



Les Dames d'Escoffier | Austin Chapter

Celebrating Women of Culinary Achievement and Creating Paths for Those to Come

LES DAMES D'ESCOFFIER OF AUSTIN AWARDS \$20,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS, STIPENDS & GRANTS

Annual Fundraiser Raises Record \$50,000 to Support 2020 Scholarships, Grants

AUSTIN, TX, November 4, 2019 – The Austin chapter of [Les Dames d'Escoffier](#), an international culinary leadership organization of women, has awarded \$20,000 in scholarships, professional development stipends and grants supporting Central Texas women and organizations.

The Les Dames' Austin Chapter also announced it raised more than \$50,000 from its recent fundraiser, You Grill Girl!, to support its 2020 scholarship and grants program.

This year's [scholarship recipients](#) include:

- Kelsey Caudebec, bartender at The Tigress Pub and staff mixologist at Milam & Green Whiskey, to study and take the Wine and Spirit Education Trust (WSET) Level 3 spirits exam.
- Nicole Jean-Baptiste, culinary student, to attend the Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts.
- Jennifer Rodriguez, chef and owner of 3 small plates, LLC, to attend the San Antonio Culinary Institute of America's Skill Development Boot Camp.
- Olivia Rodriguez, culinary arts instructor in Leander ISD at Glenn High School, to attend hands-on Valrhona Chocolates classes in bakery, chocolate, pastry and plated desserts.
- Victoria Swaynos, head cheesemaker at Bee Tree Farm & Dairy in Manor, to take a Fundamentals of Farmstead Cheese course.
- Alison Wallace, founder of Bluebonnet Kitchen, to attend a Fermentation Residency Program in Tennessee.

In addition, the local chapter gave grants to the [Wonder Women of Wine](#) to award a scholarship to a Central Texas woman and the [Austin Food and Wine Alliance](#) to create the "Austin Dames Supporting Women in Business Grant."

"We are delighted to support the continued education and professional development of these talented women in various culinary fields and education," says Stephanie Piland, scholarship chair for Les Dames' Austin chapter. "We gave away \$20,000 in scholarships and grants this year – up from \$15,000 last year – and with our successful fall fundraiser, next year's program will offer even more financial support opportunities for Central Texas women and organizations."

To date, the Austin chapter has awarded more than \$100,000 in scholarships, continuing education stipends and community grants.

In addition to providing scholarships, the Austin Chapter of Les Dames d'Escoffier hosts education, mentoring and networking [events](#) for both members and non-members, supports local [philanthropic initiatives](#) such as its annual holiday dinner for the homeless, and provides weekly "food runs" to reduce food waste in the community.

For more information about the Austin chapter of Les Dames d'Escoffier, go to <http://Ideiaustin.org/>. Follow us on [Facebook](#) (Ideiaustin) and Instagram (@austindames).