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## WIXOM TEEN STARTS NONPROFIT

*Eric Siegrist (19) of Wixom founds the Michigan Youth Education Fund*

Wixom, MI, June 2020 — Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Eric Siegrist (19) of Wixom, MI used his time to found the Michigan Youth Education Fund, a nonprofit organization to support Michigan students by reducing the cost burden associated with attending educational events.

During Eric's senior year of high school, his Model UN club faced a huge financial hurdle. With rising costs in hotel, conference, and transportation fees, the club would not be able to attend their final conference. This event was the culmination of months of hard work, research, debate, and four years of high school Model UN, for some. With no support from his school, expenses piling up, and no funding available. Eric turned to his community for help. Securing roughly \$1,000 for his club's trip from a local company, all of the students were able to attend the conference and shatter records for the school that year. Eric founded the MYEF because he believes that, **“no student should have to sit on the sideline and lose out on such valuable opportunities due to financial reasons.”**

“Our organization believes that a fundamental part of education is learning through different academic experiences. Unfortunately, many students are unable to participate in extracurricular activities due to the financial costs associated with events and travel. Here at the Michigan Youth Education Fund, we are breaking down barriers, so that all students are able to participate in the educational activities that will help to advance learning, inspire change, and promote leadership. We believe in coordinating with school districts, teachers, parents, and students to provide the most for our Michigan students.”

For more information or to donate, visit [www.miyef.org](http://www.miyef.org)