Jeffrey Cole Excellence Award

The Honors College is pleased to announce this year's competition for Cole Excellence Awards. These scholarships are available to Honors College students to offset tuition and other costs of attending Michigan State University. Students interested in being considered for these scholarship awards apply through the Honors College, with the award recipients selected annually. The scholarships are intended to reward Honors College members who demonstrate academic excellence through a program of study that is enriched by opportunities offered by the Honors College. Cole scholars will be students who have proven their commitment to academic excellence and may have also demonstrated involvement in the MSU community.

The Cole Excellence Award was established in recognition of and through the support of Jeffrey Cole, Michigan State and Honors College alumnus. Lawyer, successful businessman, student of history, and Honors College advocate, Jeffrey Cole graduated in 1970 with a major in social science–prelaw. After receiving his J.D. from Cornell University Law School and practicing law, he subsequently built Ferrous Processing and Trading Company into an innovative, worldwide leader in the business of reclaiming and recycling a wide variety of valuable industrial metals. Mr. Cole believes his commitment to Michigan State University and the Honors College is a revival of Dr. Kedzie's philosophy that "MSU might not only serve as a place where life-long learning might be obtained, but as a place where lifelong service might be done." Mr. Cole's academic and professional experiences have been an example of the extraordinary value he places on excellence, determination, and service–characteristics that will be rewarded and fostered by the Honors College with many future generations of Cole Excellence Scholars.

The intent is that each scholarship award will be approximately $2,000 to $3,000 to be applied to the student's subsequent year tuition or other educational costs. Normally, half of the Award will be applied toward the first semester costs and half toward the second. The number of scholarship awards available each year will depend on the funds available from the endowment. The expectation is that at least eight awards will be made in this year's competition.

Interested Honors College members should submit the Honors College Scholarship/Fellowship Application form with supporting materials by March 1. Award recipients will be announced around April 15.

Recipients shall be selected using these criteria:

1) Any returning Honors College member who has good academic standing in the Honors College at the time the award is offered and activated will be eligible to apply for this scholarship.

2) Applicants must show academic excellence evidenced by a high cumulative GPA in a program enriched by Honors experiences. Academic performance is the principal criterion.

3) The selection committee may also consider contribution to the MSU and wider communities evidenced by leadership, service, initiative or involvement in cocurricular activities or work.

4) The expectation is that recipients will not receive scholarships, including this one, that total more than the cost of attendance at MSU.

5) Eligible students may reapply in subsequent years and be selected to receive the Award more than once.