

Scholarship Committee Report for 2019 Annual Meeting of the Michigan Chapter SWCS

The Michigan Scholarships in Conservation Program 2018-2019 Academic Year Scholarship was awarded to Loren G. King, a junior at Michigan State University majoring in Agriculture Education. His studies emphasize Agriculture Technology and Leadership, with minors in Environmental Economics and Community Food Systems. Loren designed a drone that can take measurements of soil and atmospheric parameters to help inform agricultural management and environmental decision making. Loren grew up on the family farm near Burr Oak (St. Joseph County) and he had leadership positions in FFA and 4H.

The \$500 award is made to a deserving student who shows promise in the field of natural resources conservation. The scholarship is funded by interest from two certificates of deposit held at the Marshall Community Credit Union, and proceeds from two funds invested with Vanguard, as well as, an annual \$2 per Chapter member investment from the Chapter's share of the International membership fee and occasional donations from Chapter members. Kelly Goward's Treasurer's Report has details of the several funds.

A call-for-applications is now available for the 2019-2020 academic year. The application form and instructions are available on the Michigan Chapter [website](#). An announcement was sent to institutional contacts in early October, and applications will be received by the Scholarship Committee until January 31, 2020. The recipient will be selected by February 15, 2019. The Scholarship Committee responsible with reviewing this year's applications and selecting a recipient includes Kelly Goward, James Rasmussen, and Zachary Curtis (Chair).

In addition to the scholarship, the chapter initiated a Communications Internship position that was funded by a \$500 donation from Hugh Brown, Past President. Anna DeBraber, a freshman from Grand Rapids studying at Michigan Technological University in Houghton, was selected to perform duties which included assisting with the newsletter, posting information to social media and promoting the Society to other college students. The position description was approved by the Executive Council and her performance was evaluated favorably by Rebecca Bender (Region 1 Council Representative) and Kelly Goward. The Michigan Chapter SWCS will need to decide whether or not to continue the internship and how to pay for the position.

Prepared by Hugh Brown, 2018-2019 Chair, and Zachary Curtis, 2019-2020 Chair.