

The 2023 Scholarship Award Recipients



Robert Meyers • Bradley University

Robert will be majoring in Interactive Media Game Design.

“My advice is apply for anything you can, you never know what you may receive. It could be \$5, but that is \$5 off of your tuition.”



Alexander Gierut • Loyola University Chicago

Alexander is majoring in Computer Engineering and minoring in Computer Science.

“Some advice I’d give to future scholarship applicants for high school as well as college is to get out of your comfort zone. It is definitely easier said than done, especially with epilepsy, so you have to be safe about it, but it’s important to go out and experience new things, build new relationships, and chase your dreams. Epilepsy can be hard, but don’t let it stop you.”



Morgan Flynn • Carroll University

Morgan will be majoring in Nursing.

“It is important to be involved in school activities as much as you can! Apply yourself to school work giving it your all and take advantage of joining activities outside of the classroom (such as watching football games, band, clubs, and playing sports), as it is just as important for growth. Never be afraid to ask for help in areas where you are struggling, as it is incredibly important to know that you do not have to carry the weight of the world on your shoulders and that people are there to help you. Another piece of advice is to surround yourself with positive people who have similar goals because it is important to be in an environment that pushes you to be the best version of yourself. And finally, celebrate all your achievements no matter how big or how small because every milestone gets you closer to reaching your goals.”



Jackson Haack • University of Iowa

Jackson plans on majoring in Neuroscience.

“Battles are rarely won alone. Build yourself a strong support system and surround yourself with friends, family, teachers and doctors who will help you to persevere during the tough times and to celebrate during the good times. Never give up because who knows what tomorrow will bring.”



Sam Royer • University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Sam will be majoring in Electrical Engineering.

“I think that all students, regardless of whether they have epilepsy, need to remember that high school is about more than creating a resume for college. Whatever one’s goal after high school may be, those 4 years are a great time to try new things, meet new people, and discover one’s passions. Students should take academic courses that challenge them and demonstrate their academic abilities. Of course, that will help to get into a selective college. But students shouldn’t neglect other courses that interest them on the basis that the classes don’t seem as academically challenging. For example, I joined a choir class my junior year because singing and music interested me. It is by no means as difficult as my calculus classes. Although it seems counter intuitive to “take a step back”, joining choir actually helped me succeed in my more rigorous courses because I had more happiness and energy in my daily life, and an easier time learning in all of my classes.”



Finbar Stanton • University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Finbar will be majoring in Business.

“My advice to future scholarship applicants would be to prioritize maintaining a healthy balance between academics, your health, and other extracurriculars. It’s really important to avoid unnecessary stress and to take care of yourself. Also get involved in the epilepsy community and try to inspire progress to the best of your ability.”



Alek Trojanowski • University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Alek will be majoring in Molecular and Cellular Biology.

“Challenge yourself whenever possible and don’t let fear of failure get in the way. Doing so will teach you the most about yourself and help you build confidence in your abilities. If a new experience seems overwhelming at first, remember to focus on progress over perfection. Taking small steps will help you break out of your comfort zone and bring you one giant step closer to achieving your goals.”



Mykenzie McCulloch • Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville (SIUE)

Mykenzie is majoring in Nursing. She hopes to get her masters degree in Nurse Education, so that she can become a professor.

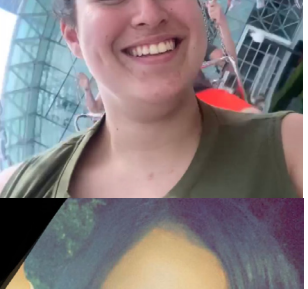
“I would tell future scholarship applicants to always do your best. I know it sounds cliché, but if you are doing your best you will not look back and say ‘what if I would have tried harder?’ As long as you’re trying your best that’s all that matters.”



Allison Fradin • Coe College

Allison is majoring in Psychology and minoring in Education.

“I would say that it would not be easy, life in general is a struggle, but when you get to the top, it’s worth it. You have accomplished something and you can say you have done it and move on to the next chapter in your life.”



Tally Chavez • DePaul University

Tally will be majoring in Criminology.

“My advice regarding high school education would definitely be to never give up, you may face many obstacles but nothing is impossible. Enjoy high school, but take time to put forth in your studies because when the college application process starts it will really pay off. As far as pursuing a higher education I would say do it. Be someone in life, choose a career path that will make you happy and that will make you feel accomplished. I always think to myself we only live once, so live it to the fullest, educate yourself and become a person of good. Last of all, apply to as many scholarships as possible because you never know when it will be your lucky day and become a scholarship winner like me today.”