



2018-2019 Lew Williams and Leila Sulkes Scholarship Winners

Kathy Cortes, Chair of the Scholarship Committee, presented the 2018-2019 Lew Wallace and Leila Sulkes scholarships to two local women of outstanding ability: Michelle Malinowski of Manalapan, NJ and Tia Ryans, of Howell, NJ.

Kathy asked members present to show appreciation to Susan Hughes for her many years serving as chair of the scholarship committee. She also thanked the members for their long-running support of the AAUW Freehold Book Sale, which raises funds for the scholarships.

Both scholarship winners are students at Rutgers University. Both have shown a deep-seated desire to take what they have learned and bring it into the world to benefit others.



Michelle Malinowski is pursuing a Master of Public Health in epidemiology at Rutgers School of Public Health. She also works for Easter Seals of New Jersey as a service coach in behavioral health. One of her references said: “She has demonstrated true professionalism and has shown dedication and compassion toward our consumers here at Easter Seals.” She wants to do research in either cancer or psychiatric epidemiology and would like to work for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Michelle would like to see more women go into STEM fields and credits her father's encouraging her interest in science from an early age.

Tia Ryans is studying for a bachelor's degree in Political Science/Sociology at Rutgers Newark College of Arts and Sciences. She has recently worked as an intern in Criminal Justice Strategic Communications for FWD.us in Washington D.C., where she provided resources to local organizations pursuing immigration and criminal justice reform. She founded a non-profit organization called FORTE (Forcing Out Recidivism Through Education), which helps formerly incarcerated students transition to post-secondary education. Tia volunteers for Hope Love and Kindness Crisis Intervention, which serves Essex County NJ with workshops for personal growth, ethical judgment and self reflection. One of her references there compares her with some of the best counselors and facilitators in the field that she has ever seen: “a rare and gifted young lady.”