



VAW/VRC Merit: Lockheed Martin 2 Scholar

Shimin Yunker

Madison, SD

Sponsor: Petty Officer First Class Rich Yunker

College: South Dakota State University

2025-2026: Senior

Major: Chemistry & Biochemistry with Mathematics, Music
& Psychology

Academic & Extracurricular Highlights:

- National Science Teaching Association (NSTA)
- Church Bell and Vocal Choir
- HS & College Marching Band
- South Dakota State University – Research Assistant
- Origami for Good



Receiving a VAW/VRC Merit Scholarship is a great honor, and I couldn't be more grateful to everyone who has supported me in my education. As I approach my senior year of undergraduate college experience, so many things are uncertain — what I'll be doing after graduation, if I plan to go to graduate school, and where. Being a chemistry and biochemistry major, a realm of endless possibilities is open to me. Staring into a deep abyss of unknowns has been undoubtedly intimidating but knowing that I am not alone has been a massive comfort. I would like to sincerely thank the Wings Over America Scholarship Foundation for providing me with such a generous scholarship; as challenging and rewarding as higher education is, it is unfortunately not a cheap investment. Without the generosity of all the wonderful scholarship donors, not even half of the opportunities I've been lucky enough to have would have been available to me. Truly, your contribution has allowed me to make the most of my college years without the additional burden of financial stress. I would also like to thank my parents, who have always been my strongest advocates, and my friends, who have enthusiastically encouraged me and believed in me during each and every step of my journey. I would not be who I am without you. Lastly, thank you to everyone who has helped me get where I am, no matter how small a role you played. I anticipate a lively senior year, and I look forward to discovering the path I will ultimately tread.