Environmental Science and Engineering Scholarships Awarded in 2019

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

“Congratulations to the recipients of these scholarships,” said Governor Mike DeWine. “I look forward to the contributions these students will make in the environmental science field.”

“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 Laurie A. Stevenson.

Students in four-year programs who will receive a $2,500 scholarship for the 2019-2020 academic year include:

- Legacy Skout Barger, Marietta College (Environmental Science and Geology), Beverly, WV
- Garrett Dildine, Ohio University (Civil Engineering and Environmental Studies), New Albany
- Madeleine Gefke, Oberlin College (Biology and Environmental Studies), Bethesda, MD
- Taylor Hrabak, Ohio State University (Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife), Medina
- Eric Huber, Bowling Green State University (Biology), Lancaster
- Emily Keller, University of Mount Union (Environmental Science), Aurora
- Maria Kern, Ashland University (Biology and Chemistry), Eaton
- Amanda Killian, Ohio State University (Environmental Engineering), Dublin
- Naomi Kohler, Cedarville University (Biology), Waxhaw, NC
- Emma Lancaster, University of Cincinnati (Environmental Studies and Biology), Cincinnati?
- Madison Nadler, Wittenberg University (Biology and Environmental Studies), Jackson
- Julie Platz, Otterbein University (Environmental Science and Biology), Cincinnati
- Adam Sanders, University of Cincinnati (Environmental Studies and Economics), Lorain?
- Nathaniel Steffensmeier, Ohio State University (Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife), Columbus
• Olivia Vasquez, Oberlin College (Environmental Studies and Computer Science), California?
• Rebecca Woods, Cleveland State University (Environmental Science), Cleveland?

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

• Methane leak detection from natural gas production
• Repurposing by-products from acid mine drainage treatment
• West Nile Virus transmission between mosquito vectors and avian hosts
• Effect of turbidity and Harmful Algal Blooms on fish ability to detect predators
• Bioavailability and toxicology of heavy metals in jewelry
• Removing TCE solvents from groundwater
• Microbial growth in UV light and chlorine disinfection systems
• Detection of pesticide residues (glyphosphate) in first order streams post rainfall
• Effects of culverting on stream ecosystems
• Educational effectiveness of graphic representations of water and electricity consumption

A total of $40,000 was awarded this year. Since the scholarship program began in 2000, $909,950 has been awarded statewide to 369 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, 2020. 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.