

Scholarship

Scholarship Success Stories

Ryleigh Norgrove's Story

2017 recipient of an AAUW Healdsburg Branch High School Scholarship



As I graduated from Healdsburg High School in 2017, I was generously awarded a scholarship from Healdsburg AAUW. I am incredibly grateful for your support and am happy to report back on the ways this scholarship has impacted my life and educational goals!

Today, I am a recent graduate of Willamette University, with a bachelor's degree in English and a minor in political science. I am currently working as a beat reporter with *The Chronicle* in Eugene, Oregon covering local news in Lane County.

During my time at Willamette University, I was involved with the student newspaper, radio station, campus coffee shop, and photography studio. These experiences allowed me to explore my passion for journalism and political reportage, as well as give back to the campus community that gave me so much.

In my sophomore year of college, I completed a Violence Prevention Grant, bringing self-defense classes to the women of my school. Through this funding, I was able to organize a documentary screening and talkback as the director of the film "Beauty Bites Beast – This missing conversation about ending violence." The film is about women all over the world undertaking the transformative experience of learning verbal, emotional, and physical empowerment rooted in self-defense. Putting together these pieces was an experience I will never forget, and I am incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity to complete this work. Working on this project was particularly rewarding and will have a lasting impact on my life.

In the summer between my sophomore and junior year, I had the fantastic opportunity to work within Oregon Governor Kate Brown's communications team. As a strategic communications fellow with her office, I wrote speeches, ran social media accounts, organized press releases and conferences, and predominantly wrote for the state of Oregon's news source, *My Oregon News*. My time with Governor Brown showed me the nuances and complexities of political communication— and just how important watchdog journalism is on each and every level of government.

My passion for journalism has been the driving force behind my education. Over the past few years, this has grown in a number of directions and I am happy to have landed in local news. I am thrilled to see there is an effort to maintain thoughtful and thorough journalistic methods in this fast-paced, ever-changing world, and am eager to contribute in any way I can. By awarding me the Healdsburg AAUW Scholarship, you have supported me in my career, education, and personal growth. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Ryleigh Norgrove