

Rick Edwards Memorial Scholarship Committee Report - 2018

The Rick Edwards Memorial Scholarship committee is proud to award the Rick Edwards Memorial Scholarship to the following 10 swimmers and divers: Joshua David (Otsego), Rita El Jbeily (Waverly), Aaron Gillengerten (Haslett), John Letarte (Easton Rapids), Sydney Shipps (DeWitt), Ryan Short (Mattawan), Christopher Spencer (Lumen Christi), Madeline Taylor (South Lyon), Renee Veldman (Lakeshore), and Alexander Yuan (Novi). 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 this past season 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.

28 Student athletes from 22 different schools applied for the scholarship. There were 10 boys and 18 girls who applied. 6 boys and 4 girls were awarded the scholarship. Four of the applications were incomplete. 1 application was submitted from a program without a MISCA member as a coach. 6 of the 9 MISCA zones submitted applications (zones 1,8,&9 did not submit any applications). 4 of the 9 zones had a recipient of the award. Zone 7 led the way with 12 applications. As a school, Haslett led the way with 4 applications.

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 2018 winners of the scholarship are:

Recipient	School	MISCA Coach	Zone
Joshua David	Otsego	Darryl Belton	7
Rita El Jbeily	Waverly	Katie Trudeau	6
Aaron Gillengerten	Haslett	Bob Oliver	6
John Letarte	Eaton Rapids	Christian Quada	6
Sydney Shipps	DeWitt	Gregg Brace	7
Ryan Short	Mattawan	Rachel Flachs	6
Christopher Spencer	Lumen Christi	Pat Briggs	7
Madeline Taylor	South Lyon	Kevin Ferguson	4
Renee Veldman	Lakeshore	Janet Beemer	6
Alexander Yuan	Novi	Brent Pohlonski	3