

Awardees & Finalists Announced for 2026 SCC Madam C.J. Walker Scholarship

New York, NY — The Society of Cosmetic Chemists (SCC) is pleased to announce the 2026 Awardees and Finalists for the SCC Madam C.J. Walker Scholarship, generously sponsored by [Mary Kay](#).

The Scholarship Selection Committee has chosen the following awardees, each receiving a \$5,000 scholarship:



Lauren Forney
Spelman College
Undergraduate student
Health Science



Alyssa Smith
University of Toledo
Graduate student
Cosmetic Science

The finalists recognized by the Committee this year for their outstanding achievements are:



Alexandra Dixon
Spelman College
Undergraduate student
Chemistry & Cosmetic Science



Sharae Gipson
University of Cincinnati
Graduate student
Pharmaceutical & Cosmetic Science

Awardees and finalists also receive a financial support package to attend the [SCC's 80th Annual Scientific Meeting & Showcase](#) in Los Angeles (Dec. 1-2, 2026), where they will be recognized on-stage during the Annual Awards Breakfast and have the opportunity to present their research during the conference via poster in the Showcase.

"Madam C.J. Walker's entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to creating opportunities continue to inspire us today. At Mary Kay, we believe scientific innovation is strengthened by diverse perspectives, bold ideas, and access to opportunity," said **Dr. Lucy Gildea, Chief Brand and Scientific Officer, Mary Kay**. "Through this scholarship, we are proud to support emerging scientists as they pursue careers that will advance cosmetic science and create meaningful innovations for consumers around the world."

About the Scholarship

Established in 2021, the Madam C.J. Walker Scholarship, sponsored by [Mary Kay](#), awards two (2) \$5,000 scholarships supporting under-represented individuals pursuing an undergraduate, graduate or post-graduate degree in chemical, physical, medical, pharmaceutical, biological, or related sciences and technology with an interest in pursuing a career in the cosmetics and personal care industry. Visit <https://www.scconline.org/About/Awards/Madam-CJ-Walker-Scholarship> for more information.

About SCC

Founded in 1945, the SCC is the oldest and largest non-profit membership organization serving the cosmetics and personal care industry. Dedicated to the advancement of cosmetic science for more than 80 years, SCC provides unparalleled education, technical resources, and networking for more than 5,000 members globally and via its 19 chapters across Greater North America. Visit www.scconline.org for more information.

About Mary Kay Inc.

One of the original glass ceiling breakers, Mary Kay Ash founded her dream beauty brand in Texas in 1963 with one goal: to enrich women's lives. That dream has blossomed into a global company with millions of independent sales force members in more than 45 markets. For over 60 years, the Mary Kay opportunity has empowered women to define their own futures through

education, mentorship, advocacy, and innovation. Mary Kay is dedicated to investing in the science behind beauty and manufacturing cutting-edge skincare, color cosmetics, nutritional supplements, and fragrances. Mary Kay believes in preserving our planet for future generations, protecting women impacted by cancer and domestic abuse, and encouraging youth to follow their dreams. Learn more at marykayglobal.com, find us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#), or follow us on [X](#).