



CONTACT: Lisa Bates, Program Officer

Phone: 765-962-1638

Date: April 15, 2016

Foundation announces 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.

Elle Hellwarth and Maria Stiens were chosen from a pool of 66 applicants from throughout Wayne County. Each recipient will receive a four-year, full tuition scholarship and \$900 annual stipend for required books and equipment.

Elle is the Valedictorian of the senior class at Hagerstown High School. She maintained a 4.0 GPA while participating in varsity swimming, FFA, 4H, academic team, and student government throughout her high school career. She has served in several leadership positions including editor of the yearbook and president of National Honor Society. She has traveled to third-world countries on mission-based trips and organized local food drives. Elle plans to major in biological engineering at Purdue University and continue her studies to pursue a research career that involves genetically modifying crops. She is the daughter of Gregory and Elaine Hellwarth.

Maria, a senior at Seton Catholic High School, is the Salutarian of the senior class with a 4.546 GPA on a 4.0 scale. She has participated in varsity soccer, varsity tennis, band and piano throughout her high school career. Maria has also held several leadership roles including soccer team captain and vice president of the Elizabeth Ann Seton National Honor Society. Maria volunteers at Reid Health, Special

Olympics, Peer Tutoring, food kitchens, athletic events, and has been a member of 4-H for the past 10 years. Maria plans to major in applied exercise and health at Purdue University to become an Occupational Therapist. She is the daughter of Greg and Julie Stiens.

This year a total of 142 scholarships were awarded statewide by the Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment Inc., in conjunction with community foundations and Independent Colleges of Indiana, Inc. (ICI). ICI is a nonprofit corporation that represents 31 regionally accredited degree granting, nonprofit, private colleges and universities in the state.

Since 1998, 41 students have been awarded Lilly Endowment Community Scholarships through the Wayne County Foundation. This year's awardees will be recognized, at the Wayne County Foundation's Annual Report to the Community dinner in June.

###