2020 Scholarships and Awards
Scholarship and Awards

Awards

• Rhododendron*
• Recognized Young Dietitian*
• Recognized Dietetic Technician
• Emerging Leader
• Outstanding Dietitian

Awards & Scholarships for students

• Outstanding Dietetic Student
  • DT*, DPD,* DI
• Lilian Halverson (DPD) Scholarship*
• Helen Lodge (DI) Scholarship
Rhododendron: An award for a non-dietitian who supports our profession
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<th><strong>Rhododendron: Tonya Farley Parker</strong></th>
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<td>Works with the Marshall University Department of Dietetics and the MU Nutrition Education Program as an administrative assistant and was initially hired for her finance and business background.</td>
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<td>Tonya’s passion and dedication are evident as she has gone above and beyond her role; researching materials on creating learning opportunities, creating visuals, and investigating items for taste-testing to ensure they were accommodating to kids with food allergies.</td>
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<td>Conducts pre- and post-test focus groups, builds up the educators, and is a &quot;champion of nutrition education&quot;.</td>
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<td>Committee appreciated her reach and the letters’ comments on her tremendous impact on countless numbers of dietitians, dietetic intern, and students.</td>
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“I am always so impressed with the hard work and dedication you have to educate others on the importance of good nutrition. I am particularly thankful for the faculty and staff of the Marshall University Department of Dietetics and the Nutrition Education Program.”
Recognized Young Dietitian:
A dietitian <35 years old showing remarkable performance
RYD: Helenia Sedoski, MS, RD, LD

• Provides hands-on and web-based education as part of WVU Medicine, working in outpatient pediatrics, adolescents, and adults in weight management, PCOS, infertility, and eating disorders.

• As a nutrition care provider and entrepreneur, Helenia’s business, Nutrition You, LLC, is an outlet for her to help create opportunity for people in WV and beyond to improve their relationship with food, help reduce obesity, and create healthier generations by removing the barrier that diets need to be restrictive, and states that "It doesn’t have to be Pinterest perfect!"

• Helenia’s engaging business model includes meal prep parties, helping others (kids included!) learn cooking skills, and her engaging social media presence.

• According to multiple letters of reference, Helenia is characterized as a leader, visionary, passionate, and a trusted source for patients, colleagues, and other members of the healthcare team.
“I would like to thank Cindy Gay for the nomination and Allie Farley and Leah Woodburn for the letters of support. It means a lot to me to receive the nomination from such great examples in our field.”
Outstanding Student - DPD:
An undergraduate student performing at an exemplary level
Currently an undergraduate at Marshall University, Sydney channels her passion for community nutrition and food bank volunteer experience into her role as manager/director of the Marshall Dietetics' student and community food pantry. She handles almost every aspect of the pantry, from reporting to the federal government to securing regular pantry volunteers.

Sydney is described as "...a champion for hunger on campus and has forged an amazing relationship with Marshall’s Student Government to bring this issue to the forefront on campus."

Her nomination notes: "I have been so impressed by her and her ability to nearly singlehandedly elevate the pantry to its current level of success. And, she does all this while attending school fulltime and raising a toddler!"
OS: Sydney Mangialetti

“I am very grateful for the opportunity to work as the Director of the Marshall Food Pantry in the last two years. It has been a wonderful learning experience and I have enjoyed working with my fellow students/community to eliminate hunger at Marshall University. I am excited to be an Onsite Dietetic Intern for Marshall University 2020-2021. My future plans are to become a Registered Dietitian and continue to work in Huntington.”
Outstanding Student – DI:
A remarkable intern showing great promise for the profession
DI: Lindsay Swartz

A dietetic intern at WVU Medicine, the support for Lindsay’s nomination was remarkable!

Lindsay’s nomination highlighted her growth as an intern this year as well as her determination and perseverance throughout her rotations; she has handled a variety of tricky situations with a maturity well beyond her years of experience.

Described as responsible, enthusiastic, and adaptable; focused on delivering successful outcomes, a quick learner excelling with complex patients and time management.

Further evidence of her graciousness: “The true reward has been the relationships I’ve made with my preceptors and fellow interns, as well as the invaluable experience and confidence I’ve gained.”
I feel so honored to be chosen for this award knowing how many outstanding dietetic interns there are across West Virginia. My internship program at WVU Medicine has been nothing short of incredible, and I am so grateful for it. I would like to thank my preceptors for their endless kindness, patience, and wisdom, and my fellow interns for their support and words of encouragement. I am more excited now than I have ever been to find my place in this wonderful profession.
Lilian Halverson Scholarship
Hannah Currey

Marshall University student majoring in Dietetics with a minor in Health and Wellness

According to scholarship committee members who know Lilian Halverson, Hannah’s spirit of volunteerism and passion for cooking are a fitting tribute to Dr. Halverson through this award.

In addition to being MU SAND secretary and the Ronald McDonald House volunteer coordinator, Hannah served as the Power of Produce (POP) intern over the summer at the Bridgeport Farmers Market.

Inspired by her foodservice classes, Hannah plans a non-traditional turn of events in her dietetics career. After her graduation from Marshall University, she plans to become a chef.
“This profession has shown me endless possibilities and I cannot wait to see where I end up. I am excited to pursue my dream and combine my love of nutrition and cooking to teach and educate my community.”