

**For Immediate Release  
August 9, 2019**

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**CHESLA awards over \$500,000 in scholarships to Connecticut students for the 2019-2020 Academic Year!**



*From left to right: Picture 1-CHESLA Staff: Assistant Director Josh Hurlock, Scholarship Coordinator Natalia Rozio and Portfolio Assistant Shannon Reynolds  
Picture 2- Ceremony Speakers; University of Saint Joseph Catalyst Scholar Sam Majek, CHESLA Executive Director Jeanette W. Weldon, Connecticut State Treasurer Shawn T. Wooden, Assistant Director Josh Hurlock, and Scholarship Coordinator Natalia Rozio/ Picture 3- Some of the 2019 Scholarship Recipients*

**Hartford, CT, August 9, 2019-** The Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority (CHESLA) announced **177** scholarship award recipients for the 2019 CHESLA Scholarship Program.

Applications were made available to Connecticut residents attending any public or non-profit higher education institution within the state. Scholarships were awarded to students representing 69 towns and attending 20 of the state's 34 public or non-profit higher education institutions. To date, CHESLA scholarships have helped 4,400 Connecticut students achieve their educational goals.

"We are very pleased to offer this Scholarship Program to Connecticut students. This successful program is an integral part of CHESLA's strategic plan and key to workforce development efforts," said Jeanette W. Weldon, CHESLA's Executive Director.

"CHESLA takes pride in being much more than a student loan provider. We are a multi-faceted resource and our dedicated staff is passionate about helping students and families pay for higher education. The CHESLA Scholarship Program is a critical part of our effort to help Connecticut residents further their education and we look forward to the bright futures of these outstanding recipients" said Josh Hurlock, CHESLA's Assistant Director.

"Thanks to CHESLA's contribution a college education is a reality for me. As I start my major in Latino and African Studies at UConn, I am grateful for being a 2019 recipient! I plan on being a lawyer who is the voice for our community," said Lizzette Perez, CHESLA 2019 Scholarship Recipient.

CHESLA celebrated all award recipients at the CHESLA Scholarship Awards Ceremony on August 8<sup>th</sup> 2019 at Goodwin College.

Awardees and their families were recognized and heard inspiring commentary from Connecticut State Treasurer Shawn T. Wooden, who remarked that "the 177 CHESLA scholarship recipients we honor today are excelling academically and enriching their own future by defraying the high costs of a college education. By choosing to go to college in Connecticut, they are also making our state stronger by growing our economy and tomorrow's workforce." Awardees also heard from Sam Majek, a Catalyst Scholar at the University of Saint Joseph and a member of the University's basketball team who spoke about the importance of seizing opportunities.

**About CHESLA**

The mission of the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority is to expand higher educational opportunities and enhance the State's economic development through higher education by providing cost-effective education financing programs and information resources to Connecticut students, alumni and their families. CHESLA is a self-supporting quasi-public agency.

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