



February 10, 2016
For Immediate Release

Contact: Jennifer Danic, President & CEO
260.665.6656 or jdanic@steubenfoundation.org

Steuben County Community Foundation Announces 2016 Lilly Endowment Community Scholar Finalists

The final phases of the 2016 Lilly Endowment Scholarship process have begun at the Steuben County Community Foundation (SCCF). Since 1998, Independent Colleges of Indiana (ICI) has awarded this four-year, full tuition scholarship (which includes a \$900 annual stipend for books and required equipment) to a Steuben County student to attend the Indiana College or university of their choice. ICI delegates the selection process to SCCF who utilizes a committee of community volunteers to facilitate the process.

After reviewing 19 highly competitive applications, the committee named six finalists to continue with the three-step selection process. Melissa Beer, Zackary Chard, Kendall Floto, Matthew McHugh, Hannah Siders, and Sarah Wilson (listed alphabetically) were called to meet yesterday to complete phase two, which includes an interview success workshop and an impromptu essay. The final step for these young community leaders will include an interview with the selection committee, and a presentation of their personal portfolio.

Fremont High School senior Melissa Beer plans to attend Franklin College to study Actuarial Science and Quantitative Analysis. Angola High School senior Zackary Chard plans to attend Purdue University to study Electrical Engineering. Angola High School senior Kendall Floto plans to attend Indiana University to study Journalism. Angola High School senior Matthew McHugh plans to attend Indiana University to study Political Science. Angola High School senior Hannah Siders plans to attend University of Indianapolis to study Psychology. Angola High School senior Sarah Wilson plans to attend Indiana Wesleyan University to study Business Management and Entrepreneurship.

“SCCF is honored to facilitate this scholarship for a hard-working and deserving student in our community that exemplifies high academic and extra-curricular achievements,” said Jacqui Gentile, Program Officer. “And it is no surprise that five of the six finalists are from one school because eighty percent of the applications received came from that school.”

The Lilly Scholar recipient will be announced later this spring after the recommended candidate is approved by the ICI. SCCF also awards a \$1,000 Circle of Friends scholarship to the other five finalists.

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 are 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.

#

Through philanthropic services, strategic investments and community leadership, the 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 \$25 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.