

Union Plus awards college scholarships to children of NALC members

Union Plus has awarded scholarships to three children of NALC members.

Esther Lee of Brooklyn, NY, received a \$1,000 scholarship. Lee's father,



Esther Lee

Kent Lee, is a member of Brooklyn, NY Branch 41.

Lee plans to begin college this fall as a pharmacy major, having discovered a passion for the pharmacy profession through volunteering. She was a member of her high school's

Medical Science Institute and has prepared for college by taking Advanced Placement (AP) classes and college-credit courses through the Brooklyn College's CollegeNow Program.

In addition to her father's NALC membership, Lee's mother is a member of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). Lee said that unions have had a significant impact on her family. "Their dedication to providing the vital services that have helped my family and countless others is what has helped communities such as mine thrive," she said. "Many of the opportunities that we've had are notably due to union aid. Because of this, my family's future is secure financially, socially, and emotionally."

Leryn Quintana of Saint Martinville, LA, was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. Quintana's father, **Eric**



Leryn Quintana

Quintana, is a New Iberia, LA Branch 988 member.

Quintana will attend the University of Louisiana at Lafayette as a communicative disorders major. She aspires to become a speech pathologist. Eventually, she would like to open a clinic for young children with learning disabilities. Quintana graduated at the top of her high school class after taking all honors core classes and completing six dual-credit college courses, including math, medical terminology, English and history.

Quintana remembers attending union-sponsored food drives with her father as a child and has seen how the union has supported her father through scheduling negotiations, pay raises and job security. "Balancing the demands of work and family is a challenge for most working Americans, and unions help them achieve that balance," she said. "NALC gives my family the peace of mind we need at all times."

Abigail Randan of Proctorville, OH, won a scholarship for \$1,000. Randan's father, **James Randan**,

is a member of Huntington, WV Branch 359.

Randan plans to major in neuroscience when she starts college this fall, and wants to be a pediatric neurologist. She graduated at the top of her high school class after completing eight AP courses.

Randan was on the planning committee for Dance Green, a high school group that raises money for the Hoops Family Children's Hospital and



that is the largest nonprofit operated by minors in West Virginia.

In addition to her father's NALC membership, her mother is a member of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT). During the 2018 West Virginia teachers strike, Randan joined her mother and other AFT members for a march at the state capitol. "I witnessed the true power of unions and what they can accomplish," she said. "Unions connect workers and prove there is strength in numbers. Watching my dad protect jobs and marching with my mom for teacher wages taught me that there is immeasurable power in unity."

Union Plus is a program founded by the AFL-CIO to provide benefit programs to union members (current and retired) and their families.

Since 1992, Union Plus Scholarship awards have been presented annually to union members or members

of their families who want to begin or continue their post-secondary education. This year, Union Plus awarded \$300,000 in scholarships to 215 students representing 43 unions. Go to unionplus.org/scholarship for applications and benefit eligibility.

In addition to the scholarship program, Union Plus provides a range of money-saving programs and services for union members and families. Go to nalc.org/member-benefits/benefits-for-members/union-plus for details. **PR**



Abigail Randan