



Lina Vergara Memorial Scholarship

“Don’t let the world change your smile; let your smile change the world” – Lina Vergara

This scholarship was established in 2012 in memory of Lina Vergara. Lina was born on Dec. 9, 1991, in Bogota, Colombia, the daughter of Alejandro and Margarita Vergara. She graduated from Middleton High School in 2010 and was pursuing a teaching degree from UW Oshkosh when an unexpected accident while rafting on a Wisconsin river took her life on Saturday, July 7, 2012. With an unbelievable rapport with children, life and nature, Lina wanted to be a third grade teacher. She was so full of life, demonstrating to everyone how to love and care for one another. Her smile would light up a room. Just seeing it would make anyone who was feeling bad smile and the day would suddenly be great. Lina touched the hearts of so many people. Her warm and caring heart never saw color, race, sex or economic status in anyone; they were all equal in this world that she made so special.

This scholarship was created to help other students who share Lina's desire to teach and her willingness to help others, especially those at UW Oshkosh, newly adapting to campus life or struggling emotionally with the challenges that students face in college.

Criteria:

1. Applicants must be enrolled as full-time elementary education students in good academic standing at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh.
2. Applicants must be accepted as candidates into the Professional Education Program in the College of Education and Human Services at the time of application.
3. Applicants must have a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.0.
4. Applicants must demonstrate involvement in extracurricular, service or volunteer programs as a high school or college student. Preference will be given to students working as CAs and/or volunteering in programs involving kids such as “Big Brothers Big Sisters” or “Best Buddies.”
5. Preference will be given to applicants who are known for going above and beyond in welcoming new or shy students and making them feel comfortable in the high school or college environment (as confirmed in a letter of reference submitted by the applicant).
6. Applicants must have at least one semester of enrollment remaining, following the semester of application.

Selection:

1. Applications are available from the Curriculum and Instruction Department in the College of Education and Human Services.
2. Selection will be made by a committee composed of representatives from the Curriculum and Instruction Department in the College of Education and Human Services.
3. In the event the conditions in the future shall render impractical or impossible to fulfill the purposes for which this scholarship has been established, the President of the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Foundation in consultation with the Dean of the College of Education and Human Services shall award the scholarship to worthy applicants who most closely fit the above established criteria.

The Award:

1. The scholarship award shall be credited to the recipient's next tuition obligation incurred at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh.
2. The value and/or number of scholarship awards will be determined annually by the selection committee with the UW Oshkosh Foundation and will be based upon income available for this purpose.
3. The Foundation Board of Directors will distribute income annually, in such proportions as they deem appropriate, in accordance with established Foundation policies. The principal of the fund will be conserved perpetually.

Accepted on behalf of the donors:

Accepted on behalf of the University
of Wisconsin Oshkosh Foundation:

Alejandro Vergara

Arthur H. Rathjen, President

Margarita Vergara

Date

Date