

Lorraine H. Morton Young Woman of Promise Education Award



Salma Martinez-Tamayo

The Lorraine H. Morton Young Woman of Promise Education Award is a cash award presented each year to a college-bound young woman with great academic potential yet faced with limited financial resources. YWCA-ENS works with Evanston Scholars to identify candidates with leadership qualities such as: a desire to have a positive impact on the world; community engagement/activism; and curiosity and a desire for learning.

We are pleased to announce that **Salma Martinez-Tamayo**, who graduated from Evanston Township High School (ETHS) in 2018, is this year's recipient of our YWCA Evanston/North Shore Education Award. Salma is currently in her first year of studies at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo.

Salma believes that women's empowerment is rooted in having the power to dream big and achieve goals that once seemed impossible. This type of courage and tenacity was modeled by her mother, who, as a teenager, left her small town in Mexico and came to the U.S. alone.

"Her stories are a reminder of her strength and the strength that she's passed down to me," said Salma.

Salma was a passionate, dedicated student at ETHS. She also looked for ways to give back, including spearheading a fundraiser for scholarships for DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) students.

The depth of her strength was further revealed after she survived being kidnapped by a former boyfriend. Because of this traumatic experience, she suffered from PTSD. She received counseling at YWCA Evanston/North Shore after being referred here by local law enforcement.

Today, Salma, who is the first in her family to attend college, is studying criminal justice and hopes to become a lawyer. "What I went through helped lead me to this decision. It helped me discover what I want to do with my life," she said. "It also showed me that, like my mom, I can do whatever I want to do. I feel empowered."

Congratulations, Salma!

You exemplify everything this award is about and we know you will soar.

YWCA Evanston/North Shore

YWCA is on a mission

YWCA Evanston/North Shore seeks to eliminate racism, empower women, stand up for social justice, help families, and strengthen communities.

We are a social justice organization working in the areas of:

- racial justice and civil rights
- women's empowerment and economic advancement
- health and safety of women and girls

We do this through:

- direct service
- education, training, and outreach
- advocacy

For more information about how you can make a difference, call us at 847-864-8445 or visit our website:

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