

# 2017 GHC/GHCLA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



June 2017 – and the GHCLA and the GHC have continued our generous tradition of encouraging area students. This spring our organizations awarded a total of six \$1000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors in our community. We have now given \$65,000 to deserving high school graduates since the year 2000.

In January 2017, the auxiliary voted to award four \$1000 scholarships to students in our local high schools. The GHC funded two scholarships. There were a large number of qualified applicants from Springstead (14) and Weeki Wachee (15) and this is reflected in the final awarding of the scholarships.

By late April, the 6 members of the scholarship committee had individually read all the applications and ranked their top 3 candidates from each school. During May, members of the scholarship committee attended awards ceremonies at each school to congratulate these outstanding young people. The recipients have overcome obstacles and shown the potential for success in their chosen fields. The GHCLA and GHC can certainly be proud of our part in supporting these students!

## **Cameron Dungey**



Springstead High School (GHC Award)  
Career Goal - engineering  
University of Central Florida

Works at Publix  
High Honors, 7 dual enrollment courses  
Key Club  
Over 100 hours community service  
Ranks 77/405

Quote from recommendation: "Cameron is extremely ambitious.... self-motivated and determined to create a course of action for his future

**Marissa Flaherty**

Weeki Wachee High School (GHCLA Award)  
Career Goal – surgeon  
Stetson University

AP classes, dual enrollment. Has earned 60 college credits.  
Marching band  
Varsity letter in soccer 4 years  
Ranks 37/334  
Over 500 community service hours  
Her father died before she was born. There have been other family financial setbacks. A sister has recently been diagnosed with cancer.

Quote from recommendation: "Marissa demonstrates an openness and empathy for the opinions, feelings, and perspectives of others, along with shrewd powers of observation."

**Victoria Pereira**

Weeki Wachee High School (GHC Award)  
Career Goal – veterinarian  
Accepted at 6 schools. Will attend University of Florida

Works at Hernando YMCA as a lifeguard  
National Honor Society  
Has earned her associate's degree from PHSC through dual enrollment  
Student Government  
Band, Key Club  
Ranks 49/334  
Her dad died last year, leaving her mom and 2 siblings.

Quote from recommendation: "Victoria demonstrates the qualities of a great leader through integrity, honesty, respect, responsibility, and caring."

**Kara Nelson**



Springstead High School (GHCLA Award)  
Career goal – pediatrician  
University of Central Florida

Ranks 101/405  
Works at Salishan  
Enrolled in Allied Health Program which leads to CNA certification  
Cheerleading captain 3 years  
Homecoming court all 4 years  
Active in church youth group and summer missions' trips  
Parents were arrested in 2005 for drug possession; mom is still in prison.  
Her grandma adopted Kara and her 2 siblings so they wouldn't be placed in foster care.

Quote from recommendation: "Kara's life has not always been easy, but you would never know she has ever had to struggle because she faces the world with such a positive can-do attitude, and encourages others around her to do the same. Kara is a leader...."

### **Regina Sameri**



Central High School (GHCLA Award)  
Career Goal – Nurse and eventually Nurse Practitioner  
Florida College

Ranks 77/247  
Varsity Soccer  
Works at Chefs of Napoli  
Volunteer at Oak Hill Hospital and Spring Hill Rehab  
Works with special needs students at Central High  
Single parent mom with 2 younger siblings

Quote from recommendation: "During her clinical experience thus far in providing direct patient care, she has shown compassion and skill, receiving numerous compliments from the staff."

### **Yenissa Smith**



Weeki Wachee High School (GHCLA Award)  
Career Goal – Diagnostic Medical Sonography  
Keiser University

Works at Metro PCS.  
AP and Dual Enrollment classes.  
Math tutor.  
Colorguard captain.  
Honor Roll, highest GPA in Vespa, the top musical group at WWHS  
Ranks 17/333  
Single parent mom and younger sister.

Quote from recommendation: "People look to her for friendship and support.... She lights up the room with her joy for living..."

Members of the 2017 scholarship committee were Bev Ali, Lois Jensen, Terry McConnell, Rose Soulis, and co-chairs Kathy Welch and Kathy Hackemer.