

**Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center Foundation**

# **2025 Nursing Scholarship Awardees**



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# The Nursing Scholarship Program at LHAAMC

The Nursing Scholarship Program was originally established in 1990 in memory of Marlene Reiter, RN, a staff nurse at Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center. (LHAAMC) Over the last 35 years, the LHAAMC Foundation has been able to award nearly 400 scholarships to educate, grow, and empower nurses of all backgrounds across all areas of our hospital.

Thanks to the incredible support of our donors, thousands of lives have been impacted across our community, due to the dedication, compassion, and skill of our incredible nursing teams.

This year, we are so proud to award 26 scholarships to the following amazing awardees. Please take a moment to learn more them.



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# CONGRATS

to our 2025 Nursing Scholarship Awardees



# 2025 Nursing Scholarship Awardees

**Jeannie Brooke**

**Nicole Burton**

**Samantha Campbell**

**Devra Cockerille**

**Tocara Colbert**

**Latice Dillingham**

**Corinne Fabian**

**Lauren Hnatiuk**

**Jodi Jafari**

**Kristin Kershner**

**Paige LaChance**

**Riley MacIntyre**

**Maria Mansaray-Thulla**

**Denise Medina-Justo**

**Kevin Nairn**

**Jacey Nelson**

**Katie Nichols**

**Shianna Nunemann**

**Ghislain Nzanguquim**

**Megan Picard**

**Julie Polyniak**

**Melyn Rhodes**

**Sydney Rutledge**

**Chelsea Sabota**

**Gilbert Wairia**

**Alyssa Yost**

# Katie Nichols

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** 3 years 2 months

**Current role at LHAAMC:** Registered Nurse/Short Stay Unit

**Degree/program working towards:** BSN

## **What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

I've always been passionate about nursing and taking care of people, but I knew I wanted to keep growing both personally and professionally. Working toward my BSN gives me the chance to build on what I already know, learn new skills, and eventually take on more leadership roles. I want to be the best nurse I can be for my patients and my community, and getting my BSN is an important step toward that. I'm excited about the opportunities it will open up for me in the future.

## **How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

This scholarship means a lot to me. It will help ease the financial burden of going back to school while working, which allows me to focus more on my education and less on the stress of paying for it. Career-wise, it brings me one step closer to earning my BSN and opening up more opportunities, whether that's stepping into leadership roles, working in specialized areas, or continuing onto graduate school in the future. Overall, it's helping me invest in myself so I can give even more back to my patients and my community.



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# Denise Medina Justo

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** 4 years

**Current role at LHAAMC:** Registered Nurse

**Degree/program working towards:** MSN

**What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

Education is my passion. I love being a nurse. I am excited to become an education.

**How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

It will substantially provide economic relief. I am a single mother working full time and also enrolled as a full-time employee. Thank you very much for this opportunity.

# Alyssa Yost

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** 2 years

**Current role at LHAAMC:** Staff RN on Observation Unit

**Degree/program working towards:** BSN

**What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

I want to continue my education so I can better help my patients. Also, I hope to one day get into education and a BSN or MSN is necessary for that field.

**How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

The scholarship will affect my life because this will allow me to focus on my studies with less financial stress. Also, this will allow me to finish my degree faster since I won't have to space out classes due to finances.

# Jeannie Brooke

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** 22 years

**Current role at LHAAMC:** RN/PACU

**Degree/program working towards:** FNP

## **What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

My family has been very supportive. Having three family members in college at the same time has been a financial struggle. I have been thinking about returning to school for the past few years, so I just dived in headfirst.

## **How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

I am very appreciative of this opportunity to advance my career in nursing. This scholarship will help lessen the burden of all the loans I have recently taken on. Being recognized with a scholarship has been so motivating for me to pursue bigger goals.



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# Nicole Burton

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** Almost 8 years

**Current role at LHAAMC:** PCT/NICU

**Degree/program working towards:** RN

**What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

I need to further my career to provide for my family.

**How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

It will help with the financial burden and will help me just focus on school.

# Megan Picard

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** 2.5 years

**Current role at LHAAMC:** RN/BSN Neuro Care

**Degree/program working towards:** Master of Education

## **What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

I really loved all my clinical nursing instructors that brought me into the hospital for the first time. These were the people that made me really want to pursue the profession. My goal is to be able to bring nursing students into the hospital and share the passion for the profession with them while doing hands on patient care.

## **How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

I am a single mother to a six-year-old son and live about an hour away from the hospital. I am thankful for this job and love the people that I work with however I am unable to pick up extra shifts and come in unscheduled for incentive pay so I often miss out on extra money that I would use to pay for school and supplies. I don't have the extra funds to pay for school out of pocket and continue to work the way I do currently. I am so thankful for this scholarship to allow me to go to school and continue to spend quality time with family as well as work on the unit.

# Shianna Nunemann

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** 2 years

**Current role at LHAAMC:** RN, Heart and Vascular Unit

**Degree/program working towards:** Master's degree as a Family Nurse Practitioner

## **What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

I have always enjoyed critically thinking and advocating for my patients so that they can receive the highest quality of care. I loved the idea of bringing these joys into my own practice one day. This degree is not only advancing my education and career, but it also allows me to give back to the community and the people that I love.

## **How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

It has been a struggle in today's economy to afford basic needs such as food and housing. Regardless of the cost of living, I still believe that education is an investment in myself that enables me to serve patients in my community. This nursing scholarship will help alleviate the financial burden of educational costs, allowing me to further my education.



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# Lauren Hnatiuk

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** 5 years

**Current role at LHAAMC:** Staff Nurse, Heart and Vascular Unit

**Degree/program working towards:** RN-MSN in Education

## **What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

I love being a nurse, but I also love to teach and educate other nurses as well. Working towards this degree supports my passion for both nursing and education.

## **How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

This scholarship will help eliminate the financial stress of obtaining my master's degree in nursing. It will allow me to pursue my dreams without worrying about the funds needed for school. It also allows me to continue to support my family and two-year-old daughter while returning to school as well. Nursing as a career and educational track can be very overwhelming and stressful, but this scholarship will help drastically minimize that stress and allow me to focus primarily on advancing my career while raising a family along the way!

# Lauren Hnatiuk

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** 5 years

**Current role at LHAAMC:** Staff Nurse, Heart and Vascular Unit

**Degree/program working towards:** RN-MSN in Education

## **What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

I love being a nurse, but I also love to teach and educate other nurses as well. Working towards this degree supports my passion for both nursing and education.

## **How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

This scholarship will help eliminate the financial stress of obtaining my master's degree in nursing. It will allow me to pursue my dreams without worrying about the funds needed for school. It also allows me to continue to support my family and two-year-old daughter while returning to school as well. Nursing as a career and educational track can be very overwhelming and stressful, but this scholarship will help drastically minimize that stress and allow me to focus primarily on advancing my career while raising a family along the way!

# Devra Cockerille

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** 19 years

**Current role at LHAAMC:** Senior Director, Acute Care Services

**Degree/program working towards:** DNP

## **What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

I was inspired to pursue my DNP by my passion for helping patients and my desire to challenge myself and achieve meaningful goals. Earning a DNP is a lofty accomplishment, and striving toward it reflects my commitment to personal growth, professional excellence, and making a lasting impact in the acute care setting.

## **How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

It is such an honor to be awarded this scholarship. Higher education is an expensive investment in myself and future and these funds will help me achieve my goal.

# Kevin Nairn

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** Originally employed from 2007-2018, left to do some local travel nursing, returned to ACE in June 2024.

**Current role at LHAAMC:** RN, Acute Care for the Elderly Unit

**Degree/program working towards:** BSN

## **What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

I pursued my BSN degree to deepen my clinical knowledge and enhance my ability to provide high-quality, evidence-based care to my patients. I also want to expand my career opportunities and prepare for whatever my next step will be in the field of nursing.

## **How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

It will open new career opportunities, increase my earning potential, and position me for leadership roles in nursing. I also always strive to be a positive role model for my four children, showing them that even working full time with four kids under six, education and improving upon yourself is always a priority and sound investment.

# Kristin Kershner

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** 7 years

**Current role at LHAAMC:** Staff Nurse, Emergency Department

**Degree/program working towards:** Masters degree, Family Nurse Practitioner

## **What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

I want to become a nurse practitioner so I can provide a better life for my two daughters. I also want to make the most of my nursing career.

## **How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

This scholarship will be tremendously helpful in getting me through school. As a single mother, finances are challenging. Due to the time commitment of school, I am not able to supplement my income working overtime. So this scholarship will help to keep me and my kids afloat for the next year while I finish school. I am so incredibly grateful. Thank you so much.



# Chelsea Sabota

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** 9 years

**Current role at LHAAMC:** LPN, Mother/Baby Unit

**Degree/program working towards:** BSN

**What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

Furthering my education and title.

**How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

It will not make me have to stress out paying for tuition.



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# Paige LaChance

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** 9 years

**Current role at LHAAMC:** PCT/McNew Inpatient

**Degree/program working towards:** Associate's Degree in Nursing

## **What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

What inspired me to pursue this degree is my lifelong passion for caring for others. Growing up, I spent a lot of time at doctors' appointments with my parents because my sister had medical issues from a young age. Those early experiences gave me a real glimpse into the world of healthcare and showed me just how much of a difference compassionate, skilled professionals can make. More recently, I've had the chance to help care for my 92-year-old grandfather, and that experience has only strengthened my sense of responsibility and love for helping others. All of these moments have led me to this path—one where I can truly make a difference in people's lives every day.

## **How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

Receiving this nursing scholarship would make a big difference in both my life and my future career. Financially, it would help relieve some of the stress of tuition and let me focus more on my studies and clinical training, rather than worrying about working long hours to cover expenses. On a deeper level, it would bring me closer to my goal of becoming a skilled, compassionate nurse—someone who truly makes a difference in the lives of patients every day.



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# Melyn Rhodes

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** 2 years

**Current role at LHAAMC:** ICU RN

**Degree/program working towards:** BSN

**What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

Further my opportunities within nursing.

**How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

By receiving this scholarship, I am able to continue to save money while obtaining my BSN.

# Jacey Nelson

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** 2 years

**Current role at LHAAMC:** Student Nurse Patient Care Technician on 4-Medical

**Degree/program working towards:** RN

**What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

I always knew I wanted to make a positive impact in the lives of others as well as the community. Growing up I constantly was involved in different volunteer projects/ events where I was able to make a difference.

**How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

This opportunity allows me to focus on my studies and learn as much as I can throughout my program. I will have a stress taken off of my shoulders and I look forward to paying it back through working in the community and continuing to make a positive impact hopefully on 4- Medical. I can proudly say I have completed two of my three courses this semester with an A! The third class is not over yet but, I am hoping to have my third A!



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# Toccara Colbert

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** 8 years

**Current role at LHAAMC:** Advanced Medical Assistant

**Degree/program working towards:** LPN and then I want to become an RN

## **What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

My inspiration to pursue a nursing degree comes from a lifelong passion for helping others and a deep desire to serve my community more effectively. I've been Medical Assistant since 2012 and now Advanced Medical Assistant. I've spent over a decade providing hands-on support and building trusted relationships. Through the experience I see the crucial role nurses play in delivering care to patients. With becoming a nurse, I can make an impact and within my community. As a Doula I've supported many women, especially in underserved populations, through pregnancy and postpartum. These moments showed me just how powerful it can be to combine clinical skill with emotional support. Nursing will allow me to do both. Part of my motivation also comes from being a mother. I have one son in college now and my youngest son leaves on for college on June 29th. I want to show them that no matter how long the journey, it's always worth finishing. They watched me take classes while raising them and they also saw me pause my education to be fully present for them when needed.

## **How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

This nursing scholarship will relieve a major financial burden, allowing me to focus on my education without sacrificing my family's stability. As a single mother of two young men, it brings me one step closer to advancing my career goals and securing our future.



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# Lattice Dillingham

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** 1 year

**Current role at LHAAMC:** Patient Access for registration in the Emergency Department

**Degree/program working towards:** BSN

## **What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

I was inspired to pursue this nursing degree because of my deep desire to help others and make a meaningful difference in people's lives. Seeing the compassion, skill, and dedication of nurses whether through personal experiences or in my community showed me how important this role is in healthcare. I've always been drawn to a career that combines caring for others with continuous learning and growth, and nursing is the perfect fit.

## **How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

The nursing scholarship will have a tremendous impact on my life and career. It will allow me to complete the nursing program and achieve my long-time dream of becoming a nurse. With this support, I can fully focus on my studies without the heavy burden of financial stress. This scholarship not only helps me reach my goal of entering a meaningful and rewarding profession, but it also empowers me to give back to my community and make a positive difference in the lives of others.



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# Jodi Jafari

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** My original hire date was June 1st of 1987. I was at AAMC from 1987 to 1998. I returned to AAMC in October of 2023.

**Current role at LHAAMC:** RN Staff Nurse, Mother Baby Unit

**Degree/program working towards:** BSN

## **What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

I have always wanted to finish my bachelor's degree in nursing and was so happy for the opportunity to do so at this stage in my career. The supportive and encouragement of my peers helped me make the decision to continue my studies.

## **How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

This scholarship will be a huge support during my studies, as I continue to work full time while in school. Having my BSN opens more opportunities for career options in nursing, along with the ability to participate in more complex projects and programs on our unit and ultimately provide better care for our patients.

# Corinne Sherr

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** 4 years

**Current role at LHAAMC:** Registered Nurse, PACU

**Degree/program working towards:** DNP

## **What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

I've always been passionate about supporting others in living healthier, more balanced lives. I find immense joy in helping people make positive lifestyle changes while empowering them to prevent illness through proactive care.

## **How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

This nursing scholarship means so much to me, and I am incredibly grateful for the support. It will significantly ease the financial strain on my husband and I as we work to pay off existing student loan debt, renovate our home, and prepare to start a family. Your generosity is helping to make both my professional and personal dreams more achievable—thank you.



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# Gilbert Wairia

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** 8 years

**Current role at LHAAMC:** Staff Nurse, ACE Unit

**Degree/program working towards:** MSN

## **What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

Working as a staff nurse at Acute Care of the Elderly unit, I have seen how mental health problems especially among the geriatric population often go unnoticed and untreated. This experience has inspired me to gain advanced knowledge to advocate and treat individuals facing mental health challenges.

## **How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

The scholarship will help me grow professionally, be a problem solver and gain more knowledge about advanced care. As I grow older, I want to be an inspiration to the younger generation and be a mentor to many. I have mentored a lot of new nurses at the ACE unit and will continue to do that as I grow professionally.



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# Ghislain Boris Nzanguquim

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** 3 years

**Current role at LHAAMC:** RN, McNew

**Degree/program working towards:** MSN

## **What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

Working as a staff nurse at Acute Care of the Elderly unit, I have seen how mental health problems especially among the geriatric population often go unnoticed and untreated. This experience has inspired me to gain advanced knowledge to advocate and treat individuals facing mental health challenges.

## **How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

The scholarship will help me grow professionally, be a problem solver and gain more knowledge about advanced care. As I grow older, I want to be an inspiration to the younger generation and be a mentor to many. I have mentored a lot of new nurses at the ACE unit and will continue to do that as I grow professionally.



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# Riley MacIntyre

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** 3 years

**Current role at LHAAMC:** Patient Care Technician, Acute Care for the Elderly Unit

**Degree/program working towards:** Associate's Degree in Nursing

## **What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

I have wanted to be a nurse since assisting in the care of my grandmother from her cancer diagnosis to her end-of-life care. I watched the nurses not only help my grandmother, but make an impact on our entire family, and I knew that I was meant to do that for others. Through my seven years as a CNA, I found my passion in gerontology. Beginning my job as a Patient Care Technician on the ACE Unit, the nurses that I work with have further inspired me to become a Registered Nurse, specifically for the older adult population.

## **How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

This scholarship gives me the opportunity to focus fully on school, and not on how I am going to pay for school. Being selected for this scholarship gives me even more drive to continue succeeding in school to become the nurse that I know that I am meant to be. I am very grateful to be able to go into my next portion of schooling knowing that I will not have the added stressors of payment on my mind, with my full focus being on the education itself.

# Maria Mansaray-Thulla

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** 6.5 years

**Current role at LHAAMC:** Patient Care Technician, Observation Unit

**Degree/program working towards:** Currently Associate in Nursing with future plans of obtaining my BSN and the. My Masters in Public Health

## **What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

I have been a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) for 20 years, and the medical field is all I know. Caring for others has always been my passion—it brings me true happiness to know I've made a difference in someone's life.

## **How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

The nursing scholarship will be a great asset to advancing my nursing career. I was a full-time employee, and now that I'm in nursing school, I've had to significantly reduce my work hours to focus solely on my studies. This scholarship award would be a tremendous financial relief, allowing me to concentrate on my education without the added stress of financial strain. It will support my journey toward becoming a skilled, compassionate nurse dedicated to making a positive impact in the health care field.

# Samantha Campbell

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** 10 years

**Current role at LHAAMC:** Oncology Unit Clinical Supervisor

**Degree/program working towards:** MSN

## **What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

The drive to work towards my masters is for my patients, staff, and son. It's important to me to be the best leader I can be for my staff, educated for my patients to make and guide clinical judgement for their best outcomes. And I want my son to see that no matter the timeline, it's okay and warranted to continue education.

## **How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

This scholarship will affect my life and career by assisting in the completion of my degree by allowing me the comfort of focusing on my MSN and not worrying about the financial stress. But also as a key reminder that whenever I am feeling the stress of school that someone has my back and wants me to succeed that doesn't even know me.



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to our 2025 Nursing Scholarship Awardees



**Thank you for your support of  
the Nursing Scholarship  
Program at LHAAMC!**