

2024 SWE-MN Scholarship Recipients

Makayla Cizek



LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/makaylacizek/>

About:

Makayla Cizek is a senior at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities studying Biomedical Engineering with an emphasis in Neural Engineering and is the recipient of a 2024 Intricon Scholarship. Makayla has been involved with SWE at the University of Minnesota for her entire undergraduate career, and looks forward to being President for the 2024-2025 school year! When she's not hanging out at SWE events, Makayla is involved with the Minnesota Running Club track and field team and Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society. She has also worked in two Neuroengineering labs as a Research Assistant, as a Clinical Research Intern at Gillette Children's Hospital, and most recently as a Systems Engineering Intern at Medtronic. Makayla hopes to one day make an impact on the lives of patients by engineering life-changing medical devices.

Congratulations to Makayla Cizek!

Riya Bharti



LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/riya-bharti/>

About:

Riya Bharti is a junior at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, studying Computer Science and Mathematics. She is the recipient of a 2024 Veolia Water Technologies & Solutions Scholarship. On campus, Riya has led the team for Robot in 3 Days, served as President of the Asian American Student Union, and worked as the Creative Director for Jazba Entertainment. Additionally, she is a member of the SWE Student Chapter. Riya's passion for STEM is evident through her internships at Medtronic and Optum, where she contributed to innovative projects in healthcare technology. She hopes to leverage her background in STEM to develop solutions that improve medical technology in the future. Inspired by her experiences and driven by a desire to help others, Riya aims to pursue a career that combines her technical skills with her commitment to social impact. Congratulations to Riya Bharti!

Jessica Ta



LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jessica-ta-2a33b7161/>

About: Jessica Ta is a dedicated Computer Engineering senior at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities and a 2024 recipient of the Minnesota Section Scholarship. With extensive experience as a research assistant and a volunteer/mentor through SASE, VSAM, Rooted In STEM, and Free Geek Twin Cities, Jessica has demonstrated a strong commitment to community service and education. Her professional experiences include a pivotal role as a Product Development Co-op Intern at AtriCure Inc. and an Undergraduate Research Intern at the Illinois Institute of Technology's Material Science REU program. These roles have not only honed her technical skills but also fueled her passion for using technology to enhance health and well-being. Jessica is committed to leveraging her expertise in computer engineering to make a meaningful impact, whether by inspiring underrepresented individuals in STEM or developing innovative medical devices to improve health outcomes. Congratulations to Jessica!

Katriana Trinh



LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/katrianatrinh/>

About: Katriana Trinh is a junior studying Biomedical Engineering at the University of Minnesota and is a recipient of the 2024 Intricon Scholarship. On campus, Katriana is an officer for the University of Minnesota Robotics group, a member of the SWE student chapter, and a member of the University of Minnesota's Undergraduate Surgery Interest Group. She is also a part of the University of Minnesota's Physicians Inspired Engineering Solutions R&D program and is a Quality Engineering intern with Medtronic's Global Quality and Shared Services team. In her spare time, Katriana loves to dabble in videography and photography, breakdance, swim, and travel around the world. She hopes to consolidate her love of problem solving and commitment to healthcare improvement by becoming a practicing physician with an eye for innovative treatment methods that utilize robotics-assisted surgery technology. Congratulations to Katriana!

Alicia Nelson



LinkedIn: <http://linkedin.com/in/alicia-nelson019>

About: Alicia Nelson is a senior at the University of Minnesota Duluth studying civil engineering and is a recipient of the 2024 Minnesota Section Scholarship. Alicia has been involved on campus as secretary of American Society of Civil Engineers, social media coordinator for SERVE - a student volunteering organization, and a member of the concrete canoe team. She has learned leadership skills and the importance of teamwork, project management, giving and receiving constructive feedback, and communicating effectively with others. Alicia has also been an intern at WSB for the past two summers, and hopes to work in a water resources related field after she graduates. Congratulations to Alicia!

Caryn A Marty



LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/caryn-marty-578b56196](https://www.linkedin.com/in/caryn-marty-578b56196)

About: Caryn Marty is a junior at North Dakota State University studying Industrial Engineering and Management and is the recipient of a 2024 Intricon Scholarship. Caryn is involved on campus as an Engineering Ambassador, Vice President of Corporate Relations of the NDSU Chapter of Society of Women Engineers, Student Relations Chair of Saddle and Sirloin, Director of Membership Education of Kappa Delta - Sigma Psi Chapter, and a Teaching Assistant for Fundamentals of Visual Communication. She also works as an intern at Superior Industries. Through these experiences, she has learned how to effectively communicate, develop deeper connections, manage her time, and take initiative. Caryn intends to apply these skills and more in her future industry job and would love to teach engineering classes someday. Congratulations to Caryn Marty!

Aquarina Hoanca



LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/aquarina-hoanca/>

About: Aquarina Hoanca is a junior at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities studying Chemical Engineering with minors in Chemistry and Computer Science, and is the recipient of a 2024 Veolia Water Technologies & Solutions Scholarship. Aquarina has been involved with many groups on campus over the years, being a member of Solar Vehicle Project and the UMN AIChE chapter, a participant in the coworking group making@UMN, the president of the Ballroom Dance Club, and the treasurer for the SWE UMN chapter. She is also involved in research focusing on agrivoltaics and sustainable greenhouse design, and has worked as a manufacturing engineering intern at Veolia WTS. Through her experiences, Aquarina has learned how to advocate for herself, lead others to success, make tough decisions, and problem solve both in school and beyond it. She hopes to someday apply the knowledge she's gained to the implementation and search for clean energy technologies to power a more sustainable world. Congratulations to Aquarina Hoanca!

Mikaela Norum



LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/mikaela-norum-832297247/>

About: Mikaela Norum is a senior at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities studying Materials Science and Engineering and is a recipient of a 2024 Trane Twin Cities Scholarship. Mikaela has been involved on campus as Director for General Outreach and K-12 Outreach for her collegiate SWE section, a student leader for the UMN's Lutheran Campus Ministries student group, and an active member of the Materials Advantage student group. She has worked as an undergraduate researcher for two years at the UMN, and is now working at SkyWater Technology as a Foundry Engineering Intern. Through these experiences she has learned the value of determination, communication, and passion as tools for effective problem solving in any setting. Mikaela hopes to work in the Renewable Energy Industry doing research on more efficient solar cells and batteries to be an active part of positive change for the world and its ecosystems. Congratulations to Mikaela!

Elayra Dizon



LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/elayra-dizon-70466a2a7/>

About: Elayra Dizon will be a senior at the University of Minnesota studying material science and engineering, and is the recipient of a 2024 Boston Scientific Scholarship. Elayra participates in many extracurriculars such as handball and basketball, and will be the 2024 - 2025 First Year Experience Director for the Society of Women Engineers Community Development Committee as well as the Secretary for Material Advantage. She has also worked as a technical aide at 3M and is currently interning at H.B. Fuller for the R & D Global Rigid Packaging team. Elayra's experiences have motivated her to pursue a career in the polymer industry after her undergraduate education, and she is looking forward to applying her knowledge to solve real-world problems.

Grace Lynch



LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/grace-lynch-umd-che/>

About: Grace Lynch is a senior Chemical Engineering and Biology double major at the University of Minnesota Duluth and the proud recipient of a 2024 Medtronic SWEnet Scholarship. While at UMD, Grace has served as a judge for the NE MN and American Indian Science and Engineering Fair, HOSA - Future Health Professionals, and the National Speech and Debate Association. Grace has also been fortunate to intern at MGK Insect Control Solutions and Sappi North America, where she has learned to leverage her interdisciplinary background to solve complex problems. Grace is dedicated to inspiring the next generation, particularly girls, to pursue STEM careers and hopes to find a meaningful application for her experience after graduating.

Congratulations to Grace Lynch!

Israa Mohamed



LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/israa-mohamed-89b382185/>

About: Israa Mohamed is a dedicated Computer Science student and a rising senior at the University of Minnesota and is the recipient of a 2024 Medtronic SWEnet Scholarship. She serves as the Vice President of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and is an active member of Girls Who Code, Rewrite the Code, and Break Through Tech AI. Through her involvement in these organizations, Israa is committed to promoting diversity and inclusion in the tech industry. Israa has gained valuable experience through her internship as a Software Engineering Intern at US Bank, where she developed skills in software development, problem-solving, and teamwork. She is currently furthering her experience as a Software Engineering Intern at Target, where she continues to enhance her technical skills and industry knowledge. Congratulations to Israa Mohamed!

Ilana Andrev



LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/ilanaandrev

About: Ilana Andrev is an incoming sophomore at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. She is double-majoring in computer science and data science, with a minor in statistics. She is honored to be the recipient of the 2024 Medtronic SWEnet Scholarship. Ilana has been involved on campus as the Public Relations Director for the UMN's SWE chapter, and the Communications Director for the UMN Entrepreneurship Club. Outside of school, she records her wellness podcast and enjoys reading, working out, and staying up-to-date on the latest AI research. She has also interned at Medtronic for the past two summers. Ilana has learned much throughout her experiences, including team-building, perseverance, and problem-solving. One day, Ilana hopes to work on harnessing artificial intelligence to benefit businesses and the overall world. Congratulations, Ilana!

Serena Ruth Timmer



About: Serena Timmer is entering her sophomore year at the University of Minnesota Duluth and is studying Chemical Engineering. She is the Recipient of a 2024 Medtronic SWEnet Scholarship. Serena is presently on the University of Minnesota Duluth softball team as well as enjoys going to WSE meetings and AIChE meetings when not in class or at softball. She has worked as a data examiner at ABSee vision for 3 years. Serena has learned about Engineering from job shadowing and knows where she wants to go over the next few years from these various opportunities. Serena leads groups, manages time, is a hard worker, enjoys being part of a team and cares a lot about safety in her environment. Serena hopes to someday use her education and practice skills to obtain a career in pharmaceuticals.

Kara V Hoag



LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/kara-hoag-72682b289](https://www.linkedin.com/in/kara-hoag-72682b289)

About: Kara Hoag, the recipient of the 2024 Intricon Scholarship, is a Junior at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities studying Biomedical Engineering with a Minor in Management. She has been actively involved on campus through her roles as a former committee member and now general director of the community development committee for SWE UMN. Kara is also interning at Abbott Laboratories this summer as an Electrophysiology R&D MN-Tern. Through her experiences, she has learned to lead others, troubleshoot problems, and continually ask questions. Kara Hoag's long-term goal is to work in the medical device industry contributing to the further advancement of the capabilities of technology in healthcare. Congratulations Kara Hoag!

Joyce Wong



LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/joyce-wong-97574028b?trk=contact-info>

About:

Joyce Wong is a sophomore at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities studying Mechanical Engineering and is the recipient of a 2024 Banner Engineering Scholarship. Joyce Wong has been involved with various extracurriculars, including Clean Energy Leaders, Engineering Without Borders, and Math Motivators tutoring. She has enjoyed interning for the City of Saint Paul, the Three Rivers Park District, and the non-profit Spark-Y. These internships have taught Joyce to recognize the interconnectedness of all fields, skills necessary for leadership, and importance of clear communication. Joyce Wong hopes to apply her varied experiences to the innovation of renewable energy within the field of sustainability.

Gauri Kartha



LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/gauri-kartha-141b0923a/>

About: Gauri Kartha is a senior at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities studying Biomedical Engineering and is the recipient of a 2024 Silk Road Medical Scholarship. Gauri has been engaged on campus as industry officer and President of the Biomedical Engineering Society student chapter, committee member and co-director of the Professional Membership Committee of the Society of Women Engineers student chapter, and an active member of the College of Science and Engineering's Mentorship Program. She has also interned at Teleflex Interventional and LightningCath and participated in lab research on campus. Through her experiences, Gauri has developed strong leadership, collaboration, and research skills. She hopes to apply her knowledge and skills to make significant contributions in the biomedical engineering field.

Congratulations to Gauri Kartha!

Marwa Mohammed



LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/marwasmohammed/>

About: Marwa Mohammed is a junior at the University of Minnesota majoring Computer Science and minoring in public health and is the recipient of the 2024 Medtronic SWEnet Scholarship. Marwa Mohammed has been involved on her campus as a board member of the National Society of Black Engineers, and a general member of the SWE student chapter. She has worked at the Minnesota Department of Health as a data analyst, and is currently a software engineering intern at Cigna. Marwa has learned and grown in various ways through her experiences. She has learned to be more outspoken and decisive. Marwa hopes to continue to apply her skills to the healthcare field. Congratulations to Marwa Mohammed!

Jenitta Sherin John



LinkedIn: <http://linkedin.com/in/jenittajohn>

About: Jenitta John is a junior at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities studying Biomedical Engineering and is the recipient of a 2024 Boston Scientific Scholarship. Jenitta has been involved on campus as a Director for the Society of Women Engineers, Member of the UMN Marching Band, and a leader with the International Student Outreach group. She has also been involved with biomedical research on campus and worked as a Manufacturing Engineering Intern at Medtronic. Jenitta has learned and grown as a student through these experiences to make a difference in her community. She has learned to apply her knowledge and skills to the work she is passionate about and work collaboratively to offer creative solutions. Jenitta looks forward to applying the valuable skills she has acquired to effectively contribute to the field of biomedical engineering to serve patients. Congratulations to Jenitta!

2024 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION JUDGES

Nicole Bartelt



Nicole graduated from Michigan State University with a BSCE in 2002 and MS ENE (Environmental) in 2004, with an emphasis in water resources. She currently works for the Minnesota Department of Transportation as part of the Bridge Office management team. She has been a member of SWE-MN for 16 years, and served as Secretary, Membership Chair, and Mankato State University Section Counselor. She has been a SWE-MN scholarship judge numerous times and always amazed at the talent and passion of the scholarship recipients! Nicole enjoys spending time with her family, while cheering for the Spartans and Green Bay Packers.

Kimberly Miller



Kim Miller is a principal process engineer at Medtronic, designing the equipment to make batteries for pacemakers and other medical devices. A proud SWE member since 2007, Kim has many amazing experiences both as a collegiate and a professional member. Kim enjoys being a part of the scholarship program as a judge because she has experienced how the financial support and recognition of promising and talented students make a positive impact for budding engineers.