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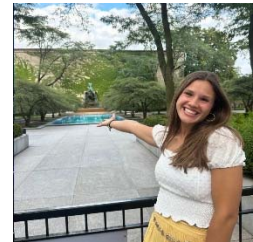
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc. Awards Scholarships to Three Indiana Students

*One Student Also Receives a National Garden Clubs, Inc. Scholarship*

**Winamac, IN (May 18, 2026)** – Today, The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc. (TGCI) announced the recipients of their college scholarship program for the school year 2026-2027. While the program is open to any Indiana college, university or technical college student pursuing a degree or training in a field related to horticulture, agriculture, or environmental education, all three awardees this year are pursuing degrees in Landscape Architecture at Ball State University in Muncie.

**Heaylyn Kwiatkowski** of Lakeville, IN received TGCI's Josephine Jarboe Memorial Scholarship and the Four Winds Garden Club of Elkhart, IN scholarship, for a total award of \$4,000. She is currently a Junior and hopes to become a landscape architect who integrates sustainability, ecology and community into every place she designs. TGCI, and each state in the National Garden Clubs, Inc. federation are allowed the opportunity to send one state scholarship winner on to be considered for an NGC scholarship.



At the NGC National Convention in St. Louis, MO on May 6<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Kwiatkowski was announced as the winner of the NGC Hubert Bond Owens Scholarship in the amount of \$4,000.



**Gavin Ford** of Lafayette, IN received the Mildred Stewart Scholarship sponsored by Petal and Stem Garden Club of Richmond, IN and the Cultivating Garden Club of Greenwood, IN scholarship, for a total award of \$3,000. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Management and is currently a Graduate Student in the Landscape Architecture program. He hopes to pursue a career working for a landscape architecture firm that focuses on ecological restoration projects.

**Natilee Wahl** of Huntingburg, IN received TGCI's Virginia Jones Scholarship and the Mary Miller Horticultural Scholarship sponsored by the All Thumbs Garden Club of Seymour, IN for a total award of \$3,000. She is a Junior pursuing a degree in Landscape Architecture with a minor in Sustainability. Her career goal is to create residential designs that are horticulturally focused, and also design green pockets in urban public spaces.



"In fulfilling our mission of education, we are thrilled to grant these scholarships for the 2026-2027 academic year," said David Zahrt, Chair of the TGCI Scholarship Committee. Zahrt further declared, "They represent the future of horticulture, sustainability and stewardship of the environment – and the future looks bright!"

The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc. is a non-profit educational organization formed in 1930, and a member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. With forty-seven clubs across the state, TGCI's mission is to promote interest and education in horticulture, landscaping, floral design and environmental concerns. For more information, visit their website at [GardenClubofIndiana.org](http://GardenClubofIndiana.org).