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AURORA PUBLIC SCHOOLS STUDENTS NAMED CSU GLOBAL GOLDEN EAGLE SCHOLARS

Colorado State University Global awards four APS students with scholarships that cover four years of tuition and books at the nation's first fully online, state university

Aurora, Colo. (August 13, 2021) – Four Aurora Public Schools (APS) graduates have recently been named Golden Eagle Scholars and will receive four-year scholarships to attend Colorado State University Global (CSU Global), the first 100% online, fully accredited, state university. These students will be honored by APS, CSU Global, friends and family during a [virtual reception on Tuesday, Aug. 17, at 12 p.m. MT](#).

The 2021 Golden Eagle Scholars, as well as their intended programs of study, are:

- Mariyo Hassan, Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Administration and Management
- Kymani Kelly, Bachelor of Science in Business Management
- Mia Payan, Bachelor of Science in Marketing
- Synthia Gutierrez, Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Administration and Management

These deserving students were awarded the scholarship based on academic merit, demonstration of financial need, community engagement and work experience plus a statement of goals. Each Golden Eagle Scholar will receive a minimum \$7,500 annual award each year for four years, which, coupled with a generous tuition discount issued by CSU Global [to all APS students](#), will cover costs of tuition and books as they complete their degrees.

Golden Eagle Scholar Mariyo Hassan, like many of her peers, credited APS counseling staff with encouraging her to apply for the scholarship. Hassan challenged herself academically by taking International Baccalaureate (IB) classes during her junior and senior years of high school. “The IB classes challenged me and helped me get my grades up,” said Hassan. “This scholarship means a lot to me because I don’t have to worry about finances, and sadly that’s a big part of going to college. A lot of people my age are constantly concerned with affording college. I’m lucky enough to have this scholarship to earn a bachelor’s degree for free.”

Golden Eagle Scholar Kymani Kelly explained, “Getting this scholarship is motivating me to make things better for my family.” Kelly also credited her APS counselor with encouraging her to apply for the scholarship despite Kelly being initially nervous about doing so.

Golden Eagle Scholar Mia Payan’s late father had encouraged her to attend college, so this opportunity is especially meaningful. “[The] last thing he told me was about me going to college. I had been thinking



about how I would pay for it, and my dad said I could get a scholarship. This scholarship means a lot because I have a full-ride and I now don't have to worry about money."

Golden Eagle Scholar Sinthia Gutierrez explained that she previously didn't anticipate being able to attend college, but became excited about the prospect when she learned about the Golden Eagle Scholarship. "The scholarship...is just an amazing opportunity to keep going to school, to keep motivating myself, to work hard and become someone for my little [one]."

"The Golden Eagle Scholarship allows us, together with Aurora Public Schools, to empower the next generation of leaders in our community. I am incredibly proud of these students and look forward to welcoming them to CSU Global's online classrooms. I hope they make the most out of the experience, pursue their passions, and never stop learning," said CSU Global President Pamela Toney, MS, MBA.

Susan Smith, MS, is a Senior Enrollment Counselor at CSU Global who has been preparing the Golden Eagle Scholars to begin classes this fall. "Working with these APS graduates brings a different meaning to my job at CSU Global. I'm able to guide traditional students through the admissions and registration process with a scholarship that will allow them to graduate with a bachelor's degree debt-free," said Smith. "The students who have earned this scholarship may not have been able to attend college otherwise for financial or logistical reasons, so helping these students prepare for classes brings me great joy. These students inspire me! Their future is bright – and even more so with the ability to study entirely online through a public school, without financial worries."

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About Colorado State University Global

Colorado State University Global (CSU Global) offers career-relevant bachelor's and master's degree programs for working adults and nontraditional learners. As the first and only 100% online, fully accredited public university in the United States, CSU Global is focused on student success as its number one priority. Embracing the land grant heritage as part of the Colorado State University System, CSU Global sets the standard for quality and innovation in higher education through its expert faculty who are recognized as industry leaders and trained in working with adults in an online learning environment. CSU Global offers accelerated eight-week courses that start every four weeks. Visit [CSUGlobal.edu](https://www.csuglobal.edu) to learn more.

About Aurora Public Schools

[Aurora Public Schools](https://www.auroraschools.org) is the fifth-largest school district in Colorado. APS serves approximately 38,000 students and includes over 60 schools. It is one of the most diverse districts in the state with students from more than 130 countries who speak over 160 languages. Over the past several years, APS has made noteworthy improvements in graduation rates, dropout rates, and overall student growth and achievement. In fact, since 2013, APS graduation rates have increased by 27%. During that same period of time, its dropout rate has sharply declined from 4.8% to 1.9%. [APS 2020](https://www.auroraschools.org/aps2020) is the district's strategic plan, which includes three strategic goals: 1) Every APS student will have a plan for his or her future, 2) Every student will have a set of skills to implement his or her plan, and 3) Every student will have credentials that open doors. It is the district's vision that every student shapes a successful future.