

WOMEN MAKING AN IMPACT



WOMEN AND
PHILANTHROPY

UCONN





Anabelle Bergstrom '25 (CLAS), left
and Isabella Helgeson '24 (CLAS), right
BOLD SCHOLARS

\$24.6M

TOTAL DOLLARS

raised since Women and
Philanthropy started in
FY2016

WELCOME

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO SHARE A YEARLY UPDATE on the collective power of women at UConn. As we look to the future of the Women and Philanthropy network, we pause to reflect upon the power of a community that has stepped forward to support UConn through mentorship, leadership development, and scholarship and raised a collective \$14.5 million in direct support of women since 2016, as well as an additional \$10.3 million through the 100 Women Initiative since 2021.

Thank you for your generous support and passion in helping the next generation of UConn women succeed. You are among a community of individuals amplifying the power of women's philanthropy and serving as inspirational leaders committed to UConn's future.

With gratitude,

Elyssa Kelly

ELYSSA KELLY '11 (CLAS)

**DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
WOMEN AND FAMILY PHILANTHROPY**



BEING BOLD



EMILY SCHWAB

DIRECTOR, BOLD WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP NETWORK AT UCONN

IN MY TIME AS THE NEW DIRECTOR OF THE BOLD WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP NETWORK at UConn, I have been inspired by the amazing work of our scholars. As a part of BOLD, scholars are provided scholarship, mentorship, and peer support to enable them to develop their capacity as women leaders.

A key feature of our program is the financial support we provide for scholars to complete a leadership project between their junior and senior years. Each scholar designs her unique leadership project to allow her to explore a personal interest while also making a social impact. Last summer, scholars worked on far-ranging projects, from making a documentary on young women's reproductive health in Guatemala to creating a program to increase access to Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) education for young children in Connecticut. Each project has opened doors to their futures beyond UConn and illuminated new paths their lives might take.

Having had the privilege of working with these amazing young women has been a gift. I'm excited to see the program continue and grow over the next year.

Isabella Helgeson '24 (CLAS)
BOLD SCHOLAR





188

**SCHOLARSHIP
RECIPIENTS**
from 2016-2023

2,552

DONORS

since Women and Philanthropy
launched in 2016

FOR UCONN'S PRESIDENT, GIVING IS PERSONAL



**“IT IS OUR
RESPONSIBILITY AS
SUCCESSFUL WOMEN TO
STAND AT THE DOOR AND
LET OTHER WOMEN IN.”**

WHEN UCONN PRESIDENT RADENKA MARIC, PH.D., faced an obstacle in graduate school that threatened to derail her education, it was her mentor who helped her overcome that challenge.

“I was blessed that I had a great mentor when I was a student in Japan,” says Maric. “Now it’s my turn to offer support.”

Maric, who became UConn’s 17th president in September 2022, says her own experience inspired her to establish several funds in her name, including ones that support graduate programs, fellowships, and graduate scholarships. Maric, an acclaimed innovator in clean energy technology, previously served as the University’s vice president for research, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

She is part of the 100 Women initiative, a UConn Women and Philanthropy program that celebrates female philanthropists who support an area of the University with gifts of greater than \$100,000. She is also a past member of the Women’s Leadership Council, whose mission is to amplify and leverage the power of UConn women and allies to support UConn’s strategic initiatives, with a focus on supporting its women.

“It is our responsibility as successful women to stand at the door and let other women in,” Maric says.



Foluke Akinkunmi '25 (CLAS)
BOLD SCHOLAR



24

GIFTS

given by women
for the 100 Women
Initiative

\$10.3M

TOTAL DOLLARS

raised through the
100 Women Initiative
FY2021-2023



MARIAM VARGAS '25 (CLAS)

BOLD WOMEN'S SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

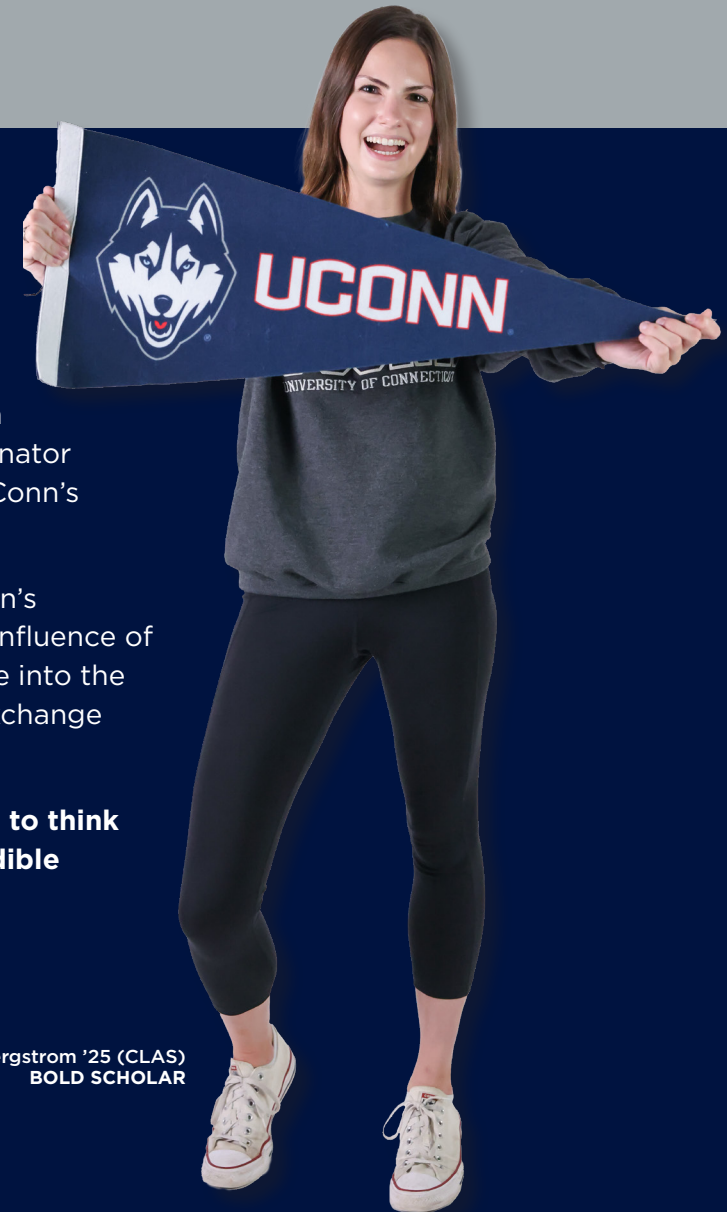
BOLD WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Mariam Vargas '25 (CLAS), a junior majoring in political science, is well on her way to fulfilling her dream of becoming a diplomat. She spent the summer in Washington, D.C., learning from diplomats, foreign service officers, and other leading foreign affairs professionals as a Charles B. Rangel scholar. Born in Boston and raised in the Dominican Republic, she is a community affairs advocacy coordinator and a senator representing the Puerto Rican/Latin American Cultural Center in UConn's Undergraduate Student Government.

She is grateful to be selected as a scholar for the highly competitive BOLD Women's Leadership Network Program. She plans to do her BOLD research project on the influence of poverty driving child marriage in the Dominican Republic. The project would delve into the illegal practice of families marrying off their teenage daughters to older men in exchange for resources.

"The BOLD program took a weight off my shoulders," says Vargas. "I don't have to think about taking out more loans. I think it's just great that they let me do this incredible project in something I truly care about. I'm just truly, truly thankful."

-Mariam Vargas '25 (CLAS)



Anabelle Bergstrom '25 (CLAS)
BOLD SCHOLAR



WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY IS ON THE RISE AT UCONN



WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

2023 WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEMBERS

Co-Chairs

Anne M. Harrington '89 (NUR)

Libby R. Saylor Wright '94 MS

Sandra Heath '04 (BUS)

Nancy L. Kotchko '72 (CLAS)

Laura F. Lucarz '04 (BUS)

Anne McAloon '74 (CLAS) '80 MBA

Socheth McCutcheon '06 JD

Treacy Riiska '89 (BUS)

Elizabeth A. Zezima '78 (CLAS)

Founding Co-Chairs:

Melinda Brown '77 (BUS), '85 MBA

Marilda Gándara '78 JD



SOCHETH MCCUTCHEON '06 JD

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

SOCHETH MCCUTCHEON WAS JUST 3 YEARS OLD WHEN SHE CAME to the U.S. after her parents survived the brutal Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia. Like many immigrants, she grew up straddling two cultures, learning the hard way how to reconcile her sometimes conflicting identities.

Despite challenges, she successfully navigated school, and later, Brown University and UConn School of Law. She is now associate general counsel of Verizon. Because she has never forgotten what it feels like to be an outsider, she is devoted to mentoring other first-generation women, including many UConn law students.

"I am first-generation everything. The first to finish high school in the US, the first to go to college and law school, and the first to be a lawyer," she explains. "I didn't have anyone in my family I could talk to about resumes or interviews or networking. So, for me, it's important to share what I've learned and share my network with them."

Naturally, she is excited to serve on the Women's Leadership Council, where she can help support women students and amplify their voices.

"I'm grateful that the UConn Foundation has given me this opportunity to represent first-generation women. Women and Philanthropy gives women access to funds and tools that empower, enable, and elevate them. It gives students a voice, carves out a space for them that didn't exist before, and gives them a sense of belonging. I'm so impressed and inspired by what each of them has achieved with the foundation's support."



UConn
FOUNDATION

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**WOMEN AND
PHILANTHROPY**

UConn