

## AAUW Fellowships and Grants

It wasn't long after the founding of AAUW in 1881, that all members were asked to contribute \$1 per year, beyond the payment of their dues, to "enable gifted women to use their intellectual powers for the good of humanity." As a result, in 1888, AAUW awarded the very first fellowship to Ida Street, a pioneer in the field of early American Indian history, in the amount of \$350.

Through the years, International Fellowships and Research and Project grants were added to the list of opportunities. In 1958, the AAUW Educational Foundation was established as a 501(c)(3) corporation. A huge response by members resulted in a constant stream of restricted gifts to EF and the endowment grew and grew. In 2009, the Foundation became part of AAUW.

As of 2023, \$135 million has been awarded to over 13,000 women and nonprofit organizations around the world. Awardees are selected by AAUW Review Panels. In 2023/2024, 6.1 million was awarded to 277 awardees. This money comes from interest income from AAUW's \$120 million endowment that has been set up by AAUW members. The endowment principal is never spent.

This amazing endowment was created and has been supported by AAUW branches and states. Between 1907 and 2006, individual donors, branches and states could honor individuals, branches, states, and other entities with named units. Named units could be started with as little as \$5,000 and provided donors with the opportunity to build funds toward establishing a named fellowship or named grant.

To start a named fellowship or grant, the branch, individual, or state, submitted a form with the initial dollar minimum, along with the plan on how and when the rest of the money would be submitted to complete the fellowship/grant.

In 2002, requirements for a named fellowship/grant were as follows:

<u>Fellowship/Grant Type</u>	<u>Initial Minimum</u>	<u>Completion Level</u>	<u>Time Frame for Completion</u>
American/Fellowship	\$10,000	\$100,000	20 years
International Fellowship	\$10,000	\$100,000	20 years
Research & Projects Grant	\$5,000	\$35,000	15 years

In 2009, the named fellowships/grants program was ended. All named units not yet completed were urged to find funding to complete. In Missouri, the Elaine F. Richardson Fund was not yet complete, and Missouri members joined together to raise the funds to complete the grant. The Maryville named unit was also not complete and the Maryville branch, along with Northwestern University support, and city businesses and organizations finished the funding to honor a special AAUW Maryville member – Opal Eckert .

Today, Missouri has fourteen named units that every year help sponsor fellows and grantees. Although it is always hoped that Missouri women or organizations will receive the fellowships and grants that our state help sponsors, it cannot be guaranteed. It all depends on many things, including how many or, if any, Missouri people are applying and then receiving the awards.

Since the principal is never withdrawn from our endowment, it will continue to support women into perpetuity. AAUW members can be proud of this amazing achievement. This was a job well done. Our donations can now go to support the many other vital programs that help support our mission.

Fellowships and Grants  
Missouri  
2023-2024

AAUW Missouri has fourteen named endowments that sponsor AAUW Fellowships and Grants every year.

#1061 Vassie J. Hill helped sponsor American Fellow Courtney Sato at Tufts University in Medford, MA.

#1148 Blanche H. Doe helped sponsor International Fellow Subeksha Poudel at Columbia University, NYC.

#1168 Chloe E. Millikan helped sponsor International Fellow Hind Hana Kerkebane at Duke University, Durham, NC.

#1172 Mary Alice Parrish helped sponsor International Fellow Shauntel Clarke at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, FL.

#1608 Leona J. Beckmann helped sponsor American Fellow Atzimba Martinez at Washington University, St. Louis.



Atzimba is from Yakima, Washington. Her passion is Math. As a first-generation college student and a Latina in mathematics she has faced many hurdles in her pursuit of higher education. She has become sensitive to the challenges minorities face both inside and outside the education system. It has inspired a passion to help eradicate these disparities in academia.

She received an AAUW Dissertation Fellowship and will receive a PHD in May. Her specialization is Low-dimensional Topology, and her project name is *Taut Foliations for Montesinos Knots*. Atzimba's research involves studying the 1-dimensional (knots) and 2-dimensional objects (surfaces) found inside particular 3-manifolds that can be obtained by operations on Montesinos knots.

A Career Development Grant to Kimia Tabib, at Oklahoma State University, Tulsa, OK, was sponsored by nine named endowments: #1364 Independence Branch, #1639 Kansas City Branch/Dora Johnson, #1768 Feguson-Florissant Branch/Shirley Breeze, #4112 Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch, #4280 Maryville Branch/Opal Eckert, #4285 Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch Silver Anniversary, #1465 Missouri State Division Anniversary, #4009 Missouri Diamond Jubilee, and #4037 F. Elaine Richardson Fund.



Kimia is very grateful to AAUW for the grant. It has made it possible for her to stop working and focus on her thesis and classes. She is a recent immigrant with years of experience as a lab analyst in a school of pharmacy. AAUW has given her the opportunity to finish her MS degree which will help her fulfill a lifetime wish to become an effective scientist, doing what she loves – helping protect our environment.

Besides taking 18 credits in environmental science, she is completing her thesis on PFAS, known as forever chemicals, which are considered emerging contaminants by the EPA. She has also been able to take OSHA HAZWOGPA training and receive NPDES certification for wastewater management from the EPA. She will be receiving RCRA hazardous waste and DOT HazMat training certificates as well as an OSHA General Industry certificate. Kimia will receive her MS degree this summer.

Additional information may be found in the AAUW Community Hub – Fellowships and Grants.