



# IMPACT REPORT FOR 2023-24 ACADEMIC YEAR

**Illuminating Bright Futures:** NEVE STEM Scholarship Program for Underprivileged First-Gen College Students.



"I had big dreams, but little hope. This all changed when I found the Neve Project Scholarship program."

*-Ammy Mwasambu, Junior at West Virginia State University*



"As a blind student, I have always been passionate about improving the lives of blind and low-vision individuals worldwide."

*- Lucas Nadolskis, PhD Student at the University of California, Santa Barbara*





*Alec J. Rosen*  
**PRESIDENT & CEO**



*Gerson Nascimento*  
**FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD**

# 2024 CEO LETTER

The 2023-24 academic year marks the conclusion of NEVE's second academic year, during which a record number of scholars received financial support for tuition. Seven remarkable first-generation college students are studying each of the major STEM disciplines.

Due to a generous foundation grant and additional in-kind support, we successfully launched the NEVE Scholar Mentoring Program. The inaugural kick-off meeting took place in Miami and was attended by all current NEVE scholars.

NEVE also officially launched an advisory board with over 12 active members, holding regular quality meetings to focus on our mentorship program. Throughout the academic year, the NEVE executive team has met with our students, maintained regular communication, and provided additional financial support as needed, ranging from specialized software to covering on-campus activities. NEVE efforts to ensure our scholars have the resources they need in order to obtain the full scope of the college enrichment experience.

Finally, the entire NEVE team and our scholars recognize and are tremendously grateful for the generosity and support of Mr. Gerson Nascimento and his family. Without his vision and dedication to empowering disadvantaged youth through education, NEVE would not be possible. From all of us at NEVE, we extend heartfelt "obrigado e abraços" to Gerson Nascimento and his family.

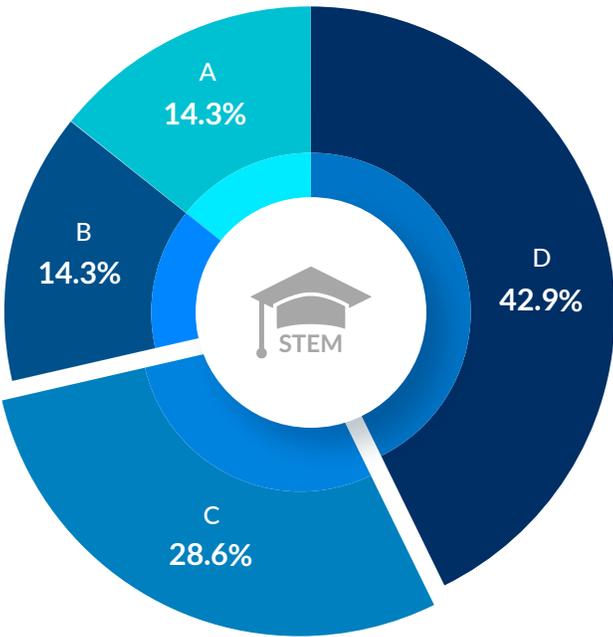
A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'Alec J. Rosen', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

*Alec J. Rosen*

# 2023 AT A GLANCE

For the 2023-24 academic year, NEVE awarded a record seven scholarships totaling \$64,500 to STEM students, including NEVE scholars from Kenya and Brazil studying in the US.

## ALLOCATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS BY STEM DISCIPLINE



A



Technology: 1



B



Math: 1



C



Science: 2



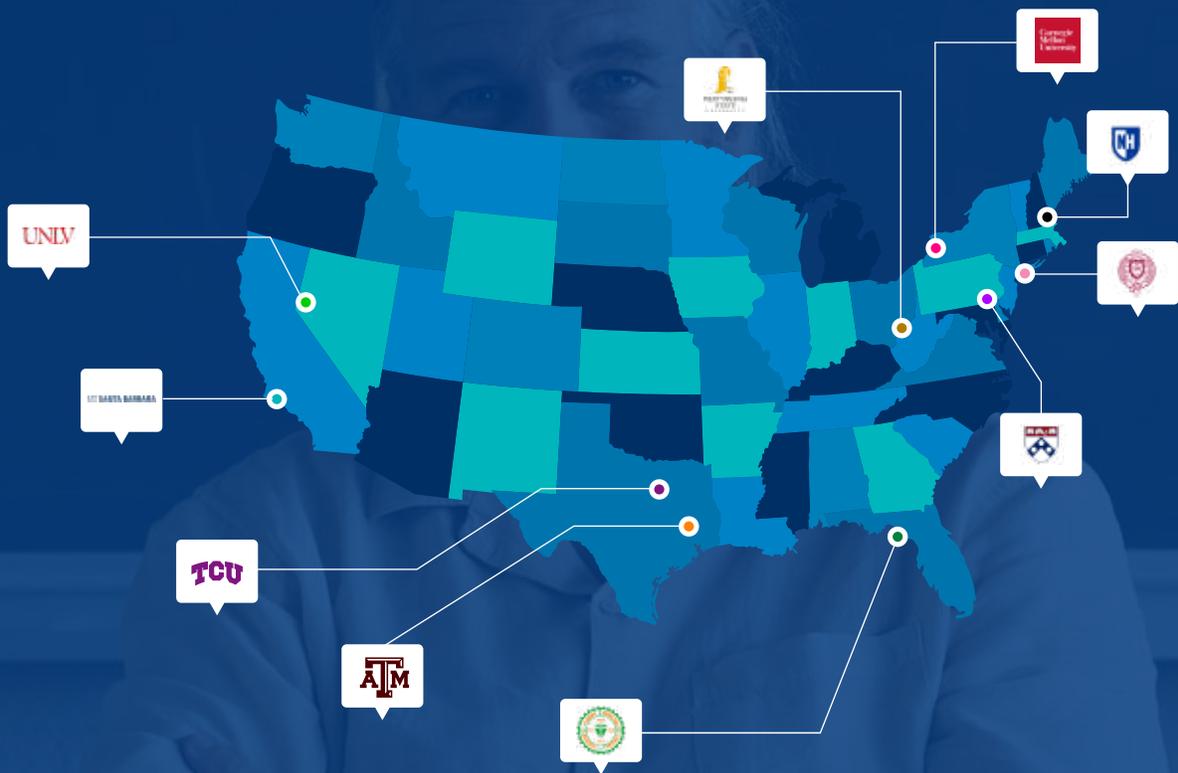
D



Engineering: 3

# MAKING AN IMPACT

Since the inception of the NEVE Project Scholarship program in 2021, NEVE has funded students at the following colleges and universities across the U.S.



- Carnegie Mellon University
- UC Santa Barbara
- Florida A&M
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- Texas Christian University
- University of New Hampshire
- Texas A&M
- University of Pennsylvania
- Fordham University
- West Virginia State University

# NEVE SCHOLARS



## *Erykah Thermeusliskis*

Erykah Thermeus, a second-year Biology major at Florida A&M University and Haitian American from Miami, is dedicated to medicine and research, motivated by personal and community health challenges. Active in organizations like Black Women in Medicine and a STEM outreach leader, she's also gained experience through a forensics internship. Erykah is currently preparing her first data science research project for presentation in 2024, with ambitions for more publications. Committed to expanding her research and internships, she aims to build a supportive network, inspiring others as she progresses toward a medical career.



## *Alice Queiroz*

Alice, an engineering student at Texas A&M University, is on a path to specialize in electrical engineering with interests in healthcare technologies, quantum computing, and energy solutions. Her journey is enriched by her Brazilian heritage and years in Dubai, which have infused her studies with diverse cultural insights. With a passion for technology project management and entrepreneurship, Alice is driven by a zest for life and a love for art. She values deep connections over digital distractions and seeks to inspire with her optimistic enthusiasm. Alice is actively involved in individual projects and competitions, aiming for a future where her ambitions and diverse experiences converge to make a meaningful impact.

# NEVE SCHOLARS



## *Lucas Nadolskis*

Lucas Nadolskis, a first-year PhD student in Dynamical Neuroscience at the University of California, Santa Barbara, is advancing smart bionic vision solutions for the visually impaired in the Bionic Vision Lab under Dr. Michael Beyeler. With a BS in Computer Science and a minor in Neuroscience, plus an MS in Biomedical Engineering, Lucas's research spans developing devices for blind and low-vision users, enhancing HCI accessibility, and pioneering brain-computer interfaces. As a blind individual, he's deeply committed to improving the lives of blind and low-vision people worldwide, especially in developing countries. Lucas also mentors in the NEVE Scholars Program and enjoys cooking, traveling, and audiobooks, reflecting his diverse interests and dedication to making a significant impact.



## *Daniel Olton*

Daniel Olton, a freshman at the University of Pennsylvania, majors in Electrical Engineering with a passion for innovating at the intersection of creativity and technology. Growing up in Brooklyn, New York, his early fascination with electronics shaped his career path. Beyond academics, Daniel's competitive spirit thrives in basketball, swimming, video games, and recently, sprint football, highlighting his well-rounded approach to student life. His active participation in intramural sports and enjoyment of gym sessions with friends speak to his vibrant social life. Daniel looks forward to making meaningful connections within the university community, driven by a blend of ambition and enthusiasm for new challenges.

# NEVE SCHOLARS



## *Wren King*

Wren King is a first-year electrical engineering scholar from Jacksonville, Florida, recognized for his leadership capabilities, particularly in decision-making and team coordination, ensuring project timelines are meticulously met. With a deep-rooted interest in advancing the automation industry, Wren aims to minimize the reliance on natural resources while amplifying the use of electric power. Outside of his academic pursuits, he enjoys sports and fighting video games, along with spending quality time with friends. As he navigates his college experience, Wren is keen on connecting with like-minded individuals, sharing similar goals and aspirations for innovation and progress in their field.



## *Ammy Mwasambu*

Ammy Mwasambu, a junior at West Virginia State University, majors in applied mathematics with a minor in health planning. Hailing from Kilifi, Kenya, Ammy's unique blend of academic and athletic dedication shines through as a striker on the soccer team and a sprinter on the track team, using sports as a stress reliever from studies. Aiming for a master's in epidemiology, Ammy's goal is to meld a passion for mathematics with public health improvement, aspiring to become an epidemiological modeler to research disease spread. This ambition reflects a deep commitment to leveraging mathematical skills for significant contributions to public health.

# **THE NEVE SCHOLAR MENTORING PROGRAM**

The NEVE Scholar Mentorship Program, funded by a generous foundation grant and external corporate support, offers invaluable life skills and resources to NEVE scholars that may not be readily available to first-generation college students.

NEVE Scholar mentors serve as role models, offering emotional support and validation, assisting their mentees in navigating resources, and encouraging their peers to become more engaged in STEM programming.

Mentors and mentees collaborate on informal activities to enrich their educational experience and professional development.



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