



# MICHIGAN COMMUNITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Where students with a variety of academic interests explore their commitment to community service, social justice, and intercultural understanding

MCSP invites first-year students from a variety of backgrounds into a caring living-learning community, where they explore their values and interests while pursuing their academic goals. Community engagement opportunities that are personally meaningful, a shared living-learning experience, and dialogues across differences equip them for lives of service to the common good in a diverse democracy. Supportive faculty and staff who model purposeful, other-oriented lives, caring peer mentors who facilitate students' transition to college, and activities that foster holistic well-being round out the program. MCSP encourages everyone to contribute their gifts, receive support, cultivate meaningful relationships, grow in knowledge and insight, and develop intercultural skills and ethical commitment to make a positive difference in the world.

**We believe that students need opportunities for off-campus experiences to integrate their learning and personal goals, and to broaden their understanding of the challenges facing our society.** In addition to local opportunities for service and learning throughout the school year, these opportunities could also include an alternative spring break trip to Washington, D.C., or a service trip to South Africa. Scholarships alone can't make these transformative experiences possible. To put life-changing, co-curricular experiences like these within reach of all our interested students, **we need to expand our funding for travel and accommodations.**

Our biggest single expense for local community service projects and cultural experiences is the cost of van transportation. Lack of funding for transportation severely limits our students' opportunities to commit to long-term service in public schools or after-school tutoring programs, and thus our program's ability to sustain relationships with community partners and those they serve. In addition, because we can provide only three service opportunities per student per semester, and no large group service projects, our work with community partners in Detroit can happen only once per year. **Additional funding for local transportation can expand opportunities for all MCSP students to join in these transformational service experiences**, enriching their personal well-being as well as their understanding of themselves and others.

## MCSP STRATEGIC FUND

The MCSP Strategic Fund helps MCSP to provide extraordinary co-curricular community engagement experiences for students, including our annual Day in Detroit, our MLK Day Circle of Unity, and our Community Builder in Residence programs. The fund also helps MCSP to pursue strategic initiatives not covered within the operating budget, including, for instance, the professional creation of a new student recruitment video and funding student-initiated projects. Gifts of all sizes are critical to meet these goals, and gifts of \$10,000 and more are especially needed.

**"I've been able to learn more about social change, building community, and personal wellness. My journey in this program has been life-changing, and has truly helped me become the person that I am today."**  
—Lauren, LSA '27

## MCSP TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The MCSP Travel Scholarship Fund makes optional domestic and international travel with the program accessible to all MCSP students, regardless of their ability to pay. Travel opportunities include the GSP-MCSP-Inkululeko South Africa Service Trip and the Alternative Spring Break to Washington DC. Your gift to the travel scholarship fund enables students to spend time getting to know people from a culture that is new to them, working and learning beside them, and together growing an appreciation for and understanding of differences and similarities through dialogue, cultural immersion, and service.

## WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT

Your partnership connects the college's rich past to a boundless and bright future. You can change lives with gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities, and create a meaningful legacy through your bequest, trusts, gift annuities, and other planned gifts. Your generosity makes an impact on what's next, for a better tomorrow.



for what's next ▶  
**Look to Michigan**

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