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For more information contact:
Michele Bresler, Public Relations chair
The Alumnae of Northwestern University
847/869-1010; 847-867-5412
mbreslenu@gmail.com

The Alumnae of Northwestern Awards Four Graduate Fellowships

EVANSTON, Ill. --- The Alumnae of Northwestern University has selected four recipients to receive its 2021-22 Graduate Fellowships for graduate-level tuition. The fellowships are awarded to full-time students in terminal master's degree programs who show promise of achieving distinction in careers that will serve the public good. Criteria for selection include quality of scholarship, leadership, community service, professional experience, and financial need.

The Alumnae Graduate Fellowship Committee's co-chairs, Erin Leddon and Carolyn Utech, note: "The Alumnae is extremely proud to support these outstanding Northwestern graduates as they work to complete their master's degrees."

Wajeeha Malik, from Islamabad, Pakistan, received her BS in Journalism in 2017 from Northwestern University, Qatar (NU-Q). As an undergraduate, she was managing editor of the campus newspaper, the *Daily Q*, and was selected for a highly competitive residency at *National Geographic*. After graduating, she returned to Pakistan where she has devoted herself to reporting on underrepresented issues. Her work has been published in various outlets, including *Al Jazeera*, which carried her report on the dissolution of colonial-era laws in Pakistan's Northern tribal areas. This work was supported by a competitive fellowship from the South Asian Journalists Association. In addition to her work as a freelance journalist, Wajeeha has also started a small creative agency that focuses on hiring women and minorities, helping open doors for other young graduates. She is dedicated to supporting the next generation of journalists in Pakistan, where she has created and presented free courses on basic journalism techniques and writing methods at various universities. Wajeeha will pursue a Master's degree in Journalism at Medill.

Reanna Williams, from Anderson, IN, received a BA in Psychology from Northwestern in 2015, and a BS in Nursing from Marian University in 2017. After completing her degrees, she worked for several years as a registered nurse (first with pediatric stem cell transplant patients,

then in a pediatric ICU) before enrolling in the Physician Assistant Master's Program in the Feinberg School of Medicine. She quickly distinguished herself in that program, becoming class president. In this leadership role, she has been a champion for diversity, implementing a new Diversity Chair in the physician assistant student organization, creating opportunities to learn about PA Black history during Black History Month, and recruiting the National Society of Black Physician Assistants to speak at Northwestern. She is committed to mentorship as well, working to build relationships with Chicago Public Schools to educate high school students about her profession, and spearheading a program for physician assistant students to connect with undergraduate students interested in healthcare careers. Reanna will complete her Master's degree in Medical Science degree in May 2022.

Amy Xie, from Bloomingdale, IL, will earn her BS in Biomedical Engineering from Northwestern in June 2021. She has been actively involved in biomedical engineering research throughout her undergraduate career. In 2018, she presented her work on immunology engineering for tuberculosis vaccines at the National Biomedical Engineering Society Conference. Her senior capstone project inspired her interest in medical device research, as her team worked on a device to help spinal cord injury inpatients at the Shirley Ryan Ability Lab. Her research has been recognized with two separate summer research awards from the McCormick School of Engineering and the Biomedical Engineering Department. Amy has also been active in the extracurricular life of her department, serving as a peer tutor and as vice president of Northwestern's Biomedical Engineering Society. Amy will continue her research on medical devices as a Master's student in Mechanical Engineering.

Rocio Rozo-Mendez, earned her BA in English and Latino/a Studies from Northwestern in 2017. She was selected to address her fellow graduates at commencement that year, capping a distinguished undergraduate career. Rocio was selected as a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow, pursuing research exploring the roots of salsa and poetry in Nuyorican neighborhoods. Her work was recognized with the Best Senior Thesis Award by the Latino/a Studies Program. Rocio was one of two students selected to participate in the Weinberg College curricular review, and she was active in orientation programs for new students. She served on the New Student and Family Programs Board of Directors and oversaw staff training and curriculum development for 200+ student orientation leaders. Since graduation she has worked as a bilingual copywriter, and has volunteered as a translator at The Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights. Her experience at Northwestern has inspired her to pursue a Master's degree in Higher Education, where she plans to explore educational policy and access to improve the experience of underrepresented students.

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. Founded in 1916, The Alumnae has given more than \$9.5 million to the university in the form of grants, fellowships, scholarships, endowed professorships, funding for special university projects, and summer internships. For more information, visit The Alumnae www.nualumnae.org.

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