



INDEPENDENT COLLEGES  
INDIANA

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### **“Realizing the Dream”: Celebrating First-Generation College Students**

INDIANAPOLIS, October 31, 2018 – Realizing a dream takes commitment, hard work, and, most often, a helping hand from family and others. And that’s exactly what 30 students from Indiana’s private, non-profit colleges and universities are being celebrated for this Saturday evening, November 3, at the 29<sup>th</sup> annual “Realizing the Dream” banquet.

Now sophomores, they have realized the dream of being the first in their families to go to college, have been selected by their colleges for outstanding achievement in the freshman year, and are successfully advancing towards completing their bachelor’s degrees.

Made possible by a grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to the Independent Colleges of Indiana, the event recognizes first-generation students attending ICI campuses, along with their inspirational teachers and families. The event is being held at the Sheraton Indianapolis at Keystone Crossing, with a reception at 6:00 p.m. and an awards dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Each honored student will receive a \$2,500 check to help with college costs, and each student’s selected “most influential” teacher/mentor will receive a \$1,000 professional development grant. One out of every three students on ICI campuses is first-generation. Generous financial aid provided by the campuses themselves, combined with state and federal grants, makes a private college education a possibility for all students in Indiana.

The keynote speaker for the evening is Trine University alum, and board chair, Rick James. James began working at Auburn Foundry after he graduated from high school. He learned all aspects of foundry operation and in 1989 he and a partner founded Metal Technologies Inc., that today has sales in excess of \$500 million and more than 1,100 employees.

“We are so grateful to the Lilly Endowment for making this inspirational program possible,” says David W. Wantz, ICI president & CEO. “We are proud, too, that because of the higher graduation rates of our ICI colleges and universities, these students are significantly more likely to realize the dream of completing their degrees in four years.”

*Independent Colleges of Indiana serves as the collective voice for the state’s 30 private, nonprofit colleges and universities. ICI member institutions enroll almost 100,000 students (approximately 17 percent of all students statewide) and annually produce 32 percent of all bachelor’s degrees in Indiana. Information about ICI is available at [www.icindiana.org](http://www.icindiana.org).*

“Realizing the Dream”  
Student & Teacher Award Recipients

Information includes:

1. the student’s name and hometown;
2. the college/university they are attending with the name of the campus liaison;
3. the name of the teacher, the name of the school and its location.

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Gualdina Pacheco, Plymouth  
Ancilla College, Ms. Marcella Hopple  
Stacy Scheetz, Plymouth High School, Plymouth

Alondra Quezada, Anderson  
Anderson University, Dr. Chris Confer  
Shirley Payne, Anderson Elementary, Anderson

Keri Rohr, Nappanee  
Bethel College, Dr. Barbara Bellefeuille  
Gary Miller (retired), Woodview Elementary School, Nappanee

Laura Fischer, New Carlisle  
Butler University, Ms. Jan Ruston  
Kim Holifield, New Prairie High School, New Carlisle

Karen Ibarra, Hammond  
Calumet College of St. Joseph, Mr. Michael Schmaltz  
Sam Eggers, Donald Gavit High School, Hammond

Emma Werkowski, Crown Point  
DePauw University, Mr. Elreo Campbell  
Jerome Flewelling, Crown Point High School, Crown Point

Harrison Rice, Fountain City  
Earlham College, Mrs. Bonita Washington-Lacey  
Scott Johnson, Northeastern High School, Fountain City

Micajah Rippy, Salem  
Franklin College, Mr. Ellis Hall  
Bonnie Harmon, Salem High School, Salem

Sandra Cortez, Elkhart  
Goshen College, Ms. Rocio Diaz  
Michele Zachary, Elkhart Career Center, Elkhart

Henrietta Carter, Muncie  
Grace College and Seminary, Mr. Aaron Crabtree  
Rhonda Ward, Muncie Central High School, Muncie

C. Tad Kaufman, Evansville  
Hanover College, Dr. Steve Jobe  
Erin Atkinson, Signature School, Evansville

Kristina Richardson, Mishawaka  
Holy Cross College, Mr. Brian Howard  
Lori Kitkowski, Mishawaka High School, Mishawaka

Madison Kidder, Middlebury  
Huntington University, Ms. Martha Smith  
Deborah Miller, York Elementary, Bristol

Jabina Innocent, New Haven  
Indiana Tech, Ms. Michelle Regan  
Raven Morton, Region 8 Education Service Center, Fort Wayne

Mekayla Wolfe, Sullivan  
Indiana Wesleyan University, Dr. Nathan Herring  
Stacy Hollis, Sullivan High School, Sullivan

Kayla Carver, Fort Wayne  
Manchester University, Ms. Amanda Reid  
Melissa Hirsch, Northrop High School, Fort Wayne

Caylee Maddox, Russiaville  
Marian University, Mr. Chad Bir  
Cindy Lester, Western High School, Russiaville

Inga March, Indianapolis  
Martin University, Ms. Virginia Goodwin  
Celesta Bates, Martin University, Indianapolis

Matthew Hoffer, Lynnville  
Oakland City University, Dr. Danny Dunivan  
Kori Kutzler, Tecumseh High School, Lynnville

Shuai Yuan, Fishers  
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Dr. Kimberly Henthorn  
Sheri Dimos, Fishers High School, Fishers

Sheyla Fogle, Fairmount

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, Ms. Darla Hopper  
Kristin Caudill, Madison-Grant High School, Fairmount

Marisabel Sanchez, Fort Wayne  
Saint Mary's College, Ms. Sarah Pressey  
Micah Roddy, South Side High School, Fort Wayne

Carson Deckard, Ellettsville  
Taylor University, Mr. Tim Nace  
Greg Ratliff, Edgewood High School, Ellettsville

Taylor Davis, Fort Wayne  
Trine University, Mr. Scott Goplin  
Pamela O'Reilly, R. Nelson Snider High School, Fort Wayne

Lyndia Hayes, Monrovia  
University of Evansville, Ms. Angela Dawson  
Mark Gullion, Area 31 Career Center, Indianapolis

Chandler Martin, Shelbyville  
University of Indianapolis, Mr. Ryan McClarnon  
Mark Hensley, Shelbyville High School, Shelbyville

Koki Kobayashi, Avon  
University of Notre Dame, Ms. Elly Brenner  
Micah Borcharding, Avon High School, Avon

Mariah Escamilla, Auburn  
University of Saint Francis, Mr. Hunter Holmes  
Carrie Engel, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne

Elizabeth Heisler, Mishawaka  
Valparaiso University, Dr. Bonnie Hunter  
James Langfeldt, Penn High School, Mishawaka

Joel Bailey, Indianapolis  
Wabash College, Mr. Michael Raters  
Dava Walsh, McClelland Elementary School, Indianapolis

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