

2025



ZONTA
INTERNATIONAL

ZONTA YOUNG WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

Recognizing young women for their commitment to volunteerism, volunteer leadership achievements and dedication to empowering women worldwide



The Zonta Young Women in Leadership Award recognizes young women, ages 16-19, for demonstrating leadership skills and commitment to public service and civic causes, and encourages them to continue their participation in public and political life.

Read on to learn about Zonta International's 2025 Zonta Young Women in Leadership Awardees.



2025 Zonta Young Women in Leadership Awardee

Anabelle Cattabriga



District 1

Citizenship: United States

Anabelle Cattabriga is a graduate of Bow High School where she served as president of the student senate. She led a team of 16 students to address school-wide issues and advocate for student needs. She is also an executive board member for the National Honors Society, and runs the LINKS committee which focuses on finding ways to bridge the gap between NHS and the special education students within the school.

Anabelle represented her high school as a delegate at the Harvard Model United Nations, where she participated in discussions on global humanitarian issues and represented countries such as Morocco and Burkina Faso. Recognized by the school administration as a trusted student leader, she was appointed as the student representative on the Future Ready Schools Committee. They then requested for her to serve as a student representative on the hiring committees for the current principal and superintendent.

For Anabelle's senior project, she partnered with the Granite State Children's Alliance, which oversees all of the child advocacy centers in New Hampshire. She spent more than 100 volunteer hours at the Hillsborough County CAC, independently organizing and leading efforts that included supply drives, community outreach via social media and delivering Know-and-Tell trainings to district staff. These trainings educate adults on recognizing signs of child abuse and their legal responsibility to report suspected cases. She worked to give survivors, particularly young girls, a voice after traumatic experiences.

Anabelle will attend the University of South Carolina, where she plans to major in political science on a pre-law track. She aspires to become a criminal lawyer, using her voice to help victims gain the justice they deserve.

In addition to her academic and leadership commitments, Anabelle was actively involved in athletics, playing lacrosse and soccer and participated in the school's theater department.



2025 Zonta Young Women in Leadership Awardee



Paniz Arbabi

District 2

Citizenship: Canada

Paniz Arbabi is a first-year student at the University of British Columbia (UBC) Sauder School of Business and a nationally recognized Loran Scholar. She is committed to building inclusive communities and advancing gender equity through tangible actions.

Paniz is the founder of Project EmpowerHER, an online platform that connects young women, especially newcomers and those from underserved communities, with mentorship and career development resources. The project was inspired by her friends in Iran who face barriers to education and opportunity.

Paniz's leadership experience includes serving on the National Youth Council of Kids Help Phone, and as a youth public engagement champion with CARE Canada's She SOARS initiative, supporting advocacy efforts for sexual and reproductive health rights across Sub-Saharan Africa.

At UBC, Paniz was elected associate vice president of student engagement for the Commerce Undergraduate Society, where she focuses on inclusive programming and student well-being. As part of Sauder LIFT, a global teaching initiative, she taught business skills to more than 100 students in rural Kenya, adapting to dynamic environments with empathy and resilience.

Paniz's impact has been recognized with awards from the Rotary Club and the National Society of High School Scholars. She envisions a future where young women everywhere see themselves as leaders, decision-makers and changemakers.

Outside of academics and advocacy, Paniz enjoys curating content for her lifestyle page, visiting cafes with friends, rewatching Gilmore Girls and collecting stories from her travels to more than 20 countries.



2025 Zonta Young Women in Leadership Awardee

Eve Parrott



District 3

Citizenship: United States

Eve Parrott is a senior at Livingston High School, aspiring for a career in law. She serves as co-captain of the school's speech and debate team, National English Honor Society board member and president of the TED Talk club.

Eve is the founder of her local chapter of Girls Learn International (GLI), where she leads initiatives aimed at advancing gender equality within her community. Her efforts include organizing a successful school-wide campaign to provide free menstrual products in bathrooms and hosting an annual Women in STEM webinar with more than 100 attendees. Through volunteer events and donation drives, her chapter has provided school supplies, handwritten letters and care items to uplift local women and girls.

Eve was selected as a youth representative for GLI's delegation to the United Nations, where she presented demands for a more inclusive feminist movement to global audiences. She also served as moderator and lead speaker at both the UN Girls' Town Hall and an event hosted by the UK Mission, advocating for increased youth presence at the political table.

Beyond her work with GLI, Eve is the founder and director of ScoliPoly, a nonprofit dedicated to empowering youth with bodily anomalies. Under her leadership, the organization has distributed more than 10,000 informational pamphlets across 20 partnerships. Their campaign to educate young people on the symptoms and effects of scoliosis, aiding them in quick discovery and treatment, has reached thousands via digital campaigns. By welcoming all contributions, ScoliPoly has shed light on the lived experiences of scoliotic youth through their website, forum and social channels.

In her free time, Eve enjoys writing, watching movies and spending time with her cat.



2025 Zonta Young Women in Leadership Awardee

Valeria Gonzalez-Sukhai



District 4

Citizenship: Canada

Valeria Gonzalez-Sukhai is a student leader and an advocate for inclusive, compassionate environments. While working as an administrative assistant at a midwifery clinic, she recognized the importance of community outreach in healthcare, motivating her to create a welcoming space for clients and their families. Her experience inspired a commitment to advancing Equity, Diversity, Indigeneity, Inclusion and Accessibility (EDIIA) within healthcare practices.

At McMaster University, Valeria serves as co-president of the McMaster Golden Z Club and McMaster Aiding Women's Shelters Canada. She aims to lead initiatives that promote women's rights, organize fundraising events and partner with local shelters and organizations to raise awareness about domestic violence and gender equity.

In addition to her leadership work, Valeria is actively involved in student-led organizations that focus on child-centered programming, science education outreach and fundraising for causes she is passionate about. She also volunteers with a research initiative aimed at improving the quality and use of data in child and youth mental health services by supporting the development and evaluation of a more effective and accessible information system.

With aspirations of becoming an OB/GYN, Valeria is committed to delivering inclusive, patient-centered care for women and marginalized communities.

Outside of her academic and volunteer commitments, Valeria enjoys reading, hiking and spending time with family and friends, doing activities that bring joy, balance and inspiration to her daily life.



2025 Zonta Young Women in Leadership Awardee

Kamryn Camp



District 5

Citizenship: United States

Kamryn Camp is a graduate of Scott County High School in Georgetown, Kentucky, and will attend the University of Kentucky's Lewis Honors College, where she will major in biomedical engineering through the Scholars in Engineering and Management (SEAM) Pathway. On a pre-med and entrepreneurship track, she aspires to one day open a medical facility that partners with nonprofits to deliver equitable care to underserved populations worldwide.

A dedicated student and community leader, Kamryn was involved in more than 30 extracurricular activities during high school, holding leadership roles in 12. She served as president of the National Honor Society, FCCLA, key club and the environmental club. She also led DanceBlue, a school-wide fundraiser benefiting the University of Kentucky's Pediatric Oncology Unit, helping raise more than US\$50,000 during her three years of involvement.

As a state officer for the Kentucky United Nations Assembly (KUNA), Kamryn built platforms on global healthcare reform. Her passions for science and service is also reflected in her volunteer work with Surgery on Sunday, her job as a physical therapy technician and her independent biomedical research on plant-based treatments for chronic illnesses, inspired by her own medical journey.

A Girl Scout since age nine, Kamryn earned both the Silver and Gold Awards through projects addressing mental health awareness and food insecurity. Her dedication has earned her numerous honors, including the Kiwanis Community Service Award, as the first teen recipient in her county, and recognition as an Elks National Foundation Scholar.

In her free time, Kamryn enjoys crocheting stuffed animals and blankets, community service, reading across all genres, (her favorite novel being "Flowers for Algernon" by Daniel Keyes) and watching "The Walking Dead."



2025 Zonta Young Women in Leadership Awardee

Angeline Valentina Morgado Romero



District 6

Citizenship: Venezuela

Angeline Valentina Morgado Romero is a youth activist committed to strengthening democracy through open government and youth advocacy. As a Venezuelan migrant living in Chile, she has consistently worked to uplift migrant youth and defend their rights, and to advocate for platforms and spaces for dialogue, recognizing the importance of protecting democratic principles.

Angeline's activism began at the community level, where she served as an ambassador for a women-migrant-led initiative where she learned the impact of grassroots organizing. Through efforts like painting community murals, the project promoted positive messages about the migrant community and provided young women safe, creative spaces for interaction and expression. The work led to the establishment of a Youth and Diversities Office.

That experience led Angeline to found "Incidentes," a youth-led organization dedicated to the comprehensive development of Latin American youth through active participation in the political sphere, the democratization of opportunities and information and dialogue.

Now a first-generation college student in the United States, Angeline continues her advocacy as the associate director of global connections with the Wisconsin Union Directorate, where she promotes cultural awareness and education. She continues to advocate for the Venezuelan diaspora as a youth delegate at UN conferences, advancing intersectional frameworks in policymaking. At the University of Wisconsin-Madison, she serves as both communications chair and co-fundraising chair for the campus chapter of She's the First.

In Angeline's free time, she enjoys reading fiction, immersing herself in different worlds and perspectives, hiking and watching documentaries.



2025 Zonta Young Women in Leadership Awardee

Annabelle Siebs



District 7

Citizenship: United States

Annabelle Siebs is a recent graduate of Blue Valley Southwest High School in Overland Park, Kansas. She distinguished herself as a student leader dedicated to service, global connection and community empowerment.

Annabelle is the founder of Serving San Isidro, a nonprofit organization based in Costa Rica that supports women and children affected by abuse and abandonment. Under her leadership, the organization established a sustainable food pantry, constructed a counseling center and continues to provide essential resources to single mothers and their families. Her hands-on involvement and commitment to long-term solutions have left a lasting impact on the community.

Annabelle's global perspective is also reflected in her 11-year sponsorship of Wendkouni, a girl her age from Burkina Faso, West Africa, through Compassion International. Their ongoing relationship, maintained through letters translated from French, has become a constant source of mutual encouragement, empathy and cultural exchange.

Closer to home, Annabelle served as president of Future is Female, where she quadrupled membership and led initiatives such as hygiene drives for women's shelters and holiday support for families in need. She also served as cheer captain, a peer mental health advocate and a regular volunteer in faith-based service programs.

This fall, Annabelle will attend Texas Christian University, where she plans to major in global business with a focus on Mandarin Chinese. She looks forward to continuing her mission of leading with compassion and creating meaningful, cross-cultural impact.



2025 Zonta Young Women in Leadership Awardee

Myriam Grace Janet Poirier



District 8

Citizenship: Canada

Myriam Grace Janet Poirier is a graduate of Dover Bay Secondary School, where she was an active student leader and community volunteer. She served as president of the student council and a sitting committee member of the Relay for Life committee. She also volunteered and served as the social media manager for the school's Youth Rotary Interact Club.

As president of the student council, Myriam played a key role in organizing Dover Bay's annual Relay for Life, a fundraiser benefiting the Canadian Cancer Society. In 2025, the event brought together more than 300 participants and raised more than CAD\$68,000 in support of cancer research and patient resources.

Through her volunteer work with Rotary Interact, Myriam helped organize local and global fundraisers, including initiatives for Haven Society in Nanaimo, Canada, which supports women fleeing domestic violence, and Project SeeCan, a portable vision clinic in Malawi, Africa.

Myriam will attend the University of Victoria, where she will study chemistry for the medical sciences. She plans to continue her involvement with Rotary through Rotaract and remain active in community volunteering.

Looking ahead, Myriam aspires to become a medical doctor, working to create inclusive spaces within the healthcare system where women can have a voice in their health and treatment. Her long-term goal is to help reform the healthcare system to better serve all women, regardless of class, gender, ethnicity or background.



2025 Zonta Young Women in Leadership Awardee



Ruhani Deswal

District 9

Citizenship: United States

Ruhani Deswal found her passion at the intersection of medicine and leadership. Throughout high school, she dedicated herself to civic engagement, healthcare and community impact, providing hands-on care and addressing systemic challenges.

As a certified nursing assistant, Ruhani provided one-on-one patient care, committed to improving health outcomes. She served as Region 3 vice president for California Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) and president of Porterville HOSA, representing more than 14,000 members across 250 chapters. In these roles, she advocated for career and technical education funding during congressional meetings on Capitol Hill, coordinated statewide leadership conferences, raised more than US\$1,300 for the National Marrow Donor Program and helped collect nearly 4,700 oral hygiene kits for underserved communities in Guatemala.

As a two-term president of her Z club, Ruhani led impactful advocacy initiatives, including the Lisa Project, an interactive domestic violence awareness exhibit that broke national records with more than 1,100 attendees. She continued her advocacy through Purple Thursday campaigns, support for local women's shelters and raised awareness about teen dating and domestic violence.

Ruhani also founded and led her city's first Science Olympiad chapter, where she introduced STEM opportunities to local students. She built the program from the ground up and mentored new members. As president of the California Scholarship Federation, she led wellness fairs, donation drives and promoted scholarship opportunities. As vice president of student council and officer of athletics, she helped lead numerous rallies, dances, intramural tournaments, student activities and raised US\$8,500 for Valley Children's Hospital

Ruhani will attend UCLA to major in physiological sciences on the pre-med track, with aspirations of becoming a radiologist. She hopes to harness medical imaging to reduce misdiagnosis and improve global healthcare equity.

Outside of the classroom, Ruhani enjoys playing tennis, hiking, traveling and exploring new places with family and friends.



2025 Zonta Young Women in Leadership Awardee

Laylee Khanom Taghizadeh



District 10

Citizenship: United States

Laylee Khanom Taghizadeh is a graduate of Cypress Creek High School and a student leader in her community. She proudly served as president of Science Olympiad, the Science National Honor Society and STEM club.

Under Laylee's leadership, the Science Olympiad quadrupled in membership and reached state competition for the first time in five years. She also spearheaded a community science night initiative and founded her school's first STEM-based club open to underclassmen.

Laylee is a member of the CFISD Superintendent Student Leadership Committee, and is active in HOBY Youth Leadership, Senior Living Performances and summer STEM camp.

The summer before her senior year, Laylee interned with the Johns Hopkins Neuroscience Department and the Yale Center for Clinical Investigation, where she researched celiac disease and pediatric cancer clinical trials. Her work uncovered a study where cancer patients with celiac disease were witnessing their celiac symptoms cured through stem cell transplants, a discovery she hopes to explore further as an undergraduate student.

Laylee is the recipient of numerous honors, including the Presidential Volunteer Service Award, National Merit Scholar, District Student of the Week, AP Scholar and regional Science Olympiad placements. She is also a Barnes & Noble-published author of "The Boy Who Loved Cookies," a children's book that promotes healthy hand-washing habits through rhymes and a relatable character.

Laylee will attend Rice University in the fall, where she plans to double major in bioscience and health science studies. Her goal is to become a pediatrician, where she hopes to personalize treatments and create a welcoming environment for her patients.

Outside of her academic and research pursuits, Laylee enjoys singing, playing the violin and piano, reading and watching romantic comedies.



2025 Zonta Young Women in Leadership Awardee

Sophie Chang



District 11

Citizenship: United States

Sophie Chang is a graduate of Northview High School and a resilient student. She is dedicated to leveraging advocacy, service and policy to create a more equitable and diverse society, driven by her passion to help those around her.

Through her experiences of working at a law firm, serving on the student council and leading her school's mock trial team as captain, Sophie discovered the powerful role of grassroots advocacy. One of her most enriching experiences was her fellowship with her state representative, where she conducted research on small business health equity economics, secure storage incentives and ethnic caucus collaboration strategies.

Sophie is also involved in gun violence prevention. She guides her high school's Students Demand Action chapter, and has partners with national platforms, including Newsweek and the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, to amplify youth's hope for legislative reform.

During a service trip to Guatemala, Sophie helped fulfill more than 400 prescriptions in makeshift clinics for under-resourced villagers. Closer to home, she has built connections through tutoring low-income students in various subjects.

This fall, she will attend Duke University, where she plans to study economics and political science on the pre-law track, with a certificate in health policy. She aspires to expand healthcare access and equity for marginalized communities.

In her free time, Sophie enjoys playing piano, baking, running, watching romantic comedies and spending time with her dog, family and friends.



2025 Zonta Young Women in Leadership Awardee

Natalie Catherine Cappelletti



District 12

Citizenship: United States

Natalie Catherine Cappelletti is a rising senior at Fairview High School in Boulder, Colorado, where she is a member of the speech and debate team. She has earned the Academic All-American and Speaking and Service Awards, placing her in the top 1% of debaters nationally. A three-time qualifier for both the Colorado State Tournament and the National Speech and Debate Tournament, she placed 4th in International Extemporaneous Speaking. Natalie has also qualified for the Tournament of Champions and the National Individual Events Tournament of Champions. As a debate captain, she competes in male-dominated events and works to encourage greater female participation in speech and debate.

Natalie is the founder of Project Lead the Way, registering more than 85% of students at her school to vote, helping Boulder County achieve the second-highest voter registration rate in the country. Her school received the Eliza Pickrell Routt Award from the Colorado Secretary of State. Additionally, Natalie was recognized at the Boulder County Democratic Party's Champions of Democracy Dinner with the Josie Heath Outstanding Young Democrat Award for civic leadership.

Outside of school, Natalie serves as vice president of the Youth Service Leaders at the nonprofit A Precious Child (APC). Serving the state of Colorado, APC provides support to underserved families. Natalie provides Spanish-language translation and assists families in choosing essential items such as clothing, hygiene products and school supplies.

Natalie believes in the power of collective advocacy, the intersection of ideas, interests and identities to empower women and girls. After high school, she plans to study public policy and linguistics.



2025 Zonta Young Women in Leadership Awardee

Adrija Aleksiūnaitė



District 13

Citizenship: Lithuania

Adrija Aleksiūnaitė is a student at Alytus Adolfas Ramanauskas-Vanagas Gymnasium in Lithuania and a passionate youth leader committed to civic engagement and social justice. She believes in the power of young people to shape their societies and works to ensure that every voice, especially those of women and students, is heard.

Adrija currently serves as chair of the Alytus Municipal Student Council and is a member of the city's Youth Affairs Council. On a national level, she coordinates "ATSIBUSK" ("Wake Up"), a civic initiative that empowers students across Lithuania to become active citizens and challenges social exclusion through dialogue, education and action.

One of Adrija's most meaningful initiatives has been advocating for free menstrual hygiene products and comprehensive sexuality education in schools. Guided by the belief that knowledge and dignity are fundamental rights, she surveyed more than 800 students in her city to ensure that proposed solutions reflected real student needs.

Receiving the 2025 Zonta Young Women in Leadership Award is a powerful reminder that Adrija's voice matters and her work is only beginning. She plans to study international business and communication, with the goal of building cross-cultural understanding and driving positive global impact.

In her free time, Adrija enjoys traveling, exploring new cultures, experimenting with recipes, reading novels and taking long walks with her dog, moments that give her time to reflect and recharge.



2025 Zonta Young Women in Leadership Awardee

Alisa Belenkaya



District 14

Citizenship: Russia and Ireland

Alisa Belenkaya was born in Moscow, Russia, and now lives in both Ireland and Germany. She is passionate about creating inclusive, globally aware communities through accessible education, civic engagement and international cooperation.

At school, Alisa co-founded and served as vice president of the Global Issues Network, a club working towards achieving the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The group launched food and clothing drives, fundraisers and outreach projects, becoming the largest student-based initiative on campus. Alisa also founded an economics club and was actively involved in the peer tutoring program at her school, aiming to promote a collaborative learning environment where students felt empowered to take ownership of their education.

Alisa has been active in the Model United Nations (MUN) for more than five years, reflecting her global outlook. She founded and led an MUN club at a previous school, acting as the secretary-general while introducing students to the structure of formal diplomatic debate, and worked as the ambassador of her current school's delegation at one of the world's largest MUN conferences in The Hague.

Alisa plans to pursue a degree in politics and economics, aiming for a career in diplomacy or with an NGO, where she hopes to empower other young women to engage in civil society.

Beyond academics, Alisa explores creative expression through art and writing. Her artwork, addressing Ireland's housing crisis, was exhibited at the Dun Laoghaire Institute of Visual Arts in Dublin. She is also an avid reader and hockey player.



2025 Zonta Young Women in Leadership Awardee



Nevaeh Eve Pine

District 15

Citizenship: Canada

Nevaeh Eve Pine is a proud citizen of Garden River First Nation, an Ojibway community located in the heart of the Great Lakes. She is the great-granddaughter of Dan Pine Sr. and the fourth great-granddaughter of Chief Shingwauk, who was once a recognized leader of the Ojibway Nation. Nevaeh comes from a long line of hereditary leadership and follows her Clan as a Crane Person (Chijauk Dodem). She is grounded in her Anishinaabe culture as a Jingle Dress dancer and the sacred teachings she has been gifted with.

Nevaeh is frequently invited to speak at events on the issues of Every Child Matters and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Two-Spirit (MMIWG2S) people. She travels sharing her voice about injustice emphasizing the urgent need for systemic change. In 2024, she served as the youth keynote speaker for the nationwide Moose Hide Campaign in Victoria, British Columbia, where she spotlighted gender-based violence and disparities in the Canadian justice system. She also worked with youth initiatives from the Ojibway Worldview.

Currently pursuing a double major in political science and law and justice at Algoma University, Nevaeh plans to study human rights law to continue advocating for equity and Indigenous sovereignty.

In recognition of her activism, creativity and community service, Nevaeh was awarded the Dr. Lukenda Award for exemplary volunteerism and speaking out against injustice.

Outside of the classroom and advocacy work, Nevaeh is a varsity athlete on the Algoma Thunderbirds wrestling team.



2025 Zonta Young Women in Public Affairs Awardee

Prajna Chaudhry



District 16

Citizenship: New Zealand

Prajna Chaudhry, deputy head student of Howick College in East Auckland, led student-led initiatives focused on equity, sustainability and civic engagement. She organized fundraisers for national organizations including the SPCA, Mental Health Foundation and Blind Low Vision NZ. In an effort to address domestic violence, she raised funds for Woven Earth, a nonprofit that furnishes safe homes for survivors, and coordinated donation drives to help make these spaces more welcoming.

As a member of her district's youth council, Prajna helped plan and execute large-scale projects across the region. She managed event logistics and outreach for the Cultural Showcase, a multicultural program designed to foster intercultural understanding; launched the Clothes Swap to promote sustainable fashion among youth and supported Mind Matters, a mental health initiative focused on open dialogue and practical coping strategies.

In 2024, Prajna joined a Rotary Youth fundraiser for PHAB NZ, running 200 kilometers over one month to raise awareness about transportation costs for people with disabilities. As a UN Youth School Ambassador, she also organized Model UN events for more than 100 students across East Auckland, encouraging youth engagement with diplomacy and global issues.

Extending on Prajna's community outreach, she leads a social skills program for high-needs students, maintains the Pūtaka Kai pantry to address food insecurity and coordinates a cushion-making initiative for patients at Middlemore Hospital. She also serves as a facilitator for Street Law, a legal education program that equips communities with knowledge about employment rights and civic law.

Now pursuing a bachelor's degree in law with honors and international relations, Prajna is driven by a desire to create systemic change. In her free time, Prajna leads environmental initiatives, including tree plantings and river clean-ups. She will soon travel to Shanghai for an intensive sustainability course, where she will collaborate with local leaders on cross-sector responses to climate change.



2025 Young Women in Public Leadership Awardee

Leung Cheuk Yu



District 17

Citizenship: Hong Kong

Leung Cheuk Yu, a Form 5 student at St. Paul's Secondary School in Hong Kong, is a young leader committed to serving her school and community. She has taken on several leadership roles, including serving as a school prefect, where she helped mediate conflicts and uphold campus order. As president of the community youth club, she organized charity initiatives such as flag-selling campaigns and natural lip balm sales. In her role as a peer group counselling assistant, she facilitated workshops that helped Form 1 adapt to school life through peer support and stress management.

Outside of school, Leung actively advocates for social causes. As an ambassador for Orbis, she raised more than HK\$30,000 to combat preventable eye diseases through creative campaigns in school, including an Eye Care Experience Day and a teacher-student fundraising concert. She also volunteers at Grantham Hospital, where she assists elderly patients with mobility and offers companionship. In addition, she serves as a mental health youth ambassador with the Hong Kong College of Psychiatrists, conducting workshops that promote mental well-being and work to reduce stigma among teens.

Leung aspires to become an occupational therapist, focusing on supporting children and the elderly with disabilities. Through her leadership, empathy and commitment to community service, she hopes to build a more inclusive community with kindness and vision.

In her spare time, Leung enjoys exploring her creativity through art, particularly acrylic landscape painting and animal sketches. She also loves reading books, from fiction to psychology, subjects that continue to inspire her curiosity about human behavior.



2025 Zonta Young Women in Leadership Awardee

Parima Noinadee



District 17

Citizenship: Thailand

Parima Noinadee is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in innovative medical sciences at Chulabhorn Royal Academy in Thailand. With aspirations of becoming a research professor, she is interested in advancing solutions for non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Beyond her academic pursuits, she is committed to expanding access to quality education, especially for women, believing that equitable education is key to building a more just and thriving society.

In 2022, Parima led a project at the Heart Centre of Trang Hospital to develop a follow-up system for heart surgery patients. The initiative earned a gold medal and special award from the Research Institute of Creative Education at the 48th International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva. Influenced by her aunt's cancer journey, Parima also donated her hair to support the production of wigs for patients and has registered as an organ and eye donor. She launched a charity campaign for underprivileged children and has actively participated in environmental conservation efforts since 2021.

Parima's leadership began early when she served as vice chair of her primary school's student council. She went on to represent Thailand at the GLOBE International Science Program in the Maldives, leading scientific discussions with peers from around the world. She also participated as a young scientist at the International Visual Science Symposium in 2022 and 2023.

Parima's innovative contributions have also been recognized at the 7th World Young Inventors Exhibition in Malaysia. Passionate about lifelong learning and research, she actively engages in community-based projects, applying science in real-world contexts to drive meaningful change in Thai society.



2025 Zonta Young Women in Leadership Awardee

Elham Hamza



District 18

Citizenship: Ghana

Elham Hamza is a student leader, changemaker and advocate for youth empowerment and gender equity. Currently pursuing A-Level studies in physics, chemistry and mathematics, she balances academic excellence with a commitment to service in her school and community.

Elham holds leadership roles on her school's debate team and sports committee, demonstrating both intellectual curiosity and collaborative leadership. She is the co-founder of KELMN, a student-led nonprofit organization that supports underserved children through clothing drives, food donations and mentorship programs. She has also contributed as a designer for her school's newsletter and participated in academic buddy programs that support younger students.

Elham's passion for science and innovation led her to intern at Yemaachi Biotech, a cancer research institute in Ghana, where she studied biology and technology. She later deepened her interest in biomedical and mechanical engineering by attending the Oxford University Engineering Summer School. Elham is motivated to use engineering as a tool to address infrastructure and healthcare challenges in underrepresented communities.

Elham plans to pursue engineering at university, with a focus on combining research and innovation to create meaningful change. For her, leadership is defined by using one's skills to uplift others, open doors and drive change, regardless of age or background.

A multi-talented student, Elham is also a Commonwealth Games medalist, with a background in track and field, taekwondo and dance. Her athletic pursuits reflect the same discipline, resilience and drive that she brings to academics and leadership.

In her free time, Elham enjoys basketball, swimming and writing short stories. She is also passionate about coding and 3D modeling. She believes the connection between mind, body and creativity is the key to leadership and innovation.



2025 Zonta Young Women in Leadership Awardee



Bruna Rodriguez

District 19

Citizenship: Brazil and Uruguay

Bruna Rodriguez, born in Brazil and raised in Uruguay, is currently a psychology student at the University of the Republic (UDELAR) in Uruguay.

Since 2022, Bruna has been involved in volunteer work and youth advocacy. She served on the Youth Advisory Council of INAU, Uruguay's Institute for Children and Adolescents, where she represented young voices in national policy discussions. She also co-led a social project called Resilience, facilitating workshops on bullying and coexistence in public schools.

In 2023, Bruna was selected as a youth ambassador by the U.S. Embassy in Uruguay. As part of the program, she received leadership and social impact training and traveled to Austin, Texas, where she lived with a host family. Following the experience, she founded I Protect Myself, a project focused on the prevention of child sexual abuse. She formed a team of volunteers and partnered with a psychologist to develop and lead workshops for children ages 4 to 6, ensuring a safe and age-appropriate learning environment.

In 2024, Bruna was selected by EducationUSA to join the Opportunity Funds Program, which supports high-achieving students in applying to U.S. universities.

Bruna's passion for psychology stems from her desire to understand human behavior and help people improve their quality of life. After learning about Zonta International's mission, she became even more certain that her path lies in advancing justice, equality and dignity for all women.



2025 Zonta Young
Women in Leadership
Awardee

Ainomaija Mäenpää



District 20

Citizenship: Finland

Ainomaija Mäenpää is the current chairperson of the Inari Youth Council in Finland, where she has been an active member for more than five years, including previously serving as secretary. In her leadership role, she has helped strengthen cross-border cooperation with the Youth Council of Sør-Varanger in Norway, with a focus on cultural exchange and environmental initiatives.

In addition to her youth council work, Ainomaija serves as a deputy member of the Inari municipal council and sits on the board of the Vasatokka National Youth Nature Education Center. There, she works to promote youth participation and sustainable nature-based education at both the national and international levels.

Ainomaija has played a key role in organizing Inari Pride, helping to foster equality and inclusion in her community, and has contributed to the Pasvik–Inari nature conservation cooperation. Her national involvement includes youth leadership trainings and events that have allowed her to further develop her skills in advocacy and communication.

Ainomaija has also hosted the Sámi Youth Art Event in Inari Sámi multiple times, using the platform to support Sámi language, youth expression and cultural visibility. She has spoken in panel discussions on Sámi culture, identity and municipal decision-making, consistently advocating for the inclusion of youth and minority perspective.

As an advocate for equality, cultural rights and environmental protection, Ainomaija works to ensure that underrepresented communities, particularly Sámi youth and other minorities, are seen, heard and respected at all levels of society.



2025 Zonta Young Women in Leadership Awardee

Grace Kouki



District 21

Citizenship: Sweden

Grace Kouki is currently in her senior year in a social science program with a specialization in behavioral science. Born in Aleppo, Syria, she immigrated to Sweden in 2012 due to the country's civil war. Her experiences growing up in a high-crime area have shaped her ambition to become a psychologist or criminologist and contribute to the Swedish criminal care system and work toward meaningful societal change.

Grace's journey into civic engagement began in middle school as a well-being leader, students who are trained to create fun activities during breaks and promote community engagement. This early experience sparked her passion for community service and set her on a path toward youth leadership. She is now president of the Botkyrka Youth Council, where she works on local initiatives, volunteers in city projects and supports both school-based and community-led activities, including scouting. Through the youth council, she traveled to Brussels to meet with members of the European Parliament.

Grace is also a member of the Botkyrka Robot Club, which broadened her international perspective. Collaborating with peers from diverse cultural backgrounds, she competed in the Scandinavian finals and participated in an international robotics competition in Australia.

In her free time, Grace enjoys reading thrillers, creating art, mentoring youth and exploring new cultures through travel, conversation and documentaries.



2025 Zonta Young Women in Leadership Awardee

Susanna Allegra Serena Nutley



District 22

Citizenship: Australia and Italy

Susanna Allegra Serena Nutley is a business and law student who is passionate about building a more equitable, empowered and sustainable future. Born in Rome and raised in Papua New Guinea and Australia, she brings a global perspective shaped by both challenge and opportunity. With a strong interest in entrepreneurship, she hopes to one day launch ventures that blend business with meaningful community impact. While still undecided, her academic interests span law, artificial intelligence, marketing, marine and forest conservation and personal finance.

Susanna was a sponsored delegate to the Women Deliver Conference in Rwanda, where she learned from global leaders, including Malala Yousafzai. Driven by a desire to improve access to financial education, she founded a personal finance initiative during high school to address the lack of financial literacy taught in schools. She continues her advocacy through mentoring, public speaking and volunteer service.

Susanna's environmental efforts are reflected in her role as Team Leader at Humpbacks & Highrises, a marine research and conservation organization where she conducts whale research and leads groups of citizen scientists on commercial boats. She has volunteered for more than 500 hours across multiple causes, including Surf Lifesaving, where she served as Junior Club/Nippers Captain at Surfers Paradise Surf Lifesaving Club, legislative advocacy with the Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network and conservation programs such as EarthWatch's Reef Coastal Frontier expedition, TurtleWatch, Platypus Watching Census and the Greater Glider Citizen Science.

Susanna was a United Nations Youth Ambassador, a finalist for Queensland Youth Volunteer of the Year and has presented at Rotary events speaking on youth leadership's role in global change. She also participated in Genome Sequencing Detective, a citizen science program by the University of Oxford and served as treasurer of the Interact board at Queensland Academy High School. She completed a Harvard course

in entrepreneurship in emerging economies, expanding her understanding of sustainable development through innovation.

In her spare time, Susanna enjoys outdoor adventure and ocean-based activities. She enjoys kayaking, board training and exploring nature in all its forms. Whether through hands-on experience or independent discovery, she constantly seeks new ways to grow, learn and contribute to the world around her.



2025 Zonta Young
Women in Leadership
Awardee

Maya Elizabeth Farmer



District 23

Citizenship: Australia

Maya Elizabeth Farmer is a recent graduate from Toormina High School in New South Wales, where she served as school captain. An avid debater, she was a state semi-finalist in the Plain English Speaking Competition, delivering a speech on the educational divide between metropolitan and rural communities. She competed annually in the Write a Book in a Day, a fundraiser for the Kids' Cancer Project, and has continued her fundraising efforts since beginning her psychology studies at the University of Melbourne as a Hansen Scholar.

Maya is a committed advocate for climate justice. She volunteers with the Australian Youth Climate Coalition, through which she has lobbied members of parliament, delivered climate education workshops in schools, and organized climate action events in her hometown. Her local efforts included coordinating youth-led concerts, planning protests and successfully lobbying her local council to declare a climate emergency. In 2024, Maya attended COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan as a youth delegate with Australian Youth for International Climate Engagement. She is also a member of Generation Justice, a group of nine young Australians who lodged a formal complaint with the UN Special Rapporteur on Climate Change, arguing that inadequate national climate action violates the human rights of young people.

Maya's summer internship with FORE Australia introduced her to key issues in women's health, where she wrote policy briefs exploring the intersection of gender and healthcare. Her interest in advocacy and health equity also led her to participate in the Oceans to Outback fundraiser for the Royal Flying Doctor Service, running 1 kilometer a day throughout October 2024.

Maya aspires to work at the intersection of climate justice, rural health and women's rights as a future healthcare practitioner serving regional communities. In her free time, she enjoys reading, hiking and baking while singing (badly, she says) along to musicals.



2025 Zonta Young Women in Leadership Awardee

Alyssa Jeffries



District 24

Citizenship: Australia

Alyssa Jeffries is a youth advocate, public speaker and emerging leader from Wollongong, Australia. As deputy head prefect and elected young mayor of the Wollongong Youth Council, she champions civic engagement and youth representation in decision-making spaces. Her advocacy extends to the national level through her contributions to the development of Australia's National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children, a 10-year strategy to eliminate gender-based violence within a generation.

In 2023 and 2024, Alyssa served on the Justice and Women's Affairs Committees of the NSW Youth Parliament, where she co-authored bills aimed at protecting protest rights and improving support services for victim-survivors of domestic abuse. She delivered speeches at Parliament House, sharing legislative recommendations informed by her research. Her commitment to gender equality also shaped her HSC Society and Culture Personal Interest Project, which examined barriers to young women's political participation.

Alyssa's work on domestic abuse prevention earned first place at the International Community Problem Solving competition and led to her involvement in co-designing Australia's first women-only trauma recovery center, which received recognition in the 2024 NSW Architecture Awards. She also organized educational seminars on recognizing domestic abuse and coordinated the distribution of care packages to women in emergency housing.

Through the head prefect team, Alyssa helped raise more than AU\$20,000 for The Water Gift, a charity that provides access to clean drinking water for underserved communities. She plans to study law and politics, philosophy and economics (PPE) and hopes to pursue a career in diplomacy, public policy or human rights law.

In her free time, Alyssa enjoys surfing, skiing, lifesaving and playing the flute.



2025 Zonta Young Women in Leadership Awardee



Giovanna Parajuli

District 25

Citizenship: Nepal

Giovanna Parajuli is a recent graduate and former class representative at Rato Bangala School in Nepal. She is guided by her feminist ideals and a strong commitment to justice and works to dismantle patriarchal norms that confine women to domestic roles and uphold systems of oppression.

As a social media associate for the Legal Aid Consultancy Centre and the Feminist Dalit Organization, Giovanna has launched impactful online campaigns promoting the economic, social and political empowerment of women. Her consistent digital presence has helped hundreds of women access legal support. Under the guidance of legal professionals, she is currently publishing her research paper, *The Impacts of Divorce on Nepalese Society*.

Giovanna's efforts have raised more than NPR\$600 for domestic abuse survivors, awarded about 150 debate scholarships and led eight initiatives that collectively raised NPR\$6,000, with backing from 12 corporate sponsors. These projects have directly benefited underprivileged children and youth.

As secretary general of the 2024 Rato Bangala School Model United Nations, Giovanna led 16 committees and sponsored five student delegates from rural Nepal. As vice president of her school's TED-Ed Club, she fostered youth-led dialogues on critical global topics.

Giovanna plans to pursue a career in discrimination law, continuing her work on behalf of marginalized communities.

In addition to her academic and advocacy work, Giovanna is a competitive powerlifter. At 17, she won her first gold medal and earned the title of youngest and lightest lifter at a local meet, with a deadlift record of 130 kg in the 52 kg weight class. She began training at 14 and sees strength training as a form of resistance, challenging gendered assumptions and reclaiming space in a male-dominated sport.



2025 Zonta Young Women in Leadership Awardee



Nene Umetsu

District 26

Citizenship: Japan

Nene Umetsu is the founder of With Study, an online support service that connects elementary and middle school students who are not attending school with high school student mentors. Motivated by her own experiences, Nene launched the platform to help create a more inclusive education system where all children, regardless of their circumstances, can learn in a safe, supportive environment and access broader opportunities.

At her high school, Nene leads the English Speaking Society (ESS), where she promotes English debate, encourages teamwork and fosters an inclusive learning atmosphere. She has participated in international programs, including a homestay experience in Australia and discussions with university students from around the world on global social issues.

Outside the classroom, Nene is active in volunteer work and entrepreneurship events focused on education and gender equality. She won the national championship in the Social Innovation Relay, representing Japan in the international final round. She has also delivered speeches encouraging youth volunteerism at events attended by more than 150 participants.

Nene plans to study business management and hopes to one day establish a global company that tackles pressing social challenges. Receiving the 2025 Zonta Young Women in Leadership Award reaffirmed her commitment to empowering others and building a more equitable world through leadership, innovation and action.



2025 Zonta Young Women in Leadership Awardee

Hadise Jafari



District 27

Citizenship: Afghanistan

Hadise Jafari is an Afghan student living in Luxembourg, where she has spent the past five years pursuing her education in the international section, studying in both English and French. She is fluent in Persian and Turkish and is currently learning German and Luxembourgish.

Throughout school, Hadise has been engaged in volunteering and activism, with a strong focus on women's rights. These experiences, shaped by both her past and present, have strengthened her commitment to social justice and her resolve to contribute meaningfully to the world around her.

Having grown up witnessing and experiencing gender inequality and sexism, Hadise once believed these injustices were simply part of life. But moving to Luxembourg exposed her to a different reality, one in which equality is not only possible but worth fighting for. This turning point led to a personal commitment to continue her education, to advocate for those whose voices are silenced and to use her experiences to support and uplift others.

Hadise hopes to share her knowledge and inspire youth speak out, pursue their dreams and take action for lasting change.

In her free time, Hadise enjoys reading, writing, learning languages, participating in community service and spending time in nature, where she reflects and recharges.



2025 Zonta Young Women in Leadership Awardee



Ikram Makhloufi

District 27

Citizenship: Germany

Ikram Makhloufi is a student at Hermann-Böse-Gymnasium in Bremen, Germany, where she is completing both the German Abitur and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. Actively engaged in school and community life, she has held multiple leadership roles, including student body president and chair of the General Assembly Committee at her school's international Model United Nations conference. She also serves as a school paramedic, leads debate workshops and has acted as a judge in the national "*Jugend debattiert*" competition.

Outside of school, Ikram volunteers with UNICEF Bremen, coached a junior football team at her local sports club and runs empowerment workshops for girls through a German-Moroccan NGO. Through these roles, she advocates for children's rights, educational access and gender equality, with a focus on creating spaces where girls can build confidence, develop leadership skills and pursue their goals without societal limitations.

Ikram is multilingual in English, French, German, Arabic, Amazigh (Berber) and Spanish, and has participated in international exchanges and foundation programs such as Erasmus+ and the Joachim Herz Stiftung, which have strengthened her commitment to intercultural dialogue and global collaboration.

Ikram hopes to continue her education at a leading international institution, with interests in medicine, human rights, leadership and entrepreneurship. Her long-term goal is to advocate for systemic change in areas such as global health, public policy or women's leadership. She is currently working on a book based on a speech she delivered about overcoming internal barriers, aiming to inspire young people to embrace their voice and potential.

In her free time, Ikram enjoys playing sports, reading, journaling, exploring fashion and spending time with friends and family.



2025 Zonta Young Women in Leadership Awardee

Elisa Lévesque Gaudette



District 28

Citizenship: Canada and United States

Elisa Lévesque Gaudette is a high school student entering her final year at Sir James Dunn Academy in New Brunswick, Canada. Passionate about youth empowerment, gender equity and climate protection, she is actively involved in initiatives that foster leadership, advocacy and community engagement.

Elisa is the co-founder and leader of the International Culture and Understanding Club, organizes student-led fundraisers and is currently developing a legacy book program that promotes equity through intergenerational collaboration. As a member of the Anglophone South District Council and student representative on the District Education Council, she advocates on behalf of more than 70,000 students, ensuring youth perspectives are represented in educational policy discussions.

Elisa also organized a self-defense workshop to empower young women in her community. In 2024–2025, she spent a year abroad at Gymnasium Kirchenfeld in Switzerland, where she studied in a new academic environment, learned German and developed a deeper global understanding.

An athlete throughout high school, Elisa has competed in soccer, basketball and badminton, balancing sports with academics and community leadership. She plans to pursue a degree in political science, with the goal of building a career in diplomacy.

In her free time, Elisa enjoys reading, running and giving back to her community.



2025 Zonta Young Women in Leadership Awardee

Sophie Janes



District 28

Citizenship: Switzerland, Poland and England

Sophie Janes recently completed her high school education in Switzerland in an economics-focused program with an emphasis on sustainability. Born in England to Polish parents, and raised in Switzerland for the past 15 years, Sophie considers all three countries home. Her multicultural background has shaped her global perspective and deepened her interest in global and social issues.

Throughout high school, Sophie engaged in initiatives that reflect her commitment to community and curiosity about the world. She participated in the Pink Ribbon Walk for breast cancer awareness and once donated her hair to support cancer patients. During the pandemic, she took online courses to stay active and later applied those skills as a math and German tutor.

Sophie worked at Little Scientists, a holiday camp that encourages children to explore science through hands-on experiments. She also participated in a fundraising initiative for a hospital in Cameroon, organized in collaboration with the NGO IPA, and took part in a biological research project on Lake Constance, living on a boat and collecting water samples to study environmental change.

Sophie's academic work includes a Matura thesis on the gender gap in Sweden, Switzerland and Romania, where she proposed practical recommendations for improving gender equality in Swiss society. Her interest in this topic began earlier, at age 15, when she conducted a school-wide study on gender stereotypes, using a questionnaire she designed herself.

Sophie plans to study economics at the University of St. Gallen. She hopes to use her education to better understand global systems and contribute to lasting change, particularly by advancing gender equality through strategic and informed action.

In her free time, Sophie enjoys running, reading, listening to podcasts and spending time with her family and friends.



2025 Zonta Young Women in Leadership Awardee

Angel Akpovi



District 29

Citizenship: United Kingdom and Nigeria

Angel Akpovi is a graduate of Bilborough College in Nottingham, where she served as student president and was actively involved in civic engagement and extracurricular leadership. A strong advocate for youth voice, equity and representation, she was a dedicated member of the school's debate club and hosted a podcast titled Be Extra, which created space for bold conversations around identity, empowerment and social justice.

Angel has participated in numerous national and local initiatives, including the Fair Education Alliance Youth Steering Group, the Nottingham Youth Crime Commission and the Nottingham Literacy Youth Board. She currently holds the title of Miss Teen Nigeria UK, a platform she uses to mentor young black girls and promote equitable opportunities for young women.

As an I Will Ambassador, Angel has worked closely with policymakers to champion youth-led change, particularly in the areas of education, youth violence and representation. She also collaborated with the Royal Shakespeare Company to co-create "Beyond Borders," a short film exploring identity, which was later featured at a public exhibition.

Angel's advocacy centers on fair access to education, youth empowerment and the use of storytelling as a tool for systemic change. Later this year, she will begin her undergraduate studies at Vanderbilt University, where she plans to major in communication studies or human and organizational development, with a minor in cinema arts. She hopes to use media and advocacy to amplify marginalized voices and contribute to building a more just and inclusive society.



2025 Zonta Young Women in Leadership Awardee

Felicia Bulat



District 29

Citizenship: Moldova, Romania and Germany

Felicia Bulat was born in Moldova and moved to Germany at the age of 11. She recently graduated from Bertha-von-Suttner Gymnasium and will begin her university studies in Germany later this year. A committed student leader, Felicia is passionate about democracy, equality and education.

As a student representative and active member of her school's democracy active group, Felicia led school-wide initiatives such as Holocaust remembrance and Anti-War days and organized a student dialogue with local politicians to elevate the importance of youth voices in democratic processes. She also proposed and initiated annual fundraising campaigns to support a girls' school in Tanzania, combining education with global awareness and solidarity.

Felicia is a trained Ambassador of the Constitution, dedicated to promoting the values of tolerance, diversity and civic engagement. She brought these values to life through events such as the Rock Against Right concert and World AIDS Day fundraisers, and during Democracy Week, she designed interactive activities for younger students to help them understand concepts of peace and democracy in accessible and creative ways.

Outside of school, Felicia served as a member of the Youth Parliament of Oberhausen, where she advocated for improved school facilities and menstrual equity. Her year abroad in England further strengthened her cross-cultural perspective and deepened her appreciation for global learning.

Felicia plans to pursue a career in academia, aspiring to become a professor focused on the intersection of political education and psychological research. Her long-term goal is to study how to counteract polarization, discrimination, fascism and rigid gender roles.



2025 Zonta Young
Women in Leadership
Awardee

Adèle Fages-Cambon



District 30

Citizenship: France

Adèle Fages-Cambon is a student at Sciences Po Paris, where she studies law and political science while remaining actively engaged in community and advocacy work. Her passion for equality, ecology and social justice has defined much of her academic and extracurricular journey.

Adèle served as class representative every year and founded an ecology club at her middle school, which led to a tree-planting partnership in Senegal. In high school, she joined the student life council, where she worked to introduce gender equality initiatives within the school community.

Among her efforts, Adèle helped install free menstrual product dispensers in all school restrooms and organized an exhibition of portraits of inspiring women for International Women's Day. She also co-created a peer committee on sexuality, identity and consent in partnership with the school nurse and other students. The group hosted open discussions and offered optional one-on-one sessions to support students in navigating these critical topics.

In addition to her studies, Adèle teaches French to individuals seeking residency permits in France and volunteers as a homework tutor for elementary school children. She is currently interning with a member of the French National Assembly, focusing on environmental issues and youth mental health.

Adèle is now preparing to spend a year studying at University College London.



2025 Zonta Young Women in Leadership Awardee

Kremena Georgieva Ivanova



District 30

Citizenship: Bulgaria

Kremena Georgieva Ivanova is a student at SU Tsvetan Radoslavov in Svishtov, Bulgaria, where she studies natural sciences and serves as chair of the student council. Over the past four years, she has emerged as a dedicated community advocate, balancing academic achievement with meaningful civic engagement.

As student council chair, Kremena has led campaigns for International Volunteer Day, Pink Shirt Day against bullying, and organized multiple charity bazaars, raising funds for local shelters, schools and a children's home. She is a two-time recipient of the Nina Tasheva Scholarship for outstanding academic performance in science, and represented her school as an EPAS Youth Ambassador at the regional Euroscola competition in Veliko Tŭrnovo, where she promoted European democracy and youth civic participation.

In 2024, Kremena joined the Erasmus+ project, Ready for the Future – Creative, Emotional, Digital!, in Antalya, Turkey, where she improved her English, explored sustainable classroom practices and later presented her findings during the ErasmusDays 2024 workshops at her school. A Cambridge English B2 certificate holder, she brings strong communication skills to every initiative.

Earlier this year, Kremena led her team to victory in Bulgaria's Young Philanthropist national contest, directing prize funds toward upgrading educational resources at a local kindergarten. Her commitment to social justice is evident in the workshops she organizes on domestic violence prevention and gender equality, reaching both students and parents. She also coordinates volunteer drives for the town's animal shelter.

As leader of the peacekeepers club, Kremena runs workshops on tolerance, non-violence and conflict resolution, helping to build a more inclusive and respectful school culture.

Outside of school, Kremena practices traditional Bulgarian folk dance, maintaining a connection to her cultural heritage.



2025 Zonta Young Women in Leadership Awardee

Katelyn You-Ying Chen



District 31

Citizenship: Taiwan (R.O.C.) and the United States

Katelyn You-Ying Chen is a graduate of the International Bilingual School at Hsinchu Science Park with a passion for designing accessible technology. Influenced by her grandmother's challenges navigating digital healthcare systems, Katelyn aims to study cognitive science and human-computer engineering and design to create human-centered solutions that are empathetic to users' needs.

As president of the Bilingual Department Student Council, Katelyn championed student mental health initiatives and secured funding for student-led projects. Within the Taiwan Global Leadership Organization, a 501(c)3 nonprofit focused on nurturing transformative leaders who address social issues, she served as product management director and marketing strategy advisor, mentoring teams and co-organizing its largest annual event, the Leadership Training Summit. As executive director and licensee of TEDxYouth@IBSH, she led a team to launch the school's first bilingual TEDx conference, hosting more than 90 attendees and featuring speakers to spotlight youth innovation and women in STEM.

Katelyn's commitment to public service has extended beyond Taiwan. Selected by the Hsinchu City Government for a fully funded international youth exchange, she traveled to Singapore to engage with government officials and researchers on cross-cultural approaches to sustainability and education. She also worked with Volunteer Building Cambodia, helping construct homes for rural families. Soon, she will embark on a trip to Iceland, sponsored by Taiwan's Ministry of Education, to collaborate on community development initiatives with the local NGO SEEDs.

Katelyn's work in advocacy, design and community-building reflects her vision of creating accessible spaces, both online and offline, where all people feel seen and supported.



2025 Zonta Young Women in Leadership Awardee

Sihyeon Lee



District 32

Citizenship: South Korea

Sihyeon “Sally” Lee is a student researcher and environmental innovator based in South Korea. Passionate about addressing systemic inequality, she brings intersectional insight into issues ranging from environmental racism to gender equity.

Sally’s research on how targeted environmental hazards allocation and a lack of legal representation contribute to environmental racism against Canadian Indigenous communities was awarded the 2025 National History Day Korea 1st prize.

Sally is also a co-founder of EcoQuest, a youth-led educational game that encourages climate-friendly behavior through interactive learning. The project earned the 2025 Conrad Innovator Award and her team continue to develop the initiative to reach more students across South Korea.

As president of Eco-lution, a youth-led environmental organization, Sally leads projects that empower young people to tackle local sustainability challenges. At school, she serves on the sustainability and equity committee, conducting audits and collaborating with administrators to evaluate how environmental sustainability is integrated into school policies, culture and student engagement.

Whether it is through research, journalism, carbon initiatives or student representation, Sally works to create changes that move systems towards equity and sustainability. She plans to further her studies in environmental policy, writing and research to contribute to an intersectional climate legislation that reflects underrepresented voices.