Peyton Bowe, DHI-Quidel Cutler Scholar from Cutler, Ohio
Peyton Bowe is no stranger to hard work and dedication. Involved in student council, National Honor Society, and French Honor Society, Bowe aimed to push herself in high school. Outside of the classroom, basketball served as another outlet to practice leadership. “A leader’s job is to encourage, inspire, energize, and motivate”, says Bowe. After encouraging a doubtful teammate to finish out a tough game strong, she reflected saying, “I learned my true value to my team is not visible on the scoreboard, but rather in my teammates.” Her focus on teamwork helped to support and energize her peers, developing their leadership as well as her own.

Sophia Carleton, James H. and Nelly Rowley Jewell Cutler Scholar from Reedsville, Ohio
Sophia Carleton sees adversity as the best form of education, providing her with the strength to persevere through challenging times. While she has attended the University of Rio Grande almost full time since her junior year of high school, Carleton continues to actively contribute to her high school through her work in student government. Although invested in her role as secretary of her class, Carleton holds community service close to her heart. With help from her family, she makes “sunshine bags” for patients going through chemotherapy. Filled with comforting and cheerful goodies, she says “The slightest ray of sunshine can brighten someone’s day.” From yellow gum, to yellow post-it notes, to hand-sewn neck pillows, Carleton brought some light into Marietta Memorial Hospital.

Abe Dalisky, Barbara R. Caldwell Cutler Scholar from Lakewood, Ohio
Abe Dalisky has seen first-hand how entrepreneurship can benefit his community. After observing the socioeconomic disparities at his high school, where 47% of the school qualifies for free lunch, Dalisky founded his school’s first “Class Scholarship”. He and his classmates have since raised $7,000 for the scholarship through fundraisers, raffles, and donations. Dalisky says he wants to use what he learned from the experience “to help build, advise, and possibly even manage non-profit organization’s finances.” As a result of his commitment to service, Dalisky was selected as the King of his town’s Light Up Lakewood Parade.

Gage Daniels, Jack and Sue Mathis Ellis Cutler Scholar from Chillicothe, Ohio
Gage Daniels is passionate about robotics. At Chillicothe High School, you’re likely to hear people call him “Tony Stark” (aka Ironman), as often as they use his first name. Daniels served as a technological ambassador in his school, providing feedback to district representatives on how technology is useful to twenty-first century learners. Some of his most popular robots can do tasks such as solving a Rubik’s cube or shooting a basketball. His achievements in the school’s STEM maker-space motivated Daniels to take his technology projects on the road to local elementary schools and youth science events, where he hopes to inspire future engineers. “I believe in the power of education and technology to heal and lead my home region into building a thriving economy”, says Daniels.

Alexis Eberlein, Lizabeth K. and Charles R. Emrick, Jr. Cutler Scholar from Rocky River, Ohio
Alexis Eberlein was selected to represent her high school in the 2016 Global Student Leaders Summit on Human Rights. Involved with Student Council, the Principals Advisory Committee and Ohio Attorney General Mike Dewine’s teen ambassador, Eberlein was excited to deepen her leadership experience through the Summit. She traveled Western Europe discussing conflict resolution and strategies for building a culture of peace. Eberlein focused her attention on exploring solutions to facilitate Syrian refugees’ continued communication with family members still in Syria. Reflecting on the experience, she says, “Since returning from my journey abroad, I have embraced my role as a global citizen in my everyday life.”
Ellen Gill, Claire O. and Charles J. Ping Cutler Scholar from Fleming, Ohio
Ellen Gill is known for her love of playing the flute and studying the law. Gill demonstrated leadership as flute section leader in marching band and is passionate about serving people from underprivileged backgrounds. During her internship with Good Works, she helped build, plant, and maintain sustainable produce gardens as a source of healthy food for families with limited financial resources throughout the Athens community. The daily impact she saw she was having on people’s lives cemented her interest in serving underprivileged populations. Combining her interest in service with her experience in Mock Trial and Ohio University’s Summer Law and Trial Institute, Gill is inspired to work towards helping those struggling with inequalities in our legal system.

Evan Gilland, Wilfred R. and Ann Lee Konneker Cutler Scholar from Cincinnati, Ohio
Evan Gilland knows that leadership is a collaborative process. As a project leader in PeaceJam, a social justice and service learning program, Gilland helped to create a community brick-painting fundraiser for the school garden. When people purchased and painted a brick, they contributed not only money for the garden but also the materials for an eye-catching garden wall. Through this experience, he learned the importance of improvisation and delegation. Gilland also puts these skills to work as a filmmaker. He has written, directed and starred in three feature films, building a team and collaborating with dozens of fellow teens.

Eli Hendrix, Ann Lee Hancock Konneker Cutler Scholar from Olean, New York
Others tend to describe Eli Hendrix as punctual, well-mannered, and hardworking—qualities he attributes to his commitment to acting with integrity. Hendrix challenges himself to be a leader in all realms of his life. Taking pride in a job well done, he has spent four years working with the Olean Warming House, a student run soup kitchen. Hendrix cleaned, stocked food, served meals and organized games as well as holiday parties. The experience also gave him new insight into his community. “I learned that my community is full of people that have their own stories and each person plays a part,” says Hendrix. “I am proud that I can help people be the light in their darkness.”

Abby Jeffers, David C. and Joan Herrold Wood Cutler Scholar from New Albany, Ohio
Abby Jeffers has a deep love of writing and music. A self-starter, Jeffers’s interests have driven her to create her own music blog, “Indientry,” and connect high school students with the local music scene. Jeffers also understands the importance of humility. Her work at Hope Farm, an equestrian center for people with disabilities, has helped her appreciate how small moments can be monumental in meaning. There, she worked as a side-walker for therapeutic horseback riding, and she says, “Through the tiny miracles and the big ones, as well as seeing the incredible strength of the parents of these children, I’m inspired. In fact, every visit to Hope Farm leaves me wanting to do more.”

Danielle Klein, Charles and Marilyn Y. Stuckey Russ College Cutler Scholar from Athens, Ohio
Danielle Klein’s passion to help others thrive in life proved significant through her involvement in Big Brothers Big Sisters. Not only did she participate in the program as a mentor, but Klein saw the deficiency in available “Bigs” and personally recruited more volunteers than the program could accept. As she transitions to college, her goal is to continue to facilitate change in communities for those who need it most.
Brenton Louk, Wilfred R. Konneker Cutler Scholar from Greenfield, Ohio
Brenton Louk works hard, and he's not afraid of the challenges he encounters thanks to his burning desire for knowledge about the universe’s composition. As a 6th grader Louk’s passion for chemistry was sparked by his curiosity about the complex ingredients listed on package labels. At the end of his sophomore year, an instructor approached Louk to take participate in a science project about biofuel creation. After he successfully transformed 2 liters of b100 biodiesel out of vegetable oil, he knew that “chemistry was a must” for his academic future.

Laura Ndoigo, Russ Legacy Cutler Scholar from Nakuru, Kenya
Recognizing her capability to make a difference in the lives of others, Laura Ndoigo knows a good education is what will initiate progress. As Ndoigo remained at the top of her class after 12 years, she found her passion in mechanical engineering. While servicing as the chairperson of the President's Award-Kenya, she led and organized community service and physical recreation events that shaped her perspectives on leadership. Her accomplishments have already rippled through her village creating waves of confidence in others. Ndoigo intends to be a role model for other girls in her village “so they too can gather up the courage to defy the odds.”

Mason Seachrist, Tom and Betsy Wheeler Cutler Scholar from Kent, Ohio
Mason Seachrist’s Eagle Scout project challenged him to grow as a leader while serving his community. In order to execute his proposed project—rebuilding a hiking trail to benefit the Portage Park District—Mason needed to raise $2,500 and recruit 35 volunteers to spread 90 tons of gravel. Thanks to Seachrist’s hard work, dedication, and collaboration with community members, the trail was successfully restored. Seachrist also develops his outdoor leadership skills as a boat hand at Camp Hi and Canoe Livery.

Daniel Stewart, Leona and Lewis Hughes Cutler Scholar from Jackson, Ohio
Known for his school spirit, Daniel Stewart influenced his younger colleagues at Oak Hill High School to bring back a cheer block to basketball games. His efforts proved successful, as the number of spirited students from all grade levels grew to fill not one but two sections in the stands. In recognition of his invigoration of Oak Hill’s school spirit, Stewart received the Ohio High School Athletic Association’s Respect the Game Award as well as commendations from Oak Hill’s athletic director and basketball coach.

Nahshon Webb, Russ Legacy Cutler Scholar from Richmond, Virginia
Nahshon Webb loves taking on challenges, which he appreciates as opportunities. After his family relocated across country, requiring him to transfer schools in his sophomore year, Webb took no time to establish himself in his new community. While holding himself to high academic standards, he has distinguished himself as a varsity athlete and makes sure to give back to his community as well. One of his favorite activities was volunteering during the African and African American Culture Day at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Webb described the experience as a win-win service opportunity that allowed him to entertain, inspire and inform others while exploring his own cultural roots.