



## IPLAC EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION 2019 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

### Royal Shrestha The Ronald J. LaPorte Memorial Scholarship Recipient

Royal Shrestha has always had a passion for chemistry, where a single change in a molecule could mean the difference between water and a toxic substance. In time, his interests extended to the growing technologies in the biochemical world, through which he hopes one day diseases can be treated and eradicated. Royal is a senior at Lane Tech College Prep High School, where he has excelled in academics, including in AP English Language and AP English Literature, despite English being his third language after Nepali and Newari. Born in Nepal, Mr. Shrestha was able to emigrate to the United States by the Diversity Visa, a lottery that granted this opportunity to just a very few families, chosen among millions. Now living with American opportunities, Royal felt the potential to sprout hope among Nepalese children, so he joined the Nepal Youth Foundation and spends his summers in Nepal helping abandoned children find foster homes and negotiating the release of young girls from their “owners.” Royal hopes to one day use his education to bring about a positive change to his homeland. While growing up there, he saw a widespread of diseases, paralysis, and other suffering and lived through an earthquake that affected his entire town. He hopes to be able to create affordable biomedical technologies, such as prosthetic arms to give alternative solutions to impoverished families. In addition to his impressive academic record, Royal has participated in a number of extracurricular activities, including as a Regional Finalist with the City of Chicago Math League, being in the Top 3 for Best Tower design and structure in the Science Olympiad, and the completion of a Breast Cancer Internship at Rush University. He has participated in the Chicago Nepali Soccer team all of his high school years, as a Midfielder and as the Co-Captain. He has been on the Math Team and was the Viola Chair Leader of the Orchestra Ensemble in his Freshman and Sophomore years. Mr. Shrestha plans to major in Biomedical Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign this fall.

**\*The Ronald J. LaPorte Memorial Scholarship was established in memory of IPLAC’s 108<sup>th</sup> President by his widow, Jill LaPorte. Mr. LaPorte was a highly regarded patent attorney, who worked for many years at Kraft Foods. He was a leader in both the scientific and legal communities. This scholarship is awarded annually by the IPLAC Educational Foundation to a student who excels in scholarship, leadership, service and character.**





**Alice Burg**  
**IPLAC Scholarship Recipient**

Alice Burg has always been interested in Math. She loves discovering patterns and solving problems. Alice is a senior at William Jones College Preparatory High School, where she is an AP Scholar with Distinction, a member of the Eagle Honor Roll, an Illinois State Scholar and a National Honor Society Member. In addition to her impressive academic record, she has made time to participate in the Charleston County School of the Arts Theatre Department in her Freshman and Sophomore years, where she studied theatre through writing, directing, and performing various types of theatre arts. She carried through on her love of the theater by being active in the Jones College Prep Theatre Department in her Junior and Senior years. She has also participated in Team Charleston Rock Climbing, a competitive rock-climbing team for 4 years, and has remained active even after an injury. Ms. Burg has also made time to volunteer at an assisted living facility, with a literacy program, with Habitat for Humanity, Franciscan Outreach and the Anti-Cruelty Society. Ms. Burg plans to major in Neuroscience at Amherst College this fall.

**Amy Exposito**  
**IPLAC Scholarship Recipient**

Amy Exposito has a passion for creating things and working with others. Amy also enjoys analyzing the socioeconomic impacts of products which draws her to computer science and economics. She is a senior at Amundsen High School, where she maintains a perfect straight A average and obtained the highest standardized math score ever recorded at her school. She is the founder of the Orchestra Honors Chamber Ensemble and the Director commends Amy for her commitment to hard work and persistence by always pushing herself to achieve. She is also an active member of the Math Team, Robotics Team, Captain of and coach for the Lake View YMCA Swim Team, and a violinist in the All City Orchestra. Last summer Amy won the Aspen Challenge by implementing a feasible and sustainable solution to a community issue in a period of six weeks. Amy, as part of her school's Aspen Challenge Team, created a program called Starry Chicago to tackle the issue of light pollution in Chicago. Her Starry Chicago was chosen to represent Chicago at the 2016 Aspen Ideas Festival in Colorado. She is also a Bezos Scholar and founded a group named Creatively Speaking that puts on a community event at which people may talk about mental health. Her hobbies include playing the violin, painting, and swimming. Ms. Exposito plans to major in Computer Science with a minor in Economics at The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign this fall.





**Emma Garcia**  
**IPLAC Scholarship Recipient**

Emma Garcia has loved animals her whole life and has seemingly always known she would work with animals. She started volunteering at shelters and plans to study Biology and enter Veterinary Medicine. She is interested in science “because it allows us to look into the details of what we and the world around us are made of, how things work, and what we can do with it to better the lives of those around us.” Emma is a senior at Whitney Young Magnet high school, where she is described as a leader inside and outside of the classroom and one of the hardest working students the Science Department Chair has ever known. She has been a Principal’s Scholar from 2015-present, an Illinois State Scholar in 2018-19, and on the Honor Roll from 2015-2019. Ms. Garcia has been active playing softball since 2005 and has been Captain of her softball team since 2013. She has been active in the MediClub since 2016, was on the Marine Conservation Crew and has played Challengers Baseball since 2013. She volunteered at the Whitney Young Library from 2016-2018 and served an Internship at the Teen Lab at the Shedd Aquarium in 2018-19. Ms. Garcia plans to major in Biology at University of Illinois at Springfield this fall.

**Stanislaw Gunkel**  
**IPLAC Scholarship Recipient**

Since he was a child, Stanislaw Gunkel has been fascinated by things that fly. His goal is to work as an aeronautical engineer developing systems that allow commercial space travel to be accessible to all people. Stanislaw, a student at Northside College Prep High School, has an impressive academic resume. Among other accomplishments, Stanislaw won the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art's Junior Book Award, and a Gold Medal in the 2016 National Latin Exam. Beyond academics, Stanislaw is an accomplished violist, and dancer and has founded an alt rock band. He is the captain of Northside's Varsity Lacrosse team and has been an alternative captain for Skokie Flyers youth hockey teams. Reflecting his commitment to environmental responsibility, Stanislaw is a volunteer citizen-scientist at the Sand Bluff Bird Observatory where he records data about and bands birds. At Northside, he has researched, advocated and raised funds to retrofit Northside's campus windows to prevent migratory bird collisions. It is hard to imagine a student more prepared for future success. Mr. Gunkel plans to major in Aerospace Engineering at the University of Michigan this fall.

