



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 14, 2021

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**WAYNE COUNTY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES
2022 LILLY ENDOWMENT COMMUNITY SCHOLARS**

The Wayne County Foundation is pleased to announce the selection of two area high school seniors who will receive the prestigious Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship.

From a highly competitive pool of seventy-nine applicants, **Emily Cox** of Lincoln High School and **Garrett Walther** of Centerville High School were chosen as Wayne County's 2022 Lilly Endowment Community Scholars. Each Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship provides for full tuition, required fees, and a special allocation of up to \$900 for required books and equipment for four years of undergraduate study on a full-time basis leading to a baccalaureate degree at any eligible Indiana public or private nonprofit college or university.

'We are so proud of these students and admire their accomplishments both inside and outside of the classroom,' said Foundation Executive Director Rebecca Gilliam. 'Emily and Garrett represent the very best of Wayne County and have positively impacted their communities. We are thrilled to bestow this honor upon them.'

Emily is a senior at Lincoln High School. By the end of her junior year, she had compiled a 4.30 grade point average. Some of her extracurricular activities include Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Key Club, Business Professionals of America, National Honors Society, as well as participating on Lincoln's volleyball and tennis teams. Emily describes herself as a 'passionate and goal-oriented' individual. She plans to attend Indiana Wesleyan University to study nursing.

Garrett is a senior at Centerville High School. By the end of his junior year, he carried a 4.01 grade point average. During his time at Centerville, he has participated in Eastern Indiana Model Legislature, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Indiana Junior Beef Cattle Association, 4-H, National Honors Society, and track and field. Since he was little, Garrett 'lives and breathes his family farm in every instant'. He plans to attend Purdue University to study agricultural economics.

The primary purposes of the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program are to help raise the level of educational attainment in Indiana, to increase awareness of the beneficial roles Indiana community foundations can play in their communities, and 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.

Since the Lilly Endowment created the program during the 1998-1999 school year, fifty-three students have been awarded Lilly Endowment Community Scholarships through the Wayne County Foundation.

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Since 1979, the **Wayne County Foundation** has existed to foster and encourage private philanthropic giving, to enhance the spirit of community and to improve the quality of life in the Wayne County, Indiana, area now and for future generations.

Lilly Endowment Inc. is an Indianapolis-based private philanthropic foundation created in 1937 by J.K. Lilly Sr. and his sons Eli and J.K. Jr. through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly and Company. Although the gifts of stock remain a financial bedrock of the Endowment, it is a separate entity from the company, with a distinct governing board, staff and location. In keeping with the founders' wishes, the Endowment supports the causes of community development, education and religion. The Endowment funds significant programs throughout the United States, especially in the field of religion. However, it maintains a special commitment to its founders' hometown, Indianapolis, and home state, Indiana.

Since 1997, **Independent Colleges of Indiana** has administered the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program statewide with funding provided by Lilly Endowment.