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## **SCCF Announces 2018 Lilly Endowment Community Scholar Finalists**

The six 2018 Lilly Endowment Community Scholar finalists have been selected by the Steuben County Community Foundation (SCCF). After reviewing 25 highly competitive applications from the 4 schools serving Steuben County, the committee named six finalists to continue with the four-step selection process.

Sarah Brandt, Thayne Camp, Elizabeth German, Karlie Hutchins, Regan Peppler and Sydney Rathburn met on October 10 to complete phase two which included 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 Sarah Brandt plans to attend Ball State University to study Nursing. Fremont High School senior Thayne Camp plans to attend Goshen College to study Pre-med. Prairie Heights High School senior Elizabeth German plans to attend Purdue University to study Agricultural Economics. Angola High School senior Karlie Hutchins plans to attend Butler University to study Biochemistry. Angola High School senior Regan Peppler plans to attend Indiana University Bloomington to study Elementary Education and Special Education. Prairie Heights High School senior Sydney Rathburn is undecided on her college/university choice, but plans to study Finance.

"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.

The Lilly Scholar recipient will be announced in December after the recommended candidate is approved by the Independent Colleges of Indiana (ICI). SCCF awards a \$1,000 Circle of Friends scholarship to the other five finalists.

Since 1998, 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.

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 2018.

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