

March 28, 2008

Indiana Homeland Security Foundation Gives \$28,000 in Scholarships

Indianapolis – In a ceremony at the Indiana Statehouse, the Indiana Homeland Security Foundation today presented the 4th annual Hoosier Safety Scholarships to students interested in pursuing careers in public safety.

\$28,000 was presented to 14 students, all attending colleges in Indiana.

“We are pleased to continue this important scholarship program and be able to contribute to the education of students pursuing degrees that will lead to careers in public safety,” said Joe Wainscott, executive director of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. “We hope these funds will inspire these students to work hard in their academics, and give back to their communities after graduation.”

The Hoosier Safety Scholarship Program is for Indiana residents who are interested in a higher education degree and who currently volunteer with a local public safety organization. Incoming and continuing students are both eligible to apply. Students enrolled or planning to enroll in an accredited college in Indiana are eligible. Scholarships of \$2,000 are awarded for full-time students and \$1,000 for part-time students.

All students received \$2,000 scholarships. They are:

Kayla Bumgardner of Greencastle. She is attending Vincennes University for an associate’s degree as a registered nurse. As a professional, she hopes to work on a Lifeline helicopter medical team. She is the daughter of Roy and Dana Bumgardner.

Eva Chu of South Bend. Currently qualified as an emergency medical technician and nurse’s aide, she is attending Saint Mary’s College in South Bend, where she is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in nursing. She is the daughter of William and Joann Chu.

Heath Fullenkamp of Decatur. He is attending IVY Tech Community College for an associate’s degree in fire science. He plans to become a full time firefighter after graduation. He is the son of Larry and Connie Fullenkamp.

Cory M. Hall of Pendleton. He is a junior at Butler University and has a double major in chemistry and biology. He plans to become a physician with a specialty in emergency medicine. He is the son of Kimberly and Charles Knuckles and Mike Hall.

Tim Hall of Middleton. He is attending Indiana Wesleyan for a bachelor’s degree in nursing. Ultimately, he hopes to specialize in trauma surgery. He is the son of Virgil and Judy Hall.

Charles Heflin of Patoka. He is attending Vincennes University and wants ultimately to earn a bachelor's degree in homeland security and public safety. He would like a career in emergency planning or emergency response and recovery, with longer term goals of becoming a post-high school emergency services instructor. He is the son of Todd and Angela Heflin.

Heflin is the recipient of the first scholarship in memory of Enrico Garcia of Terre Haute, a former professional with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security who died in 2007 during a training exercise.

Danielle Hoepfner of Kingsford Heights. She is attending Indiana State University for a bachelor's degree in criminology and criminal justice. She wants to work in the field while earning her doctorate so she can teach in higher education. She is the daughter of Virginia Hoepfner.

Amy Johnson of Chesterfield. She is pursuing an associate's degree in nursing at IVY Tech Community College in Anderson. Initially she wants to work in emergency medicine, then earn her master's and teach nursing and emergency response. She is the daughter of Ed and Phyllis Johnson.

James Miller of Avon. He is attending IVY Tech Community College for an associate's degree in applied fire science, then a bachelor's in public safety management. He is the son of George and Cathy Jeffries.

Angela Newsum of Portage. She is attending IVY Tech Community College for a degree in nursing. She hopes to work in an emergency room and later become a flight nurse. She is the daughter of David and Pamela Murray.

Christopher Pellman of Floyds Knobs. He is attending Vincennes University and pursuing a degree in fire and science safety. He is an Indiana certified basic emergency medical technician and would like to become a paramedic. He is the son of Jerry and Kristie Pellman.

Kenneth Schreiner of Jeffersonville. He is attending Indiana University Southeast and working toward a degree in finance/business economics and public policy. He hopes one day to work at the Federal Reserve, the central banking system of the U.S. He is the son of Andrew and Debbie Schreiner.

Corey Sizelove of Summitville. He is attending Indiana Wesleyan University for a bachelor's degree in nursing, with a career goal of becoming a flight nurse or an acute care nurse practitioner. He is the son of Randy and Renee Sizelove.

Connie Swingley of Selma. She is attending Indiana Business College for a bachelor's degree in healthcare management. She would like to work in healthcare and is considering a career in emergency management. She is the daughter of Gene and Dorothy Glaze.

The revenue for the foundation is generated largely through the sales of “Hoosier Safety” license plates.

More information about the Hoosier Safety Scholarship Program and a link to the application can be found by going to the Indiana Department of Homeland Security web site at www.in.gov/dhs and clicking on the Hoosier Safety license plate at the bottom of the home page.

March 28, 2008

Foundation Awards 1st Scholarship in Memory of Terre Haute Public Safety Professional

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana Homeland Security Foundation today presented its first scholarship award in honor of the late Enrico Garcia Jr. of Terre Haute.

The inaugural presentation was today, March 28, at the Indiana Statehouse as part of the annual scholarship ceremonies.

The recipient is Charles Heflin of Patoka. He is attending Vincennes University and wants ultimately to earn a bachelor's degree in homeland security and public safety. He would like a career in emergency planning or emergency response and recovery, with longer term goals of becoming a post-high school emergency services instructor. He is the son of Todd and Angela Heflin.

Garcia was a highly decorated and diversely trained public safety professional. His considerable experience included fire and rescue, law enforcement, emergency management and hazardous materials. He died September 23, 2007 during a training exercise. He was serving with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security as a coordinator for response to incidents involving hazardous materials, weapons of mass destruction and terrorism.

“Enrico Garcia was a valued member of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security and a credit to the state of Indiana,” said Joe Wainscott, IDHS executive director. “He exemplified that service in public safety is much more than a profession, it's a mission. Today, as in other days, we recognize him as a hero. This scholarship will continue to honor him.”

Garcia was one of the first in Indiana to receive an internationally accredited hazardous materials certificate. He had earned degrees in information technology and business administration, and held all but two master firefighter certifications through the State of Indiana.

He was trained and had years of experience in counter terrorism, incident command, bomb crime scene investigation, weapons of mass destruction, Special Weapons and Tactics forces (SWAT), field chemical and biological analysis, clandestine drug labs and much more.

Garcia taught at Indiana State University and Ivy Tech Community College. In addition, he was a martial arts instructor with specific application to law enforcement, tactical teams, military personnel and bodyguards.

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The Hoosier Safety Scholarship Program is for Indiana residents who are interested in a higher education degree and who currently volunteer with a local public safety organization.

Garcia also helped build multi-disciplinary, multi-jurisdictional response teams. He co-founded Task Force 7, which includes fire/rescue, law enforcement, hazardous materials, health departments, emergency management and other professionals from Vigo and surrounding counties.