



MICHIGAN LEARNING COMMUNITIES

Where students and faculty, drawn together by shared goals and interests, create small, supportive communities

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 community, either as part of a residential community—Global Scholars Program (GSP), Health Sciences Scholars Program (HSSP), Lloyd Scholars for Writing and the Arts (LSWA), Michigan Community Scholars Program (MCSP), and Michigan Research Community (MRC)—or a non-residential community—Comprehensive Studies Program (CSP).

GLOBAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Global Scholars Program (GSP) is an interdisciplinary academic living-learning community in North Quadrangle that brings together international and U.S. sophomores, juniors, and seniors to engage in social justice education on a global level. GSP equips students with skills and abilities for the jobs of the future that have not yet been conceived of and prepares them to address issues the world may not yet have encountered. GSP challenges students to engage in creative critical thinking to craft simple solutions for complex problems. To achieve these goals, GSP will prioritize opportunities for students to develop the necessary skills to work effectively in diverse groups, address barriers that hinder student participation, and nurture the growth of an emerging GSP alumni network.

RESEARCH ACTION PROJECTS

GSP assigns students to intentionally diverse small “Collaborative Groups” (CGs) to incorporate academic learning, social justice dialogue, and intercultural competency development. A central feature of weekly CG meetings is the “Research Action Project.” This innovative approach to teaching challenges our students to propose their own research projects and, over the course of an academic year, to conduct in-depth research using library resources, carry out an action (campus assessment, community engagement, etc.), write up their experience as a co-authored paper for publication in the GSP Journal, and give a public presentation about their project at the annual GSP symposium. GSP only has funding to continue this project for one more year. Annual support of \$10,000 to \$50,000 is urgently needed for this action-based, immersive learning experience to continue. Please specify if your gift could be used to support international as well as U.S. students.

GLOBAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM STRATEGIC FUND

Unrestricted gifts to this fund ranging from \$10,000 to \$50,000 permit the GSP to support on-going student needs and programming, including alumni network engagement, student travel support, housing assistance for international students during winter break, video conferencing equipment, and more. Gifts of any amount increase the GSP’s ability to respond to new initiatives and needs as they emerge.

HEALTH SCIENCES SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The primary goal of the Health Sciences Scholars Program (HSSP) is to support students’ transition to U-M through a diverse, academically supportive living-learning community, and to aid their early exploration of issues and opportunities in health sciences professions. HSSP provides opportunities to enhance professional skills and offers guidance to resources that will assist students on their pre-health journeys. We strive to not only expose our students to health-related issues and the health professions, but also to nurture the virtues common to all health professions: empathy, compassion, altruism, responsibility, integrity, and service-above-self. Gifts are needed to support HSSP in the following areas:

ANNUAL HSSP PRE-HEALTH CONFERENCE

The annual HSSP Pre-Health Conference introduces undergraduates to current issues and opportunities in the health sciences, and also provides a pre-professional environment to meet and learn from health-science practitioners. This conference enhances students’ knowledge about health professions, builds enthusiasm, and also provides advising to help them eventually achieve successful admission to professional school. Yearly gifts of \$10,000 would support program costs and a speaker honorarium to enable HSSP to recruit notable speakers, which will increase the relevance of the program for student participants and attract a larger percentage of U-M’s undergraduate pre-professional students.

HEALTH-SCIENCES WRITING PROJECT

The HSSP Health-Sciences Writing Project would solicit manuscripts from undergraduates whose interests and studies focus on important issues in the health sciences. A panel representing various departments would judge students’ submissions and select four works for special recognition. Winners would receive an award of \$2,500 and assistance from panel members to identify opportunities for publishing submitted works. An investment of \$10,000 each year would cover the cost of this initiative.

LLOYD SCHOLARS FOR WRITING AND THE ARTS

The Lloyd Scholars for Writing and the Arts (LSWA) is a living-learning program focused on writing and the arts. Our first- and second-year students (about 160) take writing and arts courses together, organize and participate in writing and arts clubs and events, and publish an annual journal of creative work.

Regardless of their academic interests or major, LSWA students are passionate about nurturing their creative talents and believe in the importance of creativity in their intellectual, professional, and personal lives.

FESTIFOOLS EVENT SUPPORT

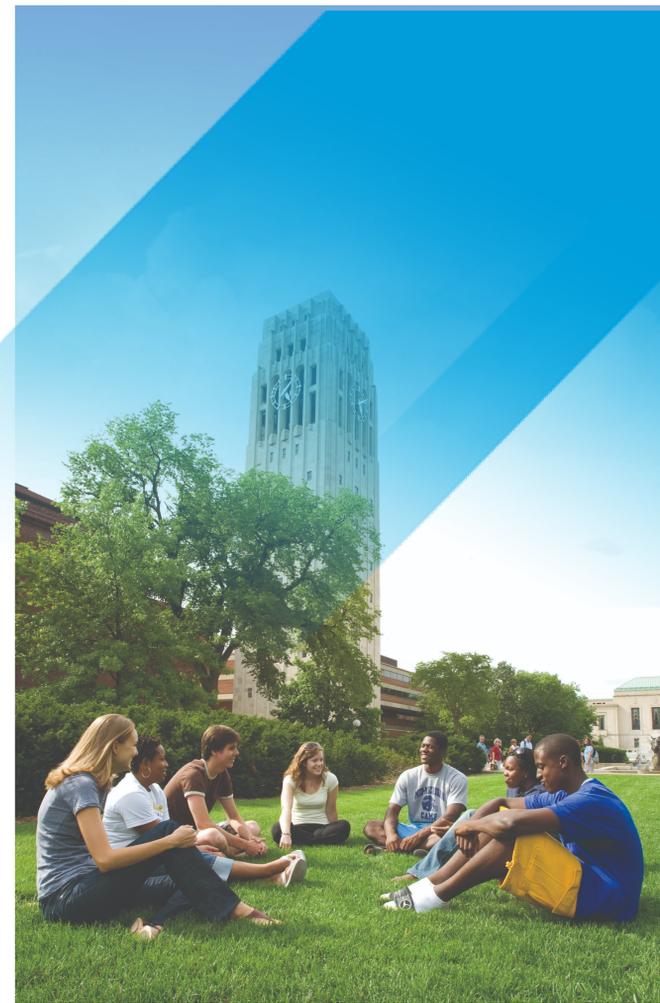
FestiFools is an annual public arts event that was founded in LSWA in collaboration with a variety of campus and Ann Arbor community organizations. In their LSWA Art in Public Spaces class, students create giant puppets that they display during an April festival/parade in Ann Arbor. FestiFools provides a highly visible demonstration of the impact public creative work can have on the community. The highly anticipated, well attended, and much publicized event links students to the city and to a creative community beyond the university. Yet for all its success, its funding sources remain vulnerable. A gift of \$10,000 annually to help with costs would have a major impact, not just on the program's first- and second-year students, but also on the U-M and Ann Arbor communities.

LSWA ARTS AND LITERARY JOURNAL

Since 2004, LSWA has published an annual journal of art and writing from students in the LSWA community. The editorial board is student-led, with supervisory assistance from a graduate student or instructor. The journal continues to grow, in terms of its length, its incorporation of new media, and its overall innovation. But with such innovation, the publication and associated costs also continue to increase. Annual gifts of \$5,000 would be used to support the continued growth of the journal, which has become central to the mission of the program.

LSWA SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR WRITING

We seek funding in the amount of \$5,000 annually to establish a named scholarship for one LSWA student each year. This scholarship would be awarded specifically to an outstanding first-year writer in the program.



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. As a residential learning community emphasizing meaningful civic engagement, community service learning, and intercultural understanding and dialogue, students, faculty, community partners, and staff think critically about issues of community. Students work to make a positive difference as leaders involved in local, national, and global communities.

MCSP STUDENT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

MCSP has a proven track record of developing a diverse group of student leaders committed to civic and public engagement. MCSP has intentionally and effectively trained its students to take on leadership roles across the U-M campus and in the community. Through pre-semester activities, retreats, ongoing training meetings, mentoring in community service and community partnering, responsibility for budget and programming, encouragement to initiate new projects, and a leadership course, MCSP helps to develop about 25 to 40 student leaders each year. Funding contributions of \$10,000 to \$50,000 annually are needed to sustain and grow this program.

MCSP CIVIC ENGAGEMENT SUPPORT

Annual support of \$10,000 to \$50,000 is needed to allow MCSP faculty and staff to develop, organize and coordinate course development and revision, projects with community partners that involve students, transportation for students, project efforts, educational activities with MCSP students outside the classroom, and co-curricular activities.

MCSP UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS SUCCESS PROGRAM

MCSP is a national leader in its retention rate for first-year under-represented students of color. Funds are needed to sustain the success rate for all under-represented students, including support for the MCSP staff's efforts to strengthen and sustain its strong community bonding efforts, leadership training, faculty support and development, mentoring programs, and civic engagement and intergroup engagement initiatives. A gift of \$20,000 annually would continue to ensure this programs' success.



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

–Aasha



MICHIGAN RESEARCH COMMUNITY

The Michigan Research Community (MRC) offers incoming first-year students a research partnership with a faculty member in an area of their choosing, as well as a small, diverse, and supportive residential community. MRC, an affiliate of the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP), recruits students from diverse backgrounds and academic fields to expose them to the interdisciplinary nature of research and the breadth of its applications. MRC enhances the undergraduate experience by providing students with academic and professional resources, as well as engaging co-curricular opportunities to support their academic success and personal growth.

UNDERGRADUATE SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Summer Research Fellowships would allow first- and second-year MRC students to continue their research experience full-time over the summer, regardless of their financial situation. A full-time summer research experience would enable students to better assess their interest in pursuing research careers as well as their interest in the area of their research. Summer Research Fellowships would be awarded to students whose financial situation requires them to earn money over the summer months, and who might not otherwise be able to pursue research. A gift of \$10,000 would support two to three students.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SUPPORT

Throughout the academic year, students in MRC need funding for equipment and support to travel to undergraduate research and discipline-specific conferences. Gifts of \$10,000 for research support would allow students in the MRC to fully participate in the research experience and take advantage of the opportunities presented by their research sponsors.

COMPREHENSIVE STUDIES PROGRAM

The focus of the Comprehensive Studies Program (CSP) is to attract and retain a diverse group of students who show excellent potential, but have not been provided the most competitive educational opportunities. Admission is highly selective and based solely on the academic record of each applicant. CSP students are invited to U-M because their applications indicate they are motivated to become leaders and best. Many are high school valedictorians and most have demonstrated leadership in their home communities. CSP students bring to our campus cultural competency, critical thinking, curiosity, and a desire to succeed. CSP instructors and advisors work together to create small classrooms and connected conversations that lead to high achievement.

PEER TUTORING AND MENTORING SUPPORT

- CSP serves about 3,000 students, and many are enrolled in the same key courses. By creating cohorts of students in the same course each semester, we could hire peer tutors to lead group meetings. A gift of \$5,000 would allow us to establish four groups per semester.
- Each semester CSP hires over 50 peer mentors to tutor 300 students in various classes. The opportunity to work together toward success has proven positive for both the tutor and the student. Yet we continue to have more requests for tutoring than we can meet. A gift of \$2,000 would support four tutor-student pairs for a full semester.

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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