Environmental Science and Engineering Scholarships Awarded in 2018

Twenty-one environmental science and engineering students received scholarships to study at Ohio colleges and universities this year, through Ohio EPA’s Environmental Education Fund.

“Together with Ohio colleges and universities, we are investing in today’s environmental scholars to foster stewardship well into the future,” said Ohio EPA Director Craig W. Butler.

Students in four-year programs who will receive a $2,500 scholarship for the 2018-2019 academic year include:

- Eli Barber, Bowling Green State University (Environmental Science, Geospatial Analysis), Bowling Green
- Jordan Budrevich, University of Toledo (Environmental Engineering, Sustainability Studies), Silver Lake
- Katja Diekgers, Miami University (Zoology, Environmental Science), Los Altos, CA
- Destiny Funk, Otterbein University (Zoo and Conservation Science, Biology), Milan
- Jessie Gibson, Ohio State University (Environment, Economy, Development and Sustainability), West Salem
- Dani Huffman, Kenyon College (Environmental Studies), Granville
- Lataisha Jones, Kent State University (zoology and Biological Sciences), Barberton
- Alexandra Nelson, University of Mount Union (Environmental Science), Warsaw
- Emily Nicholls, Ashland University (Biology), Mt. Vernon
- Hayley Nininger, Ashland University (Biology, Toxicology), Centerburg
- Andrew Oppliger, Ohio State University (Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife), Westerville
- Kayla Parry, Cedarville University (Environmental Science), Hamler
- Amber Pitsenberger, Otterbein University (Zoo and Conservation Science),
Biology), Howard
- Alexandra Smith, Ohio State University (Earth Science), Medina
- Angie Sullivan, Ohio Northern University (Civil Engineering), Medina
- Amanda Szinte, Ohio University (Wildlife and Conservation Biology), Madison
- Tyler Theaker, Ashland University (Biology and Environmental Science), Bellville
- Lydia Trick, University of Cincinnati (Biology and Environmental Studies), Kettering
- Jordin Vidmar, Ashland University (Toxicology and Biology), Wadsworth
- Lucille Williams, University of Rio Grande (Wildlife Conservation), Athens
- Nicholas Willse, University of Cincinnati (Environmental Studies and Biology), Medina

This year’s candidates have a variety of research and work experience on topics such as the following:

- Landfill liner placement, seaming and water drop analysis to prevent erosion
- Effects of algae and sedimentary turbidity on the visual sensitivity of Lake Erie game fish
- Cost-effective techniques to extract hydrophobic insecticides from sediments
- Effects of saline deicing agents on freshwater aquatic invertebrates
- Developing a climate resiliency plan for the City of Alliance
- Wetland biodiversity assessments
- Light inventory to prepare Yellowstone National Park application for Dark Sky designation
- Analysis of lead contamination in the feathers of wild birds
- Field tests of passageways beneath the Nelsonville Bypass for amphibians and reptiles
- Red algae as a bioindicator of high quality freshwater habitats
- Environmental risk assessments of industrial chemicals before coming to the market
- Effects of biochar amendments to green roof substrate for nutrient retention

A total of $52,500 was awarded this year. Since the scholarship program began in 2000, $869,950 has been awarded statewide to 353 students at 46 Ohio colleges and universities. Funding comes from civil penalties collected by Ohio EPA for violations of air and water pollution control laws. The scholarship program is administered by the Ohio Academy of Science.

The next application deadline for scholarships is April 15, 2019. Additional information about the scholarship is available by calling Ohio EPA’s Office of Environmental Education at (614) 644-2873 or visiting www.epa.ohio.gov/oee. To learn more about the Ohio Academy of Science, call (614) 488-2228 or visit www.OHIOSCI.org.