



## Scholarships Help Build Character

“Scholarships are important in that, [they help] college students learn how to be financially stable,” said Lena Salameh, a senior chemistry major with a pre-med emphasis. “As students, we praise scholarships for covering some costs of tuition and fees, living expenses and personal expenses. ‘Adulting’ is rough, but with scholarships, they help build one’s character and stability for the future.”

The Huntington, West Virginia, native commutes to school, and was initially reluctant to consider attending Marshall.

“Throughout my education, I came to Marshall for fun field trips and lectures. When it came to my senior year of high school, Marshall was not my first choice,” she said. Crediting her older siblings, who are now alumni, and their exciting stories for persuading her to stay close to home, she now loves Marshall because of the family-like atmosphere. Being a recipient of the PROMISE and Honors College scholarships also swayed her mind.

Lena enjoys the connection students and professors have due to the smaller class sizes. Her research advisor, Dr. Ramona Quinones-Fernandez, assistant professor of chemistry, is likely her favorite because of the dependable connection she creates with students. Lena says her favorite part of her program is learning about research and labs conducted to further science.

“I am excited to start taking what I have been taught in my classes and begin doing research for my capstone,” she said.

In addition to classes, Lena stays busy with extracurricular activities. She is a member of the Student Government Association, where she serves as the secretary of Diversity and Inclusion. She is also a member of the Muslim Students Association and the American Red Cross Club. Her hope for Marshall is that it will become more diverse and increase demographically.

“Although we have our INTO Program and students from all around the world, I would love to see a large variety of students,” said Lena. “I could definitely see Marshall as one of the top 100 diverse campuses in the United States.”

To help Marshall increase its diversity, Lena believes alumni should give back by providing honest advice to students in regards to what to expect as a student.

“Learning the struggles and advancements alumni have gone through helps students understand that everyone goes through struggles in college and that they are not alone.”

## Fun Facts

Class of 2018

Major: Chemistry with a pre-med emphasis

Hometown: Huntington, West Virginia

Textbooks or eBooks: Textbooks

Favorite color: The dark blue-gray color that the sky turns before a thunderstorm

Favorite Place on Campus: The studying zone on third floor in Drinko Library. It’s the best place to study and where I can be relaxed and not too stressed out about school.

Favorite Place off Campus: Ritter Park

Favorite thing about Huntington: Huntington is my home and I do not see that changing.