



INDEPENDENT COLLEGES  
INDIANA

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### **Celebrating 25 Years of First-Generation College Students “Realizing the Dream”**

INDIANAPOLIS, October 27, 2014 – Realizing a dream takes commitment, hard work, and, most often, a helping hand from family and others. And that’s exactly what 31 students from Indiana’s private colleges and universities are being celebrated for this Saturday evening, November 1, at the 25<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 program is marking its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary; with this year’s class, it has recognized more than 750 first-generation students attending ICI campuses, along with their inspirational teachers and families. The celebration 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., and will feature a special anniversary video.

Each honored student will receive a \$2,500 check to help with college costs, and each student’s chosen “most influential” teacher/mentor will receive \$1,000. One out of every three students on ICI campuses is a first-generation one. 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.

This year’s keynote speaker is Santiago Jaramillo, CEO and founder of BlueBridge Digital, a mobile-apps-as-a-service company that helps colleges, tourism destinations, churches, and others communicate with their customers through visually compelling, full featured mobile apps. A graduate of Indiana Wesleyan University, he was named the 2013 TechPoint Mira Award’s “Young Professional of the Year”; invited recently to the White House to a ceremony for “Champions of Change” for immigrant innovators and entrepreneurs; and recognized by *Inc. Magazine* in its 2013 “30 Under 30: World’s Coolest Entrepreneurs” feature.

“We are so grateful to Lilly Endowment Inc. for making this inspirational program possible for 25 years now,” says Richard L. Ludwick, ICI president & CEO. “We are proud, too, that because of the higher graduation rates of our ICI colleges and universities, these students are twice as 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 31 private, nonprofit colleges and universities. ICI member institutions enroll some 90,000 students (approximately 20 percent of all students statewide) and annually produce 35 percent of all bachelor’s degrees in Indiana. Information about ICI is available at [www.icindiana.org](http://www.icindiana.org).

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“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 contact;
3. the name of the teacher, the name of the school and its location.

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Felicia Goodsell, Knox  
Ancilla College, Mr. Todd Zeltwanger  
Sam Soliman, Ancilla College, Donaldson

Chelsea Stephens, New Castle  
Anderson University, Mr. R. Dean Branson  
Mary Jane Dye, Wilbur Wright Elementary, New Castle

Christina Martin, Fishers  
Bethel College, Dr. Barbara Bellefeuille  
James Fagan, Fishers High School, Fishers

Lisa Fischer, LaPorte  
Butler University, Mr. Matt Stach  
Tim Eldridge, New Prairie High School, New Carlisle

Kelly Rusnack, Whiting  
Calumet College of St. Joseph, Ms. Gina Pirtle  
William McCullom, Clark High School, Whiting

Vanessa Freije, Indianapolis  
DePauw University, Mr. Craig Slaughter  
Margo McAlear, Park Tudor, Indianapolis

Johnnie Fitzpatrick, Muncie  
Earlham College, Mrs. Bonita Washington-Lacey  
Jarrod Dortch, Ivy Tech Community College, Muncie

Brody Perrine, Roachdale  
Franklin College, Mr. Ellis F. Hall III  
William Brothers, North Putnam High School, Roachdale

Janeth Maricela Vela Tavarez, Goshen  
Goshen College, Ms. DaVonne Harris  
Barbara Yoder, Model Elementary, Goshen

Savannah Balluch, Griffith  
Grace College and Seminary, Dr. James E. Swanson  
Cindy Poulsen, Lake Hills Baptist Church, Schererville

Gabrielle A. Leith, Lapel  
Hanover College, Dr. Steve Jobe  
John Maryan, Lapel High School, Lapel

Jazmin Alejandra Garcia Torres, Elkhart  
Holy Cross College, Mr. Brian Howard  
McKenna Lulic, Madison Primary Center, South Bend

Tori Coble, Huntington  
Huntington University, Ms. Martha J. Smith  
Sarah Holsopple, Wawasee High School, Syracuse

Thaddeus Conley, Hammond  
Indiana Tech, Dr. Christopher Douse  
Deloris Williams, West Side Leadership Academy, Gary

Tyler Replogle, Muncie  
Indiana Wesleyan University, Dr. Nathan Herring  
Melinda Thompson, Wapahani High School, Selma

Heather DeLorenzo, Winamac  
Manchester University, Ms. Kathrine Dwyer  
Darlene Gordon, Winamac Community High School, Winamac

Felicia Hunter, Greenwood  
Marian University, Mr. Chad Bir  
Amy Fix, Center Grove High School, Greenwood

Kelvin Turner, Indianapolis  
Martin University, Ms. Virginia Goodwin  
Nicole Kerney, Martin University, Indianapolis

Braelyn Cargal, Oakland City  
Oakland City University, Dr. Jeff McNabb  
Johnnie Bartley, Wood Memorial High School, Oakland City

Clark Harris, Indianapolis  
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Ms. Kim Henthorn  
Steve Hardwick, Indian Creek Elementary, Indianapolis

Jacob Brown, Rensselaer  
Saint Joseph's College, Ms. Heidi Rahe  
Lorraine Schneider, Rensselaer Central High School, Rensselaer

Rian Jones, Hammond  
Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, Ms. Darla Hopper  
Tricia Kujawa, Morton Sr. High School, Hammond

Maranda Pennington, Arcadia  
Saint Mary's College, Ms. April Lane  
Jennifer Luce, Hamilton Heights Middle School, Arcadia

Kayla Thompson, Lizton  
Taylor University, Mr. Tim Nace  
Jacob Street, Tri-West Middle School, Lizton

Zachary Rowland, Shelbyville  
Trine University, Dr. Stuart Jones  
Alfred Parsons, Shelbyville High School, Shelbyville

Laura Dalto, Evansville  
University of Evansville, Ms. Linda L. Bathon  
Patrice Villines, Washington Middle School, Evansville

Ronald Fugate, Indianapolis  
University of Indianapolis, Mr. Ron Wilks  
Jeni Reed, Douglas MacArthur Elementary, Indianapolis

Natalie Pottschmidt, Lawrenceburg  
University of Notre Dame, Ms. Elly Brenner  
Janey Stephens, Oldenburg Academy, Oldenburg

Emina Kpostic, Fort Wayne  
University of Saint Francis, Mr. J.P. Spagnolo  
Ron Knox, Northwood Middle School, Fort Wayne

Mariela Murillo, Portage  
Valparaiso University, Dr. Bonnie Hunter  
Mark Marvin, Portage High School, Portage

Brady Boles, Indianapolis  
Wabash College, Dr. Michael Raters  
Sally Nierman, Fall Creek Valley Middle School, Indianapolis

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