



UWCK Marine Science Educational Advancement Scholarship

In February of 2020, United Way of Collier and the Keys announced a \$3.5 million grant from the United Arab Emirates to catalyze funding for NOAA's *Mission: Iconic Reefs* and complementary educational initiatives. As one of the largest investments in reef restoration anywhere in the world, *Mission: Iconic Reefs* will change the trajectory of an entire ecosystem and help save one of the world's most unique areas for future generations. In addition to the restoration efforts, interwoven educational components ensure sustainability, including **the UWCK-UAE Marine Science Educational Advancement Scholarship to support Monroe County residents** pursuing higher education in a marine science and/or marine technology related field.

A Scholarship Committee will review the applicants considering educational achievement, career objectives, school activities, references, and financial need.

Awardees are eligible and **encouraged to apply annually beyond their first year of funding** as they continue to pursue this educational track. **Scholarships may be used for tuition, books and materials, and/or room and board expenses**, and are paid directly to the institution.

Applicants may apply for scholarships to support marine science and/or marine technology related certificates, associate degrees, bachelor's, master's or PhD programs.

UWCK's goal is to **support Monroe County residents pursuing higher education in a marine science and/or marine technology related field at universities or colleges with Florida Keys reef restoration efforts**. Priority will be given to students already participating in this work and demonstrating financial need.

Eligibility:

- Must be a full-time Monroe County resident for past 24 months (since 2/1/23)
- Must be able to demonstrate involvement engagement in Florida Keys marine science activities
- Must have at least a 2.5 GPA
- For upcoming terms/semesters (Beginning on/after August 1, 2025)
- Higher education only

Award amounts: \$500-\$5,000 (Depending on application ranking, educational track, and other criteria)

For questions or [more information](#) please contact Jessica Dockery at Jessica.Dockery@uwcollierkeys.org.

Students may apply via [this application](#) form from February 27, 2025 – April 24, 2025.