

**WOMEN
IN ENERGY
SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM**

WE

#WE THE ENERGY



WE / Women in Energy is a gender and social inclusion activity of Millennium Foundation Kosovo, part of its Reliable Energy Landscape Project. The program is financed through the Threshold Agreement signed between Kosovo and MCC in 2017.

WE / Women in Energy is an integrated, multifaceted program which aims to create opportunities for women to participate in the energy sector through vocational education, employment and entrepreneurship.

WE / Women in Energy Scholarship Program was launched in February 2019, with a nation-wide awareness raising campaign and an open call for women to apply for vocational studies in US. Around 200 women have applied for energy related and STEM studies, while Des Moines Community College was selected through a competitive process as a host educational institution in US. 168 valid applicants underwent three stages of rigorous selection, supervised by US and Kosovar experts. Meet the scholarship recipients in the following pages of our newsletter and follow our communication channels & social media to find out about other exciting opportunities at **WE / Women in Energy**.

Alba Muriqi has graduated from the "Bedri Pejani" Gymnasium in her hometown, Peja, where she studied Natural Sciences. After high school, she continued her studies at the American University in Kosovo (RIT Kosovo) where she just finished her freshman year. She applied for WE Scholarship Program because she saw it as a great opportunity to expand her academic horizons and open her mind to the alternatives of generating electricity.

Favorite book: The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho

Favorite working tool: The Screwdriver

Albiona Lalinovci is an electrical engineer at Kosovo's Electricity Distribution and Supply Company J.S.C. She graduated in December 2017 with a BS degree in Power Engineering at the University of Prishtina. She is passionate about her field of study and it draws her like a magnetic field. Albiona is from Ferizaj and she loves being in nature, capturing the skies, painting and reading.

Favorite book: The Count of Monte Cristo by Alexandre Dumas

Favorite working tool: Pliers



Arda Rugji was born in Prizren. She finished her high school in "Gjon Buzuku", Prizren. Through her passion for engineering, she has come across Women in Energy Scholarship Program and has decided to apply for it. She believes that this program will lead her to successfully joining the energy sector in Kosovo.

Favourite book: Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro

Favorite working tool: Measure Tape

Blerona Rexhaj is from Istog Municipality. She has finished her studies at the University of Prishtina, at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering in the department of the Renewable Energy Systems. Her interests are how to use the energy, especially renewable ones, for a better future. She has applied for WE Scholarship Program because it is a great opportunity to gain new knowledge, experience and learning more about energy.

Favorite book: Energy and Civilization: A history by Vaclav Smil

Favorite working tool: Screwdriver and wrench

Buna Perteshani, 18 years old, is from Gjakova. She has graduated from Hajdar Dushi Gymnasium in 2019 and has been engaged in multiple projects in BONEVET Makerspace. Her passion for machines and manufacturing has drastically increased in the past three years and that's why she has chosen Industrial Manufacturing as her field of study. The opportunity to gain knowledge and the idea of bringing that experience back to Kosovo has pushed her to apply for WE Scholarship Program.

Fvorte Book: Sara's Key by Tatiana de Rosnay

Favorite working tool: Screwdriver

Diella Shabani is from Gjilan. She is in the last year of her master's studies in the field of architecture. She was part of some workshops organized by CHWBKosova (NGO). She is interested in the energy sector because through efficient use of energy, we contribute highly to climate change. So experience in the US will be a good opportunity for her to expand her horizons in this field.

Favorite book: Sapiens, A Brief History of Humankind by Yuval Noah Harari

Favorite working tool: Tape-measure



Alketa Sahiti was born in Glogoc, where she still lives. She is a Metering System Analysis Expert at KESCO. At the University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina", Alketa received her Bachelor and Master of Electrical Engineering Sciences degree. The desire to learn, grow and be an example for other young women have been the main reasons for her to choose applying at the WE Scholarship Program.

Favorite book: The Museum of Innocence by Orhan Pamuk

Favorite working tool: Pencil



Anda Kukaj is from Prizren and currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in the Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Prishtina. She was an intern at KOSTT (transmission system operator company) and right now she is an intern at ERO (Energy Regulatory Office). Since energy usage is increasing exponentially, she believes that WE Scholarship Program will expand her knowledge and help her gain technical skills in the energy sector.

Favorite book: The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho

Favorite working tool: Screwdriver



Anita Maloku was born and lives in Prishtina. Currently, she is an almost graduate student in Renewable Energy Department in University of Prishtina. Since she was a kid, she loved nature and science, and studying ways to produce energy in the most efficient and ecologic way was a great combination of two of her passions. She applied for WE because she sees this program as a great opportunity that will help her develop professionally and personally.

Favorite book: The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

Favorite working tool: Drill



Arbesa Nikaj finished high school in Drenas, her hometown. Then, she finished studies at the University of Prishtina in Electrical Engineering field. She currently works at Kosovo Telecom as a finance controller. She sees Women in Energy Scholarship Program as a great opportunity for her to develop her knowledge in her profession. Her future goal is to get involved in the labor market as an engineer.

Favorite book: The Ring by Danielle Steel

Favorite working tool: Screwdriver Tester



Egzona Tahiri was born in Gjakova where she finished her high school. She has a bachelor of engineering chemistry at the University of Prishtina. For the past ten years including gymnasium and bachelor studies in chemical engineering, her curiosity about science has always been deep-rooted and extensive. She has applied for WE Scholarship Program to become an outstanding and successful woman in today's society.

Favorite book: Twenty thousand leagues under the sea by Jules Verne

Favorite working tool: Level



Elna Eshrefi has just graduated from "Kuvendi i Arberit" high school in her hometown - Ferizaj. During her high school years, she has worked as an organizer of activities and as a translator for Fer-Film Festival. From an early age, she has been interested in the energy sector; this interest grew on her the increase of climate change. She applied for WE Scholarship Program because she wants to bring a change in the current world situation.

Favorite book: Eat, Pray, Love by Elizabeth Gilbert

Favorite working tool: Screwdriver



Engjëlla Halili was born in Gjiilan. She graduated from the Specialized Gymnasium of Mathematics and is currently attending the University of Prishtina studying Mechatronics. Her interest in energy sector is related with her belief that if we choose to switch to solar energy in the future. The main reason that she applied to WE Scholarship Program was the opportunity for women to outshine in technology and applied sciences area of study since women do not make large numbers on these fields.

Favorite book: Anna Karenina by Leo Tolstoy

Favorite working tool: Magnetic tools



Erza Gashi is born in Mitrovica which is known as an industrial city and has exiting cultural diversity. She previously lived in Greece, Thessaloniki for 4 years where she finished bachelors of business studies (management) and masters of logistics and supply chain studies at the University of Sheffield. WE Scholarship Program was the best alternative for her since it covered new technology alongside with a new spectrum of studies moreover, it would bring a new revolution to her country.

Favorite book: Emotional Intelligence by Daniel Goleman

Favorite working tool: Pliers



Erza Rama was born in Prishtina. She studied at UBT (University for Business and Technology) about "Efficient Energy Engineering". She works at KESCO–Kosovo Electricity Supply Company J.S.C as an analyst on Customer Care Department. The reason she applied for WE Scholarship Program is to gain a better perspective and a lot of new plans on how to improve the energy sector and thus to grow the Kosovo economy.

Favorite book: The Secret by Rhonda Byrne

Favorite working tool: Cordless Power Drill and Jigsaw



Erza Zogu completed her high school studies in the field of Natural Sciences at Sami Frashëri High School, Prishtina, showing particular interest in science courses. She has interned for two months as an architect's assistant, where she assisted with technical drawings. Erza has been granted the first place award in "Great Debaters" competition and Leadership Program. She is awarded from the Ski Federation of the Republic of Kosovo as a professional skier.

Favorite book: The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho

Favorite working tool: Drill



Fjolla Fazliu is from Prishtina. She holds an Electrical Power Engineering bachelor's degree. Besides her bachelor's degree, she has also attended a summer school at Hochschule Ansbach on Applied Photovoltaics. This is where she found her desire to continue working with solar energy and to "learn by doing". She applied for WE to use Kosovo's enormous potential in renewable energy and solar energy.

Favorite book: Crime and Punishment written by Dostoevsky

Favorite working tool: Multimeter



Fjolla Kosumi was born in Gjilan, Kosovo. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering and specializing in Renewable Energy Sources from the University of Prishtina. Aiming to be among the most knowledgeable and professional engineers in her field, WE Scholarship Program is a great opportunity to enrich her personal experience in renewables and energy.

Favorite book: When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi

Favorite working tool: Drill



Tijana Mihajlovic is from Dobrotin, Lipjan. She has graduated this year from economics and trade school as a Legal Technician. She was motivated to apply for this scholarship after she found out about it on the Millennium Foundation information session in Gracanica. She is very interested in energetics, especially in Solar technology and this is a big opportunity for her to expand her knowledge about it.

Favorite book is: Gifted hands by Ben Carson

Favorite working tool: Pliers



Tringë Kastrati was born and raised in Prishtina. She finished her high school in Sami Frasher Gymnasium in the 'general education' department and continued her studies further in RIT Kosovo with the concentrations in Economics and Statistics and Management and Entrepreneurship and Minor in International Relations. She applied for WE because she wants to be a part of the contribution for improving the energy sector in my country.

Favorite book: Blood on My HandS by Craig Jurisevic

Favorite working tool: Screwdriver



Tringa Osmani from Fushë Kosovë holds a master's degree in Analytical and Environmental Chemistry and she is experienced on fuel quality control. WE Program inspired Tringa to pursue a career in the energy sector. She will use this opportunity by helping to improve the quality of lives that are strongly tied to water and energy security. She applied for the WE Scholarship aspiring to broaden her educational horizon in the energy sector in Kosovo.

Favorite book: Quiet by Susan Cain

Favorite working tool: Tape measure



Vesa Xërxa was born in Gjakova in 2000. Vesa graduated from Specialized Gymnasium of Mathematics in 2018. She is currently attending the University of Prishtina, and she is studying for Mechatronics. Her interest for the energy sector started a while ago since she is an environmental advocate. The reason why she applied for WE Scholarship Program was because of the diverse fields of study which are combined with the interest for environment she has, and the passion for science.

Favorite book: A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khalid Hosseini

Favorite working tool: Vernier scale



Mirela Shala comes from Junik. She holds a bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering, University of Prishtina, and she was always interested in the energy sector. She applied for the Women in Energy scholarship because she wants to further advance her professional and educational skills in the energy sector. She wants to be able to apply the knowledge gained through this program for her further academic and professional development.

Favorite book: The Last Lecture by Jeffrey Zaslow and Randy Pausch

Favorite working tool: Multimeter



Pranverë Sadiku, is a 24 year old ecologist, born and raised in Lipjan. She has finished her bachelor studies in Ecology and Environmental Protection, at the University of Prishtina - "Hasan Prishtina". Her interest in the energy sector is directly related to reusable energy, where the energy is created through a less polluted way. This comes as a result of her long life desire and ambition to make the world a better place".

Favorite book: The Power of Now, by Eckhart Tolle

Favorite working tool: Sledgehammer



Qëndresë Nasufi was born in Presheva and moved to Prishtina to further continue her education in Mechanical Engineering Faculty. WE Scholarship Program was exactly the right program for the right cause that she was looking for because by being part of this program, she aims to put her effort to improve Kosovo's future energy sector.

Favorite book: Elon Musk by Ashlee Vance

Favorite working tool: wrench



Ronita Murseli is an 18-years-old girl from Ferizaj, Kosovo. She loves learning, especially if it is related to technology and science. She has successfully participated in many competitions and she has taken various extracurricular courses. She is particularly interested in new sources of energy and that is the reason she applied for WE Scholarship Program.

Favorite book: Uncle Goriot by Honore de Balzac

Favorite working tool: Screwdriver



Vlora Shkodra was born and raised in Prishtina. She went to "Xhevdet Doda" High school. To her, Women in Energy Scholarship Program is such a powerful movement that will bring immeasurable positive and hopefully a permanent change in Kosovo. This program will play a massive role in finally taking over the stereotypes of women not being able to work in the energy, engineering, tech and other "male-ish" sectors.

Favorite book: David Walliam's books

Favorite working tool: Computer

The Challenger

This newsletter is published by **Millennium Foundation Kosovo (MFK)** to inform the public on the projects

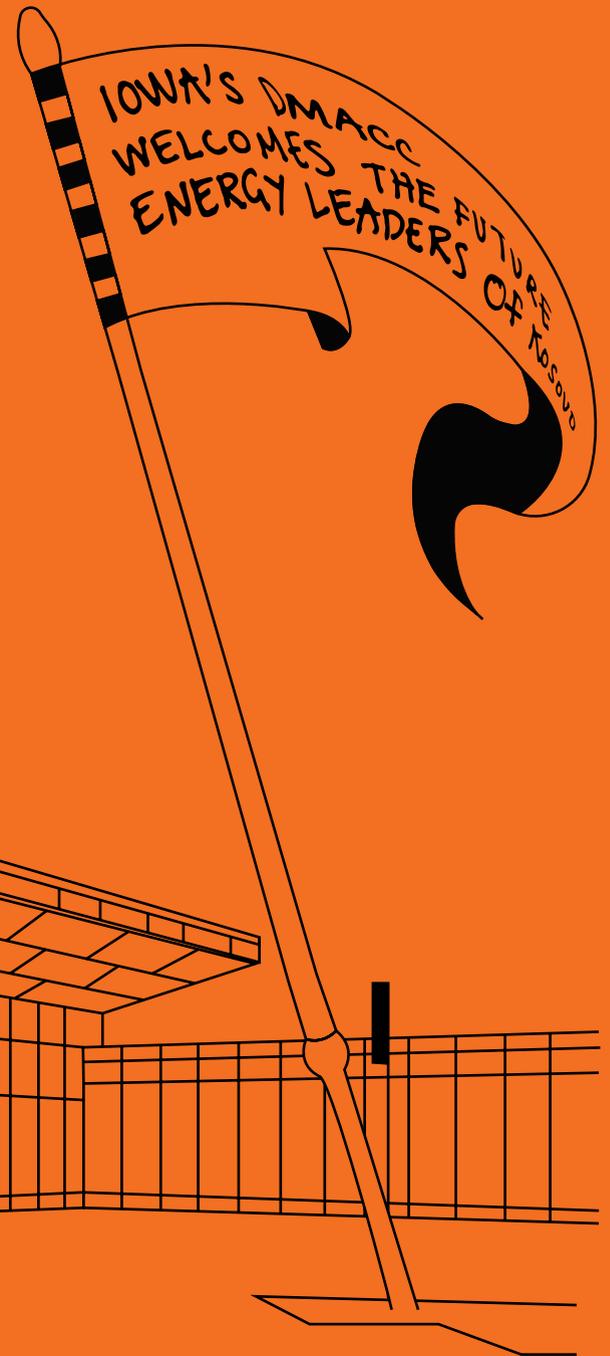
implemented within Threshold Program, supported by the Millennium Challenge Corporation / Opinions and other information in this publication are not necessarily reflective of the opinions of MFK, MCC, or other partners in the Threshold program / **Edited by:** Petrit Selimi, Rina Meta / **Contributors:** Violeta Rexha, Gresa Statovci / **Design and Illustrations:** Studio PERMANENT (Nita Salihu Hoxha and Urtina Hoxha, Elvira Thaqi, Eleonora Susuri) / **Photo:** Astrit Ibrahim / **Contact:** MFK, Migjeni Str. 21, (ex Bank of Ljubljana), Floor 09, Prishtina 10000, Republic of Kosovo / **Email:** office@millenniumkosovo.org

SISTERHOOD BOND

Iowa and Kosovo have a special bond, as they've signed a Sister State Relationship agreement back in 2013.

We are therefore very pleased that Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) was chosen as the accredited institution hosting Kosovar women recipients of WE / Women in Energy scholarship program for the next two years. We are starting an exciting program of scholarships for Kosovo women, focused on degrees related to the energy sector, like wind turbine technology, power plant management, solar generation technologies, etc.

As Millennium Foundation Kosovo, in partnership with Des Moines Area Community College, we aim to encourage the employment of women in the energy sector and creating new opportunities for women leaders in Kosovo through providing at least five scholarships starting Fall, 2019 for Associate Degrees in energy-related fields of study.





Sean Cairncross,
Chief Executive Officer,
Millennium Challenge
Corporation

"The Women in Energy scholarship program addresses a key factor holding back economic growth in Kosovo—the absence of women in the workforce, especially in fields like energy.

By breaking down barriers in education and opening up greater opportunities for women in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields, we can give women the tools they need to thrive. Strengthening economic opportunities for women is fundamental to MCC achieving its mission to reduce poverty through economic growth.

Countries cannot succeed unless women succeed, and programs like the Women in Energy scholarship play an important role in making that happen."



Sen Joni Ernst
US Senator and vice chair
of the United States
Senate Republican
Conference

"Today we open a new chapter of cooperation between Kosovo and Iowa with the launch of Women in Energy Scholarship Program.

I want to congratulate the Millennium Foundation Kosovo and Des Moines Area Community College for this amazing initiative that seeks to empower Kosovo women to become leaders in Kosovo energy sector. Helping women obtain equality in the workplace and helping their entrepreneurship is very much a focus of the US government.

I'm happy to see that Kosovo is taking decisive steps to increase employment of women and I congratulate MFK for their plan to provide scholarships and internship opportunities for hundreds of Kosovar women"

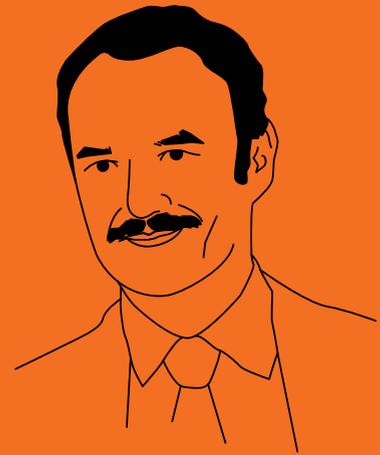


Rep Eliot Engel
Chairman of the
House Committee on
Foreign Affairs

"I am very proud of the \$49million Threshold Program signed between Republic of Kosovo and Millennium Challenge Corporation. It's a relationship in which I - together with colleagues in Congress and Government - have worked for years to come to fruition.

I'm thrilled that one of the first concrete activities to be launched is WE / Women in Energy Scholarship Program, enabling dozens of Kosovar women to study in US, in relevant energy and STEM subjects. Women empowerment is of critical importance for economic growth and social development of Kosovo. This program delivers where the gender integration is most needed: in the economy.

I congratulate Millennium Foundation Kosovo, the local implementing team led by Mr Petrit Selimi, for this amazing initiative and I wish all the women good luck with their forthcoming studies in Iowa!"



Petrit Selimi
Executive Director of
the Millennium
Foundation Kosovo

"During the development of our Threshold Agreement with the MCC, we had identified reliable supply of electricity as a binding constraint to growth in Kosovo. But to have reliable supply of electricity you need investments in both supply and demand side.

The entire energy sector has to be reformed. This energy sector is currently staffed over 90% by men. This is why investing in the new generation of Kosovo women as leaders in energy sector goes to the heart of one of the key challenges in Kosovo's economy. Gender and Social Inclusion is also at the very core of all our projects and activities.

We're very excited of our cooperation with the Des Moines Area Community College and the private sector, as it provides a model refocusing our efforts towards STEM-based capacity building. We're both expanding landscape of expertise as well as women empowerment."

#WE celebrate women, the future of the energy sector in Kosovo

Millennium Foundation Kosovo (MFK)

presented the 28 recipients of the Women in Energy Scholarship Program for Kosovar women who will study in energy-related fields to support the energy sector and the overall economic growth in Kosovo. The scholarship recipients of the WE/Women in Energy attended a special ceremony together with Hon Rep Eliot Engel, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of US House of Representatives, as well as MFK, MCC and officials from Kosovo and US Governments.

WE / Women in Energy Scholarship Program

is supported by the US federal agency MCC with one million USD, addressing two key objectives in support of Kosovo's economic development as well as a greater gender inclusion in Kosovo energy landscape: to both bridge the gap between the labour needs in the energy sector and the lack of technical skills in the energy industry in Kosovo; as well as to increase the labour participation rate of women in this sector.

Next Event:

The Launch of the WE / Women in Energy Scholarship Program in Des Moines, Iowa

19 September, 2019
DMACC

Formal Proclamation in Support of the WE Scholarship Program to be signed by Governor Kim Reynolds

Speakers include high ranking officials from the State of Iowa, Republic of Kosovo and Millennium Challenge Corporation.

millenniumkosovo.org



After addressing the audience, Rep Hon Eliot Engel joined MFK's GSI specialist Violeta Rexha and the MFK CEO Petrit Selimi for a group photo with all the 28 Women in Energy Scholarship Recipients.

