

# ACHIEVEMENT CHRONICLES

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2024



Chloe Collier -Allen 2023, 2024 NWF Scholarship Recipient

## Top News

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## President's Message

The first quarter of 2024 has been incredibly promising for Nevada Women's Fund, marked by significant opportunities and substantial growth. This spring, we will award a record-breaking number of scholarships totaling \$500,000, a goal made possible by the unwavering support of our longstanding donors and new strategic initiatives. Our focus on aligning scholarships with workforce development in northern Nevada has not only garnered the backing of corporate partners, both big and small, but also fostered collaborative efforts that are paving the way for a robust, highly educated female workforce.

We have successfully concluded a comprehensive three-year strategic plan, underscoring the vital significance of our mission rooted in education. This plan set our goals for the coming years to extend our vision beyond the formative educational years of women, to support ongoing education, professional advancement and advocacy within the workplace. Our commitment extends beyond merely eliminating barriers to education; it encompasses championing the diverse needs and fostering abundant opportunities for women throughout their entire professional journeys.

Flip to page 3 to discover the remarkable new partnerships we've cultivated, amplifying our voice, broadening our impact, and fortifying our mission. We're thrilled to showcase our recent collaboration with TEDxReno, where we had the honor of sharing the stage with Alexandra Carter at an inaugural TEDxReno Salon to facilitate candid discussions on the workplace challenges faced by women. The enthusiastic response from a sold-out audience vividly demonstrates women's eagerness for these crucial conversations.

Additionally, we highlight a unique opportunity I recently had to tour Cortez Mine alongside our Corporate Partners, Nevada Mining Association, and Nevada Gold Mines, and announce our most recent venture into the podcast space!

On the back cover of this newsletter, we invite you to join us at the 32nd annual Salute to Women of Achievement luncheon, an iconic northern Nevada event not to be missed.

The future shines brightly for women in Nevada, and we take immense pride in empowering and celebrating achievement, advocating for change, and championing the ongoing efforts in our community.



*Empowering achievement through education & career advancement opportunities*

# Celebrating Alumnae Achievement



**Amanda Twitchell**  
**NWF Alumna 2005-2006**

Meet Amanda Twitchell, a proud Reno native and a shining example of the impact of Nevada Women's Fund scholarships. Amanda received scholarships in 2005 and 2006 and earned her Master's Degree in Architecture, setting the stage for an inspiring career journey.

Since joining the Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority (RTAA) in July 2013, Amanda has been leaving her mark on the airport's design landscape. As a Senior Project Manager and Architect, she's been instrumental in infusing our airport with the vibrant essence of our beautiful region.

In her role, Amanda wears many hats. She oversees a talented team of Architecture and Engineering Consultants, works closely with contractors and construction crews, and coordinates seamlessly with operations teams, airlines, tenants, and security. Her recent project, the Ticketing Hall Expansion, is a testament to her vision and leadership. Looking ahead, Amanda is poised to take on new challenges, including the development of the airport's new concourses. She is also nominated as a 2024 Woman of Achievement — congratulations, Amanda!

Meet Melissa Aarskaug, a trailblazing global executive and business leader driving innovation in the technology and cybersecurity industry. Melissa received Nevada Women's Fund Scholarships in 2003 and 2004, setting the stage for her remarkable career trajectory. With over 15 years of experience, Melissa excels in strategy and team leadership, partnering with Fortune 500 companies and enterprise clients to safeguard their organizations from risk and noncompliance while fueling growth.

As a key member of the senior executive team at Gaming Laboratories International, Melissa has played a pivotal role in solidifying GLI's position as the premier provider of testing, certification, and cybersecurity services in the global gaming and lottery industries. Her strategic vision and leadership have led to significant market expansion, influencing the bottom line and positioning GLI as an industry leader.

Beyond her professional achievements, Melissa is deeply committed to mentorship and personal development, actively mentoring team members at GLI and serving as an executive leader and coach for organizations such as Global Gaming Women and Emerging Leaders in Gaming. Recognized as one of the "Emerging Leaders in Gaming: 40 Under 40," Melissa continues to inspire individuals and organizations to embrace innovation, cybersecurity, and effective leadership, making her a valuable asset to both GLI and the broader technology and cybersecurity community.



**Melissa Aarskaug**  
**NWF Alumna 2003-2004**

Coral Taylor received Nevada Women's Fund scholarships in 2001 and 2002. She is a dedicated Senior Engineer at Carollo Engineers, where she applies her expertise in environmental engineering to tackle complex challenges with a focus on sustainability. With a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Engineering from the University of Nevada, Reno, and a Master's degree in the same field, Coral brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her role. Her academic achievements, including a Magna cum laude designation and participation in esteemed societies such as the Society of Women Engineers and the American Society of Civil Engineers, reflect her commitment to excellence in her field.

In addition to her professional endeavors, Coral is deeply passionate about promoting health, wellness, and environmental consciousness. Her involvement as a Yoga Instructor at various wellness centers and her role as a Mountain Bike Guide demonstrate her dedication to fostering physical and mental well-being within her community. Furthermore, Coral's volunteer work as a Mountain Bike Coach with the National Interscholastic Cycling Association and her position as a Board Member for the Susan E. Stutz-McDonald Scholarship Foundation underscore her commitment to empowering youth and supporting educational opportunities.

With her diverse skill set, Coral Taylor exemplifies a blend of technical expertise, environmental advocacy, and community engagement, making her a valued leader in both professional and philanthropic realms.



**Coral Taylor**  
**NWF Alumna 2001-2002**

# 2024 Scholarship Awards Announced

We are thrilled to announce that in 2024, Nevada Women's Fund (NWF) has awarded a record \$500,000 in scholarships to 135 deserving women. This significant investment reflects our unwavering commitment to supporting the educational aspirations and future success of women across our state.

NWF scholarships represent more than just financial support; they signify a belief in the potential of each recipient to make a meaningful impact in their chosen fields and beyond. By investing in their education, we are not only empowering these women to pursue their dreams but also fostering a brighter future for our entire community. We recognize that access to education is a powerful tool for social and economic mobility, and we are proud to play a role in breaking down barriers and creating opportunities for women from diverse backgrounds.

The selection process was rigorous, with each applicant thoroughly evaluated based on academic merit, personal achievements, and financial need. The 135 recipients represent a diverse array of backgrounds, interests, and career goals, reflecting the rich tapestry of talent and ambition within our state. From aspiring engineers and educators to future healthcare professionals and entrepreneurs, these women are poised to make a difference in their respective fields and contribute to the continued growth and prosperity of Nevada.

As we celebrate the accomplishments of these scholarship recipients, we also extend our gratitude to our donors, sponsors, and supporters who have made these scholarships possible. Your generosity and commitment to advancing women's education are truly making a difference in the lives of countless individuals and shaping a more inclusive and equitable future for all. Congratulations to all the scholarship recipients, and may your educational journey be filled with endless possibilities and achievements.



**Johana Ramirez Godinez**  
NWF Scholarship recipient  
2021, 2023, 2024

## New Partnerships & Exciting Opportunities

Nevada Women's Fund collaborated with TEDxReno to present a special event featuring Alexandra Carter, renowned Columbia Law Professor, bestselling author of "Ask for More," and professional negotiation coach. This unique gathering provided women with invaluable insights on mastering the art of negotiation. Alexandra addressed a captivated audience, and her compelling talk was followed by a panel discussion featuring voices representing various women's experiences. In addition to Nevada Women's Fund, distinguished panelists included Jennifer Rogers Markwell, Owner of Platinum Wealth Management, and Karen Rudd from the Girl Scouts of Northern Nevada, moderated by TEDxReno licensee holder, Kaya Stanley. Additionally, the event was livestreamed to Great Basin College in Elko, Nevada, and hosted by Greater Nevada Credit Union's Valerie Hahn.



**TEDxReno Salon "Ask for More"**



**Women in Mining Tour of Cortez Mine**

In 2023, Nevada Women's Fund launched a significant initiative to expand our reach in rural communities statewide. Through focused efforts, we've forged partnerships with key stakeholders across sectors like mining, education, banking, environment, and public service, spanning multiple counties. These collaborations aim to raise awareness and create opportunities for women in these regions, laying the groundwork for empowerment and progress.

In 2024, the NWF allocated \$57,508 to support 36 women from rural Nevada, constituting 27% of our recipients and 32% of our overall scholarship funding. This investment reflects our commitment to equitable opportunities and the tangible impact of our rural outreach efforts. We're dedicated to fostering inclusive pathways for all women statewide, enriching our journey toward gender equality and prosperity.

Thanks to the talent and dedication of Nevada Women's Fund's Marketing Committee, we're thrilled to announce our co-hosting of six inspiring podcasts. Produced by NWF Community members Khaliliah Cage and Shivani Peterson, the first two episodes of this series will debut in May.

Episode titles are: "Celebrating Female Philanthropy" featuring Nancy Remington from the Giving Circle and Patti Pietsch Weiske, Founder of Dress for Success Reno - Northern Nevada, and "Celebrating Achievement" showcasing NWF Scholarship Alumnae Stacy Kendall and our current recipient and student, Chloe Collier-Allen.

Join us as we dive into inspiring stories, meaningful conversations, and critical issues that highlight the limitless potential of women as drivers of positive change. The podcast can be found on our website: [nevadawomensfund.org/news](http://nevadawomensfund.org/news)



**"The Future is Bright" Podcast**

# Join us for Salute to Women of Achievement



Punam Mathur  
Keynote Speaker



Marybel Batjer  
Hall of Fame Inductee



770 Smithridge Drive - Suite 300  
Reno, NV 89502  
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The Nevada Women's Fund is a Nevada corporation and IRS designated 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization formed to strengthen its community through education scholarship and community grant making. Your generous donation may be tax deductible.

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Spring 2024