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# WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

## PRESS RELEASE

### Waukegan Park District Awards Academic Scholarships

**Waukegan, Illinois (June 22, 2021)** – The Waukegan Park District is proud to be supporting five local students who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievements and community service with a \$1,000 scholarship known as the Waukegan Park District Memorial Endowment Scholarship. The 2021 scholarship recipients are: Kathy Colin, Erica Espinoza, Briana Lopez, Nancy Miranda, and Alexis Valdovinos.

Scholarship recipients went through a rigorous application process and are required to be a resident of the Waukegan Park District, a student enrolled at a college, university, or trade school, and pursuing a field related to parks and recreation.

The 2021 scholarship recipients will be attending the following colleges and universities:

- Kathy Colin, University of Richmond in Richmond, Virginia
- Erica Espinoza, Connecticut College in New London, Connecticut
- Briana Lopez, College of Lake County in Grayslake, Illinois
- Nancy Miranda, University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Alexis Valdovinos, Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio

Jacqueline Herrera Giron, President of the Waukegan Park District Board of Commissioners, stated, “The Waukegan Park District is committed to supporting local students on their educational journey. This year’s scholarship recipients maintained an impressive academic record and exhibited leadership in our community even though they were presented with challenges created by the pandemic. Congratulations to Kathy, Erica, Briana, Nancy, and Alexis!”

Jay Lerner, Executive Director of the Waukegan Park District, stated, “Every year, I am impressed by the remarkable achievements of our scholarship recipients. Their service to our community and academic excellence shows their determination to make the world a better place. Congratulations to all the scholarship recipients on this well-deserved recognition!”

The Waukegan Park District Memorial Endowment Scholarship is funded by private donations. For more information or to make a contribution, go to [waukeganparks.org/scholarship](http://waukeganparks.org/scholarship).

## **About the Waukegan Park District**

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 50 properties and more than 740 acres of land, including the 18-hole Bonnie Brook and 9-hole Greenshire Golf Courses. Properties are managed to the highest environmental and conservation standards. Facilities operated by the district include the Field House Sports, Fitness and Aquatics Center, the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, the Waukegan's Greg Petry SportsPark, the Waukegan Skate Park, the Waukegan BMX Track, recreational centers, disc golf course, dog exercise area and agility course, outdoor sports fields, picnic areas, playgrounds, splash pads, and sports courts including basketball, tennis and pickleball. A full range of programs and services are offered year-round for all ages, from infants to seniors as well as special needs populations. Healthy lifestyles, wellness initiatives, and a connection with the outdoors and nature are integrated throughout programs, services, and special events. Cultural events are provided by the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra and Concert Chorus, and the Waukegan History Museum. There is something for everyone! The District is a member of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD), and Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA). The District employs 63 full-time and over 230 part-time, seasonal, and temporary employees and is recognized by the IPRA as an Exceptional Workplace. Accreditation is maintained from the NRPA Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) Distinguished Agency Accreditation and Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA). The District has received Government Finance Officer Association awards for Distinguished Budget Presentation and Certificate for Excellence in Financial Reporting for ten consecutive years. The District was awarded the NRPA National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management in 2013 and named a NRPA Gold Medal Finalist in 2012, 2013, 2019, and 2021.

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