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Kendrick Foundation Selects 62 Scholars for 2015 Banquet Honors Recipients

MORGAN COUNTY, Ind. – The Kendrick Foundation Board of Directors has named 62 Morgan County residents as Kendrick Scholars for 2015. This is the largest number of scholarships ever awarded by the foundation, and is up from 57 scholars in 2014, 41 scholars in 2013 and 40 in 2012.

Kendrick Foundation scholars will receive a scholarship for tuition only, up to a maximum of \$15,000 per person per school year to attend the educational institution of their choice. Students will pursue degrees in medicine, dentistry, nursing, and allied health services. A potential of \$930,000 will be awarded this year.

The Kendrick Foundation's board personally read through each of the 80 scholarship applications received this year, making final scholarship decisions as a committee. Members of the Kendrick Foundation board include, Lynn T. Gordon, Secretary and Treasurer; Greg McKelfresh; R. Barry Melbert, MD, Vice President; Jerry Sanders, PhD; Shelley D. Voelz, President and Chairperson, and; Eric Wymer, MD.

Qualified students can re-apply for the scholarship each year, and if they meet the eligibility criteria, may be considered to receive the scholarship again. Of the 62 scholars this year, 46 students have received the scholarship for two or more years.

This year's Kendrick Scholars were honored at an annual banquet hosted at the South Central Indiana – REMC in Martinsville, Indiana on Tuesday, June 2, 2015. The Kendrick Foundation board of directors hosted the ceremony, with a welcome by Lynn T. Gordon, retired president/CEO of Citizens Bank in Mooresville and Kendrick Foundation board member since 2012. Dr. Jerry Sanders, retiring Assistant Superintendent at MSD of Martinsville and Kendrick Foundation board member since 2014, led those in attendance in an invocation before the meal.

Two previous Kendrick Foundation Scholars spoke on the academic and professional achievements that were made possible through the support of the Kendrick Foundation Scholarship. Jessica Bradford, M.A., CCC-SLP, a Covenant Christian High School graduate, was a Kendrick Foundation Scholar from 2006 through the end of the 2011-2012 academic year. Receiving her B.S. in Communication Sciences and Disorders from Butler University in 2010, followed by a M.S. in 2012 in Speech-Language Pathology, Bradford remarked that, "education truly never ends," as she continues to learn from her patients at Columbus Regional Hospital, where she serves as a Speech-Language Pathologist. Bradford was also inspired by the generosity of the Kendrick Foundation, commenting, "Kendrick's passion to give back to the community is evident by the number in attendance tonight. When I was a scholar, the number of scholars was a third of what they are today."

Amanda Walter, M.D., a Martinsville High School graduate, was a Kendrick Foundation Scholar from 2008 through the end of the 2010-2011 academic year. Walter received a B.S. in Chemistry in 2006 from Butler University, followed by a M.S. in Biology from Purdue University in 2007, before obtaining her medical degree at Indiana University School of Medicine in 2014. Today, Walter serves as a pediatrician for Franciscan Physician Network, where she acknowledges, “I’m not just another face to my patients; I actually mean something to them. It is my hope that the level of care and concern I provide is tangibly felt.”

The award presentation was led by Kendrick Foundation board members, Greg McKelfresh, SCI-REMC Chief Executive Officer and Kendrick Foundation board member since 2013 and Dr. R. Barry Melbert, Franciscan Physician Network surgeon. Shelley D. Voelz, retired Franciscan St. Francis Alliance R.N. and Kendrick Foundation board member since 2005, reminded the scholars that, “each and every one of you has very unique talents and abilities. We have great faith in you, and the way we can show we believe in you is by the financial gift we can give to you. But, it’s much deeper than that, we believe in you, and we know you’re going to do wonderful things.”

Special guests for the evening included Dr. Brian Disney, Mooresville High School Principal; Dr. Michele Moore, MSD of Martinsville Superintendent; Mr. Peter Murphy, St. VP/COO in charge of the St. Francis Franciscan Alliance Mooresville campus; and, Mr. Greg Williamson, Executive Director of St. Francis Franciscan Alliance Foundation.

The 2015 Kendrick Scholars are: Abigail Allen, Alexander Anderson, Sarah Angermeier, Justin Applegate, Kayley Armstrong, Adrienne Bathory, Adrienne Bay, Morganne Belton, Chelsie Brady, Briana Bray, Ian Bray, Elizabeth Brock, Sarah Brown, Shannon Bruce, Sarah Burnside, Ashley Butler, Mackenzie Cheesman, Christopher Connell, Andrew Costin, Juanita Ellis Nelson, Elaina Ennis, Sara Gilbert, Sarah Glasscock, Katy Grismore, Morgan Hacker, Ashley Hale, Erica Hendrickson, Jillian Holt, Hannah Lange, David Lawson, Hannah Leake, Kaitlyn Lowe, Charles Matias, Brent McCreary, Tanner McKinley, Rhonda McKinney, Daniel Moriarity, Joseph Moriarity, Elisabeth Nicholson, Dana Nokes, Mikinzie O’Neal, Amber Ooley, Taylor Oswalt, Soniya Patel, Katrina Polikoff, Jared Pond, Skyann Rittenhouse, Jessica Roahrig, Julie Saucerman, Ryan Schneck, Stephanie Schneck, Cayla Schwab, Molly Scrougham, Griffin Selch, Alyssa Shipman, Ryan Skora, Isaac Smith, Charlotte Spina, William Spina, Haley Taylor, Christopher Walker, Cheryl Yarnell.

The 2016 scholarship cycle will begin this fall, and information and applications will be available on the Kendrick Foundation website in late November of 2015. The scholarships are open to all Morgan County residents, including post-high school students and non-traditional students, who are pursuing degrees in the health care field. Other restrictions apply.

Formed with the proceeds of the sale of Kendrick Memorial Hospital in 2001, the Kendrick Foundation was created to support health-related programs in Morgan County. Support includes providing scholarships and making grants for health-related projects in Morgan County, which may include community health care programs, hospice programs, health care education and training, and tax-exempt medical and health programs.

More information on the Kendrick Foundation is available online at kendrickfoundation.org. Individuals may also call the Kendrick Foundation at (317) 831-1232 or toll-free at (855) 280-3095.

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