

Kelly Styles *STEM Scholarship*



Kelly Styles is the former Senior VP, Chief Information Officer at Connecticut Children's Medical Center. His passion is to support young people going into a career pursuing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S.T.E.M.) Kelly retired from Connecticut Children's in June 2020, and as a tribute to him, generous individuals of the Connecticut Children's Information Solutions department donated the funds to create the Kelly Styles S.T.E.M. Scholarship.



Aniya Encarnacion

Aniya Encarnacion, who will graduate from the Sport and Medical Sciences Academy, is the 2022 Kelly Styles STEM Scholarship recipient. The scholarship provides \$2,000 the first year and \$1,000 more for students in good standing.

Joshua Svoboda is Aniya's science teacher and recommended her for the scholarship. He cites her "leadership skills, sense of purpose, and ability to complete multiple tasks under deadline

pressure.” He notes she is salutatorian of her class, an active member of the National Honor Society, and a volunteer with Gaylord Hospital Sports Association, in addition to working a part time job. He describes Aniya as “a take-charge person, capable of developing plans and implementing them. She is currently the captain of the volleyball team, and has participated in softball, basketball and cheerleading. Aniya has built an extraordinary reputation for being a caring, driven, kind and successful student.”

Aniya’s inspiration for STEM studies comes from her mother, a school nurse who was previously a labor and delivery nurse at a hospital. Both Aniya and her older sister were excited by their mother’s love of science, which motivated Aniya to take challenging courses that would help her prepare for college and a medical career.

This interest was reinforced two years ago, when Aniya’s beloved grandmother contracted COVID. Aniya was sad to be unable to visit except through a window, and to watch her grandmother deteriorate. “After she passed, I began to think about how difficult it must have been to be a healthcare worker at the time. They had to be strong, to see people die every day, and continue to take care of others. Seeing those individuals inspired me to have a bigger purpose in life. I want to help other people, and possibly save their lives.”

