



BOLD Welcomes the 2028 Scholar Cohort!



2027 & 2028 BOLD Scholar Cohort attend the 2026 Women of Marshall Awards

We are excited to welcome the Class of 2028!

From short video submissions to formal interview responses, each Scholar has demonstrated a deep commitment to leadership and community impact. We celebrate with them as they prepare for full program participation in the August.

Women of Marshall Awards

The 2026 Women of Marshall Awards celebrate outstanding achievements while marking the 50th anniversary of the Women's Center.

This special event honors the legacy of empowerment and recognized BOLD scholars for their accomplishments, bringing the community together to inspire future leadership.

Scholar

SPOTLIGHT



Emmalee Holt
Civil Engineering
Class of 2027

Emmalee has been a driving force behind

the *InnovateHER STEM Camp for Girls*, the solution to a problem many young girls face in rural communities -- feeling isolated in their desire to pursue STEM careers. When asked why they chose STEM, Emmalee said: "This work matters deeply to me. As a woman in civil engineering, I have felt the ... isolation that comes from being one of very few women in the room."

What will campers learn? "Instead of expecting campers to perform complex technical analyses, I built tools and structure that allow them to focus on professional decision-making, collaboration, and real-world problem-solving. Some activities grew out of my own coursework ... and others required new research, but my goal was always the same: to create hands-on challenges that any student, regardless of background, could step into with confidence."

What are you most proud of? "My biggest impact on the project was stepping in to complete the curriculum, budget, and final proposal, and offering the perspective of a woman from eastern Kentucky who grew up without many STEM opportunities. Helping build a program my younger self would have been excited to attend is something I am incredibly proud of."

Mocktails Network Meeting

A recent BOLD Women's Leadership Network gathering brought together Scholars, mentors, and representatives from the Marshall University Foundation for a hands-on workshop in cocktail-hour etiquette. Participants practiced professional mingling skills, conversational confidence, and networking strategies in a supportive environment designed to prepare Scholars for future leadership events and formal receptions. The session strengthened inter-cohort connections while giving Scholars a chance to renew the social competencies essential to their academic and professional growth.



MENTOR SPOTLIGHT

How would you describe the BOLD mentorship experience? I think being a mentor is just as

impactful for the mentor as it is for the mentee. The BOLD scholars are incredible, energetic, and passionate about learning. They have encouraged me to pursue my own dreams and goals, so much so that I enrolled in a master's degree program.

What moment made you feel especially proud or inspired?

Emmalee is not my mentee, but watching her growth from the first time she presented on Sue Bird to her final presentation on Sue Bird was incredible. She accepted the feedback she was given and incorporated it flawlessly. It was so impressive to watch her come into her confidence and execute an informative, engaging presentation on a topic she's passionate about.

What advice would you give to future mentors? For future mentors, I would advise them to be vulnerable. The Scholars need to see that mentors aren't perfect and career trajectory isn't always linear. I think sharing issues and struggles with the Scholars is important because it shows them resiliency and how challenges come with achievement.



Kasey Stevens
Marketing Strategist
Ast. Director of Communications
BOLD Advisory Board Member

Trauma Informed Yoga

Scholars gathered for an initial welcoming event, offering an opportunity for both cohorts to connect over shared experience.

