

SUMMER 2009

## ▶ COALITION EXPLORES Adult Education ◀

As Indiana's unemployment figures increase into double digits, the need for adult education becomes more critical than ever. Yet adult education is facing a budget shortfall that threatens its very future – and so the futures of the more than 2,000 students who turn to Portage Adult Education each year. The Porter County Community Foundation recently hosted a luncheon to spotlight the challenges of Adult Education for the Chamber Coalition, a coalition of the Chambers of Commerce for Chesterton/Duneland, Hebron, Kouts, Portage, and Valparaiso.



Adult Education Alliance Board Members (left to right): Frank Vernallis, Jill Ritchie, Deb Butterfield, Nancy Johnson, Linda Woloshansky, Mark Maassel and Barb Young.

The Adult Education Alliance began in 2008 as a steering committee representing those with a stake in an educated workforce – leaders of business, education, and the community. The Alliance is working to inform others of the challenges and needs of adult education in order to create a long-term funding

strategy that ensures the future. "One of US Steel's challenges in the past has been recruiting a qualified workforce. It's very important for us – and others – to be involved in the education process early on to positively impact the quality of life for our area," said Jill Ritchie, Manager of Public Policy and Governmental Affairs for US Steel and Chair of the Adult Education Alliance.

The Chamber Coalition luncheon was sponsored by the Porter County Community Foundation to increase awareness within the business community. "Clearly Adult Education

affects us all," said Barbara Young, President of the Porter County Community Foundation and member of the Adult Education Alliance. "A more educated community means more than a stronger workforce. Educational attainment affects home ownership, parenting skills, consumer spending – even obesity and voting rates are affected by education," she said.

▶ Educational attainment affects home ownership, parenting skills, consumer spending – even obesity and voting rates are affected by education  
– Barbara Young, Porter County Community Foundation

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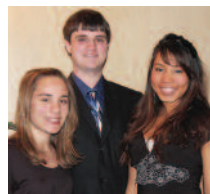
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**Barbara A. Young**  
 President

**Brenda Sheetz**  
 Vice President

**Carol Costakis**  
 Community Resource Director

**Kim Kilander**  
 Administrative Assistant

Telephone 219-465-0294

Facsimile 219-464-2733

Email [info@portercountyfoundation.org](mailto:info@portercountyfoundation.org)

[www.portercountyfoundation.org](http://www.portercountyfoundation.org)

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# Foundation A

## Foundation Has A

A group of talented Porter County students earned more than their high school diplomas this spring – they also earned college scholarships. The 18 scholarship recipients were recognized by the Porter County Community Foundation at its annual Scholarship Banquet. Since 1998, the Foundation has presented more than 160 scholarships to Porter County students. "Each year, our Scholarship Committee is humbled by the accomplishments of the young adults we interview. Porter County can be proud of each of these students as they are excellent representatives of our community," said Leslie Plesac, Chairman of the Foundation's Scholarship Committee.

### Lilly Endowment Community Scholarships

Since 1998, the Porter County Community Foundation has awarded 54 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarships to Porter County residents, totaling over \$3.5 million. The scholarship pays full tuition and fees to any college or university in the state of Indiana, including \$800 each year for books. The past recipients are now doctors, teachers, engineers, nurses and architects. This year, the Foundation is pleased to present Lilly Endowment Community Scholarships to Jillian Hufgard (Portage High School/Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics and Humanities), Nicole Hudson (Portage High School), Alexander Buff (Chesterton High School), and Meen Boriboune (Valparaiso High School).



Recipients of Lilly Endowment Community Scholarships are (left to right): Nicole Hudson who plans to attend Bethel College; Alexander Buff who plans to attend Butler University; and Meen Boriboune who plans to attend Butler University. Jillian Hufgard who plans to attend the Rose Hulman Institute of Technology is not pictured.

The Lilly Endowment Community Scholarships are the result of a statewide initiative by Lilly Endowment Inc. to help raise the level of educational attainment in Indiana and to support Indiana's community foundations in their mission to enhance quality of life.



Recipients of Porter County Community Foundation Scholarships are Joshua Davis (seated), Caitlin Littlejohn and Anastasia Halaicsik.

### Porter County Community Foundation Scholarships

The Porter County Community Foundation is pleased to provide \$4,000 scholarships to Joshua Davis (Andean High School), Anastasia Halaicsik (Hebron High School), and Caitlin Littlejohn (Valparaiso High School).

# Awards 18 Scholarships

awarded 169 Scholarships Since 1998

## *NIPSCO Sponsored Scholarships*

NIPSCO provided the funding for \$1,000 scholarships to Danielle DeFries (Kouts High School), Ashley LeRoy (Boone Grove High School), Ariel Lytwakiwsky (Washington Township High School), Mary Morales-Rivera (Wheeler High School), Rachelle Nover (Chesterton High School), and Bethanie Olsen (Portage High School).

*Recipients of NIPSCO scholarships, (left to right): Ashley LeRoy, Danielle DeFries, Ariel Lytwakiwsky, Mary Morales-Rivera, and Rachelle Nover. Not pictured: Bethanie Olsen.*



## *Launch Your Career Scholarships*

The Launch Your Career Scholarship is available to students attending the Porter County Career and Technical Center. North Coast Distributing is a partner in awarding these \$1,250 scholarships. Recipients are Blake Harrison (Hebron High School), Annie Nolan (Valparaiso High School), David Sheets (Morgan Township High School), and Jeff Suthers (Portage High School).

*Recipients of the Launch Your Career Scholarship are David Sheets, Jeff Suthers, Blake Harrison and Annie Nolan (seated).*

## *Shawn Moyer Memorial Scholarship*

Shawn Moyer was a 1999 Lilly Endowment Community Scholar who passed away during his sophomore year at Taylor University. Lilly Endowment and the Foundation endowed the remaining balance of Shawn's scholarship to create this award for graduates of Kouts High School. Krissy Hershberger received a \$1,000 scholarship in memory of Shawn Moyer.

*Krissy Hershberger, recipient of the Shawn Moyer Memorial Scholarship, is surrounded by Shawn's parents, Nicholas and Beverly Moyer, and Kayla, Shawn's sister.*



All scholarships were awarded based on financial need, academic accomplishment, ability to communicate, motivation/desire to succeed, activities/leadership, and capacity to succeed. Porter County high schools are invited to submit nominations. In addition, Porter County residents who attend high school elsewhere are invited to submit applications directly to the Foundation. Each applicant submits a written narrative explaining why the scholarship would be important to achieving future goals. The Foundation's Scholarship Committee reviews applications, interviews applicants, and makes selections based on the criteria above. For more information about establishing a scholarship fund, contributing to an existing fund, or applying for a scholarship, visit our web site at [www.portercounty-foundation.org](http://www.portercounty-foundation.org) or call the Porter County Community Foundation at (219) 465-0294.

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## CHALLENGES OF Adult Education

- 18% (nearly 95,000!) adults in Northwest Indiana over the age of 25 do not have a secondary (high school) diploma.
- Adult illiteracy is also very high in the region: 16% of adults in Northwest Indiana read at 8th grade levels or below; 43% are below 12th grade levels.
- There are more than 500,000 adults in Indiana who do not have at least a GED.
- 226,000 of these Indiana adults are in jobs that earn less than a living wage.
- Despite increases in the cost of education, the annual State appropriation for adult education remained the same since 2000 (\$14 million).
- School corporations operating adult education programs are often faced with choosing to use general fund money for adult education programs or for K-12 programs.
- Local school systems currently providing services for adult education are not being fully reimbursed. In fact, Portage's adult education program is funded only 78% through state and federal funds.
- Portage Adult Education serves adults from Jasper, Lake, LaPorte, Newton, Porter, Pulaski and Starke counties.
- The cost per enrolled student at Portage Adult Education is \$845.01
- Portage sees more than 2000 adult education students each year.

## ADULT EDUCATION ALLIANCE MEMBERS

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*Porter County Community Foundation*

*Michael Williams,*  
*White Lodging*

*Linda Woloshansky,*  
*Center of Workforce Innovations*



## Foundation Hour

### JOIN US FOR A ONE-HOUR INTRODUCTION TOUR

Last year, the Porter County Community Foundation awarded nearly \$1.8 million in grants and scholarships to benefit the Porter County community. While that remarkable work is far reaching, the foundation continues to spread the good word by hosting tours each month at the Foundation office. Our one hour (truly!) tour introduces you to the Porter County Community Foundation and some of the people who are making a difference. Please join us for one of these schedule tours:

Wednesday, July 15, 8:00 am  
Wednesday, August 19, 8:00 am

Wednesday, September 16, 8:00 am  
Wednesday, October 21, 8:00 am

Reserve a date with us by calling our office at (219) 465-0294. Group size is limited. The Porter County Community Foundation is located at 57 Franklin Street - Suite 207, on the Courthouse Square in downtown Valparaiso - above South Bend Chocolate Factory. (The office entrance is located on the building's south side, just off the side alley.)