



2020 National CCAA Scholarship Recipients

The National CCAA Scholarship is awarded to college-bound high school seniors from various geographic regions who will attend one of the National CCAA member institutions in the fall, and transfer students from two-year and community colleges who are attending a National CCAA member institution. For Fall 2020, the National CCAA awarded 16 one-time \$1,000 awards. This year's scholarship recipients hail from across the United States, Honduras, and Mexico.

We asked each scholarship winner 10 questions to learn more about them. Here are their responses to those questions:



Name: Aidan Weitl
School: Santa Clara University
Hometown: Walnut Creek, CA
Major: Undecided

Why did you choose to attend your college/university?

I chose to attend Santa Clara University because of the beautiful campus, small class sizes, and well-rounded core curriculum.

What is your intended major?

I am currently undecided on my major, but have been looking at Accounting.

What are your future plans?

I hope to learn Japanese, and maybe travel to Japan one day.

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

I am most excited about the many different classes SCU offers; there's so many options!

What are your hobbies?

I enjoy reading novels and comics, playing video games, and creating characters to draw.

What is your favorite book?

My favorite book is *Page by Paige*. Its artwork and storytelling are some of the best I've ever seen.

What was your favorite class in high school?

My favorite class in high school was AP European History. I had a great teacher and fun classmates, which made for a great learning experience.

What one tip about the college application process would you share with high school seniors and/or their parents?

Start and finish your applications as early as possible, it's a much less stressful experience that way.

What advice would you share with soon-to-be high school seniors as they begin their senior year in the fall?

Work hard. It does get harder to focus as you approach graduation, but as long as you're putting an effort into your work, you're sure to have fun.

What is one fun fact about you?

A fun fact about me is that I love to read superhero comics. Ever since my dad showed me his old collection when I was four, I've followed Marvel and DC's superheroes in both their comics and movies.



Name: Andrew Lehman
School: Villanova University
Hometown: Mountain Top, PA
Major: Biochemistry

Why did you choose to attend your college/university?

I chose to attend Villanova because of the feeling I got when I stepped on campus. The climate and community of the school seemed to fit just right. Also, I appreciate the great history that comes along with Villanova as "a community of higher education, committed to excellence and distinction in discovery, dissemination and application of knowledge."

What is your intended major?

My major at Villanova will be Biochemistry. I was drawn to the outdoors when I was very young. I enjoyed playing outside in the woods and by the creek. My yard and neighborhood were ripe for exploration from catching crayfish to building forts in the woods. My first introduction to science was in the world around me - asking why and how things worked. This translated to the classroom where my curiosity pushed me to excel in my science classes.

What are your future plans?

I would like to explore becoming an MD who focuses on research. I can see myself doing research in a lab as a research scientist, applying logic to solve problems. After obtaining my BS, I would like to continue my education to get an advanced degree. Careers in private research or university sponsored research interest me.

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

I am most excited to find my passion and figure out what I will be doing for the rest of my life. I believe that I will know the community I want to be in when I see it. I am going to be looking for like minded people to surround myself with.

What are your hobbies?

My hobbies are playing lacrosse, skiing, video games, and white-water rafting.

What is your favorite book?

My favorite books are the Harry Potter series. Harry Potter starts out as a lonely downtrodden young boy and grows into a leader with strong morals and loyal friends throughout his adventures, which are magical and life changing.

What was your favorite class in high school?

In Chemistry our lab days were my favorite classes to attend because hands-on learning was exciting. Chemistry and Biology are my favorite classes because they illustrate the building blocks of the universe and life itself.

What one tip about the college application process would you share with high school seniors and/or their parents?

Relax through the college application process. Everything will turn out as it is meant to. The work you will continue to put in throughout the process will pay off.

What advice would you share with soon-to-be high school seniors as they begin their senior year in the fall?

Enjoy your time as a senior and treasure the special moments and events. They end too soon. Even if things don't turn out as planned, roll with it and find the positive.

What is one fun fact about you?

I like to wear crazy socks and ties. I think my sense of fashion is amazing!



Name: Anna Munson
School: Marian University
Hometown: Auburn, IN
Major: Biology

Why did you choose to attend your college/university?

I chose Marian University because I wanted to continue my Catholic education through college, along with the fact that my parents are Marian alumni!

What is your intended major?

My intended major is Biology.

What are your future plans?

I plan to continue to chiropractic school after Marian.

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

I am most excited about the fact that Marian is a Catholic college and that the campus is located near Indianapolis.

What are your hobbies?

I love to play guitar and sing. I also play golf and tennis, and cantor for my church in Fort Wayne.

What is your favorite book?

My favorite books are a series called After.

What was your favorite class in high school?

My favorite class in high school was Anatomy.

What one tip about the college application process would you share with high school seniors and/or their parents?

One tip I would share is do not procrastinate on applying to colleges. Apply to any and all colleges as soon as possible. It makes the process ten times easier.

What advice would you share with soon-to-be high school seniors as they begin their senior year in the fall?

Enjoy senior year. Go to football games, basketball games, bonfires, dances. Do as much as possible. Mine was taken away from me and there is so much that I regret not doing. Just enjoy!

What is one fun fact about you?

One fun fact about me is that I write my own songs!



Name: Arie Lopez
School: John Carroll University
Hometown: Parma, OH
Majors: Neuroscience and Psychology

Why did you choose to attend your college/university?

I chose John Carroll University because of their sense of community and eagerness to help their students succeed.

What is your intended major?

My intended majors are Neuroscience and Psychology.

What are your future plans?

My future plans include medical school, in hopes of pursuing a career in psychiatry.

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

I am most excited about learning leadership skills and having the opportunity to serve my community.

What are your hobbies?

Some of my hobbies include tennis, reading, writing and Sudoku.

What is your favorite book?

My favorite book is *Flowers for Algernon* by Daniel Keyes.

What was your favorite class in high school?

Government and Biology are both a tie for my favorite classes.

What one tip about the college application process would you share with high school seniors and/or their parents?

Do not procrastinate; work with your enrollment counselor, who is there to help guide you.

What advice would you share with soon-to-be high school seniors as they begin their senior year in the fall?

Make the most of it because a pandemic may strike!

What is one fun fact about you?

One fun fact about me is that I am currently in the process of perfecting my British accent.



Name: Brenna Glance
School: University of Dayton
Hometown: Moon Township, PA
Major: Discover Business

Why did you choose to attend your college/university?

I liked the campus, majors offered, variety of activities to get involved in, and the size of the college.

What is your intended major?

Discover Business

What are your future plans?

To pursue a career in the data analytics or statistics fields.

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

To meet new people and to get a good education.

What are your hobbies?

I enjoy dancing and volunteering.

What is your favorite book?

To Kill a Mockingbird

What was your favorite class in high school?

Statistics

What one tip about the college application process would you share with high school seniors and/or their parents?

Don't wait—get a head start on applying and getting your ACT/SAT scores up.

What advice would you share with soon-to-be high school seniors as they begin their senior year in the fall?

Don't take any day for granted and always be yourself.

What is one fun fact about you?

I have been dancing since I was two years old.



Name: Catherine Caroul
School: Benedictine College
Hometown: Irving, TX
Major: Undecided

Why did you choose to attend your college/university?

I liked the atmosphere and location.

What is your intended major?

I do not know for sure yet, but I am interested in majoring in either Elementary Education, Philosophy, Theology, or Communications.

What are your future plans?

I plan to graduate with a bachelor's degree and do not currently have plans past that.

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

I am most excited about new friends and experiences.

What are your hobbies?

I enjoy photography, cooking, and video making.

What was your favorite class in high school?

My favorite classes in high school are probably tied between Latin and Theology.

What one tip about the college application process would you share with high school seniors and/or their parents?

If you can, visit the colleges(s) you are interested in

What advice would you share with soon-to-be high school seniors as they begin their senior year in the fall?

Do not procrastinate.

What is one fun fact about you?

I was the only student in art class at school this past year.



Name: Clare Shrake
School: University of Dallas
Hometown: St. Paul, MN
Major: Undecided

Why did you choose to attend your college/university?

I chose to attend the University of Dallas because I was impressed by their dedication to learning and faith. The people and professors seemed so kind and smart and I was genuinely interested in the classes I attended.

What is your intended major?

I am undecided at the moment, but I am interested in History, English, and Languages.

What are your future plans?

I don't really know what my future holds, but I am ready to explore the new opportunities college will provide.

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

I am most excited to meet new friends, experience warmer weather, study abroad my sophomore year, and learn from amazing professors.

What are your hobbies?

Some of my favorite hobbies include playing soccer, acting in shows, traveling, and spending time with family and friends.

What is your favorite book?

My all-time favorite book series is Harry Potter. I have also recently been enjoying historical fiction books by Ruta Sepetys.

What was your favorite class in high school?

My favorite class in high school was a seminar class called "The Great Conversation." We read a ton of amazing books and I enjoyed discussing them with my teacher and classmates.

What one tip about the college application process would you share with high school seniors and/or their parents?

One tip I would share is to start early. If you get your personal essay done over the summer, it relieves so much of the stress once school starts.

What advice would you share with soon-to-be high school seniors as they begin their senior year in the fall?

Make the most of every moment. Participate in your classes, go to school events, and talk to new people. You will never regret being kind and attentive to others.

What is one fun fact about you?

One fun fact about me is that I have a huge, fluffy dog named Luna. She is the sweetest!



Name: Elise Helfrich
School: Newman University
Hometown: Wright, KS
Major: Biology

Why did you choose to attend your college/university?

I chose to attend Newman University because it has an excellent Biology program and an esteemed reputation within the medical community, which is my desired field of work as a dentist. Of course, it was also greatly important to me that Newman is a Catholic college with resources to help me grow in my faith and share it with others.

What is your intended major?

My intended major is Biology.

What are your future plans?

After obtaining my undergraduate degree in Biology, I plan to attend dental school and fulfill my dreams of becoming a dentist.

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

I am excited about the small class sizes at Newman because I will be able to really get to know my classmates and professors on a deeper level and establish lasting relationships with them.

What are your hobbies?

In my free time, I love to read, play softball and volleyball, and spend time with my family and friends.

What is your favorite book?

My favorite book is *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak.

What was your favorite class in high school?

My favorite class in high school was Anatomy and Physiology because I found it super interesting to learn about all the parts of the human body and how they work together!

What one tip about the college application process would you share with high school seniors and/or their parents?

A tip I would give a senior applying to college is to apply as early as you can so that you don't have to worry about it and you can spend more time applying for outside scholarships. Every penny helps!

What advice would you share with soon-to-be high school seniors as they begin their senior year in the fall?

Some advice I would give to a student beginning their senior year is to soak in every moment with your friends—the year goes by crazy fast! I would also tell them to take every opportunity that comes their way and try new things because you don't want to leave high school with any "what if's."

What is one fun fact about you?

A fun fact about me is that I broke my nose in 6th grade softball while catching a fly ball in the infield and now my favorite position to play is ironically the outfield, where I mostly catch fly balls!



Name: Genevieve Arnold
School: John Carroll University
Hometown: Orchard Park, NJ
Major: Biology/Pre-Health Professions

Why did you choose to attend your college/university?

I chose to attend John Carroll University for its beautiful campus, their connections to the medical field, and their track team.

What is your intended major?

I plan to major in Biology on a pre-health professions track.

What are your future plans?

After attending John Carroll, I plan to go to medical school and maybe become a dermatologist or a chiropractor.

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

I am most excited about being a part of the track team. Because of the coronavirus, I did not get to have my senior track season, so getting back into running track again will be amazing.

What are your hobbies?

My hobbies include making bracelets, running/working out, and hiking.

What is your favorite book?

My favorite book is either *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald or the Selection series by Kiera Cass.

What was your favorite class in high school?

My favorite classes were Advanced Biology and AP Calculus.

What one tip about the college application process would you share with high school seniors and/or their parents?

One tip I would share is make sure you look at the college's website for codes for application fee waivers, or if you toured a college check the information they gave you. Most of the time it includes a code for application fee waivers.

What advice would you share with soon-to-be high school seniors as they begin their senior year in the fall?

Enjoy every moment. Don't take any special day for granted, you never know when it might be taken away. Spend time with your friends and go to every school event; make as many memories as you can.

What is one fun fact about you?

A fun fact about me is that I was a competitive figure skater for 12 years.



Name: Joshua Flaherty
School: Assumption University
Hometown: Wareham, MA
Major: Pre-Physical Therapy

Why did you choose to attend your college/university?

I chose Assumption University for a few reasons. The first would be the education, and the high acceptance rates for graduate programs at other schools. The second is the location, I love the city of Worcester and it is going through massive changes (in a good way). And lastly, I loved the campus and the feeling of community that comes with a small school.

What is your intended major?

Pre-Physical Therapy

What are your future plans?

I plan on going to Assumption University and then transferring to graduate school to finish my doctorate in physical therapy. After that, I would like to obtain a job as a physical therapist, and hopefully have my own practice down the line.

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

I am most excited about two things. The first would be learning about a subject I am so interested in, and the second is the college experiences. Everyone says that the college years are the most important years of your life, and that they shape you into who you are for the rest of your life. I want to experience that, as well as learning everything I can on a subject I appreciate.

What are your hobbies?

I enjoy listening to music, photography, and spending time with friends. I enjoy music and photography because they let me appreciate what I have, and with music I can learn so much about the world around me. I look at my hobbies as an outlet for stress, and a way to wind down after I complete schoolwork, or other obligations.

What is your favorite book?

My favorite book is probably *The Plague* by Albert Camus. Although the book is great itself and very symbolic, what was more important was what it introduced me to. Albert Camus was a phenomenal philosopher and introduced "The Notion of Absurdity." This philosophical idea has given me great insight on my everyday life.

What was your favorite class in high school?

My favorite class in high school was IB English. It introduced me to topics around the world and let me take control of my education. It taught me that a book is often a lot more than the story and is usually symbolic of political and social topics.

What one tip about the college application process would you share with high school seniors and/or their parents?

It is important to visit the schools you're interested in. I visited most of the schools I applied to, and that was a big part of what helped me decide on a school. When I was on campus, I was able to see if the school really felt like home. In the application process, it is important to stay on course and make sure you get everything done early so you can focus on the next steps, like scholarships.

What advice would you share with soon-to-be high school seniors as they begin their senior year in the fall?

Take the time to enjoy yourself and focus on staying on track because senior year is just as important as every other year. Make sure you do your best to try new things that you may have wanted to do in high school; this is your last chance.

What is one fun fact about you?

I have over 40 vinyl records in my collection, ranging from Frank Sinatra to J. Cole.



Name: Kaycie Willis
School: University of Dallas
Hometown: Selma, TX
Major: Interdisciplinary Studies in Education

Why did you choose to attend your college/university?

I chose the University of Dallas because of the tight knit college experience others have. Hearing how others made a family out of friends in their time at UD really showed a friendly environment.

What is your intended major?

Interdisciplinary Studies in the Education Department.

What are your future plans?

I plan to become an English teacher; I am not sure which grade yet.

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

Getting to explore the campus and what Irving has to offer.

What are your hobbies?

I like to play music, go on hikes, and craft!

What is your favorite book?

Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom.

What was your favorite class in high school?

My favorite class would definitely have to be English! I really like to write and English class has been a perfect outlet during stressful times at school.

What one tip about the college application process would you share with high school seniors and/or their parents?

Start your application process as early as possible! The earlier you have options, the easier it is to make the best decision for you.

What advice would you share with soon-to-be high school seniors as they begin their senior year in the fall?

Soak everything in and get involved in your community!

What is one fun fact about you?

One fun fact about me is that I am a camp counselor!



Name: Malia Tangitau
School: University of San Diego
Hometown: Redwood City, CA
Major: Sociology

Why did you choose to attend your college/university?

I chose to attend USD because of its spiritual connection to God and the community it cultivates. All my life I've been a practicing Catholic and knew that I wanted to continue my faith in college and beyond that. Therefore, it was a no-brainer that the college I would be attending will help me strengthen my faith. USD serves to build community, maintain an ethical conduct, and participate in compassionate service, all of which I value as well. A community that helps me grow as a person and a child of God in one institution was the dream I envisioned for my future and I knew USD will help me pursue it.

What is your intended major?

I intend on majoring in Sociology. I've always had a passion for social justice and especially aiding communities of low income. From experience, having people who are consistent and show you love and hope is enough to keep going sometimes. When everything seems to go against you in the world, at least the knowledge of people who are rooting for you to finish is enough motivation.

What are your future plans?

From a young age, and being the oldest of my siblings, I knew that I was the leader of the pack. Therefore, my future plans have always been about my family, making sure they are fed, sheltered, and living comfortably. I come from humble beginnings where my parents taught my siblings and I that not having everything doesn't mean we are loved any less, but to appreciate everything we are given and to always be kind. I can wait to have a family of my own, I just need to make sure my parents aren't stressing about paying bills or worried about not having enough money for their necessities.

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

I am most excited about meeting new people and possibly a position of leadership there. At SHP, my high school, I was always involved with student government and it was something I enjoyed being a part of, so I'm excited to see how I can get involved on campus at USD.

What are your hobbies?

I do a lot of dancing and it has been my escape these past four years. I plan to continue to dance in college as well. I also enjoy participating in athletic activities and spending time with family and friends.

What is your favorite book?

My favorite book is *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio simply for the precept, "When given the choice between being right or being kind, choose kind." I first read this book in eighth grade and this precept stood out specifically to me. Since then, I've lived by it throughout high school and I saw how being kind, or even asking how someone's day has been, really makes a difference in their lives. I've held a positive outlook in life because of that book, too, making sure not to take anything good for granted. I understood how not to be a bystander and ways to use my voice to stand up for what is right.

What one tip about the college application process would you share with high school seniors and/or their parents?

One tip about the college process is that if resources are available to you, take advantage of them. Get the help you need to fill out applications or even ask a teacher to look over your essay.

What was your favorite class in high school?

My favorite class I took in high school was my English class during senior year. The class was called Monsters in Lit, where we looked at villains in stories like Hansel and Gretel and saw a victimized perspective of the supposed villain. Then we looked at how society views characteristics of villains and saw how most viewed these villains with dark features, which was also correlated to race and how society sees one another.

What advice would you share with soon-to-be high school seniors as they begin their senior year in the fall?

Don't stress too much, you'll get into college, and everything happens for a reason. Take care of yourself first, please.

What is one fun fact about you?

I am half Tongan and half Samoan, but both family trees started with a German ancestor.



Name: Mauricio Monroy
School: St. Edward's University
Hometown: Mexico City, Mexico
Major: Economics

Why did you choose to attend your college/university?

I chose St. Edward's because I wanted a small university in Texas that would make me feel like part of a community.

What is your intended major?

I'm planning to major in Economics.

What are your future plans?

I would like to be able to make a positive impact for people in disadvantaged situations, aiding them to obtain the tools they need to succeed.

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

What makes me most excited about my college is the student life I'll be able to experience once I am there. It will definitely be different than any other I've experienced.

What are your hobbies?

Most of my hobbies revolve around music. I love music festivals and have played several instruments since I was a kid.

What is your favorite book?

If I had to choose, I would say that my favorite book is *The Book of Disquiet* by Fernando Pessoa.

What was your favorite class in high school?

My favorite class in high school was Ethics. We always discussed fascinating topics, especially because there were such diverse opinions on them.

What one tip about the college application process would you share with high school seniors and/or their parents?

One thing that worked for me was to be aware of the due dates for every item in the application. Having a designated time for each one was very useful to not fall into procrastination.

What advice would you share with soon-to-be high school seniors as they begin their senior year in the fall?

With the whole COVID-19 situation going around the world, my advice would be to try to find new ways to make a memorable last year of high school despite adversity.

What is one fun fact about you?

I took a two-year music degree at the Centro de Artes y Música, México.



Name: Mitchell Tarrio
School: Assumption University
Hometown: Augusta, ME
Major: Business Administration

Why did you choose to attend your college/university?

At Assumption University, I will play on the golf team.

What is your intended major?

I am majoring in Business Administration.

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

I am most excited to meet new people and friends.

What are your hobbies?

I like to play golf and I enjoy working in the wood shop to make furniture.

What is your favorite book?

My favorite book is *The Catcher in the Rye*.

What was your favorite class in high school?

My favorite class in high school was Hip-Hop Poetics.

What one tip about the college application process would you share with high school seniors and/or their parents?

Apply for as many scholarships as you can, and as early as possible.

What advice would you share with soon-to-be high school seniors as they begin their senior year in the fall?

Get your college essay done as soon as you start school.

What is one fun fact about you?

I love the beach!



Name: Victor Andonie
School: St. Mary's University
Hometown: San Pedro Sula, Honduras
Major: Management

Why did you choose to attend your college/university?

My cousins and my brother studied at St. Mary's University. Once I visited the university, I realized it was the one I wanted to go to; my family has had a positive experience and I want to have one as well.

What is your intended major?

My intended major is Management.

What are your future plans?

I want to take over my family's business when I am finished with university.

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

I am most excited to learn new things and have new experiences.

What are your hobbies?

My hobbies are playing soccer, going to the gym, and playing video games.

What is your favorite book?

My favorite books are the Percy Jackson series.

What was your favorite class in high school?

My favorite class in high school was Biology.

What one tip about the college application process would you share with high school seniors and/or their parents?

Start early with your applications because the process is longer than you think.

What advice would you share with soon-to-be high school seniors as they begin their senior year in the fall?

Enjoy your last year as much as you can, don't let others ruin the year for you.

What is one fun fact about you?

I like bats.



Name: William Lalli
School: Le Moyne College
Hometown: Amherst, NY
Major: Accounting

Why did you choose to attend your college/university?

I chose to attend Le Moyne College because everyone there was so welcoming when I visited, and it has excellent academic programs.

What is your intended major?

I intend to major in Accounting.

What are your future plans?

I plan to look for a job in the business world after my time in college.

What aspect of your college/university are you most excited about?

I am most excited about dorming, as I will get to experience new freedoms unique to college.

What are your hobbies?

In my free time I enjoy playing soccer, golf, and swimming.

What is your favorite book?

My favorite book is *Unbroken*, which is a book about Louis Zamperini, an Olympic track star who fights and is captured during World War II.

What was your favorite class in high school?

My favorite class in high school was English, I like reading and I feel like I became a better writer in the process.

What one tip about the college application process would you share with high school seniors and/or their parents?

If I had to share one tip about the college application process to soon-to-be high school seniors, it would be to start early.

What advice would you share with soon-to-be high school seniors as they begin their senior year in the fall?

My advice to incoming seniors as they start school in the fall would be to continue to work hard, but to enjoy the time you have left in high school as well.

What is one fun fact about you?

One fun fact about me is I like to longboard.