



## News

### Seniors awarded Lilly Scholarships

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#### *Marion, Lakeview students receive full ride to college*

By Mishele Wright

[mdwright@chronicle-tribune.com](mailto:mdwright@chronicle-tribune.com)

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Lakeview Christian School senior Steven Porter said a lot of stress flew out the window Tuesday evening after he learned he was one of two Lilly Scholarship recipients.

Porter and Marion High School student Rebecca Tweedell will receive free college tuition for four years. The Community Foundation of Grant County honored the two recipients — as well as 10 other Grant County seniors — at a ceremony Tuesday evening at Indiana Wesleyan University.

"I wasn't familiar with the other candidates," Porter said. "I saw the list of other accomplishments (the other students had made)."

His parents J.C. and Lori Porter said they were proud of their son — his father said he felt as if his son had just won American Idol.

"It's incredible," J.C. Porter said. "When you look at the achievements of the other kids, any of them could get it."

Cynthia Tweedell, Rebecca Tweedell's mother, said she wasn't surprised her daughter was a Lilly recipient.

"I'm not surprised because I know she's a very special student, and she tries very hard," she said. "She enjoys challenges. She runs track, not because she's good, but because she likes the challenge."

Rebecca Tweedell said her parents must have expected more than she did, because she was surprised she received such an honor.

"I'm kind of overwhelmed," she said. "Looking at the list — how am I any better than these people?" she said, referring to the other candidates. "I've met a lot of these people, and they're all really great."

She said the full ride to college will be a big help.

"We could have paid with loans, but it's easier to get that stress out of the way," she said.

Community Foundation Executive Director Liz Wright said it's never easy to choose the scholarship recipients.

"It's always difficult to choose because these are the 12 brightest in Grant County, and they're all very worthy and deserving," she said.

At the ceremony, 10 other students were recognized as Academic Excellence Award recipients and were given \$1,000 scholarships. Five of those students were Lilly nominees and were awarded \$1,500 scholarships.



HONORED— Marion High School senior Rebecca Tweedell receives congratulations from Ron Vermilion as her father, William, looks on Tuesday evening during the Community Foundation's Academic Excellence Awards. Tweedell and Steven Porter of Lakeview Christian School were named the 2008 Grant County Lilly Endowment Community Scholars. Photo by Elaine Moore [emoore@chronicle-tribune.com](mailto:emoore@chronicle-tribune.com).

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