



# The Cook Family Foundation

Fall 2021

## PURPOSE

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

## OUR VALUES

Have Integrity  
Be Inclusive  
Make True Impact

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*Elizabeth Tolrud is this year's winner of the Bruce and Jacqueline Cook Scholarship. Elizabeth, the daughter of Michael and Carol Tolrud, was the valedictorian of her class at Owosso High School, President of the Youth Advisory Committee at the Shiawassee Community Foundation and President of the Model United Nations. She has been admitted to the Honors College at the University of Michigan and plans to pursue an education and career in the environmental field.*

## Scholarships Continue to Open Doors

The Cook Family Foundation annually recognizes the leaders and best among high school students in the greater Shiawassee region and helps them to attend the University of Michigan.

This fall, 21 area graduates are receiving scholarships to UM in Ann Arbor and, in an expansion of the Foundation's scholarship program, another 13 are starting their college careers at UM-Flint with help from the Foundation (see page 2).

For over 40 years, the Cook Family Foundation has worked with the University of Michigan to make it possible and affordable for Shiawassee area students to get a college education from one of the top public universities in the world. For the last 16 years, Bruce and Jackie Cook have coordinated student recruitment efforts with the Foundation to award their own four-year, full-tuition scholarship.

Change is underway at the Cook Family Foundation with a revised vision and mission, new staff, and plans for the future. Read more at our website: [www.cookfamilyfoundation.org](http://www.cookfamilyfoundation.org)



## On Their Way to U of M

This year 21 of the leaders and best from ten area high schools have enrolled at UM-Ann Arbor, garnering each a scholarship from the Cook Family Foundation.

### Byron

Sarah Marvin

### Chesaning

Ethan Kohagen

### Corunna

Isabel Rau

### Durand

Elijah Beland

Goldyn Graham

Mackenzie Pancheck

Brynn Patsey

### Laingsburg

Cameron Allen

Grace Graham

Ethan Regan

Dawson Shastal

### Morrice

Owen Latunski

### New Lothrop

Grace Adelberg

Matthew Bishop

### Ovid-Elsie

Jordan Hitchens

### Owosso

Ruthie Dignan

Silas Krajniak

Isaac Taylor

Elizabeth Tolrud

Reyn Tuttle

### Perry

Parker Lewis

## Off to Ann Arbor, and to Flint

The Cook Family Foundation works with students from 10 high schools in the greater Shiawassee region, as well as county residents that attend other high schools and home-schooled students.

In 2021, the valedictorians from five local schools are attending the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. The Foundation provides a scholarship to any Shiawassee area student admitted to UM-Ann Arbor. This year, 21 students from Shiawassee high schools are scholarship recipients.

The Foundation has expanded its scholarship program to help academically talented students attend UM-Flint. This year, 13 students have met the criteria for admission to the Honors Program at UM-Flint and have been awarded a scholarship. The proximity and lower cost of UM-Flint makes it an attractive starting place for students who may choose to transfer to Ann Arbor to complete their undergraduate degree; other students may find the special programs and opportunities at UM-Flint best meet their educational goals.

The Cook Family Foundation serves as a resource for high school students interested in a top tier university education. In addition to personal counseling and assistance, the Foundation provides tours, online Zoom sessions, and support for the financial aid process. You can learn more about this process and find an online scholarship application on our website, or by calling Bruce Cook at 989-725-1621.

**For more information on how to apply for a scholarship, visit our website at [www.cookfamilyfoundation.org/scholarships/](http://www.cookfamilyfoundation.org/scholarships/)**



*Admissions Counselor John Amboy, works closely with the Foundation staff to assist Shiawassee area students learn more about UM-Flint.*

## U of M - Flint Scholarship Students

### Byron

Kylee Flaherty

### Corunna

Leah Clough\*

Levi Thiele

### Durand

Seth Blackledge

Allyson Gillett

Aidan Loos

Lillian Scriptor

Chelsea Simmons

### New Lothrop

Jacob Burgess

### Ovid-Elsie

Abigail Cooper

Callum Holley

### Owosso

Kelsey Andrykovich

Sierra Wiseley

## Foundation Grows

An expansion of scholarship programs is only one of several steps the Cook Family Foundation is taking to prepare for the future.

Recently, the board revised and reaffirmed our mission and vision. Perhaps more importantly, we have adopted three values to guide our decisions.

- 1) **Be Inclusive**
- 2) **Have Integrity; and**
- 3) **Make True Impact.**



These values help us more clearly communicate to the community we serve, provide guidance to our grantees, and remind ourselves of our legacy and commitments. You can read more at [www.cookfamilyfoundation.org/our-mission/](http://www.cookfamilyfoundation.org/our-mission/)

In addition, we have hired a new staff person to add capacity to our work. Kerry Dutcher, after many successful years in health care administration, has joined our long-time Associate Director Yvette Collard to better serve students, nonprofits organizations, and our community.

\* 2019 graduate



# 2021 Shiawassee Scholars Program Persists

Despite the challenges of a pandemic, the Shiawassee Regional Education Service District (SRES D) has continued the Shiawassee Scholars program for the County's most academically talented students in their high school careers.

With financial support from the Cook Family Foundation, the Shiawassee Scholars Program provides resources to academically talented high school students to reach their full potential. Students are identified in eighth grade by achieving the highest scores in the county on the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test). This year we have 53 students that are participating in the Shiawassee Scholar program.

Shiawassee Scholars participate in several programs to prepare them for a college education. Through high school, Scholars have the opportunity to attend in-person and online informational sessions regarding planning for college and career, get assistance with dual enrollment options and accelerated academic programs, practice their test-taking skills, and apply for a scholarship for a summer academic program.



BYRON



CORUNNA



DURAND

## Shiawassee Scholars 2021 Inductees

### Graduating Class of 2025

#### Byron

Devon Bailey  
Zerik Crawford  
Emma Davis  
Samuel McIntosh

#### Corunna

Jack Challender  
Robert Donley  
Logan Fox  
Paul Galesk  
Alexis Golab  
Aidan Lavery  
Emerson Massey  
Alan Mrva  
Aiden Nellis  
Jaxon Strauch  
Makani Tenorio  
Dayne Zeeman

#### Durand

Isabelle Cooper  
Joseph Maciak  
Alison Walter

#### Home Schooled

Jordyn Pangborn

#### Laingsburg

Maris Brown  
Kaitlyn Laing  
Evelyn Logghe  
Andrew Park  
Felix Ramirez  
Emily Rathka  
Gavin Snider-Brown  
Emma West

#### Morrice

Mackenzie Botimer

#### New Lothrop

Alexis Andres  
Dalton Birchmeier  
William Birkmeier  
Stone Elkins  
Olivia Gillett  
Kyle Gillie  
Rylee Handley  
Victoria Henige  
Matthew Hughes  
Isabella Kanine  
Ashlyn Orr

#### Owosso

Charles Agnew  
Alice Banghart  
Zayne Bentley  
Simon Erfourth  
Sophia Lawrence  
Jordan Newman  
Joshua Pearl  
Delaina Peterson  
Ayden Woodruff

#### Perry

Jocelyn Hessling  
Will Loos  
Hazel Stone

#### Salem Lutheran

Lydia Atkins  
Grace Steiger



LAINGSBURG



MORRICE



NEW LOTHROP



OWOSSO



PERRY & HOME SCHOOLED



SALEM LUTHERAN



For more information on the program, contact Renee Dotson at the SRES D at [dotson@sresd.org](mailto:dotson@sresd.org), 989-743-3471 or visit the Career and College section of their website at [sresd.org](http://sresd.org)

# Several Sources of Support

The University of Michigan provides more financial aid than any other higher education institution in the State.



[www.goblueguarantee.umich.edu](http://www.goblueguarantee.umich.edu)

The Go Blue Guarantee is a promise of free tuition to any family earning less than \$65,000 and the University bridges the gap between what any family is able to afford (as determined by federal eligibility rules, i.e. FAFSA) and the cost of attending the University.

In addition, UM provides several specific scholarships, such as the Donald Cook scholarship. Named after the Foundation's benefactor, a 1924 graduate of UM School of Literature, Science, and the Arts (LS&A), the scholarship provides \$5,000 a year to a Shiawassee area student. The Cook Family Foundation is committed to helping students from the Shiawassee region receive the maximum amount of financial aid and scholarship support.



*Jordan Hitchens, the valedictorian of Ovid-Elsie High School, is this year's recipient of the Donald Cook Scholarship, which was presented by Tom Cook and Dr. Anne Curzan, the Dean of the College of Literature, Sciences and the Arts.. She had significant academic accomplishments at her school, with AP and dual enrollment classes through Lansing Community College. She intends to eventually attend medical school in the future to study psychiatry. Jordan is an accomplished artist and has been President of the National Art Honor Society. She is the daughter of Miranda and Williams Hitchens.*

New 2021 Shiawassee Scholars  
University of Michigan Scholars 2021  
Donald Cook Scholarship Winner  
Bruce & Jackie Cook Scholarship Winners

## Inside:

The Cook Family  
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