

HOPE

GIVING CIRCLE

Helping Others through the
Power of Education

Newsletter

HOPE GIVING CIRCLE

The HOPE Giving Circle brings together influential women in the community with a common goal of supporting those pursuing higher education at Harper College and empowering them to reach their full potential through scholarship support, mentoring and leadership development opportunities. The program provides financial support and on-going mentoring for Harper College students who are completing their final year at Harper and continuing on to a four-year college or university to pursue a bachelor's degree. Each HOPE Scholarship award is valued at \$10,000. 100% of donations to the HOPE Giving Circle are tax deductible. Visit harpercollege.edu/hope to learn more.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The HOPE Giving Circle has **48 members**.

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED OR PLEDGES RECEIVED

\$354,000

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



"Building momentum."

The HOPE Giving Circle continues to make a difference for students working toward their educational goals. As a founding member of HOPE, I never could have imagined that we'd come this far. Our collective growth and efforts are what make us successful. We started by supporting one single student. Now, we have given 27 women the opportunity to continue to pursue their dreams with just a little support. We create this amazing impact through critical scholarship support, mentoring and professional development opportunities for the HOPE students. And it is all thanks to your continued efforts.

At the HOPE Scholarship Awards event in August, we celebrated our next class of HOPE Scholars and heard from them directly. Through our collective support, we were able to award a record five \$10,000 scholarships to this year's exceptional scholars. Dechen, Elda, Rachel, Annie and Julie exemplify the opportunities the HOPE Giving Circle provides. They are leaders who, through our support, can reach their full potential. I believe the opportunities created through our mission will transform lives for years.

Thank you,

Kathleen Gilmer

Kathy Gilmer, Chair
HOPE Giving Circle Executive Committee

Meet the 2023–2024 HOPE Scholarship Recipients!



Dechen Atsatsang

Dechen Atsatsang began her second year at Harper College this past fall. She is working toward her Associate in Arts in political science with the goal of working in the field of international relations and diplomacy. After receiving her degree at Harper,

Dechen plans on transferring to Georgetown, Northwestern University or the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, where she will pursue her bachelor's degree. She is a Tibetan American who cites the impact of diplomacy, advocacy and conflict resolution on international communities such as her own as fueling her passion for her future field.



Annie Rosas

Annie Rosas began her second year at Harper College in the fall of 2023 and is pursuing her degree in elementary education. She is a returning college student, coming to Harper after working in the field of cosmetology, and cites supportive teachers in her life as inspiring her path

to elementary education. In addition to her degree, Annie plans to earn endorsements in American Sign Language (ASL) and English as a Second Language (ESL). Annie's goals are to teach third grade, earn a master's degree and eventually become a principal, and she has a particular interest in developing curriculum at the elementary level. She plans to transfer to Roosevelt University after completing her degree at Harper College.

Elda Holbrook

Elda Holbrook is a first-generation student from Venezuela who came to the U.S. in 2015 for asylum.

She is entering the second year of Harper's nursing program, which she decided to enroll in after finding a passion for the medical field as a medical interpreter. She plans to transfer

to a four-year institution after graduation from Harper to earn a Bachelor of Science in nursing to work as an emergency room nurse and eventually specialize in wound care.



Julie Soliman

Julie Soliman began her second year at Harper College this past August. She immigrated to the U.S. with her family from Egypt in February 2020. Julie is pursuing her degree in biomedical engineering.

She chose this area of study because she wants to help people and hopes to create medical machines for hospitals after receiving her bachelor's degree. Julie's long-term plan is to become a medical doctor and plans to take the MCAT and apply to medical school, a dream that was inspired by her late father's illness.



Rachel Quiros

Rachel Quiros entered the second year of Harper's nursing program this fall. She is an adult and first-generation college student who decided to return to college to pursue her nursing degree after working in healthcare. After earning her degree from Harper College, she

plans to transfer to a four-year institution to earn her Bachelor of Science in nursing. Her goals are to work at a hospital as a bedside nurse and eventually work toward her nurse practitioner degree.

Save the Date

HOPE Winter Event Charcuterie Made Easy!

A "how to" class on charcuterie boards.

Thursday, January 11, 2024
Wojcik Conference Center
at Harper College

Invitation forthcoming!

Updates from HOPE Scholarship Alumni



HOPE Scholars, alumni, and mentors gather at the eighth annual HOPE Scholarship Awards Reception.

Scholarship Reception Celebrates 2023-2024 HOPE Recipients

The HOPE Giving Circle celebrated the newest class of HOPE scholarship recipients at the scholarship reception in August. This year, the group awarded \$10,000 scholarships to five Harper students: Dechen Atsatsang, Elda Holbrook, Rachel Quiros, Annie Rosas and Julie Soliman. Each student was honored and shared a bit about their educational and career goals at the awards reception.

“HOPE scholarship recipients are true representatives of Harper’s best,” said Kathy Gilmer, chair of the HOPE Giving Circle Executive Committee and a founding HOPE member. “We look forward to the students taking the next steps in their educational journeys, thanks to this support.”

Since its inception eight years ago, the HOPE Giving Circle has awarded \$10,000 scholarships to 27 Harper students. In total, 136 donors have contributed more than \$354,000 in support of HOPE’s mission.

Making a difference with Mentoring

The HOPE scholarship provides the unique opportunity for students to receive not only financial support but also a mentor. The mentoring program pairs a student with a member from the HOPE membership. Consider being a mentor and making a difference for HOPE students. Visit harpercollege.edu/hope and click on mentoring to learn more about the program!

HOPE Scholarship Growing Impact

2016 (HOPE Launch)	2023 (Cumulative)
28 Donors	136 Donors (since 2016 launch)
\$20,000 Raised	\$354,000 Raised
One Scholarship	27 Scholarships (5 awarded for 2023-2024 academic year)
\$10,000 Awarded	\$270,000 Awarded

EMILY ALVIA, 2022-2023 HOPE ALUMNI

Hi HOPE Giving Circle! I am a junior at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign studying mechanical engineering. Over the summer, I participated in research and took a class; I have really enjoyed my engineering classes and participating in clubs! I am so grateful to my mentor, George, who has supported me through this transition. Thank you for your support, and I hope you have a great fall semester!

MALIHA AMIR, 2021-2022 HOPE ALUMNI

Hello HOPE Giving Circle! I am in my final year of majoring in mechanical engineering and minoring in electrical engineering at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Last summer, I had an opportunity to do research and present my research at the engineering conference in Georgia. I plan to graduate in May 2024, and right after that, I plan to start as a Mechanical and Controls Engineer at Haumiller Engineering, where I interned for the past three years. Thank you for being my support in completing my academic career. I hope everyone is well!

MARION BENSING, 2021-2022 HOPE ALUMNI

Hello HOPE Giving Circle! I am a senior at Boston University, majoring in behavior and health. I work as an undergraduate research assistant in the Communication and Neurodevelopment Lab at Sargent College. I am currently applying to graduate school for occupational therapy. I hope everyone had a great summer break.

SAMANTHA ERNST, 2021-2022 HOPE ALUMNI

Hello HOPE Giving Circle! I have started my senior year at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In May 2024, I'll graduate with my B.S. in computer science! I was lucky to spend the summer working as a software engineering intern at Instructure. I received a return offer to work there post-graduation, which I'm very excited about. Thank you for the support; I hope you are all doing well!

RACHEL KERESZTURI, 2017-2018 HOPE ALUMNI

Hi HOPE Giving Circle members! My life has been super busy the last couple of months. I just got promoted to an Actuarial Analyst at Aon. Also, I rescued a kitten named Marty from the Buddy Foundation which I've been volunteering at since I was 18. Thank you again for always cheering me on. HOPE changed my life.

KEELY MCENERY, 2020-21 HOPE ALUMNI

Hi HOPE Family! I graduated from the Wolff Center for Entrepreneurship at the University of Houston, the #1 entrepreneurship program in the country. I was awarded top of my class and received the Bill Sherrill Leadership Award. Currently, I'm the COO of two startup companies. A co-founder of one, where we are developing a video game to teach high schoolers about financial literacy. The other startup is a real estate proptech platform that's innovating real estate investing and revenue models, based in NYC. Thank you!

AMANDA MIRCZUK, 2020-21 HOPE ALUMNI

Hello HOPE Giving Circle! I graduated from DePaul University last spring with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Biology with minors in Chemistry and Mathematics! I was honored by DePaul University's Department of Biological Sciences with the Student of the Year Award, the Dean's Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement, and the Latin distinction of Magna Cum Laude in the Honor's Program! I will be pursuing my job search with the intention of building a career working for a pharmaceutical or healthcare organization in the Chicagoland area!

ARIANNA MORMINO, 2018-2019 HOPE ALUMNI

Hello everyone, I hope you are all doing well! I am about to enter my second year at the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine and couldn't be more excited to continue my vet school journey. This summer, I got great surgical experience at my local small animal clinic and shadowed the Emergency and Critical Care unit at the Veterinary Speciality Center in Bannockburn. Thank you again for all you do!

JOIN THE HOPE GIVING CIRCLE

Membership: Begins with a minimum annual gift or pledge of \$1,000.

Supporter: Begins with a minimum annual gift or pledge of \$250.

100% of your donation is tax deductible and will be directed to the HOPE Scholarship Fund.

To join or learn more, visit harpercollege.edu/hope or contact Shannon Hynes at 847.925.6701 or at shynes@harpercollege.edu

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Please contact Shannon Hynes at 847.925.6701 or shynes@harpercollege.edu for more information.

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