The 2021 James Davies Scholarship Award Recipients

**Maggie Loesch • South Illinois University-Carbondale**

“I am currently attending Southern Illinois University Carbondale majoring in Public Health.

My advice to future applicants would be to remember the importance of extracurriculars within the field. That is what will increase your likelihood of receiving this scholarship.”

**Alexander Gierut**

“I am still deciding on what school to attend, but my top two choices at the moment are UIUC and Loyola for a computer engineering degree.

My advice for future scholarship applicants for high school and higher education is don’t let anything stop you from pursuing your passions.”

**Citlalli Hernandez • National Louis University**

“I will be attending National Louis University this upcoming Fall of 2021 to major in Psychology.

This is definitely an opportunity to consider along with the rest of the scholarships being offered through financial aid offices and other organizations. These scholarships are highly important to take into account because they will only allow you to pursue your career goals at a better standard. Through hard work everything pays off, so take advantage and go for it!”

**Noelle Bergman • University of Wisconsin-Whitewater**

“I will most likely be attending the University of Wisconsin at Whitewater. I'll be majoring in Early Childhood Education. My dream has always been to be a Kindergarten teacher.

My advice to any high schooler planning to pursue higher education is to never give up. Even if there are obstacles in your way, never doubt the strength you have to keep pushing through and pursuing your dream.”

**Ashanti Hoffman • Western Illinois University**

“I will be attending Western Illinois University in Macomb, Illinois and I will be majoring in Psychology (BA).

I’d say that research plays a huge role in scholarships and schools. Most of the time, people are focused on one school because they feel positive about getting in, which they might, but whether it’s the best school for most things, it may not be the best school for them. I’m not sure if this is for everyone, but there was a scholarship database for multiple scholarships in my area so I’d suggest asking teachers about those opportunities also.”

**Breonna Culver • Augustana College**

“I will be attending Augustana College in Rock Island, IL where I will be double majoring in Pre-Physician Assistant and Neuroscience.

My advice to students and future applicants like me: Be positive! If you choose to let Epilepsy define you, let it define you positively. Embrace it and conquer everything you have ever dreamed! Never miss AAan incredible opportunity.”

**Anu Patel • Loyola University Chicago**

“I will be going to Loyola University Chicago and my major in college will be pediatric nurse.

Health conditions shouldn’t stop you from achieving your goals in life.”

**Alexander Goldstein**

“I hope to major in communication/media studies or journalism. I’m still a junior, so I haven’t applied to college yet.

My number one tip for my classmates and fellow high schoolers is to be conscientious. Always be willing to reach out to your teachers and build a strong relationship with them, because they are your biggest advocates, aside from your parents, when it comes to building your future. Applying for this scholarship, when I was asking for rec letters, I had two teachers I have known personally for 2-3 years who immediately came to mind. They were extremely helpful through the whole application process and beyond elated for me when I received an exciting email.”

**Erin McVady • Loyola University Chicago**

“I will be attending Loyola University Chicago and will be studying nursing!

My advice to rising upperclassmen on the college process is to take everything in. You only get to be a senior in high school once. The college application process can definitely be overwhelming at points, I recommend getting ahead of deadlines by writing lots of to-do lists! Also, don’t forget that so many other kids are going through the same thing, and many have survived the process, myself included. It’s not meant to break you, only to get you to your next best adventure in life!”

**Dawshierra Melton • Malcolm X College**

“I will be attending Malcolm X College to gain my associate’s degree and then I will be transferring to a four-year university of my choice to receive my doctors’ degree.

For all future applicants, I just want to say that the sky’s the limit. No more what anyone says you are a warrior. With hard work and dedication, you can do anything you put your mind to. Always remember “Epilepsy is not your life just a part of it.”