



California Women Lead
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2023 California Women Lead Scholarship Recipients Announced

*In partnership with the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls,
40 Capitol Fellows receive \$100,000 in scholarships*

SACRAMENTO, CA – June 20, 2023 – California Women Lead (CaWL), in partnership with the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls (CCSWG), announced the 2023 class of recipients of the California Women Lead Scholarship Program for women and gender expansive Fellows in the Sacramento Capitol community.

The awardees were honored at a celebratory breakfast held today at the Citizen Hotel in Sacramento and will be awarded a total of \$100,000 in scholarships.

The CA Women Lead Scholarship Breakfast celebrated the achievements and ambitions of all forty scholarship recipients who were awarded with a \$2,500 scholarship each. These scholarships will support the participation of diverse women and gender expansive students participating in the [Capitol Fellows Programs](#), by helping to offset the cost of living as they launch their careers through this valuable program. The Breakfast featured remarks from notable state women leaders, including Senate President Pro Tempore Toni G Atkins, who also serves on the CA Women Lead Board of Directors and California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls Chair, Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan.

“I am so proud to join California Women Lead and the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls to celebrate and support this year’s class of Capitol Fellows. The financial assistance and mentorship I received as a young person enabled me to pursue a career in government and public policy work. Scholarships make a huge difference, as will these Fellows through their service to our state.”

“This program has been tremendously successful in providing women the resources to help them continue on their leadership path,” said CA Women Lead President Dr. Diandra Bremond. “We are thrilled all eligible fellows are participating in the program together. We are stronger together and need to support each and every one of us.”

“The California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls are honored to once again provide grant funding to support this critical effort to increase support for diverse women and gender expansive people working in state government,” said CCSWG Executive Director Holly Martinez. *“If we are going to change the systems that were not originally built with women in mind, it is imperative that we support the active participation of those who have been historically excluded. Congratulations to this year’s scholarship recipients - we can’t wait to see what you do as you lead California into the future!”*

In addition to a \$2,500 scholarship, each recipient will have the opportunity to participate in professional development events designed to grow their skill sets and professional network, hear from experts and former Fellows on key skill building issues and advice on how to tackle challenges they may face as they build their careers post Fellowship. Scholarship recipients also

have access to CA Women Lead and the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girl's events, programming, training, and expansive network of supportive women leaders to elevate their professional endeavors.

Learn more about the program and this year's incredible group of Fellows at <https://women.ca.gov/california-women-lead-capitol-fellows-scholarship/>

Recipients of the 2023 California Women Lead Scholarship

Alejandra Zamora	Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)
Alisha Singh	San Bernardino County Superior Court
Amaya Childes	Office of Senator Becker
Angelene Villanueva Obedoza	San Mateo County Superior Court
Athena Sanchez	The Maddy Institute/ Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
Aurora Schunemann	Office of Senator Lena Gonzalez
Blair Elizabeth Huxman	Assembly Republican Caucus of Policy and Budget
Britney Ortiz	CA High-Speed Rail Authority
Cayley Chan	Office of Senator Mike McGuire
Chelsy Alfaro	Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency
Chloe Alexandria Shin	Office of Senator Tom Umberg
Clarissa Dominguez	Office of Assemblymember Miguel Santiago
Clarissa Erin Maloney	Governor's Office of Planning and Research
Crystal Horn	Office of Senator Kelly Seyarto
Daniela Garcia-Hernandez	Office of Senator Susan Rubio
Fabiola Moreno Ruelas	Office of Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia
Grace Curtis	Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz)
Hayley Fernandes	Office of Senator Roger Niello
Isabella Valdez Martinez	Office of Senator Monique Limón
Jocelyn Tapia	Governor's Office of Planning and Research
Katherine Squire	Office of Senator Anthony Portantino
Kehinde Ojeikere	Office of Assemblymember Tina McKinnor
Kristal Hilda Padilla	Office of Senator Josh Newman
Krystal Raynes	Office of Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin
Laura Pelaez	California Department of Health Care Services
Margaret (Mo) Roeckl-Navazio	California Department of Public Health
Maria Martinez	Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development
Mariah Bickham	California Governor's Office Of Emergency Services
Mariela Frias	Office of Assemblymember Mia Bonta

Maryana Khames	Office of Assemblymember Lisa Calderon
Naslie Rezaei	Sacramento Superior Court
Nicole Figueroa	Judicial Council of California Office of Governmental Affairs
Nina Le Nguyen	Office of Senator Bill Dodd
Samantha Araceli Elizalde	Office of Assembly Majority Leader Eloise Gomez Reyes
Sana Jaffery	Office of Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula
Sauntharya Manikandan	Strategic Growth Council
Sierra Maciorowski	California Air Resources Board
Teagan Felknor-Edwards	California Conservation Corps
Yannet Leticia Martinez	Superior Court of California, County of Orange
Yessica Mox	California Student Aid Commission

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About California Women Lead

CA Women Lead is California’s longest standing non-partisan organization supporting women’s leadership in the public and private sectors. Our mission is to engage, appoint, and elect female leaders across party lines, increase women’s collective power and influence in government and business, and help every woman achieve her full leadership potential through training, education, and network development. Learn more at www.cawomenlead.org.

About the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls

For almost 60 years, the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls has identified and worked to eliminate inequities that affect California’s women and girls. The Commission provides leadership through research, education, programming, grants funding, advocacy, and strategic partnerships. Learn more at www.women.ca.gov.