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**Contact:**

Stephanie Griffith

Executive Director

Aero Club Foundation of Washington

[stephanie@aeroclub.org](mailto:stephanie@aeroclub.org)

(703)386-4330

## **Aero Club Foundation to Award 15 Scholarships to Washington, D.C. Area Students Pursuing Careers in Aerospace**

The Aero Club Foundation of Washington is proud to announce the recipients of its 2026 Scholarship Program, awarding 15 scholarships of \$5,000 each for a total of \$75,000, the largest scholarship distribution in the Foundation's history. The scholarships recognize outstanding Washington, D.C. area students who have demonstrated a passion for aviation and space and are pursuing education and careers in these fields.

Established in 2017, the Aero Club Foundation Scholarship Program was created to help remove financial barriers for students pursuing degrees in aviation, space, engineering, and related technical fields. Since its inception, the Foundation has invested \$230,000 in scholarships, helping students throughout the D.C. region achieve their educational and professional goals. This year's record-breaking scholarship class reflects both the growing interest in aviation careers and the Foundation's continued commitment to developing the next generation of industry leaders.

"This year's scholarship recipients represent the remarkable talent, determination, and passion that will shape the future of aviation and aerospace," said Jana Denning, President of the Aero Club Foundation. "Whether they aspire to become pilots, engineers, researchers, or innovators, each of these students has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to their goals. We are honored to support their educational journeys and look forward to watching the impact they will have on our industry for years to come."

### **2026 Aero Club Foundation Scholarship Recipients:**

**Mya Elmagraby** (Washington-Liberty High School) will attend the University of Virginia to study Physics, with aspirations of becoming an aerospace engineer specializing in orbital mechanics and planetary defense.

**Renee Indrupati** (Albert Einstein High School) will attend the University of Rochester to study Aerospace Engineering, with plans to contribute to future advancements in space exploration.

**Sainab Jagne**, a returning scholarship recipient and graduate of Northwest High School, is pursuing Mechanical Engineering at Washington University in St. Louis while working toward becoming a commercial pilot.

**Christian Jones-Crawford**, a returning recipient and graduate of Bowie High School, is studying Aeronautical Technology at Kansas State University at Salina and pursuing a career as an airline pilot.

**Alexander Lammers** (Thomas Edison High School) will attend Purdue University to study Professional Flight Technology.

**Terrance Matthews** (Maya Angelou Charter School) will attend the University of South Dakota to pursue a career in aviation.

**Michael McLeod**, a returning scholarship recipient and graduate of School Without Walls, is studying Commercial Aviation at the University of North Dakota with the goal of becoming an airline pilot.

**Peter Nguyen**, a returning recipient and graduate of Chantilly High School, is studying Aerospace Engineering at Cornell University, where he hopes to advance aerospace research.

**Suraya Rezaee** (Paint High School) is pursuing flight training through Aviation Adventure Manassas as she works toward earning her Private Pilot Certificate.

**Isabelle Rivera**, a returning scholarship recipient and graduate of Montgomery Blair High School, is studying Aerospace Engineering and Geology at the University of Maryland, College Park.

**Amy Sherrill**, a returning recipient, is studying Earth Systems Science at the University of California at Irvine, while also completing flight training through Royal Aviation.

**Liyat Tsehai**, a returning scholarship recipient and graduate of Cardozo Education Campus, is studying Aeronautical Science at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University while pursuing her pilot certifications.

**Kwabena Tyus**, a returning recipient and graduate of School Without Walls, is studying Mechanical Engineering at Louisiana State University with plans for a career in aerospace engineering.

**Nathan Velado**, a graduate of Jackson-Reed High School, is currently pursuing a degree in Aerospace Engineering at Northern Virginia Community College with aspirations of a career in the aerospace industry.

**Devin Worsley, Jr.** (McKinley Technology High School) will attend North Carolina A&T State University to study Mechanical Engineering.

The Aero Club Foundation extends its sincere appreciation to the sponsors whose generous support made this record scholarship class possible. Special thanks to United Airlines, Changeis, Inc., Airlines for America (A4A), the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA), and Jetlaw for their continued investment in developing the next generation of aviation and aerospace professionals.

The Foundation also thanks the members of the 2026 Aero Club Foundation Scholarship Selection Committee for their time and thoughtful evaluation of this year's outstanding applicant pool: Paul Archambeault, A4A; Elizabeth Baker, ALPA; Valerie Ericson, Jetlaw; Eugene Freedman, National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA); Varun Malhorta, Changeis, Inc.; Steve Morrissey, United Airlines; Kelly Murphy, Women in Aviation International; Stephen Schembs, Association of Flight Attendants-CWA; Shaesta Waiz, Dreams Soar, Inc.

The Aero Club Foundation looks forward to recognizing the 2026 scholarship recipients during the Aero Club of Washington's July 28, 2026 Luncheon at the Capital Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C. The event will also include the presentation of the 2026 Engen Trophy to Former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao, one of the aviation industry's highest honors recognizing extraordinary lifetime achievement and leadership in aviation.

For more information about the Aero Club Foundation Scholarship Program or to support future scholarships, please visit [www.aeroclub.org/foundation](http://www.aeroclub.org/foundation).

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**About Aero Club Foundation of Washington**

*Founded in 1995, the Aero Club Foundation of Washington fosters and promotes interest in the principles and development of aviation and aeronautics by establishing, sponsoring and supporting student educational programs at public and public charter schools in the District of Columbia. To learn about the Aero Club Foundation's educational outreach initiatives and events, scholarship program, or to make a tax-deductible donation, please visit*

*[www.aeroclub.org/foundation](http://www.aeroclub.org/foundation).*