

December 15, 2023

Scholarship Committee Report for 2023 Annual Meeting of the Michigan Chapter SWCS

The Michigan Scholarships in Conservation Program is designed to be a strong and continuing activity of the Michigan Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society to advance the science and art of good land use. The program offers Michigan Chapter SWCS members a convenient and significant way of providing long term support to the goals of the Michigan Chapter and the Soil and Water Conservation Society through facilitating the education of future soil and water conservation professionals.

Scholarships are to encourage qualified students to enter the field of natural resource conservation and to prepare them for such careers through an organized program of study in an institution of higher education offering training in appropriate areas. Awards are based on interest in conservation as evidenced by scholastic ability and participation in conservation activities.

The 2022-2023 Michigan Scholarships in Conservation was awarded to Alexa Hempel, a senior from Western Michigan University (WMU) majoring in Environmental & Sustainability Studies and Geography. Alexa has demonstrated her interest in (and commitment to) natural resources conservation as an Environmental Education Intern at Rocky Mountain National Park in Estes Park, CO, and more recently, as a Wilderness Ranger at Glacier National Park in Polebridge, MT. Alexa also holds a leadership position in the Geology Club at WMU.

Please see the chapter website for a highlight of this year's Scholarship in Conservation award:

[Michigan Chapter Soil and Water Conservation Society - Scholarships \(miglswcs.org\)](https://miglswcs.org)

The Scholarship Committee responsible with reviewing this year's applications and selecting a recipient includes Kelly Goward, Steve Schaub, Heather Varboncoeur, Daniel Kesselring, and Zachary Curtis (Chair).

The Chapter plans to offer a student scholarship for the Fall 2024-Spring 2025 academic year. A call-for-applications will be made in late summer or early fall 2024.

Report prepared by:

Zachary Curtis, Ph.D.
Director, Region 2
Chair, Scholarship Committee