

UMBrella

2019 Recipients

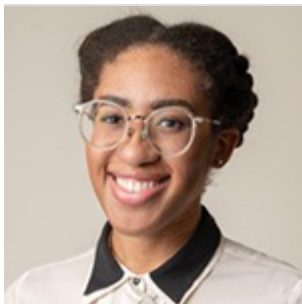


Click on the recipient's name to read about their scholarship experience.



[Anna Borgerding, PMP](#)

Scholarship: Professional Leadership Program for Women



[Chanelle Hutchinson](#)

Scholarship: National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)

[Brittany Lewis](#)

Scholarship: National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)



Nakiya Schurman

Scholarship: ACUI Women's Leadership Institute



Chanise Reese-Queen

Scholarship: ACUI Women's Leadership Institute

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Anna Borgerding, PMP



Leadership by definition is the action of leading a group of people or an organization. Although leadership is hard to quantify, it's often measured by the presence of many traits such as integrity, accountability, and gravitas. Up until 2019, I had operated under the notion that if I worked hard and did everything that was asked of me, I'd be recognized for my leadership skills and then opportunities that I valued would become available. As naïve as this approach was, it worked for the first decade of my career. I was promoted and provided opportunities to grow, but not necessarily in areas that correlated strongly with my core values.

Attending the Professional Leadership Program for Women at Towson University was a pivotal paradigm shift in my career development. The program provided a great foundation to think about how to align my core values, talents, and desires with opportunities, as opposed to thinking about how to round out my talents to fit a certain leadership model. Since I was a little girl, I was socialized to be a "well rounded" leader: to master all things or try to. This type of thinking leads us to keep looking for our deficits instead of uplifting our strengths and

capitalizing on them.

The program incorporated a refreshing viewpoint — I was complete as a leader. It encouraged me to use that perspective to think about what I truly wanted to accomplish — to question my current career progress, to challenge what I thought I knew about leadership, and to give myself permission to ask for the opportunities I am seeking. Too many women go through their careers on autopilot, accepting the current situation because of a variety of factors that deal with comfort and achievable "challenges."

Throughout the program, each speaker and panel resonated profoundly with me and challenged me to take a personal inventory of my unique skills and ask what opportunities I want as opposed to being presented with an opportunity and saying yes. I learned that opportunities that I want do exist if I continue to ask for them and communicate to different individuals my goals.

This experience was highly valuable and transformational in the way I view my professional journey and how I support others in theirs. I'm truly grateful for this opportunity and hope to be able to pay it forward to other women at the University.

Anna Borgerding, PMP

Director, Operational Excellence and Sustainability, Facilities and Operations, University of Maryland, Baltimore

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Chanelle Hutchinson



Dear UMBrella Group,

Attending the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) was truly eye-opening. As I stepped foot onto the College Park campus for the first time, I did not know what to expect. I was immediately greeted by a young undergrad student who simply wanted to be my friend. Her energy echo across the conference filled with over 800 ambitious women who aspired for greatness. For the next four days, we would all be together learning to think like leaders, be change makers for gender equity, and own our personal identities. Our schedules were filled with workshops and panel sessions focused on a variety of professional development, empowerment objectives, and women's issues. My favorite topics were salary negotiation and self-care. NCCWSL also invited inspirational women from different fields to speak to us about their life, struggles, and success. I was more than excited to actually meet Lauren Simmons, in the flesh!




As the end of the conference drew closer, I realized how much I had learned and experienced. Along with meeting students, faculty, and other professionals, I also formed a close bond with a small group of women whom I shared so much of my time and thoughts. Saying good-bye to them turned into a bitter-sweet moment. We attended workshops together, explored DC, and hung out at our dormitory sharing what we individually learned and who we met. We shared our life stories and dreams. NCCWSL is one for the history books, as I will look back on this time in the future remembering each step of how I (will) accomplish my goals for change

in society.

Thank you,

Chanelle Hutchinson

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Other takeaways included giving myself permission to speak my truth and be extraordinary being a disruptor going back and doing the things I regret NOT doing (see YouTube video titled [What Is Your Biggest Regret?](#)   ) knowing what I value and telling my story. I feel so empowered as a woman a leader and an educator. I had a wonderful experience.

Again thank you UMBrella for this opportunity. It really feels great to be a part of an institution that supports women in leadership.

Chanise Reese Queen

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