

## Luke Cousino

### **B.S. in Geology, 2014**

Luke is from Ida, Michigan, a small town across the border in Monroe County. He began studying at the University of Toledo after High School because of its many opportunities for undergraduate research. Luke chose his major because his personal mission is to leave the world a better place than he found it. While at UT, Luke worked with Dr. Richard Becker on modeling sediment and nutrient loads in the Maumee River watershed. Their research investigated the potential effects of climate change on watershed loads and the implications for Harmful Algal Blooms in the Western Basin of Lake Erie. Luke presented this research at the American Geophysical Union's national conference in San Francisco. He attended several other professional conferences and published a paper in the Journal of Hydrology with Dr. Becker and former student Kirk Zmijewski titled "Modeling the effects of climate change on water, sediment, and nutrient yields from the Maumee River watershed."



Currently, Luke works for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality in the Water Resources Division. Following his personal career goals, he enjoys working as an Environmental Quality Analyst in the Groundwater Discharge Program. His job is to oversee permit compliance for groundwater discharges in Wayne, Macomb, Oakland, and St. Clair counties. Luke conducts site inspections, reviews sampling data, writes technical reports and responds to pollution complaints.

Luke wants to thank Dr. Becker and the entire staff of the Department of Environmental Sciences for making his education possible.

"The quality of your education is up to you. Take advantage of the many incredible resources in this department. Dr. Becker and Dr. Camp both run amazing field trips to some of the best geological areas in the country. You'll be reminded why you study these topics, and you may even have a little fun along the way."