Environmental Science and Engineering Scholarships Awarded in 2020

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

“We are making an investment 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 $5,000 scholarship for the 2020-2021 academic year include:

- Laurel Howe Bayless, Ohio State University (Physical Geography), Athens
- Luke Andrew Bobay, Ohio State University (Environmental Science, Evolution and Ecology), Westerville
- Leah D. Dickerson, University of Cincinnati (Environmental Engineering), Maumee
- Kyle Fox, Ohio State University (Environmental Science), Miamisburg
- Zachary Zane Fox, Hiram College (Environmental Studies), Massillon
- Valerie Anne Gaulke, Ohio State University (Fisheries, Forestry, Wildlife), Dayton
- Megan Elizabeth Ginn, University of Cincinnati (Environmental Engineering), Batavia
- Shasta Kamara, Ohio University (Marine, Freshwater and Environmental Biology), Logan
- Caleb T. Lumsden, Cleveland State University (Biology), Bay Village
- Jessica Nicole Patrick, Miami University (Geology), Gahanna
- Alyssa Jordan Ulrich, Wittenberg University (Environmental Science), Curtice

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

- Plant community homogenization in urban, suburban and exurban sites
- Ice core paleontology, using black carbon to trace fire history
- Remote monitoring of sanitary and storm sewer flows
- 3-D printing techniques for environmental applications
- Nutrient recovery and treatment methods for cyanobacteria
- Evaluating construction sites for placement of stormwater controls
- Continuous emissions and opacity monitoring
- Pollinator gardens at solar installations
- Seasonal interactions of White throated sparrows
• Vernal pool surveys of breeding amphibian populations and their phenology
• Temperature, ambient zooplankton abundance and yellow perch growth rates in Lake Erie
• Impacts of climate and herbicides on behavioral interactions of Rusty crayfish

A total of $55,000 was awarded this year. Since the scholarship program began in 2000, $964,950 has been awarded statewide to 380 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, 2021. 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) 389-2182 or visit www.OHIOSCI.org.