VAW/VRC MEMORIAL AND MERIT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

VVOSA Merit Scholar

Kora Gilbert

Coronado, CA

Sponsor: CAPT Andrew Gilbert

College: California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

2026-2027: Sophomore

Major: Physics

Academic & Extracurricular Highlights:

- Cal Poly Rowing
- Cal Poly Red Cross Club
- Coronado unified School District Lifeguard



Since I was little, I always knew I wanted to go on to pursue higher education. My decision wasn't influenced by unsupportive parents. My mother and father were always open about the numerous paths for me after high school. University is where I hoped to experience the joy that is discovery and knowledge. The unfortunate caveat is the expenses that come with higher education. It was always a stressor, especially when applying to schools. Now attending California Polytechnic University, I'm living that dream and thanks to scholarships like the one I've received from the VAW/VRC Merit scholarship program, my parents and I can relax over the financials. I am extremely grateful to receive this scholarship. I'm now not only pursuing knowledge but building community. Through attending university, I've helped people through volunteering at my local Red Cross chapter for toy drives, smoke alarm installations, and blood donation. I've joined the rowing team competing in regattas across California in San Diego, Long Beach, Irvine, and Sacramento. University has been everything I've dreamt and more. Thank you, VAW/VRC Merit scholarship program.