

**José Martí Foundation Scholarship Endowment
Honors College First Generation Scholars**

Lourdes Garcia

Major: Psychology



My name is Lourdes Garcia and I am a native of Hialeah, FL, entering my junior year at Florida International University. I am an Honors College and Dean's List student with a GPA of 3.97, majoring in Psychology. I hold the honor of being the VP of Public Relations and Recruitment of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars as well as a member of the Sigma Alpha Lambda National Leadership & Honors Organization and the International Honor Society in Psychology.

Due to my hard work and dedication towards my studies, I have had many academic achievements since entering college. I am a Betty G. Reader Scholar, a Hispanic Scholarship Fund Scholar, a Badia Spices Jose Marti Scholarship recipient, as well as a Florida Bright Future Scholar. I am currently working on psychological compliance research in my research methods class and maintain an energetic presence in the community. I enjoy actively volunteering in suicide prevention walks, Dan Marino Autism Walks, The Salvation Army Annual Toy Drive, Trick or Treating for UNICEF, organizing and taking part in the annual Relay For Life Cancer Fundraiser at FIU as well as feeding the homeless through canned food drives in partnership with Project Downtown.

When I am not focused on my academic endeavors, taking part in events through my different on campus honor organizations, or working part time as a wedding and gift registry advisor for Macy's, I enjoy tutoring children, cooking, practicing makeup artistry, dancing and reading. This scholarship will not only lessen the financial burden placed upon my family and due to the high costs of receiving a higher education, but it will enable me to focus on the actual learning aspect of

school. I will be able to work fewer hours and dedicate more time to my studies to remain a distinguished scholar amongst the other students at my university and graduate on time.

This scholarship allows me to continue to pursue my dreams of receiving a PhD in Industrial Organizational psychology in the near future. Thanks to this scholarship I am enabled to be a role model for my family and prove to them and the community that no matter what your financial circumstances is, what your ethnic background entails, you too can make your dreams come true through hard work and perseverance.

Pamela Lopez

Major: Political Science



My name is Pamela Lopez. I am currently a sophomore in the Honors College majoring in Political Science with a certificate in National Security studies. Once I graduate my major goal is to focus on the issues in the Middle Eastern region. My studies focus heavily on non-traditional security because I want to tackle social issues triggered by both internal and external conditions which are creating unstable life for the regular citizens in these countries.

The Jose Marti First Generation Scholarship program along with the Honors college have helped removed a great burden of financial responsibility which has allowed me to continue my studies full time, and it has allowed me to get involved, things we take for granted, like time, these programs have given me more of. I now have time to seek internships and devote myself to research. Overall I have been able to find more than just what I am apt to do, I have found my passion in foreign affairs and I can now have the confidence I need to contribute meaningfully towards the subject.

Once I have graduated with my Bachelors I hope to continue my studies but am actively looking into working for NGO's concerning social issues (such as health, education, and women's rights) in the Middle East through domestic development. Accompanied by policy research, the reason I want to be located within the region is to work with grassroots movements internally to affect policy

especially strategic policy that builds up relationships between the Middle East and the U.S. One project I have started along with fellow peers is the FIU chapter of Peace One Day: it started of as a small movement trying to recognize the need for a day not only to celebrate peace but actively contribute towards attaining it. One day of the year, which ever countries have recognized the organizations petition, will have one day of ceasefire.

In 2007, Afghanistan had its soldiers lay down their weapons and over 1 million children were relocated and medically treated by international actors without any casualties. The group I'm working with in FIU is working to raise awareness and funding for the future projects carried out by the U.N. (such as the aforementioned mass vaccinations) for the next ceasefire.

Jennifer Weitzel
Major: Marketing



I recently transferred to Florida International University this past spring after earning my Associate's in Arts Degree with honors from Palm Beach State College. I am new to the Honors College and my experience thus far has been more than rewarding. As my first Honors experience I decided to take Honors Research in Sweetwater where we will be working with the city and promoting Florida International University's goal of becoming a university city.

Also, I am eager to share that next summer thanks to the Honors College I will be studying abroad (for the first time) in Cambodia and Vietnam and making unforgettable memories. I am currently working towards a Bachelor's in Social Work and hope to achieve a Master's in Speech Pathology right here in panther country. When I am not studying or going to class, I am a tour guide at the Undergraduate Admissions office where you will find me giving tours to perspective panthers and their parents. Receiving this award has significantly eased my financial burden of studying abroad and current student expenses.

Gabriela Gomez
Major: Marketing



My name is Gabriela Gomez. I am currently a first year student at Florida International University, class of 2018. I graduated from Our Lady of Lourdes Academy with a 4.0 GPA; furthermore I was president of Future Business Leaders of America, as well as vice president of Business Honor Society. For the past four years, I have interned at Nordstrom retail store in addition to participating in various nonprofit organizations such as Liga Contra el Cancer.

I have received unique leadership training from the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Foundation. I had the privilege of traveling to the University of Salamanca, in Spain, where I took various Spanish courses that enhanced my Spanish communication skills as well as peaked my interest in International Business. With all my experiences combined, I am eager to embark on my new journey as a Marketing major at the Honors College of Florida International University. Receiving the José Martí Foundation Endowment Scholarship is an honor because it pays a tribute to my Cuban roots and it grants me the opportunity to honor my family as a first generation student.