



# The Cook Family Foundation

Fall 2024

## 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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*Cook Family Foundation Executive Director Tom Cook (center) stands with scholarship winners (left to right) Haley Munson, Jorja Napier, Quinn Skarich, and Brody Webb.*

## Continuing Our Legacy of Support

The Cook Family Foundation continues to help the area's leaders and the best high school students attend the University of Michigan.

From the greater Shiawassee area, 45 of the most academically accomplished high school graduates have been awarded scholarships to attend the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and Flint.

**Quinn Skarich** is this year's **Bruce and Jacqueline Cook Scholarship** winner, the 20th recipient of this prestigious four-year, full-tuition scholarship. She is the daughter of Corbin and the late Dr. Nicholas Skarich. In addition to being the valedictorian of her class at Owosso High School, Quinn was president of the Youth Advisory Committee of The Shiawassee Community Foundation, the Drum Major of the Trojan Marching Band, and the Captain of the Quiz Bowl Team. Quinn has a strong interest in biology and medicine and is thinking about a career in dentistry.

Three other students were awarded four-year scholarships each worth \$20,000. **Haley Munson** of Durand High School and **Jorja Napier** of Corunna High School were awarded the **Donald Cook Scholarship** by the University of Michigan to attend the College of LS&A and study psychology and chemistry, respectively. **Brody Webb** of Perry High School is the recipient of this year's **Kuhlman Family Scholarship**. Brody intends to major in biology at UM with plans to become an optometrist.



## On Their Way to Ann Arbor

This Fall, 24 of the Leaders and Best from ten area high schools are enrolled at U of M - Ann Arbor.

### Byron

Thomas Harris  
Alana Riddell  
Mason Stark

### Chesaning

Haylee Luft  
Phoebe Malak  
Jeana Travis

### Corunna

Eli Dings  
Alexandra Granville  
Jorja Napier  
Lillia Reid  
Jude Suchyta

\*2020 Graduate

### Durand

Haley Munson  
Raegan Taylor

### Laingsburg

Jaylei Kramer

### Morrice

Hayley Lademann\*

### New Lothrop

Emma Bishop  
Liliana Bruff  
Colton Symons

### Ovid-Elsie

Mason Ritenburg

### Owosso

Rajvinder Kaur  
Elijah Morgan  
Quinn Skarich

### Perry

Calena Stevens  
Brody Webb

## On Their Way to Flint

This year, 21 students from these eight area high schools are starting their UM education in Flint:

### Byron

Greta L'Esperance\*

### Chesaning

Makenzie Hall

### Corunna

Claire Milton  
William Walter

### Durand

Abigail Beland\*\*  
Genavieve Bell  
Madeline Bias  
Julia Burk

Megan Dear-Marme

Avery Gilson\*\*  
Kendall Hall\*\*  
Aidan Nazarian  
Alyssa Perry  
Jacob Shankster

### New Lothrop

Clarissa Rosum

### Ovid-Elsie

Claire Wiktorowski

### Owosso

Jacob Cummings  
Karissa Potter  
Kira Reidsema  
Sierra Wright

### Perry

Madison Reeder

## The Shiawassee Advantage

Any student from the Shiawassee area with a 3.5 GPA or greater will receive a scholarship upon enrollment in any of the three campuses of the University of Michigan: Ann Arbor, Flint, or Dearborn.

## Hats Off to Our Scholarship Winners



To learn more about the support we give academically promising students, visit the Scholarships tab on our website at [cookfamilyfoundation.org](https://cookfamilyfoundation.org). We provide scholarship support to any of the campuses of the University of Michigan, but you must first fill out our application at [cookfamilyfoundation.org/scholarships/](https://cookfamilyfoundation.org/scholarships/)

\* 2019 graduate

\*\* 2023 graduate





# 2024

## Shiawassee Scholars Program in its 24th Year

For 24 years, the Shiawassee Regional Education Service District (SRES D) has promoted academic achievement in high school with support from the Cook Family Foundation. This past March, the newest group of Shiawassee scholars from eight Shiawassee County schools were recognized at a reception where they heard inspiring speeches from soon-to-graduate high school senior Shiawassee Scholars.



Each year the top eighth grade students are identified by the highest scores of those students who voluntarily choose to take the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test), which is designed as a college admissions tool. However, next year the Shiawassee Scholars will be identified by the top scorers on the PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test)

which is administered to all enrolled students in the spring of their eighth grade academic year. "We're excited about this program change," noted Program Manager, **Kelsee Gewirtz**. "By utilizing this across the board standardized test, every Shiawassee County eighth grader will be able to be tested to potentially become a Shiawassee Scholar."

Shiawassee Scholars participate in several programs to prepare them for access in college, including a three-day trip to Ann Arbor. Throughout their high school careers, scholars are invited to workshops, information sessions and in-school "Dish and Dessert" events to help them plan their high school curriculum, seek out on-line and dual enrollment classes, and practice their test-taking skills.

Scholarships are available to the Shiawassee Scholars for summer academic programs. This enables high school students to learn a subject in-depth on a college campus with other talented students from around the country. Scholars have attended programs in healthcare, engineering, meteorology, environment and other topics at various colleges: Michigan Tech, Michigan State, Johns Hopkins, Wake Forest and other universities.



### Shiawassee Scholars 2024 Inductees *Graduating Class of 2028*

#### Byron

Abigail Harper  
Charles Hoskins  
MacKenzie Roush

#### Durand

Parker Dennis  
Anabella Drauch  
Addison Minto  
Lillian Smith  
Knatalie Taylor

#### New Lothrop

Samuel Heslip  
Brady Kohlmann  
Rory Matthews

#### Corunna

Mason Carginan  
Evan Cunningham  
Tye DeLorge  
Jackson Donley  
Brody Downen  
Cooper Golab  
Benjamin Justice  
Harmony Kwiatkowski  
Caleb LeCureux  
Evelyn Lindberg  
Benjamin Meyer  
Lorelai Millar  
Aimee Montoto  
Katherine Ramos  
Brayden Williamson  
Mya Zofchak

#### Laingsburg

Jack Buckland  
Meriel Burley  
Raegan Cousineau  
Emma DeShone  
Ella Dorman  
Jayden Hodges  
Levi Ijames

#### Owosso

Isaac Butts  
Abby Crandell  
Jackson Griffin  
Parker Livingston  
Jacob Moore  
Sylvia Passow  
Navraaj Singh  
Miriam Skarich

#### Perry

Enoch Fountain  
Grayson Groshong  
Saige Stone  
James (Cooper) Wisler

#### Morrice

Elliot Bohinski



For more information about Shiawassee Scholars, contact Kelsee Gewirtz at the SRES D at 989.743.3471 ext. 2602 or email her at [gewirtz@sresd.org](mailto:gewirtz@sresd.org).



The  
**Cook Family  
Foundation**

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## Inside:

Continuing Our Legacy of Support  
University of Michigan Scholars 2024  
New 2024 Shiawassee Scholars  
Thank You Counselors

## Thank You Counselors

The Cook Family Foundation has partnered for years in our scholarship work with our Shiawassee Area counselors. They put in extra effort, give us new ideas and advice, and help us best support our area's students. We really couldn't do this work without them!

There are many pathways to academic success and counselors help students sort out the options for their curriculum, online classes, and dual enrollment as well as then determine what type of post-high school education or training best meets a student's needs and desires.

This year we say goodbye to two dedicated counselors and wish them well in their retirement – Sherri Svrcek and Tammy Babinski.



### **Sherri Svrcek**

Corunna High School's Guidance Counselor  
for the past 25 years

**Sherri Svrcek** has been such a great help to us in our work with Corunna students and we will miss her greatly! She passes the torch on to **Hillari Crawford** – whom we look forward to working more closely with in the years ahead.



### **Tammy Babinski**

Laingsburg High School's Guidance Counselor  
for the past 20 years

**Mrs. Babinski** has been an integral part of our work with Laingsburg's students through the years. It will take TWO counselors to fill Tammy's shoes! We look forward to getting to know **Alyssa Klein** and **Cassidy Tirmenstein** this fall.