



Michelle Vasquez

2018 Scholarship Recipient

Michelle's advice for scholars: “Be open-minded, because our paths are never linear and that is the best part about it. When we gain experiences outside of our path it makes us a better person.”



In 2018, Michelle Vasquez was awarded the David M. Rubenstein Scholarship which provided her the opportunity to attend Trinity University debt-free. Michelle, a native Washingtonian who grew up in the Shaw neighborhood of Washington, D.C., is the daughter of two Guatemalan immigrants. From a young age, she witnessed her parents and family members experiencing discrimination for being Hispanic. Seeing this discrimination ignited a passion within her to pursue a career in which she could make a positive impact on the communities around her. As a child, Michelle aspired to be an architect and member of the Army, but as her world expanded during college, she discovered a new dream: to attend law school and work in public policy. Michelle believes that “government can be the tool that she uses to impact and mitigate discrimination that a lot of Hispanic communities face.”

Michelle attended Duke Ellington School of the Arts High School in Washington, D.C. where she studied classical piano. It was at this school that she learned about the David M. Rubenstein scholarship from a counselor and was elated to learn that she was one of only two students from her school to be awarded the \$20,000 scholarship. This financial support that the Economic Club provided was integral to Michelle's completion of college given that her parents were unable to assist in financing her higher education. As a first-generation college student at Trinity Washington University, Michelle excelled academically by achieving Dean's List honors every semester, as well as earning induction into Pi Sigma Alpha and Phi Beta Kappa honor societies. She served as the Student Government President and earned a degree in Political Science with a double minor in Business Administration and Data Analytics. At graduation, she was extended the invitation to be the first student commencement speaker in the history of Trinity Washington University, where she exhorted her fellow graduates to use their strengths to do good in the world and give back to others.

In addition to making Michelle's college dreams come true, the scholarship provided her with invaluable professional development experiences outside of the classroom. In the summers of 2020 and 2021, she completed two different internships at Accenture. She worked with Economic Club member Marty Rodgers and formed a bond with several of his team members

who provided Michelle with invaluable mentoring advice. Upon graduation from college in the spring of 2022, Michelle accepted a full-time position with Accenture as a Consulting Development Analyst. Little did Michelle know that when she accepted the scholarship back in 2018, the connections that she would make and the experiences that she would have in the four years to come would accelerate her interest in a job with a Fortune 500 company.

Michelle continues to work towards her dream of attending law school. She eventually intends to use her law degree to influence policymaking. In the future, Michelle's plans include running for office in D.C. to influence policy in the city. While there are many issues that Michelle is passionate about addressing after entering government, some that stand out to her are alleviating gun violence and supporting immigrant populations in D.C.