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For Immediate Release

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SCCF Announces 2016 Lilly Endowment Community Scholar

Angola, IN- An Angola High School senior has been named as the Steuben County 2016 Lilly Endowment Community Scholar. Sarah Wilson will receive a four-year, full tuition scholarship to the Indiana college or university of her choice, along with an annual \$900 stipend for books and required equipment. This is the 19th year SCCF has awarded this scholarship.

Wilson, daughter of Max and Kim Wilson of Angola, plans to attend Indiana Wesleyan University to major in business management and entrepreneurship. Sarah is a member of the National Honor Society, fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Drama Club where she has performed lead roles in various productions. Sarah has participated in ten years of competitive swimming and is a member of the Angola High School Marching Band where she is the Principle Chair French Horn. She is also an IMEA Honor Band member for the French Horn and a 5-year ISSMA State Soloist. Sarah is ten year member of 4-H winning many ribbons and awards for sewing. She works at the YMCA of Steuben County also partners with her sisters in an online business. Wilson's siblings Ellen and John were Lilly Scholars in 2006 and 2012 respectively.

A surprise announcement was given to Sarah at the YMCA of Steuben County on Wednesday afternoon. When she showed up for a regularly scheduled shift at work, she was directed to a nearby conference room where her family and representatives of Angola High School and the Steuben County Community Foundation were present.

The selection process for the Lilly scholarship is comprised of four different parts evaluated by a volunteer committee. The process is pre-approved by the Independent Colleges of Indiana prior to the applications becoming available. The committee reviewed and scored the 19 applications received (with names and all personal information omitted) and selected six finalists based on academic and extra-curricular achievements in Steuben County. These six students then participated in an impromptu essay, portfolio presentation and formal interview. The scores from these four components were added together to nominate a recipient and an alternate.

The nominated candidates are then recommended to Independent Colleges of Indiana (ICI) who audits the entire process and selects the scholarship recipient. The process of selection was followed as originally approved.

“Once again, there was an outstanding group of applicants from Steuben County. Our committee of volunteers did a fantastic job with the selection process and we can’t thank them enough for their dedication,” says SCCF Program Officer Jacqui Gentile. “We also would like to congratulate the other five finalists: Melissa Beer, Zachary Chard, Kendall Floto, Matthew McHugh, and Hannah Siders, who will each receive a \$1,000 Circle of Friends scholarship from the Steuben County Community Foundation.”

ICI is a nonprofit corporation that represents 31 regionally accredited degree granting, nonprofit, private colleges and universities in the state. The scholarships are the result of a statewide Lilly Endowment initiative to help Hoosier students reach higher levels of education. Indiana ranks among the lowest states in the percentage of residents over the age of 25 with a bachelor’s degree. There were 142 scholarships awarded statewide; the number awarded in each county is based on the number of fulltime residents in each county. Steuben County was offered one award in 2016.

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Through philanthropic services, strategic investments and community leadership, Steuben County Community Foundation helps people support the causes they care about, now and for generations to come. The Steuben County Community Foundation is a nonprofit organization with assets totaling more than \$21.8 million. Our vision: Serving as a community leader and improving the quality of life by assessing, supporting and coordinating philanthropic giving and endowment building. Our mission: Connecting people who care with needs that matter to our community. For more information on the Foundation, visit its website at www.steubenfoundation.org.