



## WOMEN'S JEWELRY ASSOCIATION

### **WOMEN'S JEWELRY ASSOCIATION (WJA) ANNOUNCES 2018 SCHOLARSHIP & GRANT WINNERS**

*The association awards \$65,500 in funds in celebration of its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary.*

**[New York, New York – July 9, 2018]** - The Women's Jewelry Association (WJA) will award a total of \$65,500 in grants and scholarships for the 2018-2019 program year. The funds have been awarded to 45 women, 12 of whom are students in accredited programs focused on jewelry making and design.

Funds for WJA scholarships and grants are raised through the association's annual Awards for Excellence Gala; individual member donations; and through generous sponsorships.

"It is important that WJA encourages and continues to support the professional growth and educational endeavors of women in the jewelry and watch industries," says Jenny Luker, WJA board president. "The recipients are all extraordinary and exceptional at what they do. We are excited to see what new opportunities they will bring to our industry."

Student scholarships are awarded in three different categories: Designer/Creator Category (based on images of finished pieces that are designed and created by the student); Designer Category (based on designs by the student, includes CAD and drawings); and Non-Designer Category (essay-based for those studying to be a gemologist, appraiser, watch-maker, bench jeweler, or retailer).

The 2017-2018 Scholarship recipients are:

#### **\$5,000 Carelle-WJA Grant Winner:** Christina Miller

Christina T. Miller, independent sustainable jewelry consultant, provides strategy, guidance, and impact measurement to help jewelers make lives better around the world. Miller is co-founder and former executive director of Ethical Metalsmiths (EM), a not-for-profit organization founded in 2004 that strives to increase responsible practices in the jewelry industry through education. In 2013 EM successfully introduced FAIRMINED gold to the US in collaboration with 23 independent jewelers and refiner, Hoover & Strong. From 2006 – 2010 Miller was assistant professor of jewelry and metalsmithing at Millersville University. She holds a BFA from Millersville University and an MFA from East Carolina University.



**Female Veteran Scholarship, sponsored by Jewelers Mutual Insurance Group (\$5,000)**

**Winner: Lisa West**, Gemological Institute of America

Lisa West is a freelance computer aided design jewelry designer in San Diego. A disabled veteran of the United States Air Force West is a graduate of the Gemological Institute of America's Graduate Jeweler and Jewelry Design and Technology programs. At home she is a wife and the mother of two handsome red-headed boys. On the weekends, she plays soccer and she is currently working with a startup jewelry company creating 3D models for their products.



**The Cindy Edelstein Jewelry Design Scholarship (\$5,000)**

**Winner: Julie Martin**, San Diego State University

Julie Martin earned her B.A. in Applied Design in Jewelry and Metalsmithing at San Diego State University. Following school, she began a 3-year apprenticeship with a master jeweler in San Diego who is now part of her current team. After her apprenticeship, Julie started a fashion jewelry company. A decade later she founded Scout Mandolin, a luxury brand that makes custom one-of-a-kind engagement rings, wedding bands, and fine jewelry based in the Napa Valley. In her spare time, Julie enjoys yoga, travel, hiking, and spending time with her dog, Haven, and her husband, Alex.



**The Gabriel Love Foundation Scholarship (\$5,000)**

**Winner: Magan Byron**, Gemological Institute of America

Magan Martin Byron earned her BFA in Jewelry and Metalworking from the University of Georgia. She is currently enrolled in Gem Identification at the Gemological Institute of America, the last course she needs to complete her Graduate Gemologist degree. She lives in Athens, GA with her husband and two dogs where she works as the Operations Director at T.K. Anderson Designs. In her spare time she enjoys yoga, hiking, gardening, and traveling.



**The June Herman Designer/Creator Scholarship Award (\$7,000)**

**Winner: Hsinyu Chu**, Gemological Institute of America

**Designer/Creator Scholarship Award (\$5,000)**

**Winner: Hannah Hash**, Gemological Institute of America

**Designer/Creator Scholarship Award (\$3,000)**

**Winner: Ekaterina Korzh**, University of Iowa

**Designer/Creator Scholarship Award (\$2,000)**

**Winner: Zihan Yang**, Savannah College of Art & Design

**The Peggy Kirby Scholarship Award (\$5,000)**

**Winner: Sidnee Tyree**, Kendall College of Art and Design

**Non-Designer Scholarship (\$3,000)**

**Winner: Jacqueline Lapuck**, Gemological Institute of America

**Non-Designer Scholarship (\$1,000)**

**Winner: Natalie Tjaden**, University of Tennessee

**Winner: Madison Desmond**, (\$1,000) Gemological Institute of America

**Winner: Sarah Andrie**, (\$1,000) Gemological Institute of America

**Winner: Jodi Webster**, (\$1,000) University of Kansas

Grant winners listed by WJA Chapter:

**Austin:** Mousumi Shaw

**Boston:** Lori Magno, Siran Varadian

**Chicago:** Arica DeArcos, Kelly Jacobson, Susanne Siegel, Stephanie Wishnoff

**Colorado:** Julia Mancarella

**Dallas:** Linda Friedel, Margueriette Hutchison

**Lafayette:** Mindi Courville

**Los Angeles:** Harvinder Keila, Tania Silpanone

**Northern California:** Deborah Durant, Brooke Miller, Rhoma Young

**NY Metro:** Maricha Genovese, Deborah Halperin, Delphine Leymarie

**Ohio/Kentucky:** Dawn Grady, Andrea Koenig

**Providence:** Marilyn Salvatore

**Salt Lake City:** Liz Deane

**San Diego:** Marreena Appleton, Jennifer DeMoro, Christine Lopez, Peggy Tsiamis

**Seattle:** Andrea Price, Danielle Saudino

**Twin Cities:** Julie Burkhart-Haid, Laura McDonald

**Charlotte Preston "Gets it Done" Grant:** Nancy Hudson

*(honors the memory of one of WJA's most committed members, the late Charlotte Preston, who died in October 2015 at the age of 62. She was an ardent supporter of WJA and served most recently as president of the WJA Twin Cities Chapter. The Charlotte Preston grant is funded annually by the WJA Foundation and the WJA Twin Cities Chapter.)*

This year's scholarship applications were evaluated by a jury, headed by Lisa Slovis Mandel, who serves as scholarship chair for the WJA Foundation Board of Trustees. Her committee included WJA representatives from across the country, representing all levels of the industry.

For more information about WJA Scholarships and Grants, please visit: <https://bit.ly/2Ktcyfz>  
For any other additional information, please contact Katie Kinsella at [kkinsella@kinneyandkinsella.com](mailto:kkinsella@kinneyandkinsella.com)  
or 212 620 0356 ext 202.

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**About the Women's Jewelry Association (WJA)**

WJA's mission is to help women in the jewelry and watch industries advance and develop professionally through networking, education, leadership development, and the provision of member services.