



ZONTA
CLUB OF
NORTHAMPTON AREA

Zonta Club of Northampton Area
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Scholarship Awardee Chosen!

The Zonta Club of Northampton Area is excited to invite all who were instrumental in the creation of the **Lynn Goodhue Zonta STEM Scholarship** to join us at our February 19 meeting to celebrate our first awardee! Her name is Baran Zibael, and she is an incredibly well qualified PhD candidate in Industrial Engineering and Engineering Management at Western New England University in Springfield.

The Northampton Area Zonta Club is part of Zonta International, a worldwide organization of more than 26,000 members in 65 countries, working to “Build a Better World for Women and Girls.” Established in 1919, in Buffalo, NY – two years before women were allowed to vote – ZI soon found eager members in Canada and in the world beyond. The Northampton Club was established in 1930, 96 years ago.

Ms. Zibael, who grew up in Isfahan, Iran, received her undergraduate degree in Pure Chemistry from the University of Isfahan and a subsequent degree in engineering from the Isfahan University of Technology. She studied at West Virginia University in Morgantown for two years as a Teaching and Research Assistant before enrolling as a PhD Fellow and Instructor at WNEU. She expects to receive her PhD in 2027.

Zibael’s primary focus of study is in refining and improving the manufacture of medical instruments that are central to treatment practice in medicine. Current manufacture falls short of perfection in measurement and performance, which can have a drastic effect in treatment outcomes; the aim of her 12-18 month dissertation research is to pull apart and reconstruct the manufacturing process in detail, and to work toward perfecting the finest and most practical outcomes. She is also an instructor and active mentor for students at WNEU.

In accepting the award, Ms. Zibael said. “This will allow me more GPU time* for training, access materials for experimental verification and strengthen the rigor needed for validation. I’m so honored to receive this award from Zonta!”

This award, originating from the Northampton Zonta Club’s established scholarship honoring dedicated Zontian Lynn Goodhue, is now also linked to a Zonta International STEM scholarship competition. Our awardee’s application materials will go to the international committee to compete for a STEM grant to be awarded at the Zonta International Conference in Vancouver, BC, this coming July.

Our February 19 meeting will be held at the Collaborative for Educational Services (www.collaborative.org) in Northampton, at 6:00 p.m. We welcome our friends and supporters, and all who are interested in Zonta’s



mission and service. Light refreshments will be served. Reserve your spot by emailing Northampton@ZontaDistrict1.org.

** **"GPU Time"** refers to rented or allocated access to specialized servers (often in the cloud) equipped with these chips, which are generally expensive and in high demand. Essentially, the award provides the computational resources necessary to perform intensive data analysis more efficiently.*