



For Immediate Release

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### **Six Northwestern Students Granted STEM Scholarships By The Alumnae of Northwestern University**

**EVANSTON, Ill.** --- The Alumnae of Northwestern University has selected six students to receive 2019-2020 Alumnae of Northwestern University STEM scholarships, which are awarded to students who excel in a STEM major (science, technology, engineering, mathematics). The intent of this scholarship program, which began in 2010, is to free students from work commitments so they may more vigorously pursue their chosen area of study and other university endeavors. Students are selected on the basis of academic excellence and financial need.

Jane Dampts, 2019-2020 chair of The Alumnae’s STEM Fellowship Committee, notes: “This year we awarded six scholarships to rising juniors. Our members are proud to support these talented and hard-working students pursuing STEM careers in diverse fields, allowing them to continue their studies, do research, and actively participate in campus life.”

#### **2019-2020 Recipients:**

**Victor Aung**, McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (McC) ’21, from Center Valley, Pennsylvania, is studying computer science. As a high school senior, he was a QuestBridge Scholar, FRC Robotics District Champion, Best Use of Snap-Kit of University of Chicago’s Uncommon Hacks, and received School of Engineering honors for getting straight As in a given quarter. He is committed to integrating the arts and humanities with his engineering work – focusing on user-centric design to make applications easier to use and more accessible. He credits his drive for success to his Burmese immigrant parents who risked everything so he could grow up with an excellent education.

**Emerson Carlson**, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences (WCAS) ’21, from Monroe, CT, is studying economics and math. As a high school senior, he received the Prudential Spirit of Community Certificate of Excellence and the President’s Volunteer Award. Currently, he is a member of a team that is a top six finalist for the Goldman Sachs U Chicago/Northwestern Stock Pitch Competition. Emerson has made the Dean’s List every quarter he has been at NU and is strongly committed to learning by immersing himself in the world of finance, collaborating and studying with classmates. In the face of adversity, he is thankful to his single mother who faced financial difficulties.

**Braden Cronin\*** (WCAS) '21, from Naperville, Ill., is studying global health and neuroscience. She began Northwestern on a Posner Fellowship and was accepted to present at a biomedical conference for minority students. She was awarded the Weinberg Travel Grant, the Central Florida Marine Corps Scholarship, as well as the Greer Scholarship. Her goal is to go into international health, specifically global healthcare. She is committed to understanding both the historical aspect of public health as well as the science behind the medicine. Because of her experience as a biracial student, she deeply values diversity and inclusion. She is active with MakerGirl to combat stereotypes against woman and minorities.

**Mary Okematti**, (WCAS) '21, from Rogers, MN, is studying cognitive science. She began Northwestern on the Karr Academic Achievement Scholarship, the J.G. Nolan Scholarship, the NU Alumni Twin Cities Scholarship, and the Todd Warren Fund for Undergraduate Students. She aspires to be a doctor who serves disempowered communities to help people take ownership over their health. Her focus is to understand how peoples' thoughts affect their decision making. She has found a challenge in the STEM field due to underestimation of her because of her black womanhood, but has found that connections with people from the African community in her research lab have provided her with support.

**Nolan Robinson**, School of Communications (C), from Evanston, Ill., is studying theatre and computer science. He was named a Robert M. Cumnock Scholar in his first year at Northwestern. In addition, he was on the Dean's List, was Keynote Speaker for the Evanston MLK day celebration 2018, won the North Shore Branch NAACP 2017 Community Service Award, and serves on the Dean of Communication's Advisory Council. Nolan defines himself as an artist and a scientist and aspires to join the two fields to discover what both artistic and scientific creation can bring to the world. He has faced financial issues, is a first generation college student, and feels he has been challenged because he is a black man. Nonetheless, he has actively sought opportunities for himself to succeed.

**Lucy Weidner** (WCAS) '21, from Staunton, VA., is studying environmental science and English. In high school, she received the Harry F. Byrd Leadership Award, the Marine Academic Excellence Award, and was a three-time state debate champion. Currently, she has been on the Dean's List for all of 2018 and is on the Northwestern Mock Trial team, which was ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in the nation. Lucy aspires to do research on the intersection of human health and environment. She is committed to helping people understand the real issues with climate change and mass extinction, and is resolved to fix those issues. Chemistry was a particular challenge to Lucy but she used her struggle to help her understand what her overriding interest is: ecology.

The Alumnae of Northwestern University is an all-volunteer organization of women that raises funds for a wide range of projects to benefit the University while sharing the University's academic resources with the community through its Continuing Education program, which celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year. Founded in 1916, The Alumnae has given more than \$8.5 million to the University in the form of grants, fellowships, scholarships, endowed professorships, funding for university projects and summer internships. For more information, visit The Alumnae website ([www.nualumnae.org](http://www.nualumnae.org)).

\*Spelling of name corrected 1/28/2020

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