Flint, MI
AREA OF STUDY Industrial Engineering
STATUS Full-time student

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Since being awarded the WRN scholarship in 2016, my passion for the automotive industry has grown. In the last year I have worked at GM Powertrain and become involved in the Society of Automotive Engineers. I am determined to one day own my own GM family of dealerships. I believe that is possible because of my love of cars, my commitment to success and my desire to help people. I am proud to continue as my family's fourth generation of auto enthusiasts, thanks to the WRN."

**MADELYN HAMILTON**

HOME Manchester, MI
SCHOLARSHIP \$5,000
SPONSORED BY Ballas Buick GMC, Toledo, OH & Martin Retail Group
ATTENDING Ferris State University, Big Rapids, MI
AREA OF STUDY Automotive Management
STATUS Full-time student

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It is encouraging to see women making a difference in the automotive industry. As a result, I have confidence I can succeed in a still male-dominated field. I have tremendous female role models at school and at the Chevrolet dealership where I work. I have been elected as president of the Automotive Management Student Organization at Ferris, and now I serve as a model for other young women. I believe as a woman, I can promote change and positively influence the future of automotive retail."

**ANTOINETTE JACKSON**

HOME Port Jefferson Station, NY
SCHOLARSHIP \$2,500
SPONSORED BY Schumacher Chevrolet Auto Group, Little Falls, NJ
ATTENDING Suffolk County Community College, Selden, NY
AREA OF STUDY Automotive Technology
STATUS Full-time student (over 25 years)

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I have always been fascinated with cars and the engineering components that keep them running. I grew up in the auto industry and am currently assistant manager of an automotive repair facility. By pursuing a career as a master technician, I will be able to elevate myself and my value to any company. Thanks to the WRN, I can provide a better life for my family. There is nothing that can stop me from reaching my goals."

**RACHELLE KUKAN**

HOME Stuart, FL
SCHOLARSHIP \$2,500
SPONSORED BY GM Financial
ATTENDING Indian River State College, Stuart, FL
AREA OF STUDY Automotive Technology
STATUS Part-time college student/dealership employee

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As a child, I looked up to my father as he was pursuing a management position while working as an alignment technician at a Chevrolet dealership. I spent many hours with him in our garage helping him work on his 1967 Camaro. At age 18, I took an 'Intro to Auto Technology' and often heard from the instructor, 'The only female in the class answered correctly again,' referring to me. Today I'm following in my father's footsteps, working as a service lane technician at Wallace Chevrolet, and thanks to the WRN Scholarship, obtaining my degree. I will keep shooting for the stars and aim high as I watched my father do."

**TARA RODGERS**

HOME Belleville, IL
SCHOLARSHIP \$5,000
SPONSORED BY Maryann Wheeler Memorial Scholarship
ATTENDING Southern Illinois University of Carbondale, Carbondale, IL
AREA OF STUDY Automotive Technology
STATUS Full-time student

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This summer I worked as an intern at the GM Tech Center in Warren, MI. It is an amazing step toward reaching my goal of working in the auto industry. I am working toward a Bachelor's Degree in Automotive Technology and currently maintain a 4.0 GPA. I also received the Automotive Parts and Service Association of Illinois Memorial Scholarship. The WRN Scholarship allows me to continue my studies, which I take very seriously. I thank all of the amazing, driven women pursuing their career in the auto industry and the WRN for supporting them."

**STARJHA JONES**

HOME Raytown, MO
SCHOLARSHIP \$2,500
SPONSORED BY GM Women's Retail Network
ATTENDING Metropolitan Community College – Longview, Lee's Summit, MO
AREA OF STUDY Automotive Technology
STATUS Part-time student

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I have been interested in working on cars since I was five years old. My father has been a tremendous mentor and has taught me a great deal about automobile repair. I want to show that women can be skilled technicians and become a tremendous value to any dealership. With the help of the WRN scholarship, maybe one day I'll have a shop of my own. I believe that as long as you never give up and work hard at your dreams, there will always be joy and light at the end of the tunnel."

**MAGGIE OLIVER**

HOME Peculiar, MO
SCHOLARSHIP \$2,500
SPONSORED BY Knudsten Chevrolet, Post Falls, ID
ATTENDING Metropolitan Community College – Longview, Lee's Summit, MO
AREA OF STUDY Automotive
STATUS Part-time college student

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I had a full scholarship to an out-of-town college, but I was needed at home to care for my mother. I began attending Longview, and in just a short time I learned a great deal about working on a vehicle, including the mechanical and electronic systems. Eventually the tuition money ran out, and I took a job at a local auto parts store. Thanks to the WRN scholarship, I can continue to study automotive technology at Longview and be at home for my family. I hope to one day improve vehicle service, especially for women, by bridging the communications gap."

**PERLA VELOZ**

HOME Big Rapids, MI
SCHOLARSHIP \$2,500
SPONSORED BY American Financial & Automotive Services, Inc.
ATTENDING Rio Hondo College, Whittier, CA
AREA OF STUDY Automotive Management
STATUS Full-time student

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There are a million reasons I want to pursue a career in the automotive industry, but it boils down to two things: I love to work with my hands, and I love helping people. Automotive technology is so important today. The driver of any car depends on their car to safely take them from point A to point B. I want to be the person contributing to customers' safety and their overall satisfaction. I need a great education to help make that happen. My hope is that I can one day help people on a larger scale in a similar way as the WRN. For now I contribute each day in small ways to people in my community."

**JESSICA KENT**

HOME Tamarac, FL
SCHOLARSHIP \$2,500
SPONSORED BY Cox Chevrolet, Bradenton, FL
ATTENDING Sheridan Technical College, Hollywood, FL
AREA OF STUDY Automotive Technology (GM ASE)
STATUS Full-time student

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I've always had a love of working with my hands. You could always find me in the garage with my dad working on a car. Dad stressed the importance of learning to do things on your own, and specifically not depending on a man. He made sure I knew more about cars than most women, so that I would not be taken advantage of and could fend for myself. In high school I bought a 1976 Camaro and did most of the work on it myself with his help. I hope to one day become a world-class technician and get my degree in software engineering. By combining those skills, I will have the fundamentals to be successful in life."

2017 WINNERS