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For Immediate Release

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## **SCCF Announces 2017 Lilly Endowment Community Scholar**

Angola, IN- An Angola High School senior has been named as the Steuben County 2017 Lilly Endowment Community Scholar. Melissa Halprin 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 20<sup>th</sup> year SCCF has awarded this scholarship.

Halprin, daughter of Rebecca Halprin and Jason Halprin of Angola, plans to attend Indiana University-Bloomington to major in Biology. Melissa is a member of the National Honor Society and Hispanic Honor Society. Melissa volunteers as a dance instructor for a local dance school and has spent the last ten summers attending a Circus Arts Camp in Florida. At the camp, Melissa is a junior staff instructor and trapeze artist. She also is employed at a restaurant located in Angola.

A surprise announcement was given to Melissa at RISE, Inc. where her mother Rebecca is employed as a receptionist. 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 25 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 two alternates.

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: Nathan Bourne, Brittany Miller, JP Soulliere, Emily Thompson, Chelsea Van Aken 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 for 2017.

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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 \$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](http://www.steubenfoundation.org).