

5 seniors named finalists for full-tuition scholarship

By Millicent Martin Emery

Two Lincoln seniors and one each from Centerville, Hagerstown and Seton Catholic 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 selected as finalists for the 2021 Wayne County Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program.

They are:

• Michael "Mikey" Davis, Centerville High School, who aims to study aeronautical engineering at Purdue University

• Shay Doerstler, Hagerstown 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 universities and University of Notre Dame

• Jonah Falcone, Seton Catholic 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 Butler

Two local Lilly Endowment Community Scholars will receive four-year, full-tuition scholarships to pursue baccalaureate degrees at colleges or universities in Indiana. The scholarship also includes as much as \$900 annually for required textbooks and equipment.

Finalists are being interviewed 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 "delightfully surprised" to learn he was named a finalist, receiving the call just after soccer practice. He said the county has so many other qualified candidates, and he wishes there were more full-tuition scholarships available for other students.

"It gave me a rush of assurance and a lot of stress rolled off my shoulders, since if I would get the scholarship, there goes the debt," he said. "It's prepared 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 finalist," Doerstler said. "I highly recommend all future seniors apply."

Ervin said the application process was stressful, noting several parts including essays and short answer 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," Ervin 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 inspired by his father's career in local law enforcement.

Falcone said being announced as a finalist was "beyond exciting."

"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 my house," Falcone said.

"Trying to stay calm on the phone when they told me I was a finalist was very difficult. I was so honored to be selected among all of the amazing students who applied and cannot wait for my interview."

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



Mikey Davis



Shay Doerstler



Jonah Falcone



Alexis Worl

2021 Lilly Endowment Scholarship finalists for area counties

Fayette County: Alexis Clapp, Amelia Ross, Kindra Young, Morgan Dafler, Rylee Fuller and Shayla Crawford.

Randolph County was still selecting its finalists as of press time, and Henry County officials could not be reached.

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 adversity 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 90 applications submitted 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 achievements, community service, academic performance, financial need, work experience and leadership potential. Finalists are being interviewed this month, and interview scores will determine their rankings.

The committee's recommendations for scholarship nominees will be submitted to Independent Colleges of Indiana, Inc. for final selection of scholarship recipients for Wayne County.

Wayne County's two 2021 Lilly Endowment Community Scholars will be named in December.

For more information on the Lilly program or the nearly 100 other scholarship funds administered by Wayne County Foundation, visit <https://waynecountyfoundation.org/> or contact Program Officer, Lisa Bates at (765) 962-1638 or lisa@waynecountyfoundation.org.

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