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Lilly Endowment expands popular community scholarship program

The Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program is making room for 120 more Indiana students to take advantage of its full-tuition benefits next year.

Since 1998 some 590 students – on 35 campuses across Indiana – have been awarded the scholarship after being chosen by their local community foundations, which set the standards and administer the selection process.

The Endowment has approved a total allocation of \$20.8 million to encompass the expanded program, which will grow from 240 to 360 scholars a year. The expansion means each county can offer half again as many scholarships as it does now. The number of scholarships available to each county is determined by its population. Most Indiana counties select two scholars each year; now they will be able to select three.

(Marion County will offer nine more scholarships for a total of 27; Lake County will offer five more for a total of 15; Allen County will offer four more for a total of 12, and so forth.)

“The more than 90 community foundations in Indiana do an excellent job in promoting the scholarship in their counties, establishing criteria and selection processes, honoring the work of the scholars and promoting the cause of higher education,” said Sara B. Cobb, Endowment vice president for education. “The program’s success over the last three years has encouraged us to broaden it so that even more students can have the opportunity to earn their baccalaureate degree and go on to bright futures.”

(more)

Scholarship program
Add 1

Each Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship provides full tuition for a student to pursue a baccalaureate degree at any accredited four-year Indiana college or university that the recipient chooses. The scholarships also pay for required fees and up to \$700 per year for required books and equipment. The program is administered through a grant to the Indianapolis-based Independent Colleges of Indiana.

With the new allocation, the Endowment has committed \$50.5 million to the program since the first class of scholars in 1998.

The Endowment will honor the “Class of 2001” – 360 strong – at a June 23 dinner in Indianapolis. They will attend with their parents or guardians, community foundation representative and “special persons” in their lives.

Parents interested in the scholarship program and potential applicants should contact the community foundation in their area or their school guidance counselor.