

2021 SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

THURS, MAY 6 | 12pm–1:00pm



This scholarship program fosters the academic and career success of women in Dane County. This event is a true celebration of this year's amazing scholarship recipients. This year **we are awarding \$7,800** in scholarships!

**Char Braxton | Milli Lau | Lolita Phillips
Nicole Pecku | Jade Fitzgerald**

**SPECIAL
GUEST SPEAKERS**
Khailanii Slaton
Ngina Ali





SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

Thank you for joining us for our annual scholarship luncheon! The Business Forum Foundation Scholarship Program helps to foster the academic and career success of women in financial need in Dane County.

The first TBF scholarship of \$1,000 was awarded in 1989. Since then, TBF has awarded \$450,000 in scholarships for women of all ages.

This year's virtual event will still be a true celebration of this year's amazing scholarship recipients. Recipients will be awarded their scholarships and share their stories with TBF members and guests.

This year we are awarding \$7,800 in scholarships to five deserving applicants:

Char Braxton
Jade Fitzgerald
Milli Lau
Nicole Pecku**
Lolita Phillips

*** JUDY ROSE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT*

GUEST SPEAKER **KHAILANNII SLATON**

Past scholarship recipient Khailanii Slaton will update us on her education progress and goals.

Khailanii is a 2019 TBF Scholarship recipient and a current undergrad at UW Madison. She is double majoring in Computer Engineering and Computer Science and plans on going to graduate school to further her education. Her ultimate career goal is to work in the field of robotics and/or technology development and to use her work to give back to the greater global community.

GUEST SPEAKER **NGINA ALI**

Past two-time scholarship recipient Ngina will update us on her education progress and goals.

Ngina is a proud mother of three and has two handsome grandsons that she adores. Ngina was born and raised in Chicago IL.

Today she is working towards her B.S in Nursing. Ngina is a 2017 and 2018 TBF Scholarship recipient and is current taking classes at Madison College and at UW Madison. She is majoring in Nursing where she want to eventually become a Nurse and plans on becoming a Nurse Anesthetist.

She has been working in healthcare industry over 12 years. She currently has a full-time job at Westside Psychotherapy.

CHAR BRAXTON

Scholarship Amount: \$1500

Char Braxton graduated from the UW Odyssey Project Class of 2006 and now is an Odyssey staff member helping others break a cycle of generational poverty and achieve their dreams. Even though a high school counselor told her that she was “not college material,” Char completed numerous UW and Madison College credits, including a Chinese language course. At Madison College, she was recognized as an “Exemplary Learner” into 2020 and was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa in March 2020. The spring issue of *On Wisconsin* published her story and life journey. As she pursues a career as a guidance counselor, Char is committed to education, volunteering in the Madison community, and guiding others towards their life goals.



JADE FITZGERALD

Scholarship Amount: \$1,000

Jade Fitzgerald grew up in Madison Wisconsin and has been interested in the sciences from a very early age, from Science Olympiad and State competitions to spending time at the nature preserve down the road. Growing up she was always building things out of any materials available. It meant it was an easy decision to study Mechanical

Engineering at UW Platteville. She plans to continue studying past her bachelor's degree, at least progressing to a masters. Jade is particularly interested in projects like the IceCube neutrino observatory, using technology on earth to study space, as well as the environmental work done by agencies like NOAA.

MILLI LAU

Scholarship Amount: \$1500

Milli Lau is a senior in the undergraduate program of Information Science and Technology at UW Milwaukee. Her short-term goal is to become a web programmer after graduation. Long-term Milli's goal is to finish a master's degree in Library and Information Science to become an information technology librarian. In addition, she would like to develop her own business as a freelance web developer.

NICOLE PECKU

Scholarship Amount: \$2800

JUDY ROSE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Nicole Pecku is a Proud Mother of three and operates her own agency in the Dane County area in which she provides

direct support to individuals in the community that needs assistance to enhance the quality of life who struggles with mental illness. She has been in the healthcare industry for nearly 16 years, as a certified nursing aide all the way to medical records, medical administrative and healthcare management. Nicole graduated with a bachelor's degree from Upper Iowa University in 2019, however she will be pursuing a second degree in Healthcare Administrations through the MBA program at UIU. In Nicole's free time she loves being creative, traveling, decorating, and spending time with family. Nicole is striving to make a difference in her community and most importantly within her family. Nicole's long-term goal is to pursue a career in Healthcare administration where changes can be made for the better starting with Local Healthcare insurances and Community clinics.



LOLITTA PHILLIPS

Scholarship Amount: \$1,000

Lolita Phillips grew up the 2nd oldest child of 4. She started to notice her emotions at 8 years old. When she had a chance to write an essay for the Sunday paper, she wanted to be in the paper so bad. The teacher said, "you made it!" She was so filled with joy and still a part of her felt like she hadn't done enough. Such moments motivated

Lolita to crave perfection, not knowing there was no such thing. At 35 years old and 9 colleges later, finishing her Associate Degree in Human Service at Madison College, she challenged herself by being an Odyssey student. At Odyssey, Lolita learned how to finish, to believe in herself and know that she can no longer be deferred. Today, after all the challenges, hardships, paying for school to see a B.A. Degree in May 2021 is by far the greatest accomplishment in her family's history because Lolita will be the 1st B.A. Graduate in her family! She is involved with over 25 organizations, works as a Housing Specialist and a Substance Abuse Counselor and has started a Non-For-Profit Organization called INA' STREETS that shows people how it is important to volunteer in the community.



SUPPORT OUR SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Most of the fundraising we do throughout the year directly benefits our scholarship fund; we couldn't do what we do without the support of our members and the outside community.

To get involved, please **attend** any of our events, **sponsor** an event, or make a **donation** directly to the TBF Scholarship fund at: www.thebusinessforum.org/Donate



The Business Forum

Making connections and making a difference.

The Business Forum is a professional organization for women who want to expand their network of meaningful business connections and to make a difference in other women's lives.

Our programs and activities have been created solely for the purpose of uniting professionals, building relationships, and helping women realize their full potential.

E-Mail: tbf@thebusinessforum.org

Web: www.thebusinessforum.org

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