



## 2024-2026 EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Education equality is one of the four key focus areas identified in Zonta, Gender Equity, and a Vision for 2030 & Beyond: Zonta International's Strategic Plan Goals and Strategies 2023–2030. The strategic plan states that Zonta will demonstrate its commitment to educational equality through meaningful fellowships, scholarships and awards that address equality of access or equality of opportunity for women and girls.

This commitment to education equality is carried through in the 2024-2026 Biennial Goals, which state that Zonta's educational programs are appealing, meaningful and beneficial for recipients while differentiating Zonta from other organizations and increasing Zonta's visibility and credibility. The education programs are Zonta's only proprietary projects. They stand as a beacon of Zonta's unwavering commitment to breaking barriers in traditionally male-dominated fields and supporting women in taking on overall leadership responsibilities. These programs not only reflect Zonta's dedication to education equality on the international and local level but may also serve as a catalyst for attracting funders who share our vision. In alignment with several goals of the Strategic Plan, these programs and their potential are critical to Zonta's future.

Read on to learn how Zonta International will deliver on Zonta's strategic commitment to education equality in the 2024-2026 Biennium.



# AMELIA EARHART FELLOWSHIP



During the 2024-2026 Biennium, Zonta International will award up to 30 Fellowship each year to women pursuing Ph.D./doctoral degrees in aerospace engineering and space sciences.

**2024-2026 FUNDING: US\$600,000**

*including US\$48,000 distributed from the Amelia Earhart Fellowship Endowment Fund*

Established in 1938, the Amelia Earhart Fellowship is Zonta's original program for women in STEM. As one of few fellowships globally in the field of aerospace engineering and space sciences offered specifically for women, and tied to a pioneer, global legend and former Zontian, this fellowship has been able, through the years, to attract trailblazers that have a strong bond and desire to give back to younger generations and to Zonta. While the need for improvements must be continuously analyzed, no critical changes are necessary for the Amelia Earhart Fellowship program at this stage.



# JANE M. KLAUSMAN WOMEN IN BUSINESS SCHOLARSHIP



During the 2024-2026 Biennium, Zonta International will award 37 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarships of US\$5,000 each in year one of the biennium.

Each district may submit one applicant for consideration for an international scholarship.

The five largest districts may submit a second applicant for a total of two applicants.

**2024-2026 FUNDING: US\$185,000**

Since 1998 when Zonta awarded its first scholarships to women pursuing degrees in business leading to a business management career, the world has significantly changed. Women have made great strides in the pursuit of education, careers and leadership roles they were once denied. The number of women who study business now has increased since 1998. However, women still comprise a minority of leaders in the business world.

Considering the other scholarships available and the percentage of female students in this field of study, the challenge for women is progressively shifting from accessing and pursuing studies in business to securing leadership roles in the business world. Therefore, it is time to make significant changes to the women in business program supported by Zonta to meet the evolving challenges women in business and female entrepreneurs face on an international level with a new award for women in business.

Zonta International will, therefore, retire the Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship after the first year of the 2024-2026 Biennium, at which time Zonta will introduce its new Zonta Women in Business Leadership Award.

# ZONTA WOMEN IN BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARD



**2024-2026 FUNDING: US\$100,000**

The Zonta Women in Business Leadership Award celebrates excellence and recognizes outstanding achievements by women between 18-35 years of age driving innovation and impact in the business world.

During the 2024-2026 Biennium, Zonta International will present 10 awards of US\$10,000 each, and each international winner will be offered a complimentary one-year supporting membership in Zonta International for the next financial year.

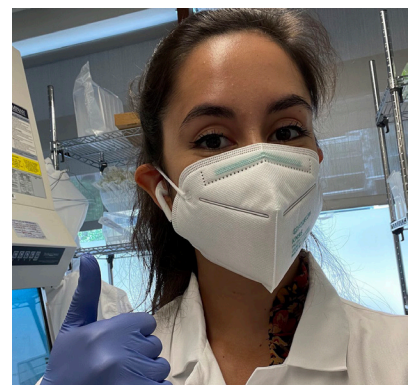
Funding for the Award will come from the Zonta Foundation for Women Rose Fund.

More information, including detailed eligibility criteria and an application timeline, will be released after convention.

This prestigious award honors exceptional leadership, entrepreneurial spirit, ethical conduct and significant contributions to the recipients' respective industries while addressing global or local issues affecting women and girls or climate justice.

The program will operate at the club, district and international levels of Zonta. Districts will choose a district winner from the applications submitted by clubs and submit the district winner's application to Zonta International in accordance with the separately communicated timeline.

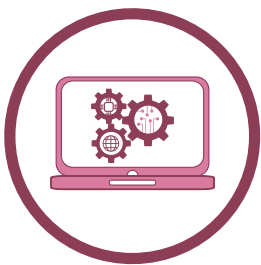
Districts with at least 1,200 members as of the beginning of the financial year in which the award will be issued may submit two applications. Ten (10) awardees will be selected by an independent jury of experts consisting of Zontians and non-Zontians, if chosen, appointed by the President.





# ZONTA WOMEN IN STEM AWARD

**2024-2026 FUNDING: US\$160,000**



During the 2024-2026 Biennium, Zonta International will present 16 awards of US\$10,000 each, and each international winner will be offered a complimentary one-year supporting membership in Zonta International for the next financial year.

Funding for the Award will come from the Zonta Foundation for Women Rose Fund.

More information, including detailed eligibility criteria and an application timeline, will be released after convention.

While the Zonta International pilot Women in STEM Scholarship is highly regarded by Zonta members, participation by clubs has remained low throughout the pilot years of the Women in STEM and Women in Technology Scholarships since 2018. Still, Zonta International is aware of the persisting underrepresentation of women and girls in STEM studies and careers. With a modern, effective approach, a new STEM award will make funding more accessible and flexible for women, deepening the program's impact and reach. To that end, Zonta International will introduce a new Zonta Women in STEM Award in the 2024-2026 Biennium.

The Zonta Women in STEM Award uplifts innovation and celebrates the remarkable accomplishments of women between 18-35 years of age in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields and acknowledges their groundbreaking research, pioneering discoveries, and/or exemplary contributions to advancing knowledge and innovation in a STEM field. By recognizing and supporting these exceptional women, Zonta aims to inspire future generations and foster inclusivity and diversity in the world of STEM.

The program will operate at the club, district and international levels of Zonta. Districts will choose a district winner from the applications submitted by clubs and submit the district winner's application to Zonta International in accordance with the separately communicated timeline.

Districts with at least 1,200 members as of the beginning of the financial year in which the award will be issued may submit two applications. Sixteen (16) awardees will be selected by an independent jury of experts consisting of Zontians and non-Zontians, if chosen, appointed by the President.



# YOUNG WOMEN IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS AWARD

**2024-2026 FUNDING: US\$370,000**

During the 2024-2026 Biennium, Zonta International will award 37 Young Women in Public Affairs Awards of US\$5,000 each in both year one and year two of the biennium.

Each district may submit one applicant for consideration for an international scholarship.

The five largest districts may submit a second applicant for a total of two applicants.

The Young Women in Public Affairs Award is well participated in and offers opportunities for most exceptional young women. Within the existing program, current statistics suggest Zonta needs to focus our energies on encouraging young women to take on leadership responsibilities.

While no critical changes are necessary to this award, renaming the award in more universally understandable wording and streamlining the application process and criteria may help ensure continued and future success of this program.

The Bylaws and Resolutions Committee report to Convention includes a proposal to rename the program as the Zonta Young Women in Leadership Award.

