



December 11, 2024

Scholarship Committee Report for 2024 Annual Meeting of the Michigan Chapter SWCS

The Michigan Scholarships in Conservation Program aims 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 at a Michigan College or University 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 2024-2025 Michigan Scholarships in Conservation was awarded to Elizabeth (Liz) Kelley, a senior from Hope College, majoring in Environmental Science (minor: Global Health) with an emphasis of hydrology and water conservation. Liz has significant leadership and conservation experience, including a watershed management internship at the Outdoor Discovery Center and serving on the Hope College "Green Team" and "Green Hope" organizations promoting environmental awareness and student / community involvement. She also spends significant time and effort in leadership roles for her sorority at Hope College (including as President and Judicial Board Chairperson).

Last year's winner (2023-2024) was Alexa Hempel, a senior (at the time) at Western Michigan University majoring in Environmental & Sustainability Studies and Geography.

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 Steve Schaub (Michigan Chapter President), Daniel Kesselring (Chapter Secretary), and Zachary Curtis (Committee Chair, Michigan Chapter Region 2 Director). The Chapter plans to offer a student scholarship for the Fall 2025-Spring 2026 academic year. A call-for applications will be made in late summer or early fall 2025.

Report prepared by:

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