



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Foundation Reveals 2026 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Finalists

Richmond, Ind. — The Wayne County Foundation is pleased to announce the finalists for the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship. This year, 62 applications were received, and six Wayne County high school seniors have been selected as finalists for this prestigious honor. They are:

- Josiah Berry—Lincoln High School
- Celina Cheng—Richmond High School
- Rosalinda Colaj—Richmond High School
- Priya Hodges—Richmond High School
- Abigail Lumpkin—Hagerstown High School
- Yuvraj Prajapati—Richmond High School

Two students will be awarded the scholarship following completion of the remaining steps in the application process. Applications were independently scored by the Foundation's selection committee in a blind review process. A variety of factors were considered, including each student's activities, achievements, community service, academic performance, financial need, work experience, and leadership potential.

"We once again received an impressive number of applications from some of the best and brightest students in Wayne County," said Brian Schleeper, the Foundation's Director of Nonprofit Engagement. "We look forward to meeting with these finalists and learning more about their future educational and life goals."

Finalists will participate in interviews with the review committee in early November. Scores from their conversations will be combined with their application results to determine the final ranking. Recommendations from the committee will be submitted to Independent Colleges of Indiana, Inc. for final review and approval. The 2026 Lilly Endowment Community Scholars for Wayne County will be announced in December 2025.

Lilly Endowment Community Scholars are awarded a four-year, full-tuition scholarship to study on a full-time basis, leading to a baccalaureate degree at any eligible Indiana public or private nonprofit college or university. The scholarship also includes up to \$900 annually for required textbooks and equipment. Since the program's inception in 1998, 59 Wayne County students have been named Lilly Endowment Community Scholars.

Founded in 1979, the **Wayne County Foundation** exists 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. Visit our [website](#) for more information.

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. Founded in 1948, ICI serves as the collective voice for the state's 29 private, nonprofit colleges and universities. ICI institutions employ over 22,000 Hoosiers and generate a total local economic impact of over \$5 billion annually. Students at ICI colleges have Indiana's highest four-year, on-time graduation rates, and ICI institutions produce 30 percent of Indiana's bachelor's degrees while enrolling 20 percent of its undergraduates.

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