

2023

Duke WIN Scholarship Endowment Report

A YEAR OF INSPIRATION, COMMUNITY, AND SCHOLARSHIP

Duke



Dear WIN Scholarship supporters:



When you think about the people who have made a difference in your life, it's likely that those individuals saw your potential, believed in you, and gave you the support and confidence you needed to take risks and pursue your dreams.

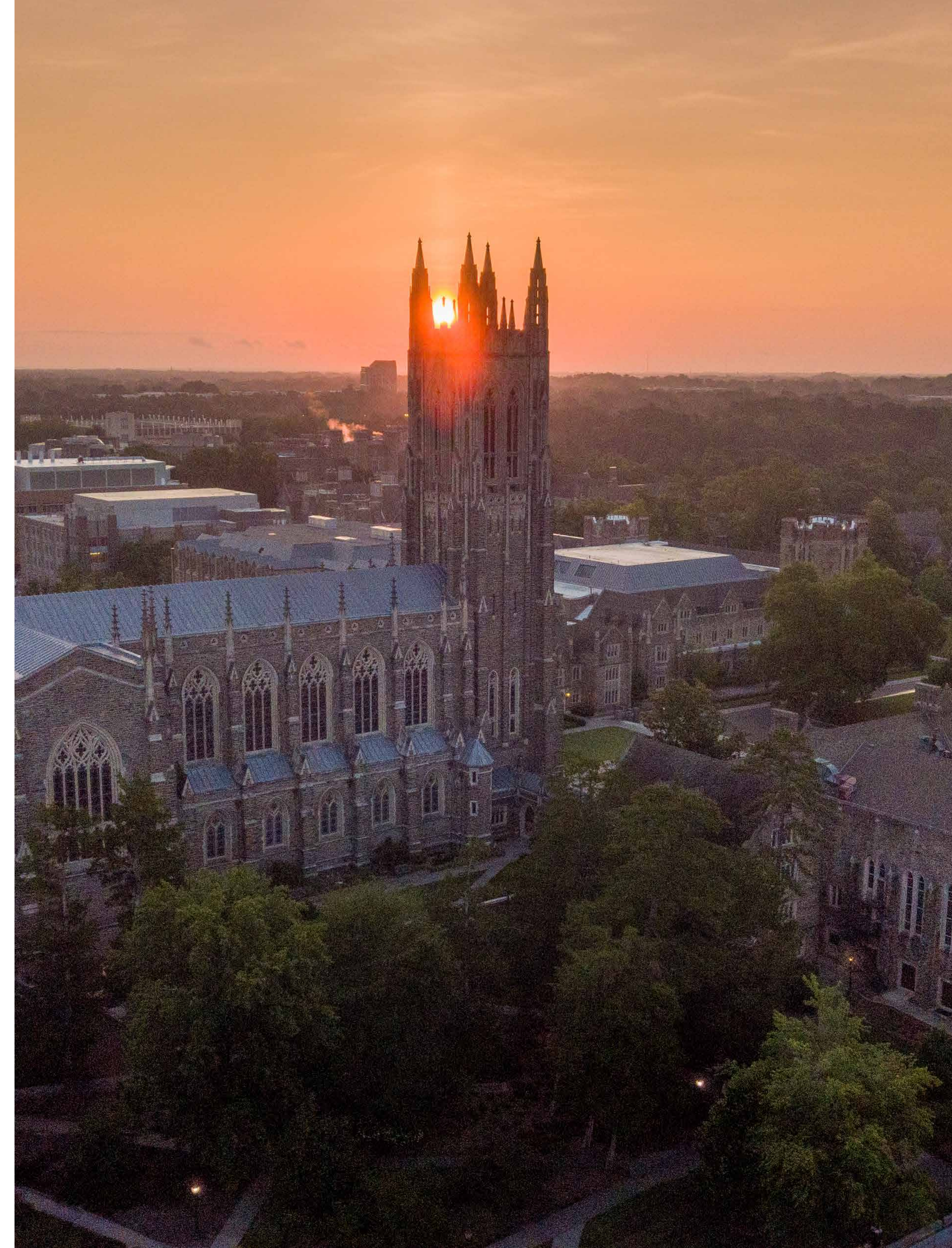
Congratulations! Through your individual and collective gifts to the WIN Scholarship Endowment, you are doing just that for the Duke WIN Scholars. More than 100 of you have contributed to this growing endowment, which has contributed financial aid support to thirteen WIN Scholars to date. In this impact report, you'll learn how your gifts have direct and lasting influence on the next generation of leaders and problem solvers. These remarkable undergraduates have been selected for their leadership potential, and as WIN Scholars they have benefitted from the additional support so many of you have provided—as mentors, role models, and champions of their success.

As you'll read in these pages, WIN Scholars are charting lives of purpose and service, and inspiring the next generation of young women who will follow in their footsteps. Thank you so much for your contribution to the WIN Scholarship Endowment, and for the many ways that your support opens doors of opportunity for today's Duke students.

Best,

Bridget Booher '82, A.M. '92

Director, Duke Women's Impact Network





TRUSTEE LISA BORDERS T'79

CEO of Golden Glow Media and LMB Group
WIN Scholarship Endowment Donor



Women are often taught to nurture our families, our children, our parents, our spouses and significant others. We're not taught on a regular basis, historically, to navigate or negotiate life. So we don't always have the capacity or capability to do so until someone says, 'You can do this.' Recognizing that you have gifts and that you have value in your voice is really important for women to understand."



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support (verb) sup·port:
to give help or assistance; to
provide what is needed

Helping young learners thrive

As an undergraduate, **Idalis French '19** already knew her calling was to help young people thrive in school settings despite learning challenges. Through her Duke coursework and extracurricular interests at the intersection of public health, child development, and communication, Idalis went on to earn a master's degree in speech-language pathology at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

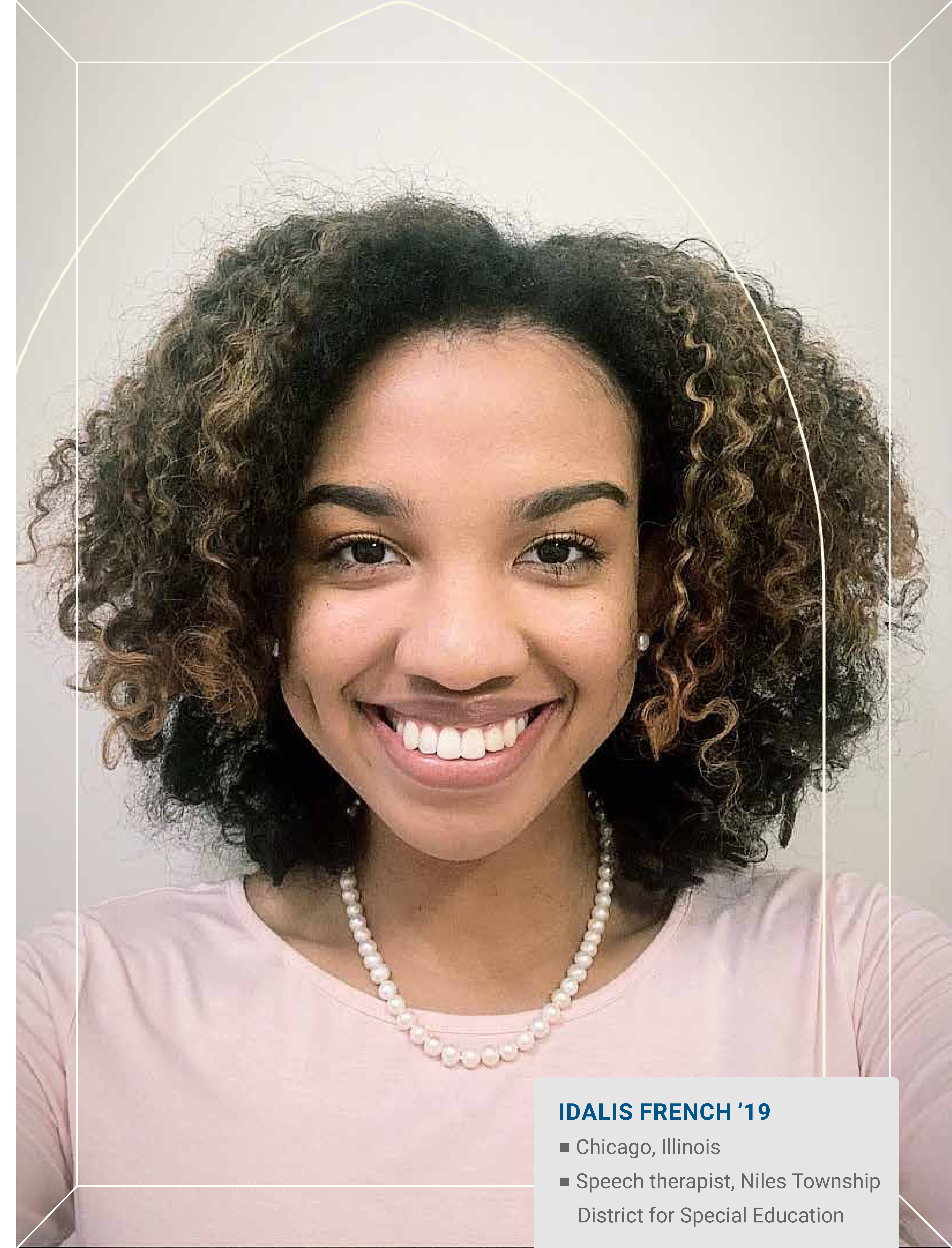
She's now in her second year as a speech pathologist at the Niles Township District for Special Education, and relishing her interactions with young learners.

Idalis credits the WIN Scholarship with giving her the resources and encouragement to pursue all of her interests at Duke.

"I will never forget the ability to go through Duke freely," she says. "WIN allowed me the opportunity to explore what I wanted to do and be passionate about what I wanted to do and not have to think about loans or any financial pressures."

She treasures her relationship with WIN member and Trustee **Lisa Borders '79**, who Idalis says has been exceptionally generous.

“Whenever I need something or if I want to get her advice or just check in with her, I know she'll be willing,” Idalis says. “It's just nice to know that you have someone in high places that genuinely cares about you.”



IDALIS FRENCH '19

- Chicago, Illinois
- Speech therapist, Niles Township District for Special Education

Person to person, making a difference

When **Katie Taylor McKeown '19** sees a problem, her instinct is to solve it. Look no further than her current day-to-day to see it.

In addition to completing her Ph.D. in mathematics with an eye toward teaching undergraduates, Katie is also well into the second decade of operating a nonprofit that benefits schoolchildren in her hometown of Monticello, Arkansas.

Packs of Hope provides school supplies and hygiene items to students from low-income backgrounds in four Southeast Arkansas school districts. Supplies are distributed by elementary, middle and high school counselors. Katie still does most of the work for the charity she formed when she was in eighth grade. And thanks to help from WIN member **Kim Reed '86**, who has expertise in establishing nonprofits, Packs of Hope was able to apply for and receive 501(c)(3) status.

Katie was also the first person in her family to attend college, so she feels strongly about making sure that other first-generation college aspirants know that they are not alone, and that they can succeed. She serves on the board of Duke First, the growing alumni community for first generation/low-income Blue Devils.

Through her experience in the WIN Scholars program, Katie met a mentor, **Stacy Klein-Gardner B.S.E. '91**, and has worked with her for several years on Engineering for US All, a nonprofit that seeks to introduce high schoolers to engineering curriculum.

“Becoming a WIN scholar came at a great time,” she says. “I didn’t understand really how higher academia worked, being a first-generation student. I was able to start making connections and talking with wonderful women all around the United States.”

“I was super thankful to have ladies to listen to me. I didn’t really get a lot of female mentors that were professors in our department or classmates. So it was just really nice to be able to speak with women who are influential in the world.”



KATIE TAYLOR MCKEOWN '19

- Cabot, Arkansas
- Ph.D. Candidate, University of Alabama

Taking her own path

The road most taken by first-generation Duke graduate **Treniyah Anderson '20**?

A trailblazing path.

Treniyah has done global health work spanning across Africa and Europe and domestically from Alaska to Washington D.C. Now, back home in Philadelphia, Treniyah is having a direct impact on health education and outcomes as a program coordinator for Grassroots Health. Founded by college athletes committed to rethinking health education and wellness in schools, Grassroots Health uses sports to reimagine health education in middle schools, and enlist NCAA athletes as health educators and role models.

Fostering a supportive environment while serving as a mentor to students is integral to their success—a practice that is familiar to Treniyah through her own community in WIN.

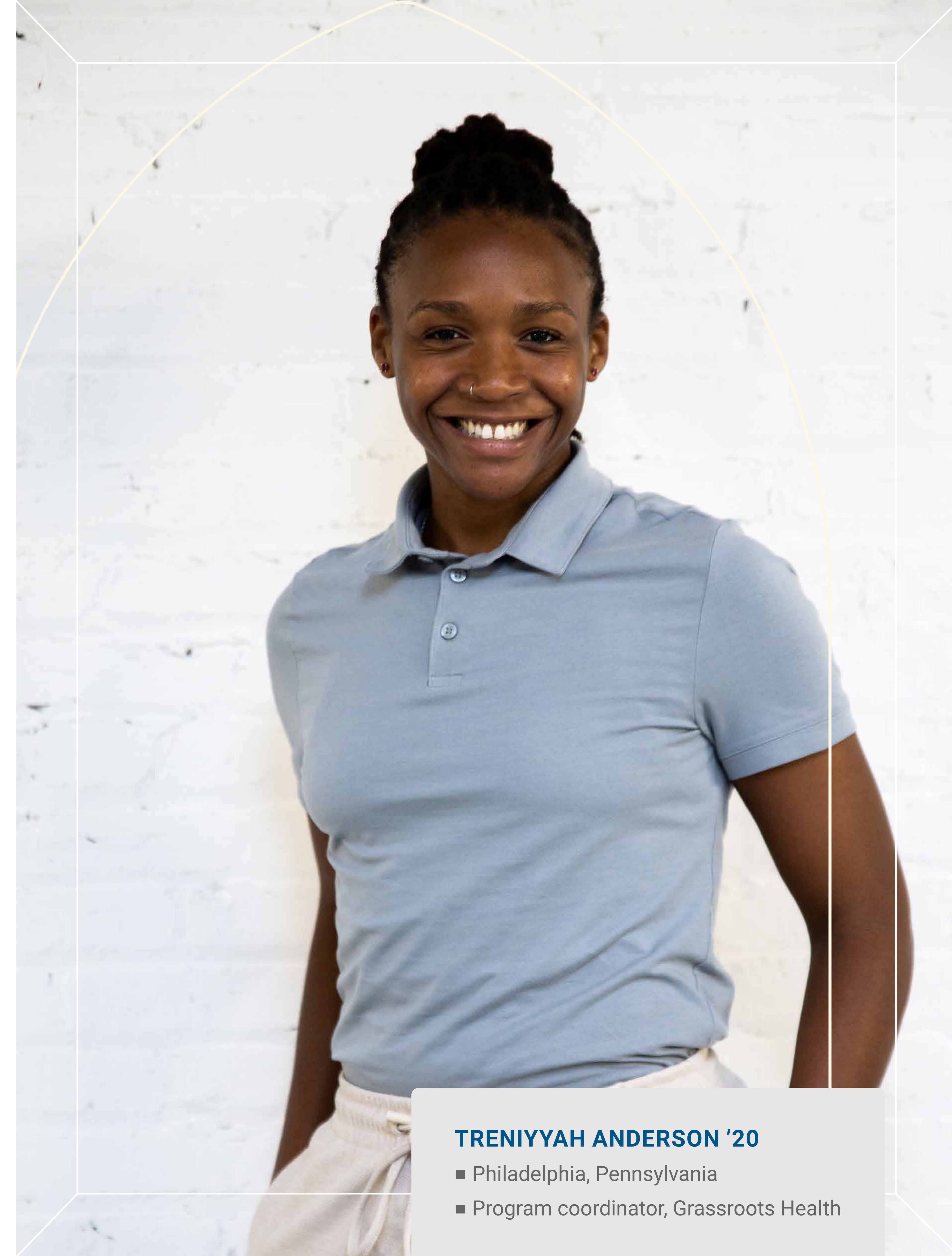
“Mentorship can look different for everyone; it depends what people need advice on or how they receive it,” she says.

At Duke, Treniyah found a mentor in WIN director Bridget Booher, who she says really listened to her and supported Treniyah’s unique path.

“What makes the program work is every scholar has different backgrounds and interests; they each trailblaze in their own way,” she says.

Now, Treniyah is taking her next step: As the recipient of the Nursing Corp Scholarship to attend nursing school at Drexel University, she expects to work at a critical shortage facility. In the future, she plans to be a travel nurse and obtain a culinary degree. She says that regardless of where her career may lead her, she knows her community is always right around the corner.

“No matter how long it’s been since leaving Duke, I know there’s always an incredible community of women cheering me on.”



TRENIYYAH ANDERSON '20

- Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Program coordinator, Grassroots Health

Caring applied liberally to all parts of life

Becoming a caregiver for her grandmother reaffirmed a lesson **Lilliana Reyes '20** learned as a WIN Scholar: Cherish the present.

“At the time it applied to college, but even just now in life, cherish where you are,” she says. “With the hustle and bustle of everyday life, we tend to be so consumed by, ‘What’s the next big thing? What’s the next thing I’ve got to do?’ Or we don’t really think about it. We’re not really in the present.”

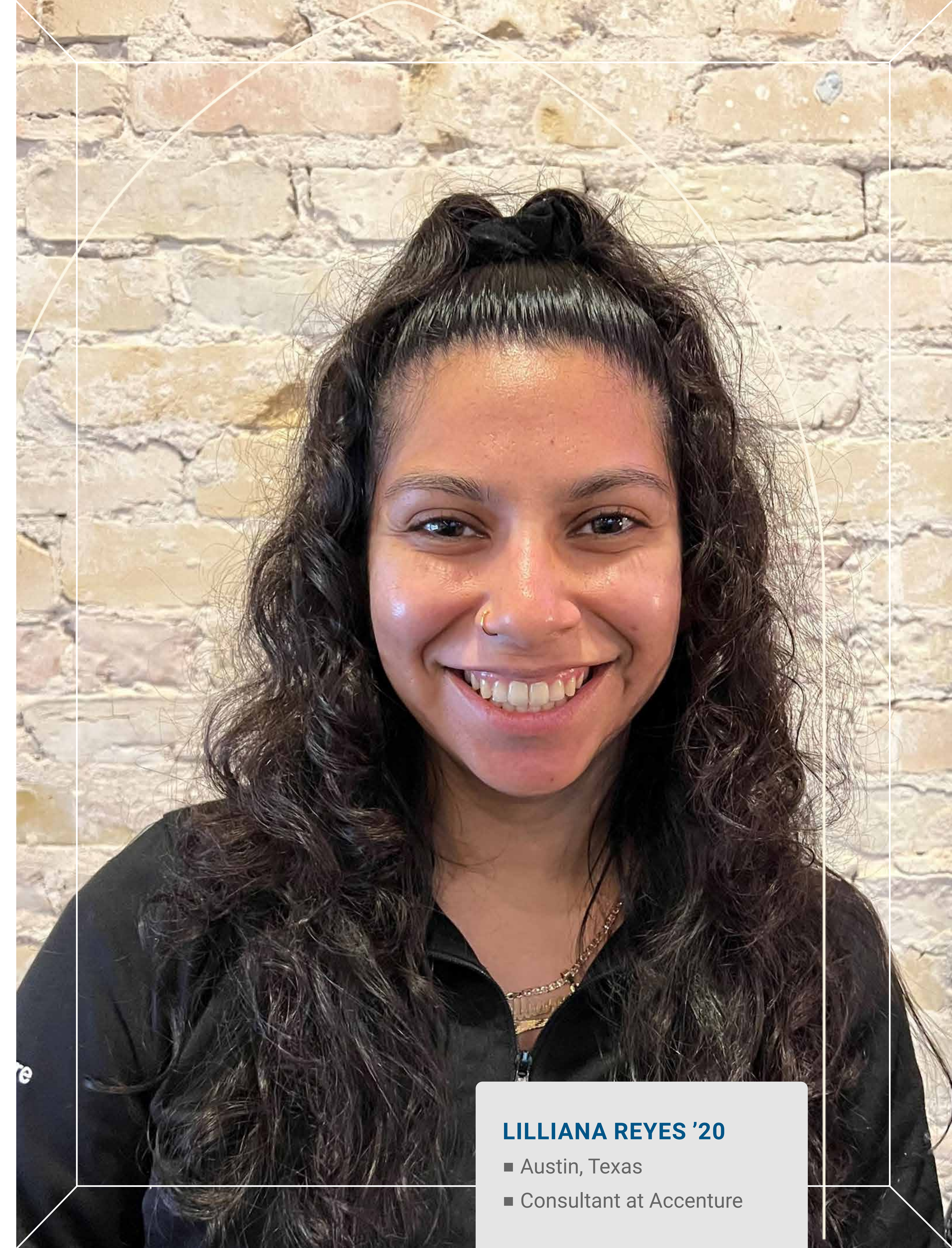
Thanks to her fully remote career as a consultant at Accenture, Lilliana was able to move back home to help her mother care for Lilliana’s grandmother. She says that it has been personally rewarding to live with family again. It feels like catching up on lost time and missed milestones.

“I don’t think as society we really talk about taking care of our parents or our grandparents,” she says. “It’s definitely been eye-opening for me.”

Lilliana stays connected to her fellow WIN Scholars through social media and program emails, and says she knows she can always count on them.

“It’s always been this culture of, whatever you need, we’re there,” she says. “If you need advice or you just need to bounce ideas off of us, or you’re looking to pivot in your career, we all feel free to reach out.”

“I definitely want to go back. The last time I saw Duke was when I left in May during the pandemic. Just being able to get back on campus with my best friends would be kind of beautiful.”



LILLIANA REYES '20

- Austin, Texas
- Consultant at Accenture

On a mission for medicine

“What more can we do?” **Sweta Kafle '21** remembers Bridget Booher asking Sweta during her senior year at Duke.

Sweta had casually mentioned she was studying for the MCAT, and Booher, the director of the Duke Women’s Impact Network, wanted to help. Soon after, Sweta was surprised to receive a bunch of study guides and textbooks.

“It was such a supportive gesture,” Sweta says. “Things like that really stick out to me when I think about what the program is about.”

Sweta’s aspirations and interests have always included being in the medical field, but her tie to Duke isn’t far behind. Originally from Nepal, Sweta remembers the first time she heard of Duke was when her mom watched a video that featured a Nepali Duke professor. Inspired by the immense pride she felt, Sweta applied to Duke once college application season rolled around and went on to become a premed student and both a WIN scholar and a David M. Rubenstein scholar, part of a prestigious, merit-based scholar’s program.

While at Duke, Sweta connected with other current and former WIN scholars, many of whom were pursuing careers in the medical field themselves, as well as Duke alumnae from diverse careers and personal backgrounds.

“We’d listen to women on WIN panels talk about how they got to where they are, so it was pretty inspiring to be in a room like that,” she says.

Today, Sweta is a medical student at the University of Cincinnati. This past summer, she travelled to Tanzania and Kenya for a dental project sponsored by the university’s global health program. While she is still narrowing down what type of doctor she wants to be, Sweta credits Duke’s extensive global health programs and WIN’s support for inspiring her to continue her interest in medicine.



“The resources available at Duke and through WIN have helped me to be where I am now.”

SWETA KAFLE '21

- Cincinnati, Ohio
- Medical student, University of Cincinnati

The virtuous circle of giving back

If more students from Louisiana begin to attend Duke, you might have **Jamiee Williams '21** to thank.

She noticed that many students, even from excellent high schools, stay in state for college. So Williams, who moved back to her hometown recently, is crafting a program to prep students not just for college, but for elite universities.

“A lot of students could benefit from trying to test the waters with something that’s a little bit more unorthodox and untraditional as far as the pathway to college,” she says.

The transition from graduating during COVID to finding her way as a working adult was difficult, but Jamiee believes she has figured it out now, largely through staying busy mentoring and trying new things. While she searches for an engineering job, she is enjoying her new pursuit of real estate.

“I’ve learned a lot about business mindset, business planning, and what it takes to run a business,” she says.

Jamiee has also gotten involved in Duke alumni activities, where she says she is often the youngest alum attending events by 10 or 15 years. She’s engaging young Duke grads in Louisiana, too.

“I want to help work on getting more young alumni to events,” Jamiee says. “We have the freshest perspective as far as postgraduate life.”

“I’ve always been interested in mentorship. I just never really knew how to do it.”



JAMIEE WILLIAMS B.S.E.'21

- Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- Real estate, photography, aspiring structural engineer



mentor (noun) men·tor:
a trusted counselor or guide;
a coach

Finding a passion for economics

While **Cheyenne Quijano '22** now works as a research assistant for the Federal Reserve, the direction she wanted her life to take was not always clear. Throughout her time at Duke, she switched areas of study and felt uncertain about her post-graduation plans.

“It can be intimidating not knowing exactly what you want to do with your life,” she says.

However, Cheyenne notes that through the advice of a WIN Leadership Council member, she gained reassurance.

Dorlisa King Flur '87, M.B.A. '88, who worked for McKinsey & Company, talked to Cheyenne about the advantages of remaining curious and open to different industries. Simultaneously, this motivated Cheyenne to move forward with exploring careers in economics.

“For someone confused about what I wanted to do, those conversations were inspiring and made leaving Duke less scary,” she says.

Today, Cheyenne has found her footing in the economics field and is already looking to the future: She has aspirations to be a published author in her field, has plans for graduate school, and is considering a post doctorate program.

WIN will always be part of her own career turning point, she says.

“It was amazing to see all the efforts women in the WIN community go through to support the next generation.”



CHEYENNE QUIJANO '22

- Washington, D.C.
- Research Assistant,
The Federal Reserve

Global health strategies brought back home

Less than 24 hours after her graduation from Duke, **Rebecca Melaku '22** was on a plane bound for Muhuru Bay, Kenya.

Set to work as a site coordinator for a DukeEngage program, Rebecca led 15 Duke students and oversaw five community projects for the next few months.

“That program taught me so much about being a leader,” she says. “It helped build my confidence and reminded me of my experience with WIN. I grew so much from that and met so many people.”

Rebecca spent two months in Ethiopia doing volunteer work at healthcare startups and shadowing at hospitals, eventually landing a job at Nivi, which uses technology to connect patients all over the world with local health professionals.

Building community connections is essential for global health work, she says, and her experience as a WIN Scholar helped her broaden her worldview while further honing her ambitions.

Rebecca found her network expanded and brought a mentor in her life—Hematology-Medical Oncology physician **Elizabeth Harden M.D. '78, HS'81-'84**, who gave her advice and connected her with people in the medical field. Today, applying to medical school is on the horizon.

“Through WIN, I was able to meet and make friendships with people I might have never met,” she says. “The resources and opportunities I’ve been able to have wouldn’t have been on my radar or even possible without the support of the WIN program.”



REBECCA MELAKU '22

- Durham, North Carolina
- Senior Content Developer, Nivi

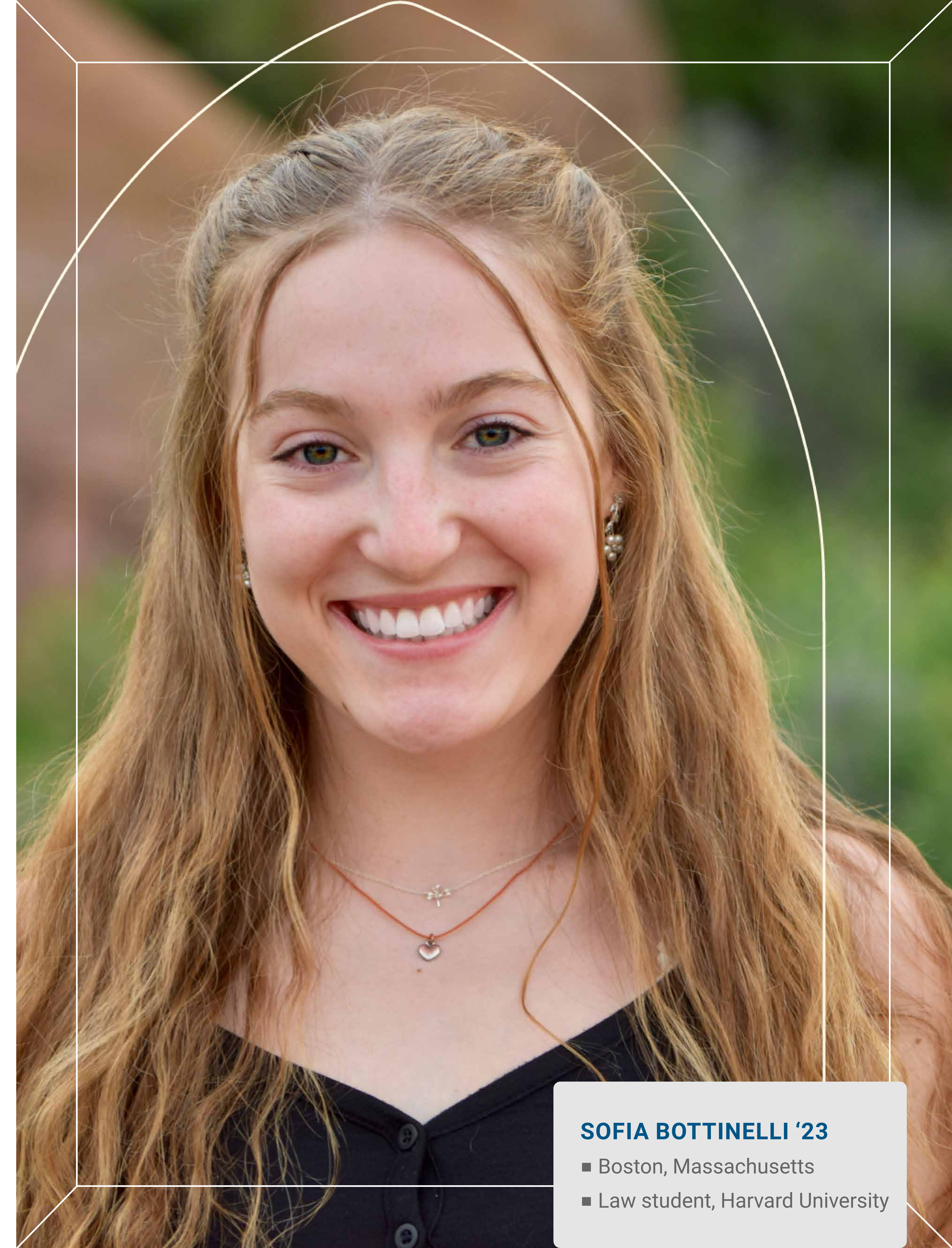
A passion for helping immigrants becomes a career

Sofia Bottinelli's '23 passion for immigration advocacy and human rights work came from what she saw happening in her backyard and in the lives of children she babysat. Sofia, who grew up in Denver, volunteered in high school for Casa la Paz, a group that helps people released from her hometown's immigration detention center find basic needs and transportation. Babysitting made the experiences of families separated from children more salient.

"Thinking about what I was seeing with the kids I was babysitting in terms of the way all of the important relationships in their lives were helping them grow, and then also hearing the stories of people that I was working with through Casa who were released, definitely made me look at these two seemingly different things in the same lens," she said. "Those things together brought me here."

Now in her first year at Harvard Law with intentions of working on immigration, Sofia stays active with her own nonprofit aid group, the Immigrant Freedom Fund of Colorado. Along her journey, WIN has been influential in providing support for making her passion her career.

“It's been very inspiring and empowering,” Sofia says. “It's a reminder to me that I can take agency in the things that I see and the things that I want to change.”



SOFIA BOTTINELLI '23

- Boston, Massachusetts
- Law student, Harvard University

The practical and personal benefits of connections

Thanks in part to the WIN Scholars program, **Jenna White '23** understands the value of fearlessness and the art of making connections.

“I really enjoyed being a WIN Scholar,” she says. “Just being able to see all the women once a semester and hear how they’ve obtained success despite whatever obstacles they may have faced. It was definitely a breath of fresh air.”

Jenna was also inspired by WIN members who encouraged the scholars not to let the fear of being underrepresented in traditionally male-dominated industries keep them from pursuing jobs they want.

Jenna parlayed that advice (and her double degrees in biomedical engineering and electrical and computer engineering) into a software internship at an electronics company and eventually a full-time job at Lenovo as a workstation storage engineer, developing and testing components in computers.

Jenna says she cherishes the connections with other WIN Scholars, especially their support.

“Being at Duke, I felt like I wasn’t doing enough or accomplishing enough,” she says. “Talking to them made me feel really special and reassured me that life isn’t perfect, you don’t necessarily have to be perfect to achieve what you want out of life.”

“I really enjoyed being a WIN scholar. Just being able to see all the women once a semester and hear about how they pursue success despite whatever obstacles they may have faced. It was definitely a breath of fresh air.”



JENNA WHITE B.S.E.'23

- Durham, North Carolina
- Computer hardware engineer



soar (verb):

upward flight; to rise or increase dramatically; to rise to majestic stature

Born in Durham, educated for an international career

Although she's gone from dipping scoops at her parents' Durham ice cream shop to diving into finance in Asia in the space of three years, **Sofia Morales-Calderon '24** has barely skimmed the surface of what's possible for her.

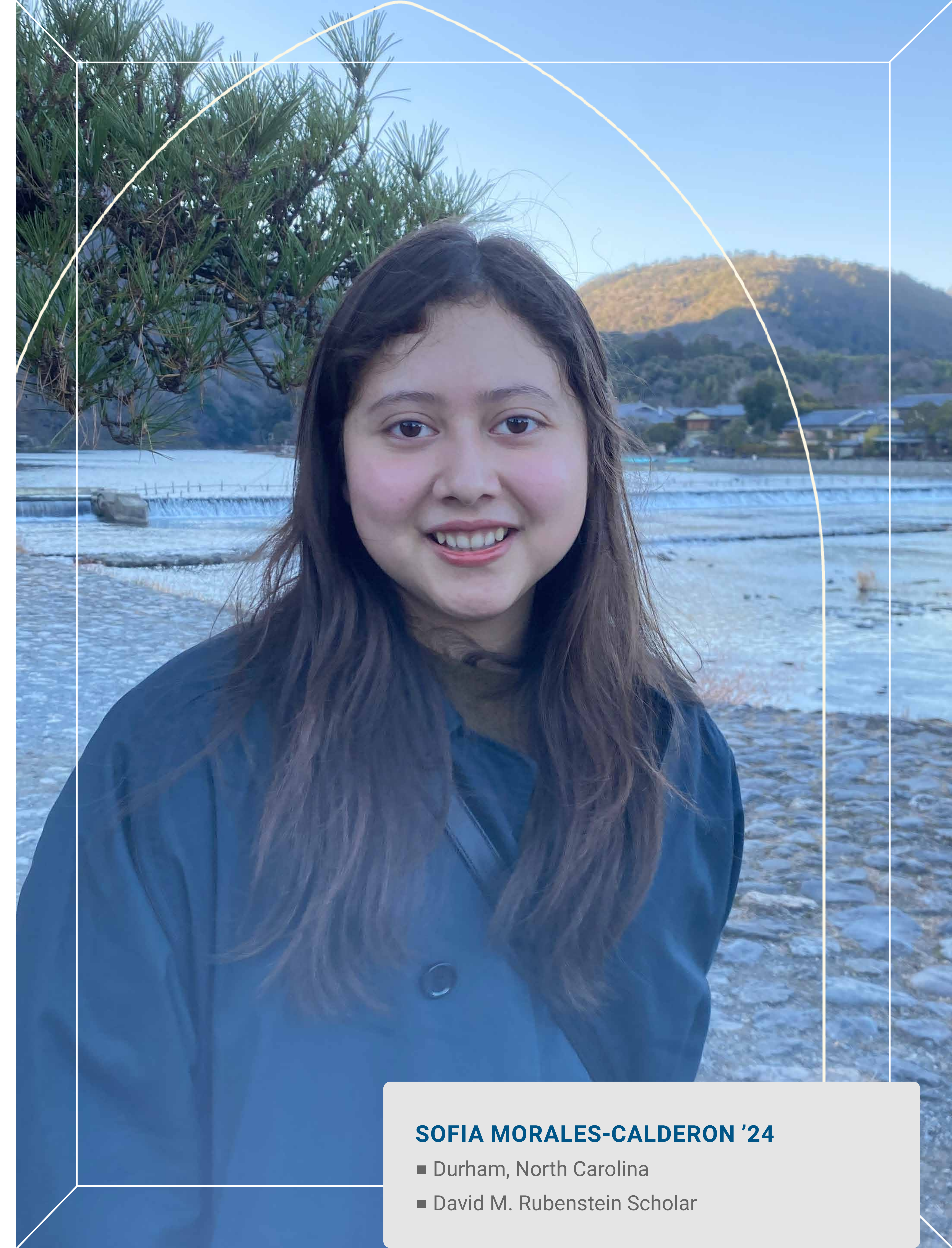
Through study abroad in Japan and Taiwan last spring, she honed her longtime interest in living and working overseas into a probable career in international economic development. Now that Sofia is back for her senior year, she's excited to take advantage of advice from WIN members.

She says some of the best advice from the WIN women she has met is to travel her own path—without dwelling on other people's expectations.

Thanks to study abroad and a summer internship at Wells Fargo in New York City, she plans to work in Hong Kong or Singapore. She'll sandwich in law school around working overseas, with hopes to spend much of her 20s outside the U.S.

In the meantime, Sofia is enjoying the final stretch of her undergraduate time at Duke. And while her career trajectory will include a global focus, her roots in Durham ensure she will never be too far away from the Bull City.

“Next year, I graduate. My parents are so excited about it. They are ready to explode.”



SOFIA MORALES-CALDERON '24

- Durham, North Carolina
- David M. Rubenstein Scholar

Taking in the full Duke experience

Before entering her first year at Duke, **Juliana Alfonso-DeSouza '25** was confident in the plan she mapped out for her undergraduate experience.

"I had this idea of 'I'm going to do all these things, my life will be perfect' and once I got here, I realized I've barely figured myself out."

Currently a junior, Juliana credits her extracurriculars of being a line monitor for Duke Athletics and becoming a WIN scholar as especially formative.

"I think it's great that I can go from studying organic chemistry for hours to adorning blue paint at Cameron. Now, with this opportunity to be part of a community of accomplished women, it's a balance that's so special."

Community-building has been the aspect of WIN Juliana has most looked forward to.

"The people I've met have been incredibly welcoming," she says. "There's so much gained through learning each other's stories."

Juliana is currently doing cardiovascular research in the Rajagopal Lab where she studies receptor biology and vasoactive GPCRs. Juliana plans to attend medical school and become a physician, perhaps even a surgeon, but is treasuring each moment at Duke.

“So many students struggle with staying present because we get caught up with this huge end goal, but I think programs like WIN will help me continue growing holistically as a person.”



JULIANA ALFONSO-DESOUZA '25

- San Antonio, Texas
- David M. Rubenstein Scholar

Chioma Ibeku '25 is no stranger to new experiences: She spent the first half of her summer in Morocco and Egypt on a study abroad trip practicing her Arabic and being immersed in a different culture. Inspired by learning about new people, she jumped into community-building work as part of the executive board of Duke Africa, a cultural student organization that plans events for African students from the continent and the diaspora.

The challenge: Chioma and other volunteers were tasked with renewing the group after the COVID years.

Chioma says that she and the other executive board members knew the group had potential, and it was just a matter of putting intention behind it. She worked with other officers to brainstorm recruitment strategies and then planned multiple events to create community and to welcome potential members.

“The number of participants ranged from five to 400, so it really taught me to have consistency and faith that what I was doing was valuable, no matter how many people came,” she says. “I feel like our work in the club really built a community.”


Fostering community is something Chioma is familiar with: She learned this as a Baldwin Scholar her first year at Duke. The Alice M. Baldwin Scholars women’s leadership program, named after the first dean of women students, was established to inspire and support undergraduate students to become engaged, confident, and connected leaders in the Duke community and beyond. It has been an empowering experience that has many parallels to WIN.

“I am really looking forward to what I will learn from the WIN alumnae who have gone before me.”



CHIOMA IBEKU '25

- Irvington, NJ
- Baldwin Scholar

An aerial photograph of a roundabout with a central landscaped island. The island is circular and features a pattern of green plants and yellow flowers. The roundabout is surrounded by a dense forest of green trees. A road with white arrows pointing left enters the roundabout from the top left. A semi-transparent grey box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing white text.

now (adjective):
excitingly new; constantly
aware of what is new

WIN Scholar Profile



- 
- Biomedical Engineering
 - Civil Engineering
 - Math
 - Public Policy
 - Psychology
 - Cultural Anthropology
 - Evolutionary Anthropology
 - Global Health (2)
 - Economics (2)
 - Program II
 - Russian
 - Comparative Area Studies

WIN Donor Profile

of people contributing to the endowment

162

of dollars raised

\$745K

class decades represented

7

schools represented

8

10

of current and former Trustees

36

of current and former Duke Parents

15

Gifts from DAFs and Family Foundations

- Trinity - 72
- Fuqua - 10
- Graduate School - 8
- Pratt - 7
- Sanford - 7
- Medicine - 4
- Law - 3
- Nursing - 1



Duke