

Cutler Scholars Program
Class of 2024
(Biographies provided by the recipients)

Melanie Ahmetspahic, Lizabeth K. and Charles R. Emrick, Jr. Cutler Scholar from Rocky River, OH
Rocky River High School

Melanie is a dual enrollment student at Cuyahoga Community College. She has been recognized as a National Merit Commended Scholar and as a member of the National Honors Society and National French Honors Society. Melanie was a coach for “Girls on the Run” for two years and also was part of a self-portrait exhibit at the Lakewood Art Studios Gallery. At Ohio University, Melanie plans to study biological sciences. She is looking forward to exploring Athens, meeting new people, and volunteering in Athens or abroad. Melanie is the daughter of Marija and James Ahmetspahic.

Anna Crabtree, Russ Legacy Cutler Scholar from New Marshfield, OH
Alexander High School

Anna was a dual enrollment student at Ohio University and earned more than 85 credit hours before completing high school. She has secured a mechanical engineering internship at General Mills for the summer of 2020. In high school, Anna was the section leader for the percussion section of the marching band and spent time volunteering in her community through beautification projects at Albany Park. She plans to continue studying mechanical engineering at OHIO, work on research projects that promote environmental sustainability, and participate in the Society of Women Engineers. Anna is the daughter of Sherri Tyree.

Emma Bhatt, Cutler Scholar from Columbus, OH
Upper Arlington High School

Emma is a student in the IB diploma program. She was named an Outstanding Attorney in Mock Trial in 2019, an organization that she has been a part of since her junior year. Emma won the Upper Arlington High School Poetry Out Loud contest, and also helped a student-run club organize a community-wide event in which Samantha Fuentes, a survivor of the Parkland shooting, spoke at. At OU, Emma will major in both sociology and English through the Honors Tutorial College. She plans to become a lawyer after her time at OHIO because she is passionate about human rights and the environment. Emma is the daughter of Megan Melby and Sanjay Bhatt.

Hosea Bickley, J. Warren McClure & Stephen H. Fuller Cutler Scholar from Athens, OH
Athens High School

Hosea is a consistent honors student at Athens High School. In addition, he co-produced a podcast series that details the drug epidemic across the United States with a focus on the state of Ohio. Hosea was a Student Representative in Student Council and also a member of the Multicultural Club. Hosea plans to study Computer Science at OHIO. He is eager to explore his broad interests and immerse himself in the university community. Hosea is the son of Michael and Olympia Bickley.

Halina Dreger, Wilfred R. and Ann Lee Konneker Culter Scholar from Lakewood, OH
Lakewood High School

Halina is an AP Scholar with Honors. She is a member of the National Honor Society and the National French Honor Society. In high school, Halina was a choreographer and performer in the dance club. She also won the Hiram College Emerging Writers Nonfiction Contest in her junior year. Halina has been an active volunteer, serving on the Lakewood High School Help to Others Executive Committee, leading middle school volunteer projects, and instructing dance at the Beck Center for the Arts as a class assistant. She plans to study dance through the Honors Tutorial College at Ohio University and hopes to make it accessible to everyone as a form of therapy. Halina is the daughter of Jeffrey and Amy Dreger.

Natalie Drotleff, Jack G. and Sue Mathis Ellis Cutler Scholar from Chillicothe, OH
Chillicothe High School

Natalie was a dual enrollment student at Ohio University Chillicothe and she participated in the Adena Hospital Academy in Medicine Program. She was vice president of the National Honors Society and a member of student council, the National Art Honors Society, and orchestra. Natalie was a four-year all-conference varsity tennis player. She also started a support group called “Umbrella” which supports teens who have been affected by the drug or alcohol use of family or friends. Natalie plans to study biology through the Honors Tutorial College and looks forward to travelling and participating in undergraduate research. She also has been accepted into the Early Assurance Program through the Ohio University Heritage College of Medicine. Natalie is the daughter of Steve Drotleff.

Orlando Gonzalez, James E. Daley Cutler Scholar from Asbury Park, NJ

Asbury Park High School

Orlando is president of the National Honor Society at Asbury Park High School and was named to the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Scroll of Honor. Orlando participated in the Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring program and was a peer tutor. He is described by his teachers as “focused, intelligent, and respectful.” Orlando plans to study engineering at Ohio University and looks forward to being involved in multiple programs and extracurricular activities that will propel him toward his goals. He also wants to be an active member of the Athens community by helping it grow. Orlando is the son of Sofia Martinez and Abdon Gonzalez.

Rhyan Goodman, Henry W. and Edith Pattison Cutler Scholar from Orient, OH

Madison Plains High School

Rhyan was a dual enrollment student at Columbus State Community College and Tolles Career and Technical Center. He is the National Secondary Division Vice President of the Business Professionals of America. In 2018 and 2019, he won the Gold President’s Volunteer Service Award and was named Statesman of the Year in 2019 for raising \$10,000 for Special Olympics chapters in Ohio. Rhyan plans to study Business Administration and Pre-Law through the Honors Tutorial College. He intends to join the Schey Sales Center and be involved in student council and Cutler council. Rhyan is the son of Jennifer Goodman and the grandson of Karen and Hugh Little.

Katie Hall, Herbert and Dorothy Adler Cutler Scholar from Cincinnati, OH

Highlands High School

Katie is a member of the National Honors Society and English Honors Society. She was committee director in the Tri-M Music Honors Society, took four years of orchestra and film, and also participated in the Student Technology Leadership Program. Outside of high school, she was a regular volunteer at Freestore Foodbank, an artist for Soliloquie Magazine, and an artist and video editing director for Girl Genius Magazine. At Ohio University, Katie plans to study marketing and focus on creating sustainable packaging and product designs. She is a Copeland Scholar and plans to join Women in Business and other minority organizations. Katie is the daughter of Melanie and James Hall.

MacKenzie Kay, Wilfred R. Konneker Cutler Scholar from Washington Courthouse, OH

McClain High School

MacKenzie was a dual enrollment student at Laurel Oaks Career Campus where she earned her STNA and PCT while taking college classes. She has earned her State Tested Nursing Assistant and Patient Care Technician certifications. She works at a local hospital and has been on the front lines as a Patient Care Technician during the COVID-19 pandemic. She volunteered for four years at Kamp Dovetail, a camp for children with disabilities. MacKenzie looks forward to growing alongside her peers as a nursing student and being an active member within Cutler Council to help other Cutler Scholars achieve their goals. She also wants to learn Spanish and American Sign Language to better her communication with campers at Kamp Dovetail. MacKenzie is the daughter of Krystal and Jake Christ.

Gavin Morgan, Leona and Lewis Hughes Cutler Scholar from Oak Hill, OH

Oak Hill High School

Gavin is valedictorian of his high school class and has been an active volunteer in his community. He worked with the Oaks United's Growing Oaks program to pack and distribute food to his community and also helped run the Special Olympics at the nearby Hope Haven School. He was a member of the National Honor Society and the school's 2018 district champion basketball team. At Ohio University, Gavin plans to study engineering. He is most excited to explore the variety of engineering fields and make new friends from different backgrounds. Gavin is interested in making a difference in the community and is looking forward to experiencing the Cutler Scholars Program. Gavin is the son of Ryan and Elizabeth Morgan.

Nicholas Pittman, Dr. James H. and Nellie Rowley Jewell Cutler Scholar from McArthur, OH

Vinton County High School

Nicholas was a dual enrollment student at the University of Rio Grande and Rio Grande Community College. He is a member of the National Honor Society, a four-year starter in varsity football, and was named to the All-Academic Tri-Valley Conference team four years in a row. He was junior class president, president of the Spanish club, and has been a 4H camp counselor for five years. Nicholas also served as a volunteer firefighter, has coached youth in flag football for six years, and has assisted in the multi handicap classroom at his high school. Nicholas plans to study biology at Ohio University and is excited to experience new things. He plans to become a therapist. Nick is the son of Selena Pittman-Yates.

Sophie Sova, Ann Lee Hancock Konneker Cutler Scholar from Olean, NY

Olean High School

Sophie was a dual enrollment student at Jamestown Community College. She received first place at the DECA regional competition and advanced to state twice. She is the vice president of National Honor Society, a member of the tennis team, and a member of science club. Sophie also worked as a Pre-K teacher's assistant through the Summer STAR Program. She plans to study early childhood education at Ohio University. She is looking forward to having hands-on experience as a student teacher and participate in undergraduate research. She is eager to make new connections, travel, and take on leadership opportunities at OHIO. Sophie is the daughter of Wayne and Joy Sova.

Joaquin Vigo-Alejandro, Russ Legacy Cutler Scholar from Mason, OH

Walnut Hills High School

Joaquin is proud of the impact he was able to have on his high school by being a member of Students United in Rising for Gender Equality (SURGE). This organization promotes a safe environment for people regardless of their gender identity. It also raises awareness for women's health concerns in the local community. Joaquin served as president of the Spanish club where he worked with his classmates to collect glasses for people in need in Guatemala. He plans to study computer science at Ohio University and is looking forward to joining "Enactus Ohio University," a sustainability group, and conducting research. Joaquin is the son of Jose Vigo and Glorimar Alejandro.

Mia Walsh, David C. and Joan Herrold Wood Cutler Scholar from Tallmadge, OH

Tallmadge High School

Mia is an AP Scholar at the international level. She is also a member of the National Honor Society and is a Distinguished Scholar at her high school. Mia served as the co-editor-in-chief of "The Devils' Tale," her high school newspaper. She was captain of the Speech and Debate team and president of the Respect Club (THS's dating violence prevention club). Mia plans to study journalism- news and information at Ohio University. She hopes to get involved on campus by further exploring her passions in writing and social justice.. Mia is the daughter of Bill and Teresa Walsh.

Alotus Wei, T. Richard and Eleanora K. Robe Cutler Scholar from Lima, OH

Shawnee Senior High School

Alotus is a three-time Western Buckeye League Tennis Champion and a bronze congressional medalist. She was state qualifier in Tennis her senior year and for Science Olympiad in 9th, 11th, and 12th grades. Alotus was

also a Scripps National Spelling Bee participant in 2013, 2014, and 2015. In high school, Alotus was president of the Octagon Club, captain of the Science Olympiad team, captain of the tennis team, and build captain for Teams. At Ohio University, Alotus plans to study biomedical engineering while taking on leadership roles in clubs and organizations and working to reduce food waste on campus. Alotus is the daughter of Victor Wei and HueAnh Nguyen.