

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATE CHAIR
OHIO SCHOLARSHIPS COMMITTEE
2021-2022

The year for Ohio Scholarships Story began with conversations outlining the overall purposes and processes. Given the ongoing Covid situation, the committee met just once in person in the summer to connect with each other and tell our own stories. Zoom meetings then ensued, including attending the August Leadership Workshop. The Ohio Scholarships story was carried forward by discussions within our own chapters as well as articles submitted to the Heartline newsletter.

Ohio's chapters cooperated with the instructions about submitting online applications. The first application arrived in early November 2021 and the final one arrived on February 1st, 2022. While that process may have caused some initial questions and concerns, the result was that 60 chapters submitted a total of 183 applications, with an average of 3 per chapter. This did represent a 20% decrease in the number of chapters submitting applications. The 183 applications reflected a 13.7% decrease from the previous year. The committee was surprised at both decreases. Among those applicants, 35% were high school seniors and 65% were in post-secondary programs. Awards were granted to 134 recipients, 6 of whom are or will be attending Cottey College. It should be noted that the amount of available funds, \$78,248, was a 16.9% decrease from the previous year. While the number of chapters participating, applications and the amount of available funds were all less, the Ohio Scholarships committee was pleased to report that 73% of those who applied received an award, with the average amount being \$584.00.

Beyond the numbers involved, the individual stories told by each applicant helped to remind the committee of the reason for the efforts of Ohio Scholarships. The essays were as varied as each storytelling student. Some described encountering major hurdles in life, language challenges, family or personal health concerns, financial struggles within the family, and some the normal angst of who they are and where they want to go in life. Almost all mentioned the impact of Covid on their educational journey- the interruptions in routines and what they have learned from the communal experience. They expressed a desire to make a difference in life. The Ohio Scholarships committee was moved and impressed by these young women's stories as they move forward.

Covid continued to play a part in the story of Ohio Scholarships as well. Prior to Covid, the committee had gathered for a 3-day, 2- night retreat in February. This year they met via Zoom. The evaluation and selection process were completed on several afternoon and evening sessions. The chair and adviser met over two days in person to determine the award amounts,

Thank you to the Ohio Scholarships committee members Nancy Bubenzer and Tuta Ionescu, and to our adviser Jane Koch. Their loving support, problem-solving skills, computer expertise, sense of purpose, compassion and humor has been deeply appreciated as this chair closes in on the final chapter of this year's Ohio Scholarships story. It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve on this committee and be part of the P.E.O. Sisterhood.

Barb Peterson, BQ, Chair
Nancy Bubenzer, DG
Tuta Ionescu, CK

