



2010 Finalists

“Chosen for their determination, imagination and unique ways of expressing themselves, this year’s scholarship recipients stood out in so many ways, from the circumstances they’ve overcome to their individual aspirations, everything from video-gaming and environment-friendly apparel, to animal rescue efforts and work with women’s shelters,” says Lori Wagner, Talbots Chief Marketing Officer. “What do they have in common? A mind that reimagines the world as they know it. Each woman, in her own way, is on a dedicated path to transform tradition, a mindset we honor every day and are very happy to reward.”

From coast-to-coast and Canada, the 2010 scholarship recipients include:

Rachel Mathia from Chicago, Illinois - *Nancy Talbot Scholarship Award*

As our top applicant demonstrating an insatiable entrepreneurial spirit, Rachel is the winner of the Nancy Talbot Scholarship Award named in memory of our company founder. She dropped out of college at 19 to work in retail. Today, she is taking Mandarin Chinese lessons and working as a sourcing manager in the fashion industry. Rachel plans to open a sustainable fashion company utilizing recycled and eco-friendly materials.

Deunan Berkeley from Redmond, Washington

Deunan is looking to be a female leader in the male dominated video gaming industry. Despite being a 41 year old woman battling a tumor, she is working towards her goals by attending Digi Pen Institute of Technology.

Michelle Brignone from Hooper, Utah

Michelle has been working a full-time, minimum wage job after her company declared bankruptcy in 2009. She will be attending Brigham Young University this fall and hopes to earn a degree in International Relations with an emphasis on environmental issues.

Kate Brown of South Portland, Maine

Kate is a single mother with a behaviorally-challenged son. She returned to college ten years after high school and will graduate from the University of Southern Maine next May with two degrees. She would like to be a speech therapist.

Lee Brown from Lexington, Kentucky

Lee is working towards a BS in Human Resources and plans to own and manage a non-profit organization that trains women in abusive relationships.

Quinn Graungaard of Toronto, Ontario

Quinn graduated high school while working full time and found herself living alone when she was just 17. She is currently a kinesiology major at York University. Her goal is to provide rehabilitative and exercise programs to cardiac and cancer patients.

Sheila Gray from Gardena, California

Sheila suffered domestic violence and is looking to become a licensed social worker so she can serve victims of domestic violence in her community and help them live independently.

Tracey Hartley from Marshall, Missouri

Tracey started a moonwalk rental company, consignment store, and has been a PTA president for 15 years. She is pursuing a degree in accounting from Missouri Valley College.

Maria Jimenez of Clarksville, Tennessee

Maria is a 42 year old woman with an infant looking to become a Certified Public Accountant. She also finds time to volunteer for the IRS helping low income taxpayers.

Deborah Lockard of Loveland, Colorado

After overcoming many years of physical and emotional abuse, Deborah received sole custody of her son and enrolled in Colorado State University. She is currently studying for her Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification and plans to apply to her University's Construction Management program.

Jeanette Tan from Sebastopol, California

Jeanette is a single mom with four children who opened a French restaurant, worked as an office manager, and began a business offering part time CFO services for small companies. Her goal is to earn a BS degree in business management at Sonoma State University.

The finalists were chosen by Scholarship America and our 2010 Board of Judges. This year's judges included Christa Carone, Vice President Marketing, Xerox; Jean Chatzky, Financial Expert; Barbara Corcoran, Founder The Corcoran Group; Kelly Corrigan, author; Dayle Haddon, L'Oreal spokesperson and author; Dr. Pamela Peeke, nutrition expert; Lesley Jane Seymour, editor-in-chief of More Magazine; and Talbots President and CEO Trudy Sullivan.

The Talbots Charitable Foundation is committed to enriching the lives of women. The Foundation provides financial assistance to nonprofit organizations supporting the education, health and cultural enrichment of women. Sponsored by the Charitable Foundation, the Talbots Women's Scholarship Foundation has helped over 600 women pursue their educational dreams since its inception in 1997.

Talbots congratulates each of the 2010 winners and wish them great success in exceeding their dreams.