

The Denise Kirkman Young Women in Business Leadership Award recognizes young women for their demonstrated leadership skills and commitment to driving innovation in the world around them. The award is designed to honor exceptional leadership, entrepreneurial spirit, ethical conduct and significant contributions while addressing global or local issues affecting women and girls or climate justice and to encourage young women to enter careers and to seek leadership positions in business in their communities and throughout the world. The Denise Kirkman Young Women in Business Award looks to the women of today to be the leaders of tomorrow.

Denise Kirkman is a role model for young women interested in business leadership careers. Denise graduated from the University of Detroit with a bachelor's in management information systems in 1989. Denise believed in lifelong learning and went on to receive her MBA from the University of Dallas and a Master's degree in Organizational Development from American University. Denise held notable leadership roles across various prominent organizations, including American Express, Accenture, Verizon and the IRS. She is recognized as a thought leader in her field, focusing on developing, implementing, and managing solutions that enhance both technology and business processes. Denise was devoted to her daughter, active in community engagement and loved to travel to meet new people and experience new adventures. She always had a kind word to share and provided support to those in need.

This \$1000 scholarship is fully funded by Zonta Club of Dallas Foundation.

AWARD DESCRIPTION

Initiated in 2025, the Denise Kirkman Young Women in Business Leadership Award honors young women of age 16 to 19, who have confirmed their attendance into a business curriculum/major at an accredited university/college for the Fall semester. Zonta Club of Dallas is funding one-time \$1000 scholarships to a qualified, selected recipient.

ELIGIBILITY

Women of any nationality who are students of age 16-19, living or studying in the Dallas area at the time of application and demonstrate evidence of the following are eligible to apply:

- Currently enrolled in high school and on track to graduate at end of Spring 2026 semester
- Confirmed attendance in a business program with major field of specialization in accounting, economics, finance, business management, business technology, information technology, marketing, operations management, human resources management, international business, or entrepreneurship at an accredited university for the Fall 2026 semester
- Excellent Academic Achievement
- Experience in local or student clubs/organizations, especially those involved with helping others learn
- Volunteer leadership achievements
- Knowledge of Zonta International and its programs

APPLICATION PROCESS

All application materials must be received at zontaywinbiz@gmail.com (as either plain PDF or word document) by the printed deadline.

DEADLINE

Applications for the 2026 Denise Kirkman Young Women in Business Leadership Award must be received by Zonta club's designee by March 22, 2026.

FUNDING SUPPORT

Denise Kirkman Young Women in Business Leadership Award is made possible through generous contributions from Zonta Club of Dallas members and friends of Zonta.