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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**White County Community Foundation**

Affiliate of The Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette

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**For Immediate Release**

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**WHITE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES  
LILLY ENDOWMENT COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT**

A Tri-County student will receive a full-tuition, four-year scholarship as White County Community Foundation's 2013 Lilly Endowment Community Scholar.

Zedekiah Bickett will receive full tuition to an accredited Indiana college of his choice and a \$900 yearly stipend for required books and equipment.

Zed is the son of Bryan and Brenda Bickett of Brookston and will attend Purdue University to pursue a degree in Agribusiness.

Other finalists for this year's scholarship were Jamie Adair, Ashley Hall, Lacey Hendress, Kaylee LaOrange, Jacob Layton, Chloe McAchren, Morgan Michalski, and Karson Quarles.

Zed's high school career reveals a variety of interests and abilities. He has maintained a rigorous and diversified academic schedule and has a 3.763 weighted GPA. He is a three-year member of National Honor Society and has served as secretary. A four-year member of Business Professionals of

America, he has led that organization as vice-president and president. He has served as MS advisor and sentinel during his four years in FFA ~ an unlikely membership without a family farm background. “It was not until I began working on a farm that I developed my passion for agriculture. FFA has also helped me learn more about agriculture and how our future, as consumers, depends on it. I plan to use a degree from Purdue to make a difference in agriculture, just as FFA has done for me.”

Zed has played baseball for four years, serving as co-captain and earning sportsmanship and academic all-conference awards. He also played basketball for three years, earning sportsmanship and JV awards.

Zed was elected to office when he attended Hoosier Boys State and was named Student of the Month during his junior year.

“I base my life on ‘paying it forward’.” In addition to his many school and extra-curricular activities, Zed is a passionate volunteer in his community. He helped build four Habitat for Humanity homes and hopes to do more. He and his family are regular volunteers for the Soup on Wheels program. He steps forward to help wherever he can but is quick to credit and thank teachers, mentors, family and community members for their inspiration and support.

The White County Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship selection committee included representatives from each school district, in addition to a representative of the White County Community Foundation. The names of all applicants remain anonymous until introduced at the final interviews. Out of 29 eligible applicants, nine finalists were selected for personal interviews. Considerations for selection included financial need, community, school and work involvement, written essay, three recommendation letters, and a B- or better grade average. Recommendations of the White County Community Foundation scholarship committee were submitted to Independent Colleges of

Indiana, Inc. (ICI) for final selection of the recipients.

ICI is a nonprofit corporation that represents 31 regionally accredited degree granting, nonprofit, private colleges and universities in the state.

Lilly Endowment Community Scholars are recognized as leaders and mentors by both peers and adults in their communities. As Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship recipients, they will maintain contact with the White County Community Foundation for four years of college as well as for ten years after their graduation.

These scholarships are the result of a statewide Lilly Endowment initiative to help Hoosier students reach higher levels of education. Indiana ranks among the lowest states in the percentage of residents over the age of 25 with a bachelor's degree. This year, 142 scholarships were awarded statewide, bringing the total number of Lilly scholars to 3,771 since the program began in 1998. Lilly Endowment provides the funding to enable community foundations in Indiana to offer the scholarship program.

In addition to raising Indiana's educational achievement level, the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship program is committed to furthering the ability of Indiana's Community Foundations to enhance the quality of life of the state's residents.

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Photo attached – Zedekiah Bickett