

# STUDENTS

who have an aptitude for or are currently studying a

# STEM FIELD

This resource is for female students who are interested in pursuing a degree in a STEM field. **It includes information on scholarships, grants, and fellowships for women in STEM, lists of the top universities to study a STEM field, and strategies for deciding on a major.**

If you are a female student considering a major in one of the STEM disciplines but are worried about the cost of your education, you are in luck! Below are some excellent resources to help you find scholarships, grants, and fellowships to help you fund your studies.

- SWE (Society of Women Engineers) offers scholarships to women who have been accepted to accredited undergrad or graduate programs in engineering and computer science. In 2011, they awarded 188 scholarships totaling \$540,000! Learn more at: <https://scholarships.swe.org/applications/login.asp>
- The Vanguard Women in Technology Scholarship Program awards scholarships up to \$10,000 to juniors or seniors in college who are in an IT related field of study. Applications open in August. See here: <http://sms.scholarshipamerica.org/vanguardwomenintechnology/>
- AAUW's (American Association of University Women) Selected Professions Fellowship gives awards to women studying in fields where they are usually the minority and the potential for earnings

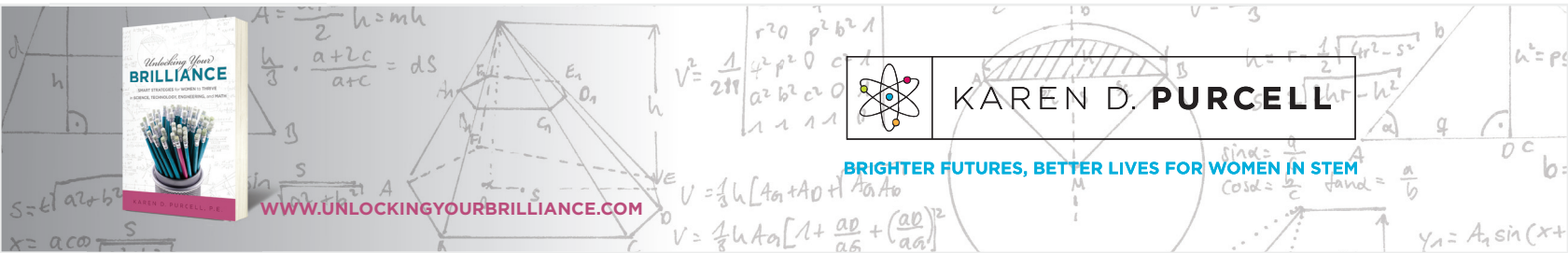
are strong, such as STEM fields. Last year they awarded 22 such fellowships. Learn more here: [http://www.aauw.org/learn/fellows\\_directory/selected.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/learn/fellows_directory/selected.cfm)

- For a breakdown of scholarships awarded for specific areas of study, check out these comprehensive lists: <http://www.collegescholarships.org/scholarships/subject-specific.htm>
- The Association for Women in Science awards two undergrad and four graduate scholarships, the latter of which are for specific areas of study or for women who left academia to start a family and are returning. Read more here: <http://www.awis.org>

When it comes to top rated universities for STEM studies, there are several schools that show up in nearly every category, such as Harvard University, Stanford, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and University of California—Berkeley.

If those universities are not for you, you may want to check out these others that are ranked among the best in the country!

Science: Rankings vary based on the area of discipline,



but the following schools show up on nearly all of the lists: Johns Hopkins University, California Institute of Technology, Scripps Research Institute, University of California—San Francisco, Northwestern University

Technology: Carnegie Mellon University, Cornell University, University of Illinois—Urbana-Champaign, University of Washington, University of Texas at Austin

Engineering: Georgia Institute of Technology, University of Texas at Austin, Carnegie Mellon University, University of Illinois—Urbana-Champaign, Cornell

Mathematics: Princeton University, University of Chicago, University of California—Los Angeles, University of Michigan—Ann Arbor, Columbia University

You may already know that you want to pursue a STEM career but are unsure which specific discipline to focus on in school. Selecting a major is a serious decision that should be given careful consideration. The following steps can help you narrow your focus and make a decision on which direction to go.

- **Observe Your Feelings and Attitudes Towards Activities:** What do you enjoy doing? What types of activities make you feel good about yourself? What are you really good at? What do you really hate doing? Answers to these questions can help you decide what might be a good fit and what will definitely be a bad fit.
- **Make Lists and Notes of Your Observations:** You may start to see a pattern developing for things that are fun and easy for you and things that are difficult and boring to you.

- **Discuss Your Thoughts with Trusted Advisors, Like Parents and Teachers:** Talk to those who know you best about your ideas and gain their perspective. Better yet, see if they know anyone in the field you are considering and arrange a meeting to learn more about the daily ins and outs of the work.
- **Become Familiar with the Professional Implications:** You need to know what jobs will be available to you with the degree you are choosing and whether you will like those jobs, be satisfied with the earning potential, and be able to reasonably expect to succeed in landing one.
- **Still Undecided?** Check into prerequisites that crossover into many disciplines. It may be that you can begin working on those courses that you will need under several majors while you take more time to decide what is best for you.

