



Antrim Scholars

Antrimwomensalliance.org

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The Antrim Scholars program was established with the goal of improving college access and graduation rates for highly motivated, Antrim County high school students interested in pursuing higher education. The Scholar program is focusing on economically disadvantaged or first-generation students. The program includes providing participating Scholars college visits, ACT preparation, summer opportunities, and financial aid workshops as juniors; and college visits, college application completion assistance, and eligibility for AWA scholarships as seniors. A key component of the program is mentorship to help Scholars navigate the scholar program and improve success during post-secondary education. Providing a helping hand financially, through early preparedness, and through mentoring support along the journey increases the probability of successfully navigating post-secondary education. The need has never been greater, together we can make a difference.

Why the need in Antrim¹? Poverty continues to persist as a primary barrier to post-secondary access and attainment in and around Antrim County

- Public Schools in Antrim County have a staggering amount of economically disadvantaged students.
 - 85% Economically Disadvantaged in Alba
 - 79% Economically Disadvantaged in Central Lake
 - 78% Economically Disadvantaged in Mancelona
 - 57% Ellsworth
 - 53% Bellaire
 - 35% Elk Rapids
- 50% of students from high-income families complete college by the age of 25, whereas only 10% of students from low-income families complete college by the age of 25. Michigan is ranked 19/51 in student debt ratio. Graduate with \$35,790 debt
- Michigan is experiencing a downward enrollment trend despite new scholarship programs.
- Michigan is behind in educational attainment.
 - Ranked 37 in “bachelor’s or higher”, National Average = 35% vs 27% Antrim County
- 88% of Michigan’s highest paying occupations require a bachelors.

¹The National Center for Educational Statistics, 2024. <https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/npsas/>

We believe the Scholar Program will impact more students and increase their chance of earning academic based financial aid by preparing students for college entrance exams and helping them select a good fit school starting as juniors.

Who are we helping?

- First-generation and marginalized population.
- Antrim County junior and senior high school students eligible for Antrim Scholars program.
- Students must meet a 2.5 GPA for technical or vocational education, or a 3.0 GPA for college or university to qualify to enter scholar program as juniors and be eligible for AWA scholarship as seniors.

Pilot Antrim Scholars Program – One school from Antrim County

- Year one - 5 juniors. Year two - 5 juniors, 5 seniors

Scholarship Focus:

- \$1,000 scholarships to graduates of Antrim Scholars program
- Active commitment to volunteerism

Interested in giving?

- Donate to the Antrim Scholars fund by sending gift to AWA PO Box 464 Bellaire, MI 49615

Contact Us

- To learn more about the Antrim Scholars program, please contact Sylvia Schonauer-Kalchik (sylviask2022@gmail.com) or call at 330-763-4724