

APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES

NMG highlights students, seasoned industry talent with various honors

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NMG is celebrating today's industry icons while supporting those who will carry it into new horizons. Image credit: NMG

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

Neiman Marcus Group (NMG), the parent company of U.S. retailer Neiman Marcus, is showing support for students seeking sustainable fashion careers.

The company's joint scholarship fund, which targets talented young students from diverse backgrounds in partnership with national nonprofit Fashion Scholarship Fund (FSF), will award select U.S. students with \$10,000 for the second year in a row. Newly announced recipients of the 2024 NMG x FSF Scholarship will also receive mentorship from an NMG executive and exclusive access to store programming, plus industry events.

"As an FSF board member, this joint scholarship is especially meaningful as we strive to support and nurture the next generation of changemakers in the fashion industry," said Lana Todorovich, chief merchandising officer at Neiman Marcus and executive board member at FSF, in a statement.

"It's incredibly exciting to see this program flourish in its second year, and I am confident that this year's group of scholars will amplify NMG's ongoing goal to influence positive change in the industry."

Past, present and future

Recipients of this year's NMG x FSF Scholarship hail from a range of institutions, studying everywhere from LIM and Spelman College to the Savannah College of Art and Design. A full list of 2024 grantees can be found on FSF's [site](#).

Representatives share that several NMG x FSF Scholarship alumni have gone on to work in entry-level positions at the corporation following college graduation.

"We are so pleased to join NMG in welcoming the new cohort of NMG x FSF Scholarship recipients who are pursuing socially impactful careers in sustainable and ethical fashion," said Peter Arnold, executive director of FSF, in a statement.

"I am certain that our 10 Scholars will find the experience of learning from dedicated NMG mentors, and the array of career development and educational opportunities that they will be offered, incredibly rewarding."



Neiman Marcus reports that several NMG x FSF Scholarship alumni have gone on to work in entry-level positions at the corporation. Image courtesy of NMG

Falling under its ongoing ESG goals, many of which were recently addressed in an update report ([see story](#)), the initiative provided leaders with many highlights from which to choose: members of its inaugural class, including 2023 awardees Mecca Hodge and Shanita Hunt, have taken entry-level positions within NMG in recent years.

"The experience and support that I received as an NMG x Fashion Scholarship Fund scholarship recipient have been instrumental in reinforcing my passion to revolutionize the fashion industry for a more sustainable future," said Mia DeMeola, client engagement project coordinator at Bergdorf Goodman and 2023 NMG x FSF Scholar, in a statement.

"I am honored to work for an organization that is determined to make a positive impact."

In addition to celebrating those helping carry fashion into new horizons, NMG is taking a moment to recognize the industry icons of today.



Ms. Chiuri has worked in luxury fashion for more than 25 years. Image credit: NMG

Via a separate initiative, the company is naming Maria Grazia Chiuri, creative director of Dior, the 2024 honoree of the Neiman Marcus Award for Distinguished Service in the Field of Fashion, the same title granted to founding designer Christian Dior in 1947.

NMG is calling out Dior's first female creative director for her ability to guide the luxury brand in becoming one of the world's most desirable, cementing the declaration with a ceremony taking place at the Ritz Hotel on March 3, 2024, during Paris Fashion Week.

"I am honored and delighted to receive the Neiman Marcus Award," said Ms. Chiuri, in a statement.

"Receiving this award given to Christian Dior in 1947, in recognition of the extraordinary impact his first collection had on the world of fashion, fills me with pride," she said. "Since my arrival at Dior, I have striven every day to respect this heritage that is part of the history of fashion, while also using my own poetic approach to shape the future of the brand in our complex world that is constantly bringing new challenges.

"This award pushes me to keep giving my all, doing the best I can for women, helping them to find the awareness they need to never give up on themselves and to overcome all hurdles; it is to them, to all the women who have made me a better woman, that I dedicate this award."



Ms. Chiuri is receiving the same reward that was bestowed upon Christian Dior in 1947. Image credit: NMG

Additional distinctions are to be announced in the coming weeks.

“The Neiman Marcus Awards celebrate global fashion luminaries who have inspired and shaped the industry,” said Geoffroy van Raemdonck, CEO of **NMG**, in a statement.

“We recognize Maria Grazia Chiuri with the same award Monsieur Dior won for her extraordinary work at the House of Dior that has catapulted female creative representation in the industry,” Mr. van Raemdonck said. “Her historic appointment at the Parisian Maison has ushered in a new era of cultural impact for the brand.”

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