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For Immediate Release

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Steuben County Community Foundation Announces 2015 Lilly Endowment Community Scholar Finalists

The final phases of the 2015 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 22 highly competitive applications, the committee named six finalists to continue with the three-step selection process. Nathan Clary, Joanna Claudy, Maria Clemens, Cassten Everidge, Nathaniel Roe, and Tana Willibey (listed alphabetically) were called to meet earlier this week 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.

Angola High School Senior, Nathan Clary plans to attend University of Indianapolis to study Physical Therapy, Prairie Heights High School Senior, Joanna Claudy plans to attend Purdue University to study Agricultural Communications. Maria Clemens, an Angola High School Senior, plans to attend Valparaiso University to study Chemistry. Cassten Everidge, a Senior from Prairie Heights High School, plans to attend Purdue University to study Mechanical Engineering. Angola High School Senior, Nathaniel Roe plans to attend Purdue University to study Aerospace Engineering. And Angola High School Senior, Tana Willibey, plans to attend University of Indianapolis to study Nursing

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. This year, Lilly Scholar finalists come from two different school systems, and each hold unique interests and career aspirations.

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 2015.

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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 \$24 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.