



# MICHIGAN LEARNING COMMUNITIES

Where students and faculty—drawn together by shared goals and interests—create small, supportive environments with all the advantages of a large research university

Michigan Learning Communities (MLC) are groups of students and faculty, often from diverse backgrounds, who come together because of shared goals and common intellectual interests. Those interests can range from community service to cutting-edge research and from mathematics to communication arts. MLCs combine the personal attention of a small college environment with the unparalleled resources of a large research university. Students thrive as part of a supportive and intellectually stimulating residential community in LSA—Global Scholars Program (GSP), Health Sciences Scholars Program (HSSP), Lloyd Scholars for Writing and the Arts (LSWA), Michigan Community Scholars Program (MCSP), Michigan Research and Discovery Scholars (MRADS), and Women in Science and Engineering Residence Program (WISE RP).

MLCs are built to achieve common learning outcomes. Michigan Learning Communities support students' academic success by:

- Developing students' sense of belonging and community within individual MLCs and across U-M's campus including opportunities for students to develop significant friendships.
- Facilitating connections between students' curricular and co-curricular interests and goals that foster personal, professional, and academic exploration.
- Connecting students to a strong network of peers, faculty, staff, alumni, and campus resources both as a transition to college life and throughout their college experience.
- Providing opportunities for students to engage in leadership practice, identity development, critical thinking, experiential learning, and applied learning.
- Fostering a long-term commitment to meaningful civic engagement and positive change.
- Supporting lived experiences of students across social identities and encouraging student engagement in exploring structures of inequality, power, and privilege.



## GLOBAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Global Scholars Program (GSP) is home to students from around the world and across the U.S. who live together in North Quad, take common classes, and build community through social, cultural, and service events. GSP also has an ethic of global social justice, and all GSP students engage in academic year-long projects supporting NGOs around the world, giving our Michigan roots a global reach.

### GSP STRATEGIC FUND

Your gift has a direct impact on our students by helping GSP provide global service learning and student leadership development opportunities to our second and third-year program members. In an interconnected world, cross-cultural learning, collaboration, and leadership development are more important than ever, and you play an important role in helping us provide high-impact opportunities to GSP students.



**"I am truly grateful for the financial support, which made it possible for me to participate in this life-changing program abroad. I am committed to maximizing the impact of this opportunity by sharing my learnings and experiences with my peers, educators, and local communities. I will continue to work towards fostering understanding and promoting educational equity, with the hope of inspiring others to join this important cause."**

**—M.K., LSA '23**

## HEALTH SCIENCES SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Health Sciences Scholars Program (HSSP) supports students to become change agents in healthcare with a goal toward a more diverse and compassionate healthcare system and workforce. For 20 years HSSP has been introducing first-year pre-health undergraduates to the breadth of careers and current issues in healthcare by bringing together students and faculty from a broad range of backgrounds, interests, and experiences. HSSP is committed to embracing and providing a supportive environment to a diverse population of students.

### HSSP STRATEGIC FUND

HSSP is aligning what the community offers with its mission through strategic planning. The process is highlighting new and innovative ways to foster HSSP students' growth for the future of healthcare while reinforcing the value of current offerings. Gifts of all sizes to support the Strategic Fund will provide resources to pursue the best initiatives, founded in both experience and research, to prepare more students to be the future of healthcare.

**"HSSP has become a defining part of my college experience. It's hard for me to imagine where I would be right now if I had not been a part of this program. HSSP has given me wonderful academic and mentoring opportunities, but what I value most is the unique community it has given me. This is a community that I am truly proud and grateful to be a part of."**

**—Jessie, LSA '24**



## LLOYD SCHOLARS FOR WRITING AND THE ARTS

Lloyd Scholars for Writing and the Arts (LSWA) is a diverse and creative living-learning community in which students are invited to “be creative, whatever your major.” We bring together computer scientists and poets, digital animators and chemical engineers, sociologists and musicians, and build community through engagement with a wide variety of writerly and artistic experiences. Our programs include highly-sought-after courses taught by expert writing faculty, a robust arts curriculum for non-art majors, student-led clubs, a literary and arts journal, poetry prizes, community-engagement opportunities, and outstanding visiting artists and writers.

### LSWA STRATEGIC FUND

The LSWA Strategic Fund provides opportunities for student engagement that go beyond the scope of the classroom and the residence hall. These funds allow LSWA to bring in exciting artists and writers or to take students further afield for travel-based experiential learning opportunities. LSWA students help create community events such as FestiFools and Fool Moon, and new gifts could help fund the development of exciting future events. Funding could be used to establish a prize fund for visual and/or performing arts in LSWA to complement the annual poetry prizes, or to develop summer programming for LSWA students and community members such as a writing conference in Ann Arbor for young writers. Gifts of all sizes to this pooled fund make it possible for the program to respond to opportunities and offerings for LSWA students.

## MICHIGAN COMMUNITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Michigan Community Scholars Program (MCSP) brings together students and faculty who have a commitment to community service, diversity, and academic excellence. Through small courses, service projects, leadership opportunities, and social programs, students model an ideal community through intergroup engagement, responsibility, friendship, and collaboration. The Michigan Community Scholars Program is nationally recognized for its intentional and successful efforts to build an engaged, compassionate, diverse community emphasizing academic excellence, close faculty-student interaction, community service, and intergroup dialogue. Students work to make a positive difference as leaders involved in local, national, and global communities.



LSWA's mission is to cultivate students' critical reading, writing, arts, and thinking skills, and promote the link between creativity and academic excellence, in a diverse and inclusive environment. After finishing their first year in LSWA, anthropology major Adrian Valbuena found that viewing history through the lens of the arts helps them understand their coursework better. “In my class about craft, for example, connecting gender stereotypes in crafting to how a language is perceived by people who don't speak it...there is a shocking amount of overlap that you can find between things that on the surface seem like they have nothing to do with art.”



## MCSP TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The MCSP Travel Scholarship Fund aims to make domestic and international travel with the program accessible to all MCSP students, regardless of their ability to pay. This includes activities such as the GSP-MCSP-Inkululeko South Africa Service Trip, Alternative Spring Break, and May Service Immersion. Your gift to the travel scholarship fund enables students to have life-changing experiences through immersion in other cultures and intercultural understand built through dialogue and service.

**“MCSP made me rethink how I viewed community service. In order to serve other people, I had to fully understand the purpose of it.”**  
*—Aash, LSA '23*

## MICHIGAN RESEARCH AND DISCOVERY SCHOLARS

Michigan Research and Discovery Scholars (MRADS) recruits and supports students from diverse backgrounds and academic fields to introduce them to the interdisciplinary nature of research and the excitement of discovery, to engage students in building a community based on mutual respect and affirmation of diversity, and to enhance students' undergraduate experience by providing them with academic and professional resources as well as engaging extracurricular opportunities to support their academic and personal growth. MRADS continues to be one of the only living-learning communities nationally for students of all academic disciplines. MRADS provides opportunities for first- and second-year students to enable their academic and personal growth through resourceful and innovative activities. MRADS creates intentional learning environments that provide students with soft and hard skills to equip them to independently define, create, and navigate their college experience.

## MRADS MICHIGAN RESEARCH COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Summer fellowships would allow first- and second-year MRADS students to continue their research experience over the summer, regardless of their financial situation, enabling students to better assess their interest in pursuing research careers as well as their interest in the area of their research. Generous gifts allow us to provide equity summer fellowships and take scholars on an annual winter term trip to engage with alumni and prospective employers.

*“New to research, I have developed essential academic and personal skills, built lasting connections, and gained the confidence to navigate my future academic and professional endeavors.”*

*—ZOEY, LSA '26*

## WOMEN IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING RESIDENCE PROGRAM

The Women in Science and Engineering Residence Program (WISE RP) is an academically supportive living-learning community for gender-minoritized students who are interested in academic majors and careers in the sciences, mathematics, engineering, and/or pre-health. The WISE RP serves as a catalyst for transformation. It is a space that affirms and celebrates difference and empowers change agents. The WISE RP team strives to ensure community members leave the experience with increased self-efficacy, enhanced leadership skills, and a greater sense of how they hope to make an impact on their respective fields of study.

### WISE RP STRATEGIC FUND

Contributions of all sizes to the Strategic Fund will support WISE RP students pursuing diverse co-curricular, high impact experiences like internships and summer research fellowships in the STEM fields. In addition, funding advances new initiatives like WISE RP's STEM focused study abroad experience as well as support for career exploration opportunities, including site visits, alumni engagement, and industry observations.

"Being a WISE RP Summer Scholar also provided me with a great 'home base' of sorts in the form of the WISE RP Staff and other scholars throughout the summer. The weekly classes we had helped me feel more comfortable in my research and feel more confident in how to market this research to different crowds. Hearing all the other interesting research topics the fellow scholars were doing was also very exciting to me. I definitely feel like I can better market and advocate for myself and feel more secure in putting myself out there in the world of chemistry."

—RACHEL, LSA '23

### WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT

Your gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities change lives. Wills, estate, and planned gifts allow you to create a lasting legacy that will enable the best and brightest minds to experience a liberal arts education, solve problems in a changing world, and yield ideas and innovations that will make a difference in Michigan and around the globe.

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