

Rick Edwards Memorial Scholarship Committee Report - 2021

The Rick Edwards Memorial Scholarship committee is proud to award the Rick Edwards Memorial Scholarship to the following 10 swimmers and divers: **Ryan Atkinson** (Dundee), **Jenna Gould** (Ionia), **Brendan Gross** (Otsego), **Aidan Jesse Hammons** (Charlotte), **Dylan Johnson** (Manistee), **Aliah Robertson** (Sault Area), **Abby Seybert** (South Lyon East), **Sydney Shannahan** (Northville), **Jordyn Shipps** (DeWitt), and **Leo Varitek** (Dexter). The scholarship committee was made up of three MISCA members. We used an objective scoring criteria that has been developed over the past 25 years.

The MISCA Scholarship was first awarded in 1992 and was re-named the Rick Edwards Memorial Scholarship in memory of Rick Edwards. Rick Edwards was high school teacher, coach, and official for 37 years and was a leader and mentor for the hundreds of swimmers, divers, and water polo players throughout his memorable career. Rick's true and unparalleled passion was for the development of his swimmers not just on a competitive level, but in their human and personal growth. Rick looked at his dedication and commitment to swimming in a way that invigorated and challenged his athletes and inspired fellow coaches. He devoted long hours to improve aquatics on the organizational level as a member local, state, and national organizations always trying to enhance the broad world of swimming and water polo. Rick had an unselfish devotion to developing not only the technical swimmer, but most importantly the character and positive attributes of the highest nature for every person he coaches or taught. Rick Edwards lost his battle with cancer in 2009, but has left a lasting impression on the entire aquatics community.

23 Student athletes from 18 different schools applied for the scholarship. There were 10 boys and 13 girls who applied. Eight of the applications were incomplete. One application came from a student/athlete whose coach was not a MISCA member. As a school, Otsego led the way with 5 applications and 1 winner.

All of the applicants were very deserving of the scholarship. As always, we wish that we could have awarded more. There were many gifted applicants who did not receive money. The quality of this field is a tribute to the many swimming and diving programs in the state of Michigan and the character and quality of the type of athlete that chooses to swim or dive. Many of the personal statements testified to the importance of swimming in helping them develop discipline and time management skills. Congratulations to all who applied.

Once again the 2021 winners of the scholarship are:

<u>Recipient</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>MISCA Coach</u>
Ryan Atkinson	Dundee	Sarah Eubanks
Jenna Gould	Ionia	Amy Fuller
Brendan Gross	Otsego	Darryl Belton
Aidan Jesse Hammons	Charlotte	Emily Lapinski
Dylan Johnson	Manistee	Corey VanFleet
Aliah Robertson	Sault Area	Steve Habusta
Abby Seybert	South Lyon East	John Burch
Sydney Shannahan	Northville	Jenn Amman
Jordyn Shipps	DeWitt	Gregg Brace
Leo Varitek	Dexter	Michael McHugh