

Scholarship Recipients

Spring 2023/Fall 2023



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



Polaris Scholarship



Scottley Sandnes

Ingleside, Illinois

University of Northern Colorado

Foreign Language

January 2023

- Mock Interview Coach, The Career Center
- Spanish Teacher, Clarendon Hills Middle School District 181
- Spanish Teacher, Johnsburg High School District 12
 - Junior Class Sponsor, Johnsburg High School District 12
 - Student Council Sponsor, Johnsburg High School District 12
 - Costa Rica Trip Coordinator, Johnsburg High School District 12

After six years of teaching, I decided to go out of my comfort zone and try something new. I came across Human Resources and realized that the skills I use for teaching can easily be transferrable to the HR field. Since HR is constantly changing, I know it will always provide me with new challenges and learning experiences.



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

LER Scholarship



Yu-Fen Kao

Taipei, Taiwan

National ChengChi University

Public Administration

June 2023

- Pernod Richard Taiwan
 - Human Resources Executive
 - Human Resources Intern
 - Corporate Communications Intern

I chose LER because it offers a wealth of academic and career development resources.



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Walsh Family Scholarship



Mac Hallgren

Rock Island, IL

Western Illinois University

Law Enforcement & Justice
Administration

May 2013

- Information Security Program Manager, Bandwidth
- Software Development Project Manager, Bandwidth
- Captain, United States Army
- Hallgren Home Designs, Owner & Operator
- Tuesday's Children, Mentor

I chose to come to LER because it is the best program of its kind and will afford me the opportunity to best blend my previous work and military experience with academic HR training. By receiving the Walsh Family Scholarship, I am humbled to know that someone sees the potential that I can bring to this program.



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Floyd and Judith Whellan Scholarship



Sean Lim

Algonquin, IL

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Organizational Psychology

May 2023

- Front Desk Clerk, University of Illinois
- Dean's List, Fall 2023
- Recreation Room Associate, University of Illinois
- Martial Arts Instructor/Mentor, Tiger Koo's Martial Arts/Independently

My family inspires me to be the best that I can be. Throughout my life, I've watched both of my parents work really hard in very uncertain, tough circumstances. They have demonstrated and taught me many things about what I should and should not do. Thinking about them and the lessons they've imparted to me gives me that extra push I need when I find myself struggling or down. They inspire me in many ways.



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

LER International Scholarship



Noor Ul Ain

Rawalpindi, Pakistan

Augustana College

Psychology, and Women,
Gender, and Sexuality Studies

May 2023

- Career Services Paraprofessional Graduate Assistant, University of Illinois - The Career Center
- Program Chair, Special Events, Augustana College Multicultural Programming Board
- Student Intern, Quad-Cities Alliance for Immigrants and Refugees
- Student Intern, Homicide and Violent Crimes Department at Family Resources

As an international student, this scholarship is a huge financial help for me. I am extremely grateful for this award because it played a big role in my ability to pursue my Masters.



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

bp Scholarship



Kate Friedman

Evanston, IL

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Human Development and Family Studies

May 2023

- Graduate Assistant, School of Chemical Sciences Career Services
- Human Resources Intern, ORBA
- Human Resources Intern, OMI Industries
- Provost's Undergraduate Student Advisory Board – Student Inclusion Committee Member
- University of Illinois James Scholar Program
- University of Illinois Deans List

I chose the field of Human Resources because of my passion for problem-solving and my ability to think strategically. I'm incredibly grateful for bp's support and excited to pursue my education and career goals at LER. I am eager to drive change, organizational growth, and ongoing learning. Endlessly grateful for this opportunity and excited to see where this journey takes me!



School of Labor & Employment Relations

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Joel & Barbara Zelnick Scholarship



Yianni Laros

Champaign, IL

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Agricultural and Consumer Economics with a concentration in Public Policy and Law

May 2023

- Member Services Facility Assistant (ARC) and (CRCE), University of Illinois Campus Recreation
- Journalist, News-Gazette
- Social Ambassador, GoPuff
- Law Clerk Intern, Steigmann Law PC
- Dean's List, Fall 2020, Spring 2021
- President of the Orthodox Christian Fellowship, RSO at the University of Illinois

My family inspires me to be the best that I can be. All my grandparents emigrated from Greece and came to the United States with nothing. I know how hard my family has worked to get us into the situation we are today. Failure is not an option for me. I have been given everything I need to succeed; it is all up to me.



School of Labor & Employment Relations

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

General Mills Scholarship



Hailey Drews

Batavia, IL

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Industrial Organizational
Psychology

May 2023

- Mock Interview Coach - The Career Center
- Vice President/Founding Treasurer – Human Resources Psychology Organization (HRPO)
- Mentor – Society of Women in Business
- Recruitment Marketing Intern – ALDI
- Human Resources Intern – RJN Group Inc.
- Recurring Dean's List recipient

Being a trusted resource for others inspires me to be the best I can be. My past and current experiences providing support and being a resource for a variety of diverse groups continuously inspires me to better myself so that I can better serve others.



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

UnitedHealth Group Scholarship



Michelle Caston

Urbana, IL

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Social Work

December 2022

- Medical Coordinator, DSC
- Human Resources Specialist, United States Army Reserve
- Health Advocate, DSC
- Patient Services Representative, Carle Hospital
- Mentor for GIRLS (Genuine Intelligent Respectful Ladies Soaring)
- Graduate Assistantship- Nugent Hall as a Disability Liaison

UnitedHealth Group's generous contribution has made it possible for me to pursue a master's degree in human resources and industrial relations. I want to express my sincere gratitude for your kindness and support. With your assistance, I am one step closer to achieving my dream, and I am excited to continue my academic journey at the University of Illinois, with the goal of attaining my next degree by December 2024. Thank you once again for your generosity and belief in students like me. Your impact is profound and lasting, and I am truly thankful to have you as a partner on this remarkable educational journey.



School of Labor & Employment Relations

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

PepsiCo Scholarship



Krystos Kanellakis

Cary, IL

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

History

May 2023

- Customer Operations Intern, MoLo Solutions
- Head Bartender, KAMS
- Students Archives Intern, University of Illinois
- Head Recruitment Chairman, Sigma Nu Gamma Mu Chapter
- Offensive-Line Coach, Cary-Grove High School

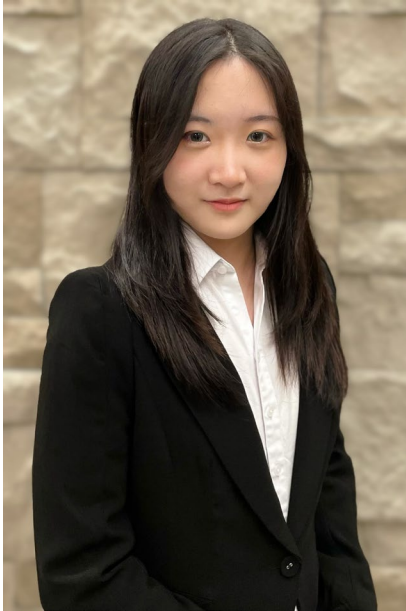
I would like to thank PepsiCo for investing in my future. I would not be here without their generous donation, and words cannot express how grateful I am. I plan on using this opportunity to understand employee motivations and how to transform the workplace with the rise of data integration.



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

LER Scholarship



Kexuan Chen

Shanghai, China

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Industrial-Organizational
Psychology; Economics

May, 2023

- Human Resources Intern at Itochu Shanghai Ltd.
- Human Resources Intern at China Life Insurance Co., Ltd.
- Consumer Analytics Intern at Itochu Shanghai Ltd.
- Marketing Intern at China Eastern Airlines Co., Ltd.
- Research Assistant at Motivation and Meaning Lab at UIUC
- Fluent in Chinese
- Dean's List

I am extremely grateful and honored to receive the LER Scholarship as it serves as an acknowledgement of my past achievements and an inspiration for my future endeavors. I chose LER because I heard great things about the program, and I made the right choice! This is an amazing program with a group of skilled faculty, helpful staff, and students who share the common goal. I love this wonderful family! Being trained here as an HR professional, I wish to embark on a journey of building a better workplace.



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Patrick J. Walsh Scholarship



Logan Spainhower

Elmwood, IL

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Clinical Psychology

May 2021

- Carle Health
 - Clinical Research Coordinator
 - Laboratory Assistant
- Sales Lead, Vitamin Shoppe
- Certified Pharmacy Technician, Hy-Vee
- English Tutor, Illinois Central College

I chose to pursue a career in Human Resources to continue shaping the workplace into a more stimulating environment for the pursuit of human wellness. I believe my time in LER will equip me with the foundational knowledge and resources to make great strides toward this ever-changing goal.



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

LER Scholarship



Elena Shkolnikova

Vladivostok, Russia

Far Eastern Federal University

HR Management

July 2019

- Key Human Resources Specialist, UNIQLO RUS
- Human Resources Intern, We Rise 4 Wellness, Inc.
- Brand Manager Intern, G1 Entertainment
- Recruitment and Adaptation Department Intern, Rostelecom

My interest in LER stems from my fascination with human nature and business, and how staff and related processes should be managed. I am confident that no matter how brilliant the idea is for your business, no one can execute a successful project alone, as there should be a team to perform multiple tasks. Staff is vital for the company's achievements. So is effective HR management, because it helps to ensure that a company's human resources are used effectively and efficiently.



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

LER Scholarship



Jose Chavez

Chicago, IL

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

History/Secondary Education

May 2022

- Taught social studies at a local Champaign high school
- Held position of Fundraising Chair of Epsilon Delta Teaching Fraternity
- Held position of President of one of the largest RSO's on campus (Recreational Volleyball)
- Mentored undergraduate students in the College of Education through the Supporting and Empowering Educators of Diverse Statuses (S.E.E.D.S) RSO

My family, especially my 5 younger brothers, inspire me to be the best I can be. As a son of Mexican immigrants, I am the first in my family to hold a degree— let alone, attend college. Setting the bar higher and acting as a role model for my brothers is what inspires me to continuously strive for success.



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Arnold R. Weber Scholarship



Rachel Becker

Naperville, IL

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Psychology

May 2023

- Career Graduate Assistant, UIUC Department of Economics
- Human Resources Intern, Haulistic
- Operations and Research Support Intern, Andiamo
- Vice President, UI Women's Glee Club
- Treasurer, UIUC Undergraduate Psychology Association
- Dean's List Recipient – GPA ranked in the upper 20% of the College of LAS for the duration of undergraduate studies

This award will allow me to best utilize my time and resources at the School of Labor & Employment Relations so I may return the compassion and support to those within my community as Mr. Weber did throughout his lifetime and career.



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

LER National Scholarship



John Cha

El Dorado Hills, CA
University of California, Davis
Communication; Economics-
Behavior and Strategy
June 2023

- Graduate Assistant for Career Education and Campus Outreach, The Career Center
- Human Resources Student Manager, ASUCD Coffee House
- Human Resources Assistant, ASUCD Unitrans
- Fluent in English and Korean

My decision to study Human Resources stems from my desire to support others and cultivate a positive work environment. To actualize this goal, I made the decision to pursue further education and enhance my skill set. The LER program and scholarship offer me a pathway to achieve this goal and create a significant, positive influence in the workplace.



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Anderson Fellowship



Vaughn Bruno

Rantoul, IL

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Organizational Psychology

May 2023

- Vice President, Tau Sigma National Honor Society
- Dean's List 2023
- Undergraduate Psychology Association member
- Head Zamboni Driver, University of Illinois Ice Arena
- National Intramural and Recreational Sports Association Region III Student Lead-On (2018, 2019, 2020)
- Registered Behavioral Technician, Summer Staff with Group Mission Trips (2018, 2019, 2022)

I'm incredibly thankful and grateful for this award, which stands as a testament to my hard work and persistence. Throughout my extensive journey as an undergraduate, I gained profound insights not only into my major and minor but also into self-motivation, balancing responsibilities, and achieving long-term goals. These insights were especially important as I faced unforeseen challenges and obstacles while working as a student. Transitioning from never having received an academic award in my life to achieving one as prestigious as this feels like an immense blessing.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Robert Anderson for granting me this opportunity to alleviate future financial burdens, enabling me to pursue my goals with unwavering determination. This award provides the motivation I need to continue striving for excellence in the days ahead.

I'd also like to express a profound thank you to my parents and grandparents for nurturing a growth mindset within me from a young age.



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Menzel Scholarship



Edmund Czosek

St. Charles, IL

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Industrial-Organizational
Psychology

May 2023

- Undergraduate Research Assistant, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- Human Resources Summer Intern, Sara Lee Frozen Bakery
- Vice President Internal Relations, Human Resources Psychology Organization
- Phi Theta Kappa Food Pantry Chair, Elgin Community College
- Recurring Dean's List recipient

My passion for human resources stems from empowering individuals to reach their utmost potential and to have a positive impact on their lives. My particular interests involve talent acquisition and development because these aspects are crucial in building a thriving organization.



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

UPS Scholarship



Tytrick Miller

Chicago, IL

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Political Science, Law and Power

May 2023

- 2x Dean's List Award Recipient
- George A. Foster Scholarship Recipient
- Pharmacy Technician, Walgreens
- Business Owner, Sir Mills Music LLC.
- Certified Pharmacy Technician & Immunizer in Training for Walgreens Pharmacy

With the help of the MHRIR program, I will have the ability to promote and create effective changes within the field of labor and employment, making me an asset to any corporation, or organization I apply for. Although I do intend to build a sustainable life and create generational wealth, my passion and desire to have a significant and positive impact on corporations and assist in evaluating talent outweighs it all. I aim to not only promote effective change in the state of Illinois, but globally, and I strongly believe that the MHRIR program will provide me with the skills that I need to do so.



School of Labor & Employment Relations

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Marathon Scholarship



Kyley Rothermel

Homer, IL

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Agricultural Leadership,
Education & Communications -
Organizational & Community
Leadership

May 2023

- Early Childhood Educator, Little Hearts and Hands Early Childhood Learning Center
- Human Resources Generalist, Greenwood, Inc.
- Student Intern, Illinois 4-H Foundation

I was extremely honored to learn that I would be a recipient of this scholarship sponsored by Marathon Petroleum. Their generosity will not only provide me with financial relief, but also opportunities to be able to expand my knowledge and skills in the Human Resources industry.



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

AbbVie Scholarship



Geraldine D. Dagher

Hickory Hills, Illinois

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Human Development & Family Studies

May 2020

- Resident Engagement Supervisor, ClarkLindsey
- Director of Rehabilitation, Renewal Rehab
- Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant, National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy
- Ronald E. McNair Scholar
- Health Equity Scholar
- Black Chorus | President
- Diverse Curls | Founder

The pursuit of education is an opportunity that I cherish and actively seek. The AbbVie scholarship allows me to continue my path of educational attainment and training, and I look forward to the growth I will achieve while obtaining my Master's in Human Resource & Industrial Relations.



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Delany & Schwochau Scholarship



Joseph Walker

Champaign, IL

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Political Science

May 2023

- Mock Interview Coach, The Career Center
- Server and Dishwasher, The Windsor of Savoy
- Subcommittee for Student Conflict Member, Office for Student Conflict Resolution
- Vice President, University of Illinois Pre-Law Honors Society
- LAS 102 Intern, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

I chose LER not only because of how fast and successful the MHRIR program is but how rewarding and connected the school is. I am excited to be a part of the LER family.



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Synchrony Scholarship



Collin Sobkowicz

St. Charles, IL

University of Illinois at Chicago

Psychology

December 2020

- General Merchandise Expert, Target
- Member Development Committee Chair, Human Resources & Psychology Organization
- Food Pantry Chair of the Rho Kappa Chapter, Phi Theta Kappa
- President's List, 2019
- Recurring Dean's List

The Synchrony Scholarship Award has given me an extraordinary opportunity to launch my career in human resources by providing me with the confidence and support to excel in the prestigious UIUC School of Labor and Employment Relations. With the kind generosity of Synchrony, I will be able to leave a positive impact on the world of human resources and the School of Labor and Employment Relations.



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Illinois Loyalty Scholarship



T'Keya Hicks

Urbana, IL

Northern Illinois University
M.S.Ed Higher Education and
Student Affairs

May 2021

- Graduate Assistant for the FOCUS Scholar's program, The Career Center
- Pre-College Advisor and Recruitment Specialist, Office of Minority and Student Affairs at UIUC
- Human Resources Assistant, Champaign Park District
- Program Evaluator for a Gun Violence Prevention Program through the City of Champaign
- Recognized for revitalizing a new employee orientation program which resulted in 96% of new hires feeling satisfied
- Student Member of the Society of Human Resources Management (SHRM)

My career path in Human Resources is driven by an unwavering mission: to fuel transformative organizational change through exceptional employee experiences and dynamic cultures. I firmly believe that engaged and empowered employees are the foundation of success. By employing strategic initiatives and a people-centric approach, I strive to cultivate thriving workplaces that enhance productivity and well-being for all.



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Pella Scholarship



Austa Schley

Des Moines, IA
Bradley University
Psychology
May 2023

- Statistics and Incentives Manager, Bradley University Fund
- President, Psi Chi International Honors Society in Psychology
- Carl E. Smith Award for Graduate Study, BU Psychology Department 2023
- Undergraduate Summer Interdisciplinary Research and Creative Projects Fellow, BU Division of Strategy and Innovation 2022
- Research Assistant, Bradley Affective and Interpersonal Neuroscience Lab
- Research Assistant, Bradley Health Psychology Research Lab

I am passionate about Human Resources because it combines my interests in understanding complex behaviors and structures with real-world applications and improvements.



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Jim McKeown Scholarship



Yinuo “Krystal” Cui

Xi'an, China

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Accounting

May 2022

- Human Resources Project Manager, Law Office of Jason Spangehl
- Administrative HR Assistant, Shaanxi Matrix Industry Co., Ltd
- Audit & Assurance Summer Intern, Deloitte
- Vice President of Membership, Ascend

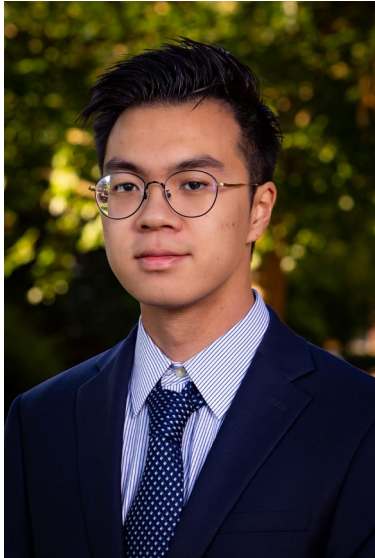
I chose LER because I believe LER can prepare me to be an outstanding HR professional with its exceptional faculty expertise and strong alumni connections!



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

LER Scholarship



Tony Wang

Beijing, China

Pepperdine University

Psychology (I/O Psych Minor)

May 2023

- Project Associate Intern, Developmental Dimensions International Inc. (DDI)
- Human Resources Assistant, Student Medcover Co.
- Sales Manager Assistant, China Asset Management
- Head of Public Relations and Career Development, Chinese Student & Scholars Association
- Research Assistant, NIH-funded Health and Racial Discrimination in Daily Life

“As a new LER student, I feel deeply touched by the people, the resources, and the sense of family here. I decided to pursue HR because I believe interacting with different people within a business/organizational context challenges me and puts me out of my comfort zones.”



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

LER Scholarship



Xincheng Pan (Shaelyn)

Wenzhou, China

Beijing Forestry University

Bachelor of Management in Human
Resource Management

June 2023

- HRBP Intern, NIO
- Outstanding Graduate, BJFU
- Deputy Head, Green Garden Host Group
- Investigative Journalist, Peking University China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study (CHARLS)

Observe and listen more, feel the world by yourself, and let those experiences drive you! Whether as an HR practitioner or as a general individual, I hope to remain empathetic, constantly identifying problems and solving them.



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

DICK'S Sporting Goods Scholarship



Derrick Stokes

Chicago, IL

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Psychology

August 2023

- Head Lifeguard, University of Illinois Activities and Recreation Center
- Head Swim Instructor, University of Illinois Activities and Recreation Center
- Secretary, Recognized Student Organization, Stitching Illini
- Student Member, Coach, and Travel Coordinator, University of Illinois Track & Field Club

I am grateful for this award because it lessens the financial burden that comes with pursuing higher education. The LER program provides students with many opportunities to develop knowledge and skills related to human resources. As someone who aspires to have a career in this field, getting my master's at LER is the absolute best path for me to start my career. I greatly appreciate the generosity of DICK's Sporting Goods for helping make this journey easier for me and my family. It is not lost on me that there are many other individuals like me who would also benefit from this award. However, I am grateful that you chose me and I plan on using this opportunity to make the most of my time here at LER.



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

LER Scholarship



Anqi Shi

Beijing, China

Beijing International Studies
University

Hospitality Management

June 2022

- Training and Development Human Resources Intern, China World Summit Wing
- Coordinator Assistant Intern, Cloudup Realty LLC
- Member, Volunteer Activity Center, Beijing International Studies University
- Third-class scholarship (two times, 2020-2021&2021-2022)

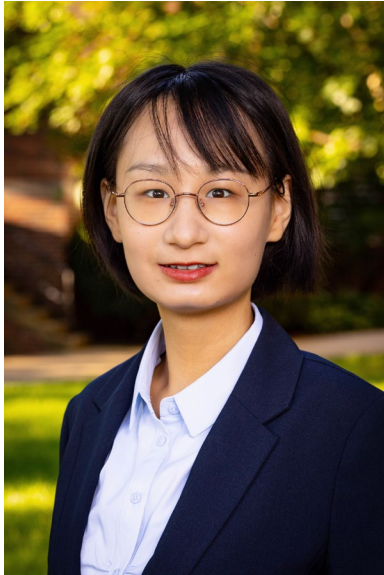
Frustration makes me the best version of myself. The forced separation from my mother accelerated my personal growth. If death is a necessary lesson in life, I think I just experienced the departure a little earlier than the others. I continue to receive support and kindness from people around me, which helped me to bare my heart and strive for self-improvement. I hope to pass on this kindness by joining LER, including interacting with many different people and working for their development!



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

LER Scholarship



Chuchen Ping

Beijing, China

Nanjing University

Business Administration, Human
Resource Management

June 2023

- Summer Intern in Global Human Resource-Global Center of Expertise, BSH Home Appliances
- Sales Operation Intern in Cosmos – Hospital Department, GlaxoSmithKline
- Research Collaborator, Digital History Project at Nanyang Technological University
- Project Team Leader, National Training Program of Innovation for Undergraduates, NJU Business School
- Core Member in Running a Student-established Café
- Awarded NJU's People's Scholarship: Dec. 2020, 2021, 2022

Having learned about how toxic culture and intensive work do harm to employees, I am determined to understand people, develop people, and care for people. That's how HR functions in business. In this changing world, I hope to bridge employers and employees, bringing efficiency, creativity, and inclusion into workplaces. Therefore, here I am!



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

PepsiCo Scholarship



Morgan Stromberg

Carlsbad, CA

University of Texas at Dallas

Psychology

May 2023

- Benefits intern for Sprinklr
 - Led build out of benefits intranet page, which involved finding different resources spread throughout the company, built a webpage with the support of an internal expert, and utilized information to build out benefits pages for each individual country.
 - Worked on the global side to create a process for documenting leaves of absence that works within multiple teams
 - Led a project to build policies not previously included in the company that are required by federal law including FMLA, CFRA, as well as Bereavement.
 - Created a new way to spark interest in optional benefits which helped increase engagement numbers

I wanted to start by saying I am so honored to receive this award and I cannot thank PepsiCo enough for the opportunity they have provided me. LER has a close place in my heart as my family has a strong connection to the program so when I decided to do human resources I knew I had to be here. So, thank you to PepsiCo for allowing me to be in this program and get one step closer to my goals.



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Xing-Weisbenner Family Scholarship



Wei Zhang

Chongqing, China
University of Connecticut
Psychology
May 2022

- Headhunting Consultant intern, Wecan Talent Consulting Company
- Management Consulting Intern, Aon Hewitt
- Administration Assistant Intern, Wanxiang Trust & Stock Company
- Office Director Assistant Intern, Qianjiang Branch of China Construction Bank
- Treasurer, Multicultural Student Association

I am passionate about finding the motivation of people's actions, to see what mental power motivates them to do something.



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Loichle Scholarship



Amy La Scala

Bakersfield, CA

California State University,
Fullerton

Business Administration,
Human Resource Management

May 2023

- California Coordinator, Virtual Enterprises International, Inc.
- Employee Services Specialist Intern, Panasonic North America
- Career Ambassador, CSUF Career Center
- Human Resources Intern, First American Title
- President, Society of Excellence in Human Resources at CSUF

I am pursuing human resources because I want to close the gap between frontline workers and corporations by fostering positive workplace environments that promote inclusivity and proper benefits administration.



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Texas Instruments Scholarship



Daniel Echeverría

Chicago, IL

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Psychology: Behavioral Neuroscience

May 2023

- Human Resources Intern, Levy Restaurants
- Human Resources Intern, Express Employment Professionals
- Research Intern, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Vice President/Social Media Manager, La Colectiva

I am highly grateful for the scholarship I received from Texas Instruments. This award has had a significant impact on my education journey, providing financial support and opening doors to new opportunities.



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

LER Scholarship



Yujia Zhao

Chongqing, China
Southwestern University of
Finance and
Economics/Baruch College,
CUNY
Accounting, Business
Administration
May 2023

- Consulting Assistant, Mercer LLC
- Experimental Student Supermarket
 - Manager, Finance Department
 - Specialist, Human Resources Department
 - Intern, Human Resources Department

My on-campus working experience got me interested in human resources. During my undergraduate studies as well as my accounting internship, I realized that accounting was not what I wanted to pursue in life. So I decided to take a different path and came to LER. This scholarship was totally unexpected and it is definitely a great encouragement for me to face the following challenges in my study and work.



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

LER Scholarship



Tzu Hsuan Tseng

Hsinchu City, Taiwan
National Chung Hsing
University
Marketing
August 2021

- Human Resources Intern, Wistron Corporation
- Marketing/Human Resources Coordinator, Anti-Spam Communication Studio
- Leader, Hult Prize
- Fundamental HR Management Certificate, The Chinese Human Resource Management Association
- Recurring Dean's List

I would like to express my gratitude for the scholarship opportunity. I extend my appreciation to LER for providing valuable courses, workshops, and networking events. These platforms not only broaden my horizons but also foster an environment of learning and collaboration among classmates and professionals alike. The opportunity to listen to life stories and work journeys of others is eye-opening. These experiences allowed me to reflect on my own life journey and envision a brighter future.



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

LER Scholarship



Runxin Wang

Hangzhou, China

American University

Psychology

May 2022

- Beisen Cloud Computing Company
 - Human Resource Specialist
 - Intern Talent Assessment Officer
- Intern Psychologist, Yidianling Psychological Counseling
- International Team Building and Management of Multinational Enterprises
- Developmental Psychology Research and Educational Practice in Children's Growth

I want to bring psychology to the human resources system. Psychology has much to offer in terms of principles that can make work meaningful, promote well-being, and prevent psychological harm.



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Craig LaTorre Scholarship



Caitlin Renehan

Lockport, IL

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Organizational Communication

May 2022

- Business Development Representative, Rimini Street
- Office of Corporate Relations at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
 - Project Manager
 - Communications Intern
- Lambda Pi Eta- Member
- Mixed Student Union-Member
- In Between at UIUC- Member
- Interact: Rotary Sponsored Club- Web Communications Officer

My journey into Human Resources is driven by a sincere commitment to be part of the solution. My motivation for choosing this path is rooted in my own life experiences, dating back to my teenage years when I first entered the workforce and encountered moments of feeling unsafe in various workplace environments. I believe that every employee deserves to be treated with respect, dignity, and fairness, regardless of their background, gender, race, or any other characteristic. By pursuing this career, I aim to help organizations create inclusive, equitable, and welcoming workplaces where everyone can thrive.



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Stephen Schaefer Scholarship



Josh Pietsch

Naperville, IL

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Journalism

May 2023

- Sports On-air Editor, WPGU
- Staff Writer, The Daily Illini
- Recruitment Chair, Sigma Nu Fraternity
- Editorial Intern, American Technical Publishers
- Brett Lerner Memorial Scholarship
 - Awarded to a student involved/excelling in several areas of journalism.

I am deeply honored and grateful to receive this award. This generous support will allow me to dedicate more of my time to all that comes with being in LER and will alleviate the financial stress of my education. I am committed to making the most of the opportunity I've been given in the MHRIR program, and this generous scholarship will help remind me of the hard work and dedication I will need to put forward to succeed.



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

LER Scholarship



Sirui Zhao

Chengdu, China
Santa Clara University
Psychology
March 2023

- HRBP, SHEIN
- Research Assistant, Social Comparison and Health Messaging Unable to Reduce Instagram Usage
- Communicator, Morgan Autism Center
- Dean's List 20-21

Respect market rules, encourage all firms to create vitality, and build a company operating environment with a sense of accomplishment. Recognizing the vital duty of human resource management for enterprise success, I plan to better my professional development.



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Spirit of LER Scholarship



Yufeng Xing

Datong City, China

Jinan University

Business Management

July 2023

- HRBP Intern of Advanced Recruitment Group in NetEase
- Investment Banking Analyst Intern in Industrial Bank
- First-class Scholarship of JNU
- Outstanding Undergraduate Thesis of JNU (3%)

After interning in different industries, I was deeply impressed by different people in organizations. In the future, I hope to use what I got in IER and my experience to make the organization and company better. Thank you very much for your recognition.



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

LER Scholarship



Si Ye

Beihai, China

Capital University of
Economics and Business

Human Resources
Management

June 2023

- HR Intern of Campus Recruitment Team, KPMG Beijing
- HRBP Intern, ZHIHU
- HRBP Intern, iQIYI
- Group Leader, Summer Practice
- Practice Department Staff, School of Labor and Economics Student Union

It's a great honor for me to receive the scholarship. I hope that I can make full use of the resources provided by the college and LER during these three semesters, so as to improve myself comprehensively and lay a foundation for my future career. The reason why I chose an HR major is that I love networking with people and offering helpful HRM policies to companies.



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

LER Scholarship



Ziqiang Fan

Beijing, China
Syracuse University
Psychology
June 2023

- Research Specialist, Mentpeak Cas, Inc.
- Teacher Assistant, Xiong County No. 1 Senior High School
- Team Leader, Chengdu Panda Base Summer Camp
- Manager, Syracuse University Chinese Basketball Team
- Cornell Psychology Online Course Certificate and Published Research Paper

I really enjoy positive human contact. I also enjoy helping others to bring me happiness. That's why I chose the LER program, and I hope it will help me achieve what I want to do in life.



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

LER Scholarship



Tianna Blake

Dolton, IL

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Learning and Education
Studies-Workplace Training &
Development

May 2023

- Illinois Leadership Center
 - Graduate Assistant
 - Education Team Workshop Facilitator
- Student Employee of the Year Nominee, Student Success, Inclusion, and Belonging Unit
- Recurring Dean's List Recipient

I am someone who loves to facilitate personal and professional growth in others through my work. I would like to express my most sincere gratitude for this scholarship, which greatly helps me in my own journey of self-discovery, as I am enrolled in LER. Thank you so much!



**School of Labor &
Employment Relations**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN