



### **Shayla Makowski-Budrow 2020-2021 (NCCWSL recipient) Presents at June AAUW Brainerd Lakes Area Branch Meeting**

On June 7, **Shayla Makowski-Budrow**, shared with the Brainerd Lakes Area AAUW membership highlights of what she learned at the 2020/2021 AAUW National Conference for College Women Student Leaders. Because of COVID, the NCCWSL conference was held at the end of May via zoom rather than at the University of Maryland.

Ms Makowski-Budrow shared that she has added the following to her leadership tool box:

- Understanding that rage can be used a weapon or a tool.
- The difficulty of seeing oneself as part of a community when others do not recognize you as part of that community. (Shayla identifies as Native and because she presents more Caucasian, is often challenged about her ethnicity.)
- The importance of *stepping stones* – having them and also being them for those generations that follow.
- Be able to ask and answer for yourself: Who are you? What do you have to offer? Who do you offer it to? What are you willing to compromise? What are your values? Which value is your primary one? These are principles that one should not have to think about but rather know and can express readily.
- Being aware of the impact of your social media presence.

**Ms Makowski-Budrow**, is currently a student at Southwest Minnesota State University. She is also an EMT employed at North Memorial Health. Her goal is to attend medical school at the University of Minnesota, Duluth. Shayla graduated from Central Lakes College in 2020 with her AA Degree. While at CLC, Shayla was Student Senate President, involved in discussions at the Humphrey Center and active with Food Pantry. She recalls applying for the National Conference of College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) scholarship three times, but admits she was too young the first time.

**Nicole Mason**, also an AAUW Brainerd Lakes Area 2020/2021 NCCWSL scholarship recipient attended the conference, but was unable to attend the Branch's June meeting. Nicole noted in her report, which were read following Ms Makowski-Budrow's presentation, the importance of *stepping stones* as well as gaining financial confidence from the conference. Ms Mason is currently working on her Ph.D. at Mankato State University. She works full time as the visitation supervisor at the Alex and Brandon Child Safety Center in Brainerd. She has been a volunteer with Sertoma Winter Wonderland, Jaycees Fishing Extravaganza, Jamaican Link Ministries and the Salvation Army.

The Women's Leadership Fund, AAUW-MN and AAUW Brainerd Lakes Area Branch cosponsored the scholarships which funded the conference experience. The AAUW mission is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. The Women's Leadership Fund, Little Falls, seeks to accelerate the number, effectiveness and impact of women in organizational leadership roles in Central Minnesota.