

Scholarship Recipients

Spring 2022/Fall 2022





Graduate College Fellowship

- Reimagine our Future Finalist
- XYLEM Competition Winner
- Product Lead at Product Management at Illinois
- User Researcher/Project Assistant at CARLE
- Undergraduate Researcher

Asia Abumaye
Glendale Heights, IL
University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign
Psychology
May, 2022

I am deeply grateful for being a recipient of the Graduate College Masters Fellowship. I come from a family of refugees that came to America for a better life, with their previous life being destroyed by a raging war in Somalia that tore down the hopes and dreams my parents had of raising us in the only place they knew. I am the first woman in my family to go to graduate school. I chose LER since this program seeks to help not only their students succeed for the best, but to help curate future professionals in changing the future for the better. I plan to be the voice of the minority and to create a workplace environment that every company can turn to look towards for inspiration that is a safe space that employees can look forward to going to. And I know that LER/human resources can help me do so. This program is a huge steppingstone in becoming the best version of myself, and without this fellowship, I would not be able to strive for my best self and a brighter future without it.



Marisa Arvanites
Woodridge, IL
University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign
Communication
May, 2022

Arnold Weber Scholarship

- Office Coordinator at Valdes Engineering Company
- Beverage & Cart Attendant at the Village Greens of Woodridge Golf Course
- Veterinary Assistant Intern at Cermak Animal Clinic
- Phi Eta Sigma, National Honor Society
- AOII Sorority
- Hospice Hearts Animal Rescue Volunteer

After completing my undergrad at the University of Illinois, I was not quite ready to leave the school I considered my home, so after doing some research, I came across the LER program here at Illinois. I heard nothing but good things about it and wanted to be a part of one of the best human resource programs in the country. I was even more convinced to attend after my cousin graduated this past December from the program. I was able to hear about all her experiences including how much she loved being a part of the LER "family" and how supportive all the faculty and staff were.



Ja'nice Baker

Chicago, IL

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign

Psychology

May, 2020

Patricia Menzel Memorial Scholarship

- Y on the Fly Coordinator/Director, Stephens Family YMCA
- Micro Influencer for Gopuff
- Day Camp Assistant Director at Champaign Park District
- Special Education Leader at Chicago Park District
- Foundations of Leadership Certificate
- Certificate of Excellence
- Led Community & Youth Outreach Initiatives across C-U

I am honored to have received the Patricia Menzel Memorial Scholarship! My recent experiences with loss have influenced my desire to be impactful not only for me but for them. I strive to use my educational experience to improve organizational diversity across businesses and communities creating more inclusive hiring methods. That is why I am so honored to be able to carry on Patricia Menzel's legacy. I hold a belief that the legacy of our loved ones is forever remembered through the efforts we make while continuing our life journeys. Through us they live on; why not make it count? Thank you!



Melissa Becraft

Champaign, IL

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign

Psychology

December, 2021

LER Scholarship

- Alcon HR Intern – Diversity & Inclusion
- Ballet Mistress & Instructor at Peoria Ballet, Classical Dance Academy, Atlanta Ballet
- Research Assistant at UIUC
- Ballet Dancer at Palmetto City Ballet, Fort Wayne Ballet, and Atlanta Ballet
- Lead Hostess at Bacco Italian Restaurant, O'Charley's

Human Resources is a profession all about effecting change, and I was eager to be a part of a profession where I can enact meaningful change and guide development. LER has a phenomenal reputation of creating HR professionals that are prepared for the business world. The LER program has given me the tools and confidence to know I will be entering the workforce ready for any challenge ahead.

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Employment Relations



**Christine (C.J.)
Capalar**

Waukegan, IL
University of Kentucky
Psychology
December, 2021

bp Scholarship

- VP of Programming for the Omicron Zeta Chapter of Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority, Inc.
- Signature Programming Intern at University of Kentucky Martin Luther King Center
- Resident Advisor at University of Kentucky Residence Life
- Council President for United Greek Council
- Founding President of Wildcat Model United Nations
- Dean's List

Through my student leadership positions in undergrad, I developed a passion for student affairs, leadership/professional development and diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts. When applying to graduate schools, I applied to multiple programs in higher education and human resources. Ultimately, I chose to pursue a career in human resources because it would allow me to gain experience in the areas I am passionate about, but also be able to take that knowledge and apply it to help my community outside of the workplace. I chose LER because of the plethora of opportunities for its students, its strong alumni network, and I knew it would challenge me to grow academically and personally.



**Sarah
Cavanaugh**

Elmhurst, IL

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign

Agricultural &
Consumer Economics

LER Scholarship

- Recruiting Solutions Specialist at Connect Search LLC
- Financial Consulting Academy at Charles Schwab
- Branch Intern at Charles Schwab
- Operations Intern at Kronos Foods Corporation
- VP of Programs for Student Society for Human Resource Management
- Treasurer for Financial Planning Club
- Project Director for the American Marketing Association

I chose to go into Human Resources because I have a passion for problem solving. HR is an exceptional field in which it allows you to solve problems throughout the company to create a more cohesive and collaborative environment. You have the opportunity to connect with individuals from such diverse and unique backgrounds and can utilize that insight to establish a more inclusive and creative culture. A successful culture is an integral part of every company, and I am excited that I get to be a part of a team that helps facilitate that.

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Mahum Chaudhary

Naperville, IL

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign

Psychology

December, 2021

LER Scholarship

- People M&A Grad Intern at West Monroe
- Wellness Student Associate for COVID Wellness Support
- Peer Advisor in the Psychology Department at UIUC
- Primary Research Assistant at the Action, Research, & Collaboration Lab
- Psychology Intern at Botswana-Baylor Children's Clinical Centre of Excellence
- Fluent in Urdu
- Dean's List

I chose LER to study human resources because I've heard many great things about the program. LER sets students to up for success with different opportunities from networking to summer internships. I am grateful for this program and all it has to offer!



Graduate College Fellowship

- Human Resources Paraprofessional at Illinois Global Institute at UIUC
- Student Office Assistant at the Housing Information Office at UIUC
- Volunteer Services Intern at OSF Heart of Mary Medical Center
- Undergraduate Research Assistant at the iSchool at UIUC
- Graduated with Highest Honors
- Illinois Academic Enrichment and Leadership Program Scholar
- Alpha Lambda Delta National Honor Society
- Marching Illini and Illinettes Dance Team

Olivia Chester

Tuscola, IL

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign

Community Health

May, 2022

I chose LER not only to receive a top tier education from accomplished faculty, but to continue my education at a prestigious university.

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Nash Kamat Family Scholarship

- Recipient of the Outstanding Senior in HR Management Award
- People & Culture HR Intern at Navistar
- Student Access & Accommodations Front Desk Associate at ISU
- HR Administrative Assistant at Westmoreland Country Club
- Before/After School Program Coordinator Assistant at Trinity Lutheran School
- Summer Intern at Corkill Insurance Agency

Caitlin Curtin

Des Plaines, IL
Illinois State University
HR Management
May, 2022

I am dedicated to making a positive influence on the productivity and well-being of those around me. HR stood out to me since it emphasized the importance of connecting with people and creating opportunities to develop individuals and organizations. I am passionate about working with people and helping others recognize their strengths while being a reliable support system.

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Stephen Schaefer Scholarship



**Gabrielle
Dagher**

Hickory Hills, IL

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign

Political Science

May, 2022

- Graduate Assistant in the Department of Economics
- Intern at Boston Premier Microfinance
- Intern at Hallett McCann Law Group
- Intern at Reem Odeh Immigration Law Firm
- Intern at Fred Joshua Family Law Firm
- President of Black Chorus

My family and I migrated to the United States 9 years ago from Ghana to restart and rebuild our lives here. Although this move was one of the biggest adjustments I have faced thus far, I always found comfort and grounding in my education. Your generous scholarship has enabled me to further my education and has brought me closer to attaining my goals and dreams. Thank you very much.



Jiale Deng

Nanchang, China

Jiangxi University of
Finance and
Economics

HR Management

June, 2022

Delaney J. & Schwochau S. Scholarship

- Intern at Standards Technical Services Co., Ltd. Shenzhen Branch
- Volunteer at Benevolence 100 Love Packages
- Fluent in Chinese and English
- First-class Merit Student

First, I feel very honored and lucky to get this scholarship. Most importantly, I want to express my deep thanks to the entrepreneurs who funded me. Second, my Illinois alumni and classmates are excellent, and they always inspire me to be the best of myself. Finally, I chose HRM because the management of people is the core of management and the knowledge of HRM will be beneficial for my future life and work.

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Graduate College Fellowship

- Talent Acquisition Intern at Tegus Inc.
- Insurance Sales Strategist at State Farm Insurance
- Human Resources Intern at IDEX Health & Science LLC
- Customer Relations Intern at State Farm Insurance
- Equity Research Intern at Loop Capital Investment Bank
- Honors List
- Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Recipient
- Senior Honors Thesis: How DEI Impacts Black Women

Amanda Donald-Phillips
Chicago, IL
Dartmouth College
Sociology &
African/African American
Studies
June, 2022

After being told by many that HR professionals aren't well respected and aren't well paid, I was destined to become an HR professional that is both. I am inspired to be the best I can be by all of the obstacles, doubts, and wild cards life has thrown at me. As a first-generation Black woman and the oldest of two, I am constantly working to make myself proud and make my family even prouder. The sky is the limit and by pursuing my MHRIR, I am helping myself so that I am in a better position to pay it forward and help others.



Chenyi Feng

Beijing, China

Renmin University of
China

HR Management

June, 2022

LER International Scholarship

- Talent and Organization Development Intern at Aon Hewitt
- Human Resource Intern ByteDance Ltd.
- Recruiter at Beijing Lantu Times Technology Co., Ltd.
- Deputy Head of Arts and Cultural Department for the Student Council of Renmin University of China
- Fluent in Mandarin and English
- First-class Scholarship for Learning Progress

I keep striving to be the best I can be for 2 reasons. First, I desire to be exposed to vaster world and talk with top talents whether in study or at work. This motivate me to spare no effort in achieving my goal and grabbing potential opportunities. Second, it is encouragement and stress from my best friend who is extremely outstanding and intelligent that push me to go ahead.



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Alena Fredericks

Berwyn, IL

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign

Psychology

December, 2021

LER Scholarship

- HRBP Summer Intern at Delta Air Lines
- Community Assistant/Leasing Agent at American Campus Communities
- Business Representative & Social Media Intern at RecruitMe
- Food Counter Clerk at Edgewood Valley Country Club
- Psychology Research Assistant at R.A.C.E. Lab and Project iBelong
- Co-Founder/Membership Chair at CornTV
- Dean's List

I am grateful for this award because it offers my family and I some financial relief for my Master's degree. I worked hard during my undergrad at UIUC and appreciate that my hard work has been noticed and rewarded. I love the program so far and am looking forward to my last year at UIUC with LER!



Michaila Garcia

Sterling, IL

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign

Higher Education and
Diversity & Equity

May, 2021

LER Scholarship

- HR DEI Analyst Intern at Emerson Electric
- HR Talent Management Intern at Amsted Automotives
- Graduate Academic Advisor at LAS UIUC
- Graduate Transfer Program Assistant at Columbia College
- Illini Transfer Ambassador for New Student Programs at UIUC
- Student Member at Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity
- Volunteer Member at ABC AmeriCorps

As a first-generation student, receiving the LER Scholarship is not only beneficial to me, but my family as well. With the help of this scholarship, I'm able to continue my education and use this scholarship as a driving force to continue to do well in my courses and search for full-time opportunities.



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Madi Guest

Wyoming, OH

The Ohio State
University

Business Administration,
Human Resources

May, 2022

LER Scholarship

- Graduated *magna cum laude*, Dean's List
- Dean's Leadership Academy Certificate
- Second-Year Transformational Experience Program Ambassador
- Human Resources Intern, ms consultants, inc.
- Human Resources Internship, Uline

I am an extremely driven student who chose LER for the opportunities and challenges in which I know I am ready to face. I look forward to making the most out of each day here and discovering where I am best meant to serve as a Human Resources employee in the future.

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Bin Guo

Changsha, China
Xiamen University
Administrative
Management
June, 2022

LER Scholarship

- Human Resource Intern, Zhaopin Limited
- Office Intern, China South Publishing & Media Group
- Analyst for Research on the Social Inclusion of Fujian Danmin
- Student Assistant for the Student Affairs Department
- Volunteer at Centennial Anniversary of Xiamen University
- Fluent in Mandarin and English

I went through a difficult time of self-discovery during my undergraduate years. I doubted myself and was confused about my future direction, and with the impact of COVID-19, my plans for graduate study were filled with uncertainty. Being admitted to LER and receiving this scholarship greatly boosted me, and it is one of the few things that has impressed me deeply in my life so far. This precious scholarship has passed on the spirit of LER to me, and I will continue to work hard with gratitude and faith.

I chose LER because of its strong comprehensive strength and high reputation worldwide. The professional curriculum, activities, and network with alumni provide us with a wide and free platform for development, and the home-like collective atmosphere I felt after coming here also gave me a sense of belonging.

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UPS Scholarship



- Graduate Coordinator at America reads*counts
- Residential Advisor at Busey-Evans
- Student Coordinator at Dining Services at UIUC
- Advised 49 Peer Residents
- Fluent in Spanish
- Dean's List

Luis Hernandez

Chicago, IL

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign

Industrial
Organizational
Psychology

May, 2022

My Mother inspires me to be the best that I can be. She showed me the strength of perseverance when she raised my two sisters and me independently. She instilled the value of education and hard work in us. She assisted my siblings and me in every way she possibly could. She taught us failure is only failure when you give up. If you learn from failure and fix your mistakes, it's not truly a failure. She is the greatest role model in my life and the one that showed me to always do the best that I can. If I'm going to do something, I should always put my best foot forward.

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Maggie Huizinga

Frankfort, IL
Central Michigan
University
Psychology &
Philosophy
May, 2022

Marathon Scholarship

- Human Resources Consultant Intern at Highland Performance Solutions LLC
- Psychology Research Assistant at Central Michigan University
- Division I Student Athlete on the Central Michigan Women's Lacrosse Team
- Student Athlete Mentor at Central Michigan University
- Honors Centralis Scholarship Recipient

Everyday I am driven to become 1% better than I was the day before. I believe knowledge is a privilege and I want you use the skills I learn in LER to make the world a better place, whether that be for one employee or 500 employees.



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William & Rhea Burger Scholarship

- Human Resource Associate Intern at Digital Factory, Inc.
- SSHRM Co-president
- President of Sigma Psi Zeta Sorority, Inc.
- Vice President-Internal of Sigma Psi Zeta Sorority, Inc.
- Recruitment Chair at Sigma Psi Zeta Sorority, Inc.
- Community Chair for the Taiwanese American Students Club
- Intermediate in Korean

During my freshman year, I took a global studies class that allowed me the opportunity to take different quizzes to explore and understand myself better as an individual. StrengthsQuest provided a list of prominent qualities and matched occupations tailored to through traits. My top qualities of being sociable, communicative, empathetic, and optimistic would best align me with being able to effectively handle conflict resolution. To others, seeing the results from one of these quizzes may not be impactful. However, this simple test would spark an interest in further researching the field and create a new passion for me to pursue. During my research, I was reminded of the discrimination that I faced at my first job. Having been treated unfairly on multiple occasions, I reached out to my manager with my problems and was curtly left with a response of "That's just how it is." Looking back at that time and remembering how I felt inspired me to want to make a difference in people's lives in the workplace so that no one would have to experience what I had gone through. My time in GS 101 and my personal work experience were the two biggest factors that led me to wanting to pursue a career in human resources.

Clare Hur

Carol Stream, IL

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign

Agricultural &
Consumer Economics

May, 2022

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Jinwei Jia

Mokena, IL

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign

Psychology

May, 2022

Floyd & Judith Whellan Scholarship

- HR Recruiting Strategy Project
- Receptionist at Perfect Nails
- Fluent in Chinese

I am sincerely honored to have been selected as the recipient of the Floyd & Judith Whellan Scholarship. Thank you for your generosity, which has allowed me to pursue a career I have always loved and dreamed of. By awarding me the Floyd & Judith Whellan Scholarship, you have lightened my financial burden, which will allow me to focus more on my professional career. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I can help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me. I chose LER not only because of the fantastic learning atmosphere created by all the inspiring faculties but also students who are eager to learn just like me. I remember the first week Nell said that we are not only classmates who compete but also a family to help each other. I wouldn't give a reason for choosing LER because everyone would say a million things about this fantastic program, but I will say I made the right choice at the right place.



Yun Young Kim

Wheeling, IL

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign

Community Health

December, 2021

LER Scholarship

- Cashier/Floater at Tous les Jours
- Future Health Care Executive Member at UIUC
- Phi Eta Sigma Honor Fraternity Member at UIUC
- Vacation Bible School Camp Counselor at Korean Philippi Presbyterian Church
- Bilingual in Korean and English
- Dean's List

I am grateful for this award because I can devote more time to my studies with less financial burden for my Master's degree. I would like to extend my gratitude to LER for this generous contribution to my educational success. I know that this support is an investment in my future!

Pearlman Leadership Scholarship



Diem Le

Chicago, IL

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign

Sociology

May, 2022

- Career Services Paraprofessional at UIUC Career Center
- Intern at UIUC Asian American Cultural Center
- Facilitator for IConnect – Diversity and Inclusion Workshop
- President for Sigma Psi Zeta Sorority, Inc. 2020-2021
- New Member Educator for Sigma Psi Zeta Sorority, Inc.
- Mentor at Ascend – Pan-Asian Business Organization
- Fluent in Vietnamese

I am very grateful for this award because it assures me that my leadership positions that I held in undergrad is something that I should take pride in and bring along with into my future endeavors. I was able to build communities and connections within these communities through my leadership positions and hope to continue to do so. The Pearlman Leadership award inspires me to bring a welcoming environment into LER and to foster an environment where everyone strives to be the best that they can be, growing together along the way. I am thankful to be recognized as a leader through my actions and hope to make the Pearlman family proud with my continued effort in the LER community!

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William Lim

Orland Park, IL

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign

Molecular and Cellular
Biology

May, 2021

LER Scholarship

- Global Operations HR internship at Ingredion
- Consultant at Illinois Consulting Group
- Treasurer of SSHRM
- Sales Associate at Dick's Sporting Goods
- Student Worker at Child Development Laboratory
- Student Member at CU-Impact

Having to financially support myself throughout college has been one of my top concerns. I am grateful for receiving this award because it alleviates some financial burdens of continuing my education. This allows me to focus my time on learning and applying the knowledge taught throughout the courses at LER.



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Yifan Lin

Shenzhen, China

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign

Psychology

May, 2022

LER Scholarship

- Recruitment Consultant at Zhuowen Education Group
- HR Specialist at CMGE Co. Ltd.
- Co-founder of Simmer Plan at UIUC Chinese Scholars & Students Association
- Minister of Student Affairs Department at UIUC Chinese Scholars & Students Association in charge of new students' welcoming event
- Fluent in English, Chinese, Cantonese
- Dean's List

My previous academic and working experience aroused my interest and passion for the industrial of human capital. I joined the LER program to devote time and effort to better understanding the HR industry, which can equip me with professional knowledge for my future career. I dedicate to providing professional HR service to both organizations and future talents.



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LER Scholarship

- English Tutor at Taoyuan Lutheran Church
- Part-Time Staff at Shaoyang After-School Learning Center
- Student Dormitory Committee Member at Xinyi Student Dorm
- Summer Camp Counselor at Taoyuan Lutheran Church
- Fluent in Chinese and English
- National Taiwan University Department of Business Administration: Human Resource & Organizational Management Module Certificate

Ya-Ting Liu

Taoyuan, Taiwan

National Taiwan University

Business Administration

June, 2022

I have been fascinated by the science of human resources management since I realized how work impacts human life and how HR can impact people's work. Therefore, I chose to study at LER. By learning employment relations and human resources management, I believe one day I can apply what I learn to manage the relationship between employers and employees and implement different strategies to improve workplace environment and productivity. LER trains great HR professionals.

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**Amy
MacLaren**

Battle Creek, MI
Purdue University
HR Development
May, 2022

General Mills Scholarship

- Mock Interview Coach at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- Human Resources Intern at Caterpillar
- Teaching Assistant at Krannert School of Management – Purdue University
- Talent Management Intern at Polaris Inds. Inc.
- Human Resources Intern at Greater Heights HR LLC
- VP of Marketing and Communication at SSHRM - UIUC
- Senior Executive Mentor at Beta Alpha Psi - Purdue
- President at Beta Alpha Psi - Purdue
- Peer Mentor at Disability Resource Center - Purdue

I am honored to be the recipient of the General Mills Scholarship. The food products company that I grew up loving has now become a part of my lifelong journey of learning. I chose LER because of the team mindset the students, faculty and alumni have – Just like General Mills.



Adam McGahay

La Grange, IL

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign

Information Systems &
General Management

December, 2021

LER Scholarship

- Human Resources Intern at Madison Industries
- Consultant for Gies College of Business IS/OM Practicum
- Online Community Manager at Global Mosaic Internship
- Technology/Consulting Intern at Global Mosaic Internship
- Master Teaching Assistant BADM 449 Business Strategy
- Campus Design Manager at Campus Ink
- Caddy at Butler National Golf Club

I'm honored to be a recipient of the LER Scholarship. The opportunity to further my education at this prestigious program—as well as the ability to study a topic I am wholeheartedly passionate about—is a dream come true. Human resource professionals have the power and responsibility to improve the lives of employees at all levels of a business. I'm excited to start my career doing just that.



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Erin Melrose
Overland Park, KS
MidAmerica
Nazarene
University
Elementary
Education
December, 2019

Polaris Scholarship

- Math Cadre Facilitator at Blue Valley School District
- 3rd Grade Teacher at Overland Trail Elementary School
- Student Teacher at Scarborough Elementary School
- Paraprofessional at Aubry Bend Middle School

I am grateful and humbled to receive the Polaris Scholarship. Before coming to the School of Labor and Employment Relations as a student, I was a third-grade teacher in Overland Park, Kansas. In this role, I supported, empowered and encouraged not only students in my classroom but colleagues as well. As a result of this experience, I developed a passion for supporting others in pursuing their professional career goals. I hope to continue in this vein of service and support as I begin my career in Human Resources as a student.



Jonathan Moon

Visalia, CA

Olivet Nazarene
University

Leadership &
Management

May, 2022

R. Wayne Anderson Family Fellowship

- HR Intern at the National Association of REALTORS
- Data Science Team Member at Minor League Esports & Sprocket
- Co-Founder and Managing Partner at MVP Sports Complex
- Lead Sales and Market Development at Maxim Plow Parts
- Sales and Service Specialist at Bank of America
- Graduated Magna Cum Laude

I chose to pursue a career in HR after observing the many work/life hardships brought on by the pandemic. Seeing those around me struggle solidified my desire to positively impact lives through the workplace. This desire led me to LER. From my first interactions with staff, faculty, alums, and students - the incredible community and immense drive to help others to succeed were clear. I can't imagine my HR journey beginning any other way.



Jolene Morgan
Sandwich, IL
University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign
Communication
May, 2022

Nancy Puccini Scholarship

- Event Coordinator at Events at Refinery
- Server at Biaggi's Ristorante Italiano
- Member of Lambda Pi Eta, The National Communication Honor Society
- Completed IRB Approved Research on Mental Health through an EUI Affiliated Course
- Dean's List
- Illinois State Scholar

With work being such an integral part of most of our lives, I think it is important to make the most out of this experience. Human resources attracted me because I want to be a contributing force to improving the workplace for all parties involved. Attending LER seemed like the perfect opportunity to help me in achieving these goals; besides having a top tier MHRIR program supported by incredibly welcoming faculty, I knew that I would love to further my education at UIUC after completing my undergraduate here. Special thanks to Adeline "Jo" Puccini, establisher of the Nancy A. Puccini award that commemorates her late daughter. Receiving this award is significant to me and I am honored to be selected.



**Hannah
Parrinello**

Elgin, IL

Western Michigan
University

Psychology –
Behavioral Science

May, 2022

AbbVie Scholarship

- Human Resources Talent Acquisition Intern at Encore Global
- Applebaum Presidential Fellowship at WMU Hillel
- Intern at Lewis Summer Internship Certificate Program
- Virtual Reality Lab Assistant at WMU VR Lab
- Graduated Cum Laude
- Dean's List Award
- WMU Skating Team- Coach's Award
- WMU SEHR Honors

I chose LER to be able to learn more about the Human Resources field and to enhance my professional network. After having an internship experience in the field, I want to be able to connect my knowledge from LER to my future in Human Resources.



Audrey Pride

Chicago, IL

University of Illinois

at Urbana-

Champaign

Psychology

December, 2021

McPherson Fellowship

- Global HR Operations Intern at PepsiCo
- Research Assistant at UIUC LER
- Training & Development Intern at Ed Miniat
- Outside Connections Committee Member/Founding Member of the Human Resources & Psychology Organization
- Illinois State Scholar
- LAS Dean's List

I am incredibly grateful to have received the McPherson Fellowship. It is a privilege to honor the first faculty member at this institution in this way. I will carry the legacy of LER's beginning to now in its 75th (+1) year through my academics, and I will continue to carry its legacy of excellence throughout my career as an HR professional.



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UnitedHealth Group Scholarship

- Bilingual Educator at Chicago Public Schools
- Campus Induction Coordinator at Houston Independent School District
- Campus Based Mentor at Houston Independent School District
- Faculty Advisor for Summer School through Teach for America
- Mock Interview Coach at The Career Center
- eCommerce Intern at Ferrara Candy Company
- Judson W. Robinson Jr. Elementary School “Teacher of the Year” 2018/2019 & 2020/2021

**Alexandra
Rabadan**

Oak Lawn, IL
Johns Hopkins
University
Early Childhood
Education
May, 2020

What inspires me to be the best I can be are the 170 students that I had the privilege of serving over the past five years. Through the strong relationships I built with my students, their families, and the community I learned the immense impact of human connections. Having expanded my understanding of creating a high-quality education that serves all students pushes me to create a high-quality work environment for all. I am empowered to continue to fight for an equitable and diverse workforce.



Jim Richmond Jr.

Oak Forest, IL

University of St. Francis
(IL)

Criminal & Social Justice
May, 2020

Melissa Wiley Scholarship

- Senior Legal Clerk at Champaign County Circuit Clerk's Office
- Legal Clerk at Champaign County Circuit Clerk's Office
- Delivery Driver for Trudelo LLC
- Host at Longhorn Steakhouse
- Member of Criminal Justice & Pre-Law Society
- Graduated Cum Laude

I'm inspired most by my grandfather, father, and uncle, who all obtained master's degrees. After seeing all the successes that they have had in life, both with their careers and family, it has pushed me to want to better myself. I've heard nothing but amazing things about LER and look forward to the opportunities that will come in my future!



PepsiCo Scholarship

- HR Consultant at Highland Performance Solutions
- DEI Intern at Chewy
- Intern at HORIBA Instruments
- Social Media Manager for Quinnipiac Management Student Council

Alyssa Scheu

Fanwood, NJ

Quinnipiac
University

HR Management

May, 2022

I chose Human Resources because I witnessed from a young age the impact that women, not only in business, but specifically in Human Resources have on the community around them. I can remember being in awe of these women and hoping to achieve the same level of impact on others as they had on me. I chose LER specifically because of the community I would have around me, giving me resources for life to help me continue to work towards my goals.

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School of Labor &
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Ava Schumock

Geneva, IL

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign

Political Science &
Sociology

December, 2021

LER Scholarship

- Camping World Human Resources Talent Development Intern
- Office Aid in the Sociology Department at UIUC
- Advising and HR Office Intern in the Sociology Department at UIUC
- Research Assistant for the Minority Capacity Project
- Pledge Trainer and Committee Leader at Alpha Phi Omega
- Dean's List

As an HR professional, I am inspired to be the best that I can be because I want help to help cultivate a workplace environment where employees feel heard, recognized, and engaged in their profession. I am grateful to the LER program and this scholarship for assisting me on my path to bettering employees' lives.



McKenzie Simon

Farley, IA

University of Northern
Iowa

Psychology

May, 2022

Eaton Scholarship

- HR Systems and Data Management Intern at Transamerica
- Compliance Testing Intern at Transamerica
- Research Assistant at Strategic Marketing Services
- Research Assistant at UNI Center for Social and Behavioral Research
- Psychology Peer Advisor
- Certificate in Organizational and Industrial Psychology
- Dean's List

I am very humbled and honored to receive this award as a first-generation college student. I chose the LER program not only because of the amazing faculty and alumni here, but also because of the countless opportunities available within this program. LER offers a challenging yet rewarding experience in the field of Human Resources where I can help organizations reach their full potential. I am grateful that I get the opportunity to do so while building long lasting relationships along the way.

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Justin Sotelo

Chicago, IL

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign

Industrial-
Organizational
Psychology

May, 2022

Patrick Walsh Scholarship

- STEM Careers and Retention Lab Research Assistant
- UP Education Network Human Resources Intern
- Infant Cognition Lab Assistant at Department of Psychology at UIUC
- Nixon Elementary School Volunteer Teacher Assistant
- Certification in Leadership and Success from the National Society of Leadership and Success
- Dean's list

The biggest inspiration I have motivating me is breaking new ground for my family. As a 1st generation student, I wish to create more opportunities for underrepresented groups on the executive-level while improving employee satisfaction and accommodations to further develop a diverse and inclusive workplace. I am honored to be supported by Patrick Walsh. Because of his generosity, I am one step closer toward fulfilling my dreams.



Sylvia Syp

Palos Hills, IL

University of
Illinois at Urbana-
Champaign

Psychology

December, 2021

LER Scholarship

- HR Intern at Delta Air Lines Inc.
- Residential Advisor at UIUC
- Research Assistant at UIUC for the Political Ideology and Groups Lab
- Human Resources Intern at Bridge Teen Center
- Fluent in Polish
- Dean's List

I'm incredibly thankful for this scholarship because it means that I have more time and energy to pour myself into my studies! I absolutely love human resources and I'm so excited to be learning from such incredible instructors and working with my passionate classmates. It's such an honor to have gotten this far in my academic career, especially as a first-generation student. I can't wait to continue learning and growing as an HR professional!

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Ryan Trissel

Chatham, IL

University of Illinois at
Springfield

Business
Administration

July, 2022

Pella Scholarship

- Leadership Lived Student Employee at University of Illinois at Springfield
- Front of House Manager at Lake Pointe Grill
- Content Creator at Comicstorian/YouTube
- Server/Bartender at Olive Garden
- Teller at PNC Bank
- Member of Society of Human Resource Management

I chose HR and LER at UIUC because HR provides a fascinating mix of data driven decision making and interpersonal communication. UIUC offers the best opportunity to leverage these interests into a meaningful and satisfying career with tremendous opportunity.



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Texas Instruments Scholarship

- Field Coordinator for Non-profit Organization, MAPSCorps
- Awarded the “Most Outstanding Field Coordinator” Award
- Rehabilitation Aide at Athletico
- Athletic Training Aide at Disability Resources and Education Services
- Artistic Director at Dance 2XS Caliente
- Fluent in Spanish



Xavier Uribe

Chicago, IL

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign

Kinesiology

May, 2022

It is an honor to be Texas Instruments' first LER scholar. I am very grateful for this award as it allows me to leverage my interpersonal and customer service skills to pivot into the field of human resources within a generalist role at an organization that values development, inclusivity and innovation. This award will allow me to take advantage of my abilities to help empower and inspire individuals from underrepresented backgrounds to become agents of change within their communities, industries, and beyond.

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LER National Scholarship

- Human Resources Intern at Burlington Glass Company
- Fitness Supervisor at UNI Wellness and Recreation Center
- Student Athlete Tutor at University of Northern Iowa
- Co-Founder/Vice President at Panthers Against Human Trafficking
- Initiate Advisor for Phi Sigma Pi National Honors Fraternity
- UNI Women's Rugby Club

Lauryn Wagner

Burlington, IA

University of Northern Iowa

HR Management

July, 2022

I am so honored to be chosen for this scholarship and to have the opportunity to continue the LER legacy and one day do my part to make a positive difference in the world by making the workplace a more equitable and inclusive place for every person.

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Baoluo Wang

Changchun, China

The Pennsylvania
State University

Hospitality
Management

May, 2022

LER Scholarship

- Working housekeeping Supervisor Internship in Cape Cod, Massachusetts.
- Publishing undergraduate honors thesis in the study of virtual employment interviews.
- Receiving 2022 Alumni Recognition Award from the Department of Health and Human Development.

I am incredibly thankful to have the privilege to receive this scholarship. Thank you kindly for this acknowledgement and recognition of my work from my undergraduate study. It was my teachers and family who kept motivating me to come to graduate school. And of course, the incentive of this scholarship made me even more determined to make my choice. I came to the school of labor and employment relations to study human resources from a more professional and profound perspective and hopefully to make contributions to the large body of human resources research in the soon future.



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Sky Wang

Taiyuan, China

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign

Psychology

May, 2022

Spirit of LER Scholarship

- Assistant HR Consultant Intern at Mercer Management Consulting
- Career Development Advisor at Taiyuan Tourism College
- Bartender & Barista
- Fluent in Mandarin and English
- Dean's List

The person you are today is the fruit of your past choices. It is time, it is the experiences, and it is all the people I have met that support me and love me to make me the person I am today. All of these, become a power, to lead me to be courageous, more mature, and more self-confident.



Yi-Xi Wang

New Taipei City,
Taiwan

National Kaohsiung
Normal University

English

June, 2020

LER Scholarship

- Human Resources Intern at Deloitte
- Human Resources Associate at Merck & Co., Inc.
- Teaching Assistant at Hanson English Institute
- Member of the Hung Yuan Social Service Club
- Fluent in Mandarin

The scholarship recognizes my past experiences and motivates me to thrive in my future career, to become a strategic business partner in Human Resources . I am grateful that I can be more focus on my studies with the alleviation of the financial burden. This award has helped tremendously for my MHRIR degree!



Kayla Wilson

Berkeley, IL

University of
Illinois at Urbana-
Champaign

Management

December, 2021

Loichle Fellowship

- Human Resources Intern at PepsiCo
- International Tax Servicing Intern at Northern Trust
- Business 101 Section Leader at UIUC
- Human Resources Intern at Exelon
- Alumni Relations Chair and Mentorship Chair for the National Association of Black Accountants
- Recruitment Team Member for Student Alumni Ambassadors
- Gies College of Business Scholarship, Black Alumni Network Scholarship
- Studied abroad in South Africa

This fellowship has given me the opportunity to pursue higher education without having to solely focus on the financial aspect. I am very appreciative for this award providing me with a solid foundation for my career aspirations.

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Ann Woerz

Champaign, IL
University of Illinois
at Urbana-
Champaign
Psychology
May, 2022

bp Scholarship

- Team Member at Target Corporation
- Sales and Support Generalist at Victoria's Secret
- Bilingual Virtual Program Coordinator at UIUC
- Research Assistant for College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at UIUC
- Member of The Co-Ed Service Fraternity of Alpha Phi Omega
- Fluent in Arabic

I chose human resources because people have and continue to be the core of every successful business in all industries. My experience in retail helped pave my interest in the field leading me to LER. In our current competitive labor market, shifting corporate dynamics and changes in society's fundamental values post pandemic, I aim to grow exponentially in this profession, advocating for both people and valuable businesses' success and economic prosperity.

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LER Scholarship

- Assistant Office Director at China Construction Bank
- Club Member of UConn CareCakes
- Employee at University of Connecticut Dining Service
- Club Member of Chinese Students & Scholar Association
- Volunteer in Chongqing Three Gorges Museum
- Club Member of Business Management Society

Wei Zhang

Chongqing, China

University of
Connecticut

Psychology Sciences

June, 2022

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