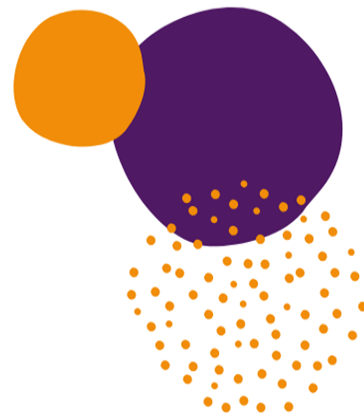




2025 Power On Heels Student Scholarships



Gloria Guicol
University of Houston–Downtown

What are you currently studying (or planning to study)?

I am currently focused on my Major in Finance and Minor in Accounting.

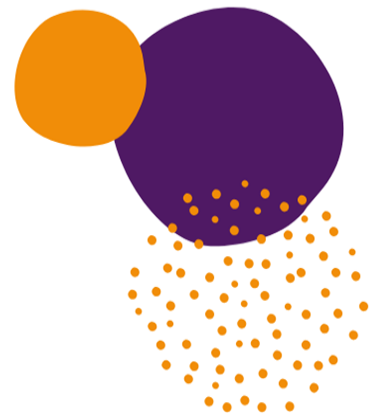
Why is this scholarship meaningful to you, and how will it support your academic or career goals?

This scholarship holds deep meaning to me because it represents more than just financial support; it reflects the belief that hard work, leadership, and perseverance can open doors for first-generation students like me. As a senior Finance major with a minor in Accounting at the University of Houston–Downtown, I have worked tirelessly to balance academics, leadership, and professional development while preparing to become CPA-eligible by 2027. Through my role as Vice President of ALPFA UHD, I've learned the power of representation, mentorship, and community impact. Leading events that connect students with professionals and companies has strengthened my passion for helping others achieve their goals while advancing my own. Receiving this scholarship would relieve financial pressure as I complete my final semesters and prepare for graduate school in Accounting. It would allow me to focus on coursework, CPA exam preparation, and internships that align with my long-term goal of working in audit and helping businesses grow responsibly. Most importantly, it would remind me that I am supported by a community that believes in my potential to make a difference in both the finance and accounting industry and the next generation of Latino professionals.

In what ways has Power On Heels inspired or influenced your journey so far?

Power On Heels has truly inspired my journey by giving me incredible opportunities for growth and exposure. Being part of the Progressive Leadership Program has provided me with professional development, mentorship, and guidance that have been instrumental in shaping my confidence and leadership skills. Through the program, I was paired with a mentor who has supported and encouraged me every step of the way. It also led me to an internship where I gained valuable hands-on experience that strengthened my understanding of the professional world. Overall, Power On Heels has empowered me to continue growing as a leader and to pursue my goals with purpose and determination.





Jocelynn Sanchez
University of Houston–Downtown

What are you currently studying (or planning to study)?

I am currently studying Business Marketing.

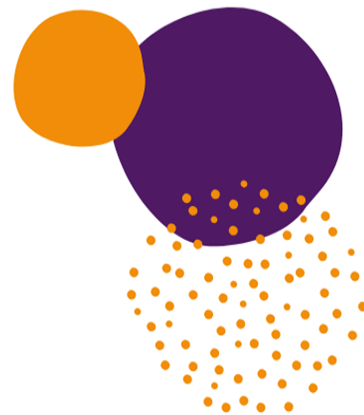
Why is this scholarship meaningful to you, and how will it support your academic or career goals?

This scholarship is meaningful to me because it means I can place my focus into my studies instead of working so much.

In what ways has Power On Heels inspired or influenced your journey so far?

Power On Heels has inspired me in many ways, helping me build my confidence, strengthen my values, and clarify my goals. It has shown me that there are other women on the same journey as I am.





Yureni Aguilar
University of Houston–Downtown

What are you currently studying (or planning to study)?

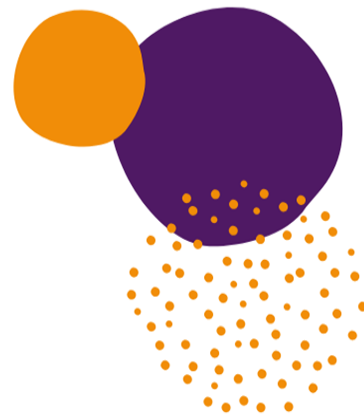
I am currently pursuing my Bachelors in Accounting and a Minor in Finance.

Why is this scholarship meaningful to you, and how will it support your academic or career goals?

This scholarship is deeply meaningful because it directly acknowledges the intense effort I've dedicated to balancing rigorous coursework and ambitious work demands while maintaining a 3.5 GPA. The financial relief it provides is a critical opportunity to reallocate my time away from external work and wholly commit to the advanced accounting studies and essential CPA exam preparation needed for my career in Audit. Ultimately, this support isn't just funding; it's the bridge that allows me to accelerate my personal journey from a driven student to a highly effective, principled professional in the financial world.

In what ways has Power On Heels inspired or influenced your journey so far?

Power On Heels has shaped my journey by underscoring the vital importance of mentorship and clear career vision. Their dedication to supporting women entering finance and business has influenced me to focus my efforts on foundational integrity, which is why I am vigorously pursuing CPA eligibility in Accounting and Finance. This influence is what drives me to seek roles that demand accountability, ensuring I build an ethical, long-term career where I can one day pay that support forward to the next generation of women.



Erika J. Gutierrez
University of St. Thomas

What are you currently studying (or planning to study)?

I am currently a nursing student with three years remaining to complete my Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). After earning my degree, I plan to work as a registered nurse in the NICU to gain hands-on experience. Once I've built a strong foundation, I intend to return to school to pursue my master's degree and become a neonatal nurse practitioner.

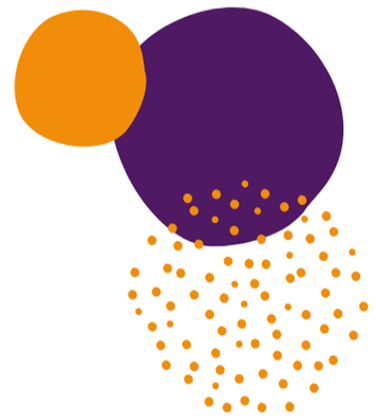
Why is this scholarship meaningful to you, and how will it support your academic or career goals?

Receiving this scholarship has meant so much since it's an investment in my future as a healthcare professional. The path of a nursing student is rewarding and difficult, and the expenses of books, tuition, and clinical supplies can mount up rapidly. I can now concentrate more on my studies and clinical training without having to worry about finances thanks to this scholarship, which has lessened that financial strain. Due to the help from this scholarship, it has allowed me to advance academically and has moved me one step closer to my objective of becoming a neonatal nurse practitioner.

In what ways has Power On Heels inspired or influenced your journey so far?

Power On Heels' strong Latina leadership has really inspired and pushed me to achieve academic success. It is inspiring and motivating to see accomplished Latina women make a difference in their fields and communities. It serves as a reminder that I can overcome obstacles and accomplish my goals. The mission of Power On Heels to empower, inspire, and elevate women, particularly Latinas serves as a reminder that I can overcome obstacles and accomplish my goals. Your commitment to offering tools, guidance, and opportunities for career advancement has helped me understand the value of representation and inspires me to put in the effort necessary to become an example for others in my community in the future.





Miya Ortega
Texas Tech University

What are you currently studying (or planning to study)?

I am currently studying Nursing.

Why is this scholarship meaningful to you, and how will it support your academic or career goals?

This scholarship is meaningful to me because it reminds me that there are communities that want to empower minority groups such as Latinas. I feel empowered both spiritually and financially as this gracious scholarship releases some of the financial burden off of my shoulders.

In what ways has Power On Heels inspired or influenced your journey so far?

Power On Heels has inspired me to continue to make space for myself not only in my profession, but everyday life. The zoom also influenced me to taking time for myself and giving grace for needed break periods.





2025 Power On Heels Professional Scholarships



Claudia Galvan

Seeking Licensed Professional Counselor License

What are you currently studying (or planning to study)?

I am a Licensed Professional Counselor Associate and I plan on completing a training to conduct Immigration Psychological Evaluations.

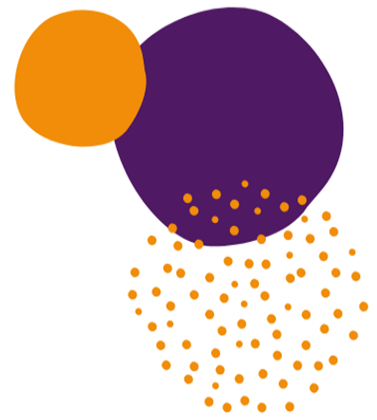
Why is this scholarship meaningful to you, and how will it support your academic or career goals?

This scholarship is meaningful to me because it serves as proof that Power On Heels believes in me and my goals. It symbolizes support for my professional development and personal commitment to serving immigrant communities. Now more than ever, I want to be a part of those who are helping bridge the gap between mental health and underserved populations. By receiving this scholarship, I will be able to attain the proper training and be better equipped to provide ethical and clinically sound evaluations that can make a difference in immigration cases.

In what ways has Power On Heels inspired or influenced your journey so far?

After attending the workshop, I left feeling inspired by the leadership that was showcased from all the different women there. It reinforced the importance of community, support, and listening to each other's stories. Power On Heels reminded me that I am a part of something much larger than myself. It has influenced the way I view my own career and inspired me to find meaningful ways—even small ones—to support communities in need.





Melissa Sibley
Rice University

What are you currently studying (or planning to study)?

I am currently working on my Masters of Public Service and Administration, Nonprofit Management.

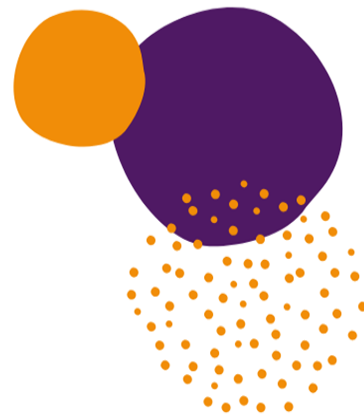
Why is this scholarship meaningful to you, and how will it support your academic or career goals?

This scholarship is deeply meaningful because it represents perseverance, purpose, and the belief that it's never too late to grow. At 46, as a full-time student, Director of Legal Operations, and proud tía, I'm pursuing my degree to lead with greater empathy, strategy, and impact in my field. Your support will help me continue this journey—proving that education and excellence have no age limit.

In what ways has Power On Heels inspired or influenced your journey so far?

Power On Heels' unwavering dedication to empowering others fuels my own drive to keep learning, growing, and leading with purpose at every stage of life.





Byanca Hernandez
Sam Houston State University

What are you currently studying (or planning to study)?

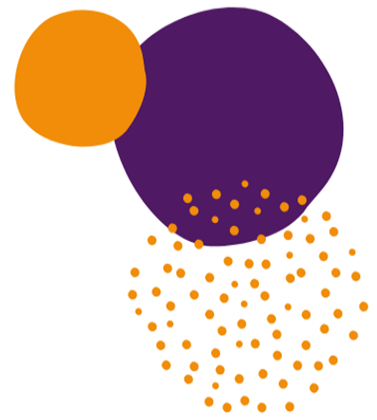
I am planning to increase my therapeutic skills by obtaining my certification as an LPC - Supervisor.

Why is this scholarship meaningful to you, and how will it support your academic or career goals?

This scholarship is meaningful to me because it represents hope and possibility. It serves as a reminder that it's never too late to grow, learn, and lead. It affirms that my journey has purpose and that I'm meant to make a difference in the lives of others. This scholarship will support my career goals by helping me strengthen my therapeutic and leadership skills as I work toward becoming an LPC Supervisor. Through this training, I'll learn how to effectively guide and mentor new counselors, ensuring they feel supported, confident, and equipped to serve our community with compassion and excellence.

In what ways has Power On Heels inspired or influenced your journey so far?

My first introduction to Power On Heels came through a conversation with a mentor during a time I was feeling uncertain and hopeless. As a Latina woman, I've often felt part of a community that's underserved and overlooked, so discovering an organization created to uplift and empower Latina women filled me with joy and renewed hope. Since then, I've been continually inspired by the women of Power On Heels. Participating in the Power Purse Program and learning from both the facilitators and participants reminded me that the sky truly is the limit and that the only thing capable of holding me back is my own self-doubt. Power On Heels has inspired me to shift my perspective, embrace my strengths, and intentionally project a future rooted in confidence, purpose, and leadership.



Zurisaday Robbins
Our Lady of the Lake University

What are you currently studying (or planning to study)?

I am currently pursuing my Master's of Social Work at Our Lady of the Lake University with a concentration of serving Hispanic Children and Families.

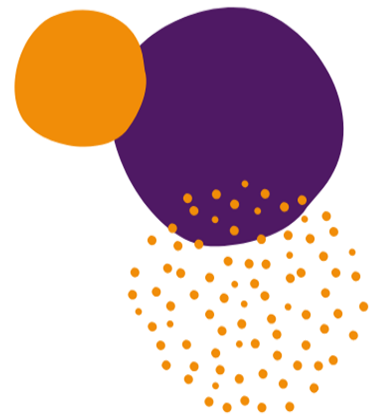
Why is this scholarship meaningful to you, and how will it support your academic or career goals?

I am currently pursuing the accelerated version of the MSW program which results in me having to pay out of pocket each semester. This plan will put me on track for graduation in Spring 2026.

In what ways has Power On Heels inspired or influenced your journey so far?

This is my second award. The first award was presented to me as I was completing my Bachelor's degree at the University of Houston-Clear Lake. This scholarship was truly transformative, giving me the boost of confidence I needed to pursue my Master's degree, a lifelong dream and passion of mine. Being present at the award ceremony a few years ago, seeing so many powerful Latinas in one room, was beyond empowering. Never in a million years did I ever think I would be surrounded by such inspiring women!! Simply Grateful!!





Itzel Montoya
University of Texas at Austin

What are you currently studying (or planning to study)?

I am currently working on my Master of Public Affairs.

Why is this scholarship meaningful to you, and how will it support your academic or career goals?

This scholarship is extremely meaningful to me as it has helped me continue my studies in an area that I am so passionate about. I started my Masters in Public Affairs in the hopes of helping make change within social policies and helping to give back to my community. This scholarship helps to make that a reality.

In what ways has Power On Heels inspired or influenced your journey so far?

I was really inspired by the people I have met through Power on Heels. I first attended the Power Purse program and learned so much about leadership, emotional intelligence and financial literacy. I then attended an in person event since I was in Houston for a summer internship and managed to meet many inspiring women that dedicate their time to uplift others and their community.

