

DAVID R. WHITE CHARACTER AWARD

Shiawassee County Friends of the Fair – David R. White Character Award will present an award of at least **\$750** to a deserving young adult. This award is in celebration of David R. White and his belief that a person's character is everything.

The award is designed to assist youth to add the benefits of higher education to their demonstrated good character. The award can be used to attend any 2 or 4-year college or trade school of their choosing. This award is NOT based on a minimum GPA or income levels. What follows is a little background on David R. White and his character.

Dave grew up on his family's farm in Owosso and started exhibiting 4-H at the Shiawassee County Fair in 1949 (10 years old) with a vegetable exhibit. His passion for the Fair showed in everything he did. Dave continued to exhibit through 2022, and was named the oldest livestock exhibitor at the Fair.

He graduated from Owosso High School, was a standout wrestler, football player and active FFA member, serving as FFA sentinel and received his FFA Gold Star Farmer. While actively farming, Dave attended Michigan State University of Agriculture and Applied Science (Michigan State University) and received his diploma at the age of 79.

He once stated "I love to give back to the people what the Fair has given me; a chance to try new things and get involved." He served as Goat Superintendent at the Shiawassee County Fair for 36 years, retiring in 2022. Dave's character was instrumental in rallying others for the building of the Goat Barn and the purchase of all the goat pens. Dave also served at the Michigan State Fair as Goat Superintendent for 20 years, retiring when the Fair at Detroit closed in 2009. Dave was well known as a goat judge. His irrefutably positive character was seen by youth and adults alike and has been modeled by many youths who've become adults, who followed in his footsteps becoming notable judges and leaders in the goat industry. Dave was inducted into the Michigan State University Extension Emerald Society in recognition of his leadership in 4-H and youth development.

He bought the family farm that became "Whispering Pines". He raised Holstein, Brown Swiss and beef cattle, swine, sheep, goats, rabbits, horses, chickens and a llama. The family showed the cows and goats throughout the state, at national and international shows. During the 80's and 90's Dave was instrumental in shipping over 1,200 goats to Taiwan – a protein deprived country and he exported goats to Mexico and Canada. Dave also worked at many "side" jobs to make sure his family was taken care of, including Toledo Commutator, Harris Milling, Clark Fire Extinguishers, 7-11, Telfer's Packing and the Shiawassee Drain Commission. All benefitted from his positive character. In his "spare time", Dave was also Sciota Township Supervisor, Tax Assessor, Board of Review and Planning Commission for many years.

Over the course of his life, Dave was proud to have held multiple commercial licenses including milk testing, chemical spray, weighmaster, CDL, chauffeur, AI inseminator, and bartending.

Throughout his life, Dave lived the 4-H motto: **Make the Best Better.**

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Guidelines:

1. Open to all active youth, FFA or 4-H members who are in their senior year of high school or in their first two years of college. Past awardees may re-apply.
2. The student must have exhibited at the Shiawassee County Fair for a minimum of two (2) years.
3. The student must be accepted at a college or trade school.
4. Applications can be obtained from the Shiawassee County Fair office.
5. The written application and written or video essay, must be completed, sent and received by **June 1, 2026**. Submission can be made via Online or Mail using the email and address below.
6. The **written or video essay** must answer the question:
“Why do I deserve to receive the David R. White Character Award?”
7. The student must include at least one letter of recommendation from their FFA Advisor, 4-H leader, pastor, guidance counselor or teacher. Recommendation must be from a non-related individual.
8. The award will be presented during the Parade of Champions at the 2026 Shiawassee County Fair.
9. The award money will be given upon recipient’s entrance into college or trade school and will be in the form of a check made payable to the award recipient.
10. Recipient will be required to send an annual update to the David R. White Character Award committee.
11. Selection committee may schedule and conduct personal interviews.
12. The award may be split at the committee’s discretion.
13. Selection committee decisions are final.

PLEASE RETURN THE COMPLETED APPLICATION, LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION AND EITHER WRITTEN ESSAY OR VIDEO ESSAY BY **JUNE 1, 2026**.

ONLINE SUBMISSIONS: drwcharacteraward@gmail.com

MAILED SUBMISSIONS: David R. White Character Award
PO BOX 993
Owosso MI 48867

