



The Cook Family Foundation

PURPOSE

Serving as both a resource for the community and a catalyst for positive change.

OBJECTIVE

Through strategic, proactive use of funds and grants, strengthen institutions, extend their mission and enable their growth.

FOCUS AREAS

- Shiawassee County
- Education and Youth
- Environment
- University of Michigan
- Hayo-Went-Ha Camps

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Shiawassee Scholars Reach for the Stars

Opportunities, Resources and Support for the Best and Brightest Students

This past April another 51 talented eighth graders from local schools were recognized as Shiawassee Scholars by the Shiawassee Regional Education Service District (RES D). This program of academic support is funded by the Cook Family Foundation, who provides each recipient with at least a \$500 scholarship to be used for an enrichment program while in high school.

Now in its ninth year, the Shiawassee Scholars program has helped over 400 students take maximum advantage of

their high school years. "With admission to top universities becoming even more selective, we want to help local students succeed in high school and compete effectively for merit-based scholarships upon graduation," says **Denise Brady**, coordinator of the program for the RES D.

The academically best and brightest youth in our schools are identified through their scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) administered by the Midwest

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The mission of the Shiawassee Scholars is to provide academically gifted high school students the opportunities, resources and support to reach their full potential.

2008

New Shiawassee Scholars

Byron

Shannon Moore

Corunna

Nicholas Frederick

Philipp Gibson

Kristen Gilbert

Carly Hendershot

Michael Janca

Briklan Keating

Steven Kirkman

Nikkole McNamara

Garrett Ruess

Steven Sexton

Jonathan Toma

Emma Tomkins

Corunna/ Home School

Jane Mandley

Laingsburg

Mitchell Curry

Hannah Garner

Joshua Peck

Makayla Putnam

Morrice

Andrew York

New Lothrop

Brittney Kline

Cody Loll

Lauren Timmons

Allen Warren

Owosso

Kelsey Buchmayer

Gus Cook

Sascha Garrett

Allison George

Jacob Gerstler

Zachery Jenks-Western

Nicole Johnson

Evan Klinkowski

Mitchell Opanasenko

Nicholas Owens

Jake Remenec

Perry

Katie Aldrich

Austin Dunn

Abigail Feuka

Garyt Forman

Danielle Gerlach

Andrew Huguelet

Vince Kelly

Bradley Liestenfeltz

Leah Reichstetter

Rebecca Ross

Scott Watson

Samuel Whaley

Kaytlyn Witgen

St. Paul (Owosso)

Leah Beaulac

Nichole Constine

Yvonne Lehr

Evan Ritter

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Academic Talent Search in January of each year. Last year, more than 176 eighth graders in Shiawassee County took the test; the 51 with the highest scores were invited to become Shiawassee Scholars.

During their high school careers, Shiawassee Scholars are supported with a number of workshops and field trips where assistance and direction are provided on curriculum choices, leadership development, and the college admission process. "Our goal is for every Scholar to have a plan for academic challenge and success in high school," says Denise Brady. The opportunity for social interaction with the students from eight different high schools also benefits many of these students.

In addition, each student is provided with a \$500 scholarship to be used for a special academic or career program of the student's choosing. Starting this year, students will be able to apply for additional funding for summer overnight programs. "We believe strongly in the positive transformation that occurs when smart kids get to spend time with other top students from other communities and cultures," says **Tom Cook**, Executive Director of the Cook Family Foundation. "Being on a university campus and taking a course there gives students a vision of what college might be like for them."

The first Shiawassee Scholars, recognized in 2000, just graduated from college, and their successes have been many. Past scholars have attended top universities including Yale, Marquette, Michigan State Honors College, and the University of Michigan. Many have received notable scholarships based on their academic success. "Success comes from not only being bright, but by being smart in high school with the choice of classes, study habits, and the use of one's summer and free time," says Tom Cook.

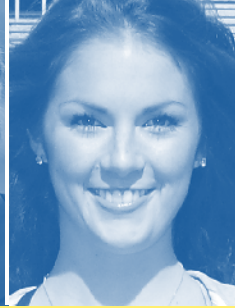


"Our goal is for every Scholar to have a plan for academic challenge and success in high school."

*– Denise Brady,
Coordinator
Shiawassee Scholars
Program*



Randy Piper
Owosso



Sarah Dolan
Laingsburg



Sarah Zawacki
Owosso



Charlie Piggot
Corunna



Stephanie Farr
Laingsburg

Introducing the 2008

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN SCHOLARS

This fall, 36 students from Shiawassee County are attending the University of Michigan with financial assistance from the Cook Family Foundation. All of these students are exemplary scholars and most had strong records of extra-curricular and community involvement.

One year ago, twenty-five students were nominated for the Bruce and Jacqueline Cook Scholarship, which is funded separately from the Foundation. They journeyed to Ann Arbor, met University officials, and had the opportunity to spend time with UM students. In addition to scholarship winner **Randy Piper** of Owosso (see back page), four of these students were finalists for the Bruce and Jacqueline Cook Scholarship. Each of these students received a \$3,000 scholarship from the Cook Family Foundation.

Sarah Dolan of Laingsburg applied successfully for early admission to the Ross Business School at the University of Michigan. In high school, she was president of the student council and the National Honor Society. In addition to being a volunteer in several community causes, she has been captain of the varsity cheer team and an active dancer. She was a Shiawassee Scholar. Her sister Jennifer already attends UM.

Sarah Zawacki, was the salutatorian of her class at Owosso High School and a member of both the National Honor Society and the Trojan Marching Band. With several Advanced Placement (AP) classes in her transcript, her grade point average exceeded 4.0. She was also a Shiawassee Scholar. She plans on studying biology with hopes of becoming a doctor.

Charlie Piggot of Corunna, a Shiawassee Scholar, was recognized as a National Merit Scholarship semi-finalist. He hopes to study Chinese history at UM and

someday work for the State Department. In high school he was a member of the quiz bowl team, science club, and National Honor Society. He also was recognized as the Red Cross Youth Volunteer of the Year.

Stephanie Farr of Laingsburg graduated with an impressive academic record and active participation in volleyball, softball, and the National Honor Society. She has also served as editor of the school newspaper, a volunteer at Sparrow Hospital, and as a barrista at a local coffee shop. She plans to study business at UM, where her sister Kristen is already a student.

All students from Shiawassee County who attend the University of Michigan receive scholarships from the Cook Family Foundation.

If you know of a student who has what it takes to attend the University of Michigan, please contact Bruce Cook at 989-725-5670 or bcook@wolverinesign.com

Shiawassee 2008 U of M Scholars

Byron

Matthew McCormick

Chesaning

Tiffany Frederick

Devin Witt

Corunna

Mark Burns

Steven Clarkson

Breann Eckerle

Krystina McKinch

Kelly Osika

Charles Piggot

Thomas Renwick

Rebecca Rupf

Nicholas Shipman

Durand

Stephanie Fortino

Taylor Hawkins

Laingsburg

Todd Burkhart

Sarah Dolan

Stephanie Farr

Rachael Hoxsey

Ovid Elsie

Tyler Bengel

Michael Byrnes

Stephanie Davis

Jeanise Dobski

Amanda Franke

Kristy Gould

Owosso

Kristen Cannon

Elizabeth Cluckey

Dayna Compeau

Katherine Lameti

Randy Piper

James Prendergast

James Toth

Natalie Voss

Devin Weckwert

Sarah Zawacki

New Lothrop

Andrea Garcia

Perry

Mandie Maurer

Owosso Student Earns Full Four-Year Scholarship

The 2008 Bruce and Jacqueline Cook Scholarship has been awarded to Randy Piper, the 2008 valedictorian of Owosso High School.

Randy, the son of Linda Piper, more than meets the three criteria of the scholarship: academic success in high school, academic promise in higher education, and leadership.

Bruce and Jacqueline Cook annually fund a four-year, full-tuition scholarship to one deserving student from Shiawassee County attending the University of Michigan. The Cook Family Foundation assists in the recruitment and selection of the scholarship winner and provides a scholarship to all nominees and finalists attending UM (see story inside).

Randy Piper won recognition as a Shiawassee Scholar in eighth grade, as a member of the National Honor Society, and as a National Merit Semifinalist. Always looking for an intellectual challenge, he took nine Advance Placement (AP) classes in math, sciences, language arts and history. After working through all available math classes he dual enrolled at Lansing Community College to study Calculus III. He was active on the championship OHS quiz bowl team and led the Trojan band as president in his senior year. He has been accepted to the UM College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and plans to study mathematics.

“Randy Piper has a huge intellectual capacity, strong academic motivation, and personal commitment. We know that our scholarship will help propel him to even greater success.” — Bruce Cook



Bright Futures Ahead:
New 2008 Shiawassee Scholars
University of Michigan Scholars 2008

Inside:

The Cook Family
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