The MHTA Foundation promotes the development of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) competency in students that will enable them to thrive in and support the global competitiveness of Minnesota’s technology-based economy.

As MHTA’s philanthropic arm, the MHTA Foundation provides financial support to deserving STEM Students, teachers and schools. The MHTA Foundation’s work is evidenced tonight in the 19 scholarships to students studying a STEM discipline. We encourage you to support our future workforce by pledging your support for the MHTA Foundation Scholarship Fund. Please give generously during this evening’s program. Thank you for your support!

Justine Boecker
CENTURYLINK NAMED SCHOLARSHIP FOR STEM EDUCATION
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION & PHYSICS SECONDARY EDUCATION, BETHEL UNIVERSITY
Justine is a senior at Bethel University pursuing a double major in Elementary Education and Physics Secondary Education. At Bethel, she has taken the initiative of co-founding and leading the Women in Physics and Engineering Club where women experience a solid community in a male-dominated field. Along with those duties, Justine has worked as a tutor and teaching assistant in both math and physics, teaches at the Science Museum of Minnesota, and, most enjoyably, working as a toddler teacher in a preschool bringing STEM education to early childhood. Beyond college, Justine would like teach in a non-traditional setting, like a museum, where she can focus on science education with elementary-aged students.

Allison Cordes
CENTURYLINK NAMED SCHOLARSHIP FOR STEM EDUCATION
MATHEMATICS & EDUCATION, BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY
Allison is graduating in May with a double major in Mathematics Education and Mathematics with a General Emphasis—she will graduate with a minor in Sport Management and a Coaching Specialist. She was awarded Outstanding Student of the Mathematics Department. She has served as a math tutor at the Bemidji High School. Allison plays on the women’s basketball team at Bemidji State University and has been named to the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference All-Academic team the past two years. She is a four-year member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes and is a leader this year for Bemidji State’s chapter. Allison is a four-year member of Bemidji State’s Student Athlete Advisory Committee, where she is the treasurer for the second year. Allison has a passion for teaching students both in the classroom and in athletics. She wants to share her enthusiasm for mathematics and inspire students to enter the STEM field.

Catherine Davis
MHTA FOUNDATION STEM SCHOLAR
EQUINE SCIENCE, MINNESOTA STATE COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Catherine is completing her second year at Minnesota State Community and Technical College as an equine science major. During the last academic year, she was the president of MState’s Equine Science club, EquiUs, an organization dedicated to educating the community about the equine science world. Catherine has done extensive volunteer work with Equine Rescues, rehabilitating injured and abused horses. She completed an internship at Back 9 Ranch in Henning, Minnesota working with beef cattle and rodeo horses. Catherine is currently employed at J-Bar-H Outfitters in Meeker, Colorado working with horses and mules packing in the mountains. She plans to continue to develop her skills and knowledge of the equine and animal science world and someday manage her own beef cattle and horse ranch.
Malik Day
RBA CARES NAMED SCHOLAR FOR UNDERREPRESENTED POPULATIONS IN STEM
FINANCE, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA - TWIN CITIES
Malik is class of 2018 with a major in Finance and minor in Information Systems and Mathematics. He is very active on campus as a co-founder and director of corporate relations for The Network, a finance club at Carlson School of Management. He is also a youth mentor for a non-profit organization called New Lens. He interned for Accenture as a Business Systems intern the summer of 2015 and as an investment banker this past summer. He plans to pursue a Ph.D. in either math or computer science after graduation.

Mbathio Diagne
FARHAN MUHAMMAD NAMED SCHOLARSHIP
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA - TWIN CITIES
Mbathio moved to Minnesota from Senegal two years ago. She graduated from Minneapolis Community & Technical College with an associate degree in Mathematics in spring 2016. She transferred to the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities this fall to earn a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering. This summer, she interned at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory where she designed software for communication between electroluminescence imaging cameras and computers. The experience reinforced her interest in graduate school. In the meantime, she is enjoying her first semester at the University of Minnesota, working as a data and web assistant for NorthStar STEM alliance, tutoring 12th grade students in mathematics and helping them prepare for college through the Prepare2Nspire program, and being the secretary of our National Society of Black Engineers’ chapter.

Gabrielle Doran
MHTA FOUNDATION STEM SCHOLARSHIP
MATHEMATICS, NORMANDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Gabrielle Doran is a student at Normandale Community College studying statistics and mathematics. She will graduate in spring 2016 with an associate's degree in mathematics and will then transfer to the University of Minnesota to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Statistics. She is a National Science Foundation SciMath Scholar and a member of the Normandale Academy of Math & Science, as well as a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. In January 2016, she was a member of a Developmental Education Panel that was shown to the Minnesota State Legislature where she spoke about the merits of community colleges and how they make higher education accessible to nontraditional students. Gabrielle is a Supplemental Instruction leader in statistics at Normandale.

Elliot Doren
MHTA FOUNDATION STEM SCHOLARSHIP
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS
Elliot will be receiving his Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering in May with a focus on embedded systems and signal processing/communications. He has served as both officer and president for the student chapter of Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) at the University of St. Thomas. He also served as an officer for the engineering club at Century College where he received his Associate in Science degree. He was named a member of the 2014 All-Minnesota Academic Team and recognized nationally as a Coca-Cola New Century Gold Scholar. Elliot’s work over the summer last year led to the creation of a number of labs for a senior level Electromagnetic Waves class. This year he spent his summer working with a professor to develop an electronic device which will help to prevent counterfeiting and fraud in different products.
Hope Haugstad
**WLIT NAMED SCHOLARSHIP FOR WOMAN IN STEM**
**COMPUTER SCIENCE, THE COLLEGE OF ST. SCHOLASTICA**
Hope will graduate with Summa Cum Laude high honors in December 2016, majoring in Computer Science with two concentrations: Software Engineering and Web Development. She has been on the Dean's List throughout her time at The College of St. Scholastica, and was awarded both the IWIT scholarship for women in technology and the S-STEM scholarship. Hope has interned as a Web Accessibility Analyst at The College of St. Scholastica as well as a developer intern at Bank of America. She has tutored and is currently a Teacher's Assistant on campus. She also drives school bus for special education students in Duluth. After graduation, Hope plans to move to the Dallas, Texas area to accept a job offer and begin her career. Future plans include obtaining a Masters or Doctorate in Computer Science and teaching at an academic level.

Lewis Istok
**MHTA FOUNDATION STEM SCHOLARSHIP**
**MATHEMATICS, AUGSBURG COLLEGE**
Lewis recently transferred to Augsburg College to major in mathematics and earn a Secondary Education Licensure. He was an NSF S-STEM Scholar at Minneapolis Community & Technical College (MCTC) and is currently an AugSTEM Scholar. At MCTC, he was a member of the Student Senate, a co-leader of the WANDA Creative Writing Club, and a member of the Alpha Epsilon Sigma chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. This summer, he participated in the URGO Summer Research Program at Augsburg, where he explored the use of 3D printing in mathematics education. He currently tutors mathematics and helps coordinate the 3D printers on the Augsburg's campus. After graduating, Lewis plans to pursue a career teaching high school mathematics.

Paige Meyer
**THOMSON REUTERS NAMED SCHOLARSHIP FOR COMPUTER SCIENCE**
**COMPUTER SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS, ACTUARIAL SCIENCE, AND PHYSICS, MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MOORHEAD**
Paige Meyer is a junior majoring in computer science, mathematics, actuarial science, and physics; with a minor in computer information systems. Outside of her coursework, she has taught herself the fundamentals of machine learning and spent a summer researching standardization in cloud computing. In her free time, Paige enjoys sharing her love of STEM by working as a physics tutor, volunteering as a learning assistant in introductory computer science courses. She has also had the opportunity to develop and teach a robotics course alongside a professor, and spent the summer interning at Digi-Key Electronics. In addition, Paige has interests in actuarial science. She is a professional member of the Society of Actuaries, and passed the Society of Actuaries' Exam P this summer.

Anant Naik
**RBA CARES NAMED SCHOLAR FOR UNDERREPRESENTED POPULATIONS IN STEM**
**BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, TWIN CITIES**
Anant Naik is a junior majoring in biomedical engineering at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Anant is currently doing research under the direction of Dr. Timothy Ebner in the Department of Neuroscience, and recently completed a summer internship at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester studying the molecular basis of psychiatric diseases like addiction and Bipolar Disorder. Anant is currently the President of Engineers Without Borders at the U of M, a group that has ongoing projects in countries like Ethiopia and Guatemala to bring clean water to rural villages. He also assists with clinic research in the Emergency Department at Hennepin County Medical Center. After graduating, Anant plans on pursuing a graduate degree studying the intersection of biomedical engineering and treatments for neurodegenerative diseases.
2016 STEM SCHOLARS

Quynh Nguyen
MHTA FOUNDATION STEM SCHOLARSHIP
BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, TWIN CITIES

Quynh is currently a junior in biomedical engineering with an emphasis on bioelectricity at University of Minnesota - Twin Cities (UMTC). Last year, she transferred from Saint Paul College after attaining her Associate in Arts. Coming from Viet Nam, she wants to pursue her goal for developing affordable biomedical devices for less-developed countries. She believes that everyone deserves a life of enjoyment and happiness, regardless of their medical condition and financial situation. She has been volunteering in Jonathan Sachs Lab (UMTC) since December 2015. Recently, she has completed her Multicultural Summer Research Opportunity Program (MSROP) at UMTC studying the fibrillation of the Alpha-Synuclein- the protein involved significantly in Parkinson’s Disease.

Bailey Perry
MINNEANALYTICS NAMED SCHOLAR FOR BIG DATA, ANALYTICS, & DATA SCIENCE
STATISTICS, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, TWIN CITIES

Bailey is graduating in May of 2018 with a major in statistics and a double minor in mathematics and management. She has been awarded to the Dean’s List for all four semesters of her collegiate record, and is also part of the University Honors Program. She currently works for the Office of Sustainability on campus as a Data Analysis intern studying greenhouse gas emissions and mitigation strategies. She is also working in a cancer laboratory to help validate RNA-Sequencing data and the software used to analyze it. Additionally, she has been a peer mentor for incoming freshman to the College of Science & Engineering on campus for the past two years, where she is a resource for questions on classes, professors, and the transition to college. She currently plans to pursue a career in either Environmental Statistics or Medical Statistics, and is considering a Master’s degree once she has entered the workforce and gained more experience.

Daniel Peters
MINNEANALYTICS NAMED SCHOLAR FOR BIG DATA, ANALYTICS, & DATA SCIENCE
STATISTICS, MATHEMATICS, ECONOMICS, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, DULUTH

Daniel is a third year student at the University of Minnesota, Duluth (UMD) where he is in the midst of pursuing a triple major in Statistics and Actuarial Science, Mathematics, and Economics. He will graduate in May 2018 and currently involves himself on campus as both a mathematics/statistics undergraduate tutor as well as a teaching assistant for the UMD Mathematics Department. Daniel is looking for internships and work experience in his respective fields as he explores the wide array of career possibilities that come with his education. He is very interested in the opportunities and real world applications in data, analytics, etc. that are frequent given the problem solving abilities of mathematics and statistics.

Joe Rauzi
MHTA FOUNDATION RISING STAR SCHOLARSHIP
BIOPRODUCTS ENGINEERING, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, TWIN CITIES

Joe is starting his freshman year at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities this fall. He plans to graduate with a major in environmental engineering and a minor in German studies. Throughout college and following graduation, he hopes to learn more about sustainability and sustainable practices so that he is not only prepared to combat environmental issues, but also move the world toward a sustainable future. Joe is also looking forward to studying abroad in Germany during his college career, in order to learn directly from the world leaders in renewable and sustainable energy.
Kaelt Simpson
MHTA FOUNDATION STEM SCHOLARSHIP
BIOCHEMISTRY, CHEMISTRY, & GERMAN STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, DULUTH

Kaelt is graduating in May with a triple major in biochemistry, chemistry, and German Studies. She was awarded the Analytical Chemistry award last academic year and has worked as a chemistry laboratory teaching assistant for General Chemistry since last fall. She is also a four-year member and the current Chemical Coordinator of University of Minnesota, Duluth’s Chemistry and Biochemistry Club, a student-initiated organization that works promotes social interaction and facilitates off campus outreach. As part of the Summer Undergraduate Research Program, she worked at the Large Lakes Observatory analyzing the chemical composition of soil. This fall, her project for the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program is optimizing a plasmid. She plans to pursue a Master’s in molecular biology or microbiology.

Matt Stiehm
MHTA FOUNDATION STEM SCHOLARSHIP
COMPUTER ENGINEERING, NORMANDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Matt Stiehm is a recently returned student at Normandale Community College. He is focusing on earning a degree in computer engineering, and transferring to the University of Minnesota College of Science and Engineering in the fall of 2017. After earning his undergraduate degree, he plans to pursue graduate study in solid-state physics. He is a member of the Normandale Academy of Math and Science and a current National Science Foundation scholarship recipient. During his time back in school, he has developed an interest in quantum physics and, in particular, quantum computing. He is also interested in robotics, and has coached elementary students in LEGO robotics competitions. Matt is looking forward to being a valuable contributor to upcoming research and development of next-generation computing technology.

Ingrit Tota
THOMSON REUTERS NAMED SCHOLARSHIP FOR COMPUTER SCIENCE
COMPUTER SCIENCE, ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY

Ingrit is graduating in December with a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science. While attending St. Cloud State University, he has also taken pre-medicine classes, in order to pursue an MD-PhD program for physician scientists in the future. This semester, Ingrit is doing a combined undergrad research in bioinformatics and molecular microbiology. He has been in the Dean’s List every semester and has an overall G.P.A. of 4.00. He is also a member of UPE - International Honor Society for Computer Science. He works as a Software Engineer Intern for Maverick Software Consulting and Veritas Technologies.

Dechen Wangmo
MHTA FOUNDATION STEM SCHOLARSHIP
GENETICS, CELL BIOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA-TWIN CITIES

Dechen graduated from Minneapolis Community & Technical College (MCTC) with Associate’s degree in Biotechnology last spring. She will be pursuing Bachelor’s degree in Genetics, Cell Biology and Development as a transfer student starting this fall at University of Minnesota – Twin Cities. During her stay at MCTC, she was awarded National Science Foundation Scholarship, MCTC Foundation scholarship, Ackerberg Science scholarship and Pentair STEM scholarship. Last summer, she interned in Chemistry Department at University of Wisconsin Eau-Claire under the supervision of Dr Sanchita Hati. Her research was on Mutation of Highly flexible Region in Escherichia Coli Prolyl-tRNA Synthetase. Mutations were created in the highly flexible region of Prolyl-tRNA synthetase either to make the region rigid or more flexible and study how this flexible region effects the other domains of the enzyme and compare the overall enzymatic function of the mutated enzyme with that of wild type enzyme. She is interested in molecular biology, biochemistry, genetics, cellular biology, genetic disorders and cancer. After graduation, she plans to pursue MD-PhD at University of Minnesota.