

## AAUW's 2018-19 Fellowships and Grants

Nationally, AAUW's fellowships and grants have allotted over \$100 million to more than 12,000 women and projects since 1888. But locally, the Duluth branch does its part to sponsor scholarships too.

Every year AAUW Duluth awards scholarships to area women pursuing post-baccalaureate study. For 2018-19, these competitive grants worth \$1,200 apiece went to Heather Harma, Mallory Thorne, Tanya Amys, and Kaitlyn Knutson. Here's some brief biographical information about these impressive and talented women and their postgraduate studies.



Left to Right: Heather Harma, Mallory Thorne, Marilyn Toscano (AAUW Duluth Chair of the Educational Opportunities Fund), Tanya Amys, and Kaitlyn Knutson

**Heather Harma** is pursuing a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, a natural outgrowth of her undergraduate studies in the same field. She has participated in engineering groups such as *For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Robotics*, Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society, Society of Women Engineers, Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers, and the UMD Tutoring Center. Heather has particularly enjoyed making connections and serving as a positive role model on campus through these groups. Now in her second semester in graduate school, she's doing research, teaching, and interning at Altec Industries in the product development engineering department.

**Mallory Thorne** is pursuing a master's degree in Social Work at the College of St. Scholastica. She became a social worker because she believes in the inherent human dignity of all people. She is passionate about racial and gender equity and hopes to work towards a broader understanding of the intersectionality of oppression and its impact on our community. In 2015, she received her bachelor's degree in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin-Superior. She's been trained in Motivational Interviewing, certified in Aboriginal Focusing Oriented Therapy and Complex Trauma, and has both attended as well as facilitated various trainings and workshops in violence prevention. Mallory spent several years working in Sex Trafficking prevention and Domestic Violence prevention and is now serving on the CHUM Board of Directors, employed at Community Action in the Bridge to Employment program as an MFIP Job Counselor. She plans to graduate on Mother's Day, 2019.

**Tanya Amys** is pursuing a Master of Science in Mathematics / Math Ed at Montana State University. She is entering her twelfth year of teaching Mathematics at Northwestern High School and also coaching and advising there. Over the past few years, she has adopted more leadership roles in her district and in the education community. For example, she was chosen to present at several state conferences on teaching strategies and school culture. Additionally, she has extended her teaching outside of the district by scoring EdTPA portfolios for Pearson and teaching a Math Education course for UW-Superior. These experiences have helped to grow her passion for math, for teaching, for learning, and for furthering her education. Tanya graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Mathematics Education from the University of Wisconsin-Superior and a Master of Organizational Leadership from Northwestern University-St. Paul. Now she has embarked on another path specific to Mathematics and is taking courses through Montana State University's Graduate School in Mathematics, hoping to eventually complete a PhD.

**Kaitlyn Knutson** is pursuing a Master of Science in Data Science at the University of Wisconsin- Superior (UWS). Growing up in the Duluth area, she fell in love with Lake Superior. This made her choice to attend UWS that much easier. She developed her love for science from a young age, so she knew she would apply to UWS as a Biology major. Kaitlyn is so very thankful to have attended and graduated from UWS in December 2017 as a Swenson scholar with a BS in Biology and a minor in Criminal Justice. Her experiences at UWS (from playing soccer, running track, and striving academically) fueled her curiosity and desire to solve real-world problems. This has led her to study for a master's degree in Data Science, with hopes to be a data scientist in the healthcare field. She recently completed her first semester of the program and is eager to start the next.

### **Created Here: Meet the Artists Fundraiser**

AAUW Duluth's fund raiser for its scholarships is the exciting fall fundraiser "Created Here: Meet the Artists," which showcases local women artists and cultural leaders, and includes dinner, a silent auction, and entertainment at the Northland Country Club.