

# **8 Local Women Compete to Become Miss New Bedford and Win a \$3,500 College Scholarship, Sept. 29**

On Saturday September 29th, 8 young women from across Greater New Bedford will compete to become the next Miss New New Bedford. This year's winner will receive a \$3,500 college scholarship plus thousands of dollars in additional sponsored gifts and services to use throughout her year. Runners-up and special prize winners will also receive scholarship prizes.

The young woman who becomes Miss New Bedford will then devote her year of service to the local community, and to her chosen personal cause. She will embark on a year's journey, joining a long sisterhood of women whose lives have been changed by winning the crown.

A local preliminary to the Miss Massachusetts and Miss America scholarship programs, the Miss New Bedford pageant emphasizes scholarship and service within the community. Since 1954, the pageant has awarded more than \$150,000 to winners and contestants. Contestants compete in five stages of scored competition: Interview, Talent, Lifestyle and Physical Fitness in Swimsuit, Evening Wear, and an On-Stage Question. The phases aim to test contestants on a variety of qualities that Miss New Bedford is expected to have, including confidence, intelligence, and a commitment to service.

The reigning Miss New Bedford 2018 is Sara Elizabeth Achorn. She is a sophomore at Bridgewater State University majoring in Special Education and Music. During her year of service, Sara made 90 appearances throughout the community and promoted her personal platform, "Progress Not Perfection," which emphasized

the importance making healthy lifestyle changes and choices. At the Miss Massachusetts pageant, Sara won the Miracle Maker Award for raising nearly \$4,000 for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. A talented vocalist, she also received the Most Talented Non-Finalist Award.

The pageant will be held Saturday September 29th, 2018 at 6:00PM at Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School, located at 1121 Ashley Blvd., in New Bedford. Tickets are \$20 if reserved in advance or \$25 when purchased at the door. To reserve tickets, email [tickets@missnewbedford.org](mailto:tickets@missnewbedford.org).

This year's Miss New Bedford contestants are:

**Sara Alfaro**

Student at University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

Age: 20

Platform: Stomping Out the Stigma Around Mental Illness

College Major: Psychology

Talent: Vocal/Piano

**Meighread Dandeneau**

Student at Fitchburg State University

Age: 19

Platform: Strength Over Silence

College Major: Communications Media

Talent: Vocal

**Kenzie Farland**

Student at University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

Age: 20

Platform: You Are Limitless: Building A Positive Self-Image

College Major: Political Science / Pre-Law

Talent: Vocal

**Alexis Ferreira**

Graduate of Bridgewater State University

Age: 21

Platform: Unplug and be Present: Encouraging the Increase of Face-to-face Interactions

College Major: Received a BS in Psychology

Talent: Irish Step Dance

### **Mary O'Connor**

Student at University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

Age: 22

Platform: Creating Pathways: Promoting Epilepsy and Seizure Disorder Education and Awareness

College Major: Bioengineering

Talent: Belly Dance

### **Beatriz Ribeiro**

Student at University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

Age: 22

Platform: The Meaning of Health and Wellness

College Major: Photography

Talent: Vocal

### **Kimberly Souza**

Student at Southern New Hampshire University

Age: 22

Platform: Healthy Smile, Healthy You

College Major: Healthcare Business Administration

Talent: Vocal

### **Megan Sylvia**

Student at Bridgewater State University

Age: 20

Platform: Learning Begins with Literacy

College Major: Criminal Justice

Talent: Vocal