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For Immediate Release

Contacts: Jennifer Danic, President & CEO
Steuben County Community Foundation
jdanic@steubenfoundation.org
260-665-6656

SCCF Announces 2018 Lilly Endowment Community Scholar

LaGrange, IN - A Prairie Heights High School senior has been named as the Steuben County 2018 Lilly Endowment Community Scholar. Sydney Rathburn will receive a four-year, full tuition scholarship to an accredited public or private nonprofit college or university in Indiana, along with an annual \$900 stipend for books and required equipment.

Lilly scholarships were first awarded in 1998, and a total of 4,340 scholarships have been awarded statewide, not including 143 that will be awarded during this round.

Rathburn, daughter of Rhonda and Randy Rathburn of Hudson, plans to study marketing and finance at a university to be determined. Sydney is the Class of 2018 Vice President, President of Student Council, member of National Honor Society and is the team captain for the high school's volleyball team. Sydney volunteers for Volley 4 A Cure and Relay 4 Life. She is also a member of LaGrange County 4-H.

A surprise announcement was given to Sydney at Prairie Heights High School where she was called to the Media Center where her family, friends, school and high school administrators, as well as members from 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: Sarah Brandt, Thayne Camp, Elizabeth German, Karlie Hutchins, and Regan Pepler 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 whose primary purposes are 1) to help raise the level of educational attainment in Indiana; 2) to increase awareness of the beneficial roles Indiana community foundations can play in their communities; and 3) to encourage and support the efforts of current and past Lilly Endowment Community Scholars to engage with each other and with Indiana business, governmental, educational, nonprofit and civic leaders to improve the quality of life in Indiana generally and in local communities throughout the state. The Lilly Endowment has provided over \$372 million dollars for tuition and book stipends to date. There were 143 scholarships awarded statewide in 2018; the number awarded in each county is based on the number of fulltime residents in each county. Steuben County was offered one award for 2018.

The Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship is one of 50 scholarships available through the Steuben County Community Foundation. Application materials for other 2018 community foundation scholarships are available on the foundation’s website: steubenfoundation.org.

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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 \$27 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.