Shirelle Figueroa selected for scholarship – Shirelle Figueroa, student in the Genetic Counseling program, for a prestigious scholarship from the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) here in Little Rock. Shirelle was honored last evening, along with 35 other scholarship awardees from central Arkansas, at a banquet at the Arkansas Governor’s Mansion. She was accompanied by her mother and step-father from Louisiana.

Shirelle was born in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico. When she was 4 years old, her family moved to Florida with hopes of a better life on the U.S. mainland. Born into a low-income family, Shirelle states that “Seeing my parents work hard to provide for our family made me want to get an education.”

She earned her bachelor’s degree in Biology at Florida State University where she was a member of HOSA and Tri-Beta Biological Honor Society. While enrolled at UAMS, Shirelle has volunteered with the Huntington Disease Society and the Arkansas Down Syndrome Association. She is in the last year of her Genetic Counseling degree program.

After graduation, Shirelle plans to work as a genetic counselor, especially with low-income individuals, and to transform the representation of minorities in the genetic counseling profession.

Shirelle was one of 4 UAMS students to be selected for the LULAC Scholarship. The others were Patricio Montiel, 4th year medical student; Monique Berumen, nursing student; and Jamie DeRusse, 3rd year medical student at the UAMS Northwest campus in Fayetteville.

Shirelle learned about the LULAC Scholarship from an email notice sent by Tom Pilgreen, associate dean for student success. For more information about LULAC, click here.