MAKING AN IMPACT

2022 Kahn Scholarship Recipients Announced

In 2021, when AIAA announced the Roger W. Kahn Scholarship to honor Kahn and his passion for aviation and entertainment, we were thrilled to have so many high school seniors from all over the world apply. This year, we received scholarship applications from over 120 high school seniors, and after weeks of deliberation, AIAA is happy to announce that Favianna Colón, Nchenui Moundae Jamila, Elizabeth Kung, and Mariah Tammera will each receive a $10,000 Kahn Scholarship to support their educational journey in the fall. These students also will awarded a travel stipend to attend the AIAA Awards Gala in April and an AIAA professional member mentor to help guide the student on their career path.

Favianna Colón

Notre Dame High School, Caguas, Puerto Rico

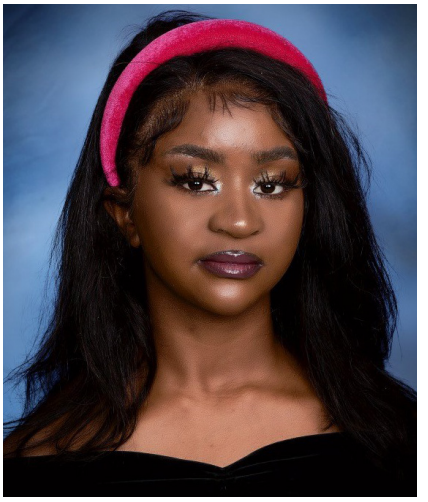
Born on the beautiful island of Puerto Rico to parents Christine Irizarry and José Colón, I am the eldest child, a trained ballet dancer, and the first member of my family to pursue university studies outside the isle's borders—I hope to attend MIT or Georgia Tech in the fall. My decision to do so came over four years ago, in 2018, when I traveled to Washington, DC, to compete in the National Science Bowl and fell in love with the vibrant campus life.

I am currently a senior at Notre Dame High School in my hometown of Caguas, Puerto Rico. I participate in a specialized STEAM program offered there that, over the years, has inspired my fondness of discovery and creation. At the school, I am an active member of numerous organizations, including the Chemistry Club, Honor Society, and Mathematics Club, of which I am president. Thanks to participation in these, I have managed to be a great prospect in competitions like the Puerto Rico Math Olympiad. Further, such institutions have assisted me in discerning my passion for Chemical and Biological Engineering.

Outside of school, in 2019, I participated in a research initiative hosted by NASA in the Arecibo Observatory called STAR Academy. I graduated as the program's salutatorian and, during my time there, investigated black hole types and emerging trends in their development throughout the universe. Such experience steered me to also seek a minor in Astronomy.

Nchenui Moundae Jamila (Jamila)

Paul M. Hodgson Vocational Technical High School, New Castle, DE



I am an aspiring aerospace engineer who grew up in the Central African country of Cameroon and moved to the United States when I was 10 years old. Engineering has always been something that I loved, and I was always fixing and assembling things as a child. I never knew exactly what type of engineering I wanted to specialize in, so I decided to apply for the manufacturing and pre-engineering vocational high school program, which explored every aspect of engineering spanning from machining to CAD design, coding, to circuity, rocket science and robotics. Though intrigued by different fields of engineering, I found rocket science, machining, and robotics units the most challenging and interesting. I wanted a specialization that combined all of my interests, and I always had a strong interest in global warming since I was 12 — I even did a science fair project on the effects of co2 emission. While researching the project I found that research and development for electric cars and solar power were almost definitive at the time, but that of electric airplanes was really far off. I then realized that aerospace engineering was perfect for me, as I could incorporate my interest in global warming, fulfill a personal vendetta against my misogynistic culture, and blend many of the types of engineering I had a passion for. I have a long-term goal of being a key part in the development of an electric airplane.

Elizabeth Kung
Sunset High School, Portland, OR

I was born and raised in Oregon and have always been an active person, curious to try new endeavors. In my early years, I attended a Chinese immersion school, and I am able to fluently read, write, and converse. I love the team atmosphere and the competitive nature of sports, and I've played football, was the captain of my rugby team, attended swimming competitions, and achieved a USA Ballroom Dance Nationals 2nd-place finish.

Space has always been my biggest passion. I was introduced to the magnificence of space through three movies: *October Sky* showed me how to dream, *Hidden Figures* showed me how to pursue, and *Apollo 13* showed me how to persevere. These films were an inspiration, leading me to participate in engineering classes, visit local companies like Boeing, and compete in the Conrad Challenge, becoming a "Conrad Innovator" for two projects: ClearCube (space debris removal) and Mile One (ecofriendly, sustainable shipping). I also had the pleasure of attending two NASA summer camps: one in Alabama, where my team won the "Commander's Cup," and another in Florida, where I witnessed a rocket launch.

I have a desire to further space exploration. Whether or not this involves working on rockets, researching new materials, assembling rovers, learning to fly, or cleaning up space debris, I want to be part of this special time in history. I intend to pursue a degree in Aerospace/Astronautical Engineering and work in the space industry.

Mariah Tammera
Highland School, Warrenton, VA

When I was in first grade, my favorite book was *There's No Place Like Space* by Tish Rabe. I remember thumbing through the colorful, eye-catching pages and absorbing every little detail about the planets, sun, moon, and lunar rovers. My childhood imagination expanded as thoughts captured these topics. It was from this point on that I realized my wholehearted passion for space exploration.

In the spring of 2018, my school gave me the opportunity to attend Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama, for one week. There, I was able to delve deeper into learning more about the career opportunities in the Aerospace field, while also being challenged to use critical thinking and problem-solving skills in group activities. My experiences at Space Camp sparked an interest in a career in Aerospace Engineering. The specifics of my career aspirations began developing after being accepted into the Virginia Aerospace Science and Technology Scholars (VASTS) Online Course program during my junior year of high school and subsequently participating in the VASTS Summer Academy: an invitation-only program. While conducting research on robotic space missions for a module assignment, I discovered an inclination toward learning more about robotic space mission rovers and the scientific instruments used on those vehicles.

All these experiences — from childhood to present day — have encouraged me to set a future career goal aimed at contributing toward furthering humankind's preparation for long-term space exploration by aspiring to participate in the design and development of robotic apparatuses.

MORE INFORMATION

To find out how to get involved with AIAA and make an impact please visit.aiaa.org/foundation or contact Alex D'Imperio, alexandrad@aiaa.org.