5 seniors named finalists for full-tuition scholarship

By Millicent Martin Emery

Two Lincoln seniors and one each from Centerville, Hagerstown and Seton Catho-
lic high schools now have a two-in-five chance of winning a full-tuition scholarship.

Wayne County Foundation has announced what it calls the five exceptional high-
school seniors who have been se-
lected as finalists for the 2021
Wayne County Lilly Endow-
ment Community Scholarship
Program.
They are:
• Michael “Mickey” Davis, Centerville High School, who
  aims to study aeronautical en-
gineering at Purdue University
• Shay Doerstler, Hager-
stown High School, who plans
to study agribusiness at Purdue
• Jacob Ervin, Lincoln High School, who plans to major in
  accounting and then go to law
  school, is considering Butler,
  Ball State or Indiana universi-
ties and University of Notre Dame
• Jonnah Falcone, Seton Cath-
olic High School, who plans to
double major in mathematics and
  philosophy and hopes to
  attend Notre Dame
• Alexis Worl, Lincoln High
  School, who plans to major in
  business, possibly specializing
  in international business, and
  aspires to go to Ball State

Two local Lilly Endowment Community Scholars will re-
ceive four-year, full-tuition scholarships to pursue baccalaure-
ate degrees at colleges or uni-
versities in Indiana. The scholar-
ship also includes as much as
$900 annually for required text-
books and equipment.

Finalists are being inter-
viewed via the online Zoom
conferencing program.

More about each nominee

Davis wants to continue studying aviation after recently
receiving his private pilot’s license. He also would like
to join the ROTC for the Air
Force at Purdue. Inspired by his
family background in the service, he feels called to go

into the military, and says that
pathway would provide him
a lot of career options.

Davis was “de-
lightfully
surprised” to
learn he was
named a finalist, receiving
the call just after soccer prac-
tice. He said the county has
so many other qualified can-
didates, and he wishes there
were more full-tuition scholar-
ships available for other stu-
dents.

“I gave a rush of assurance and a lot of stress rolled off my
shoulders, since if I would get the scholar-
ship, there goes the debt,” he said.

“It’s so nice to have this in the back of my head, preparing me
to work even harder, because if I work even harder, even more
great things can come out of it,” Doerstler, a future agribusiness
major, said she is deeply grateful for this opportunity.

“I never would’ve guessed I would be selected as a final-
list,” Doerstler said. “I highly recommend all future seniors apply.”

Ervin said the application process was stressful, noti-
ing several parts including
self-response, essay, short an-
swer questions, as well as
a list of extra-curricular
activities.

“It’s a pretty big honor just
to be in the Top 5 and come
back and do an interview,” Er
vin said.

Ervin hopes to combine his
interest in sports, including
football, with his interest in

the law, possibly representing a professional team. He has
been inspired to find his own niche in law after being in-
spired by his father’s career in local law enforcement.

Falcone said being an-
nounced as a finalist was “be-
\ndenjoying.”

“When I was told on the call that they were from the Wayne
County Foundation, I immediately jumped off the couch and
began nervous pacing around the house,” Falcone said.

“Trying to stay calm on the phone when they told me I was a
finalist was very differ-
cult. I was so hono-
red to be selected among
all of the amazing students who applied and cannot wait
for my interview,” Worl said.

Worl said she loves to travel and learn about new cultures, so
she would like to focus on international business. She said
Butler has a great program for those studies and it has been her dream
college since her freshman year.

Worl said it’s an honor to
even get an interview for the scholarship. She was helping
decorate her class’ golf cart
for the homecoming parade and didn’t answer her phone because
she assumed the call was
from a telemarketer.

She then received a message
asking for a call back to Lisa
Bates at the foundation, and
worried she had forgotten to
include her essays. This
year’s questions asked
candidates to describe themselves, an ad-
versity they had faced in their
lives, and a club or sport that
had positively affected their
lives.

When learning she hadn’t
forgotten to attach her essays and she was a finalist, Worl
started crying with happiness.

More about the process

Finalists were selected from
among 99 applications submit-
ted by students from Wayne
County high schools.

Applications for the 2021 scholarship were blindly re-
viewed and independently scored by members of a WCF
Lilly Scholarship selection committee.

Consideration is given to student activities and achieve-
ments, community service, ac-
ademic performance, financial
need, work experience and
leadership potential. Final-
ists are being interviewed this
month, and interview scores will determine their rankings.

The committee’s recommenda-
tions for scholarship nominees will be submitted to
Independent Colleges of In-
diana, Inc. for final selection of scholarship recipients for
Wayne County.

Wayne County’s two 2021
Lilly Endowment Community Scholars will be named in De-
ember.

For more information on the Lilly program or the nearby 100
other scholarship funds admin-
istered by Wayne County Foun-
dation, visit https://waynecoun-
tyfoundation.org or contact
Program Officer Lisa Bates at
(765) 902-1638 or lisaj@wayne-
countyfoundation.org.

Flu Clinic

Thursday, Oct. 15
9 a.m. to noon
Nettle Creek Senior Center
327 E. Main St., Hagerstown

For ages 11 and older

• Bring insurance/Medicare card.
• Most insurance will pay 100 percent.
• If your insurance does not cover the vaccine, the cash price is $25.

Due to the Covid-19 and oth-
er preventable disease, the flu
season is a good way to start
thinking about other vaccines
to help protect our children and
our community.