



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Foundation Opens Applications for 2025 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship**

**Wayne County, Ind.** - The Wayne County Foundation is pleased to announce that the online application for the 2025 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship (LECSP) will open on Thursday August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

The program administered statewide by Independent Colleges of Indiana (ICI) and locally through the Foundation is open to all Wayne County, Indiana residents who will graduate from a Wayne County high school no later than June 30, 2025, intend to pursue a full-time baccalaureate course of study at an eligible college or university in Indiana, and meet the criteria established by the Wayne County Foundation. The program will provide more than 147 scholarships statewide, including two scholarships in Wayne County.

Since it was first offered in 1998, the Foundation has selected 57 local high school seniors to receive the award, which pays full tuition, required fees, and provides a \$900 book stipend for four years. The special allocation may cover the costs for required books and required 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.

Applications will be evaluated on, but not limited to, the following criteria: Academic Performance, Statement of Future Plans, Extracurricular Activities/Work Experience, Recommendations, Character Essay, Community Service, Financial Need, and Overall Impression.

Lilly Endowment created LECSP for the 1997-98 school year and has supported the program every year since with tuition grants totaling more than \$490 million. More than 5,300 Indiana students have received Lilly Endowment Community Scholarships since the program's inception.

The primary purposes of LECSP are: 1) to help raise the level of educational attainment in Indiana; 2) to increase awareness of the beneficial roles Indiana community foundations can play in their communities; and 3) 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.

Students can learn more about the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship in Wayne County and apply for it by visiting <https://waynecountyfoundation.org/lilly-endowment-scholarship/>. Applications must be completed and submitted by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 30<sup>th</sup>.

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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 Inc. 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.