

2016 Ruth B. Sayre Scholarship Winners

Maria Elisa Banuelos-Cortes

Logansport, Indiana



As an English Learner Support Services Coordinator, Elisa plays a critical role in the Logansport Community School Corporation.

She has been in the United States only 16 years and has become extremely proficient in English. She is now 34 years old, married with two children. After working in her position, she has realized that a college degree would open more doors for to help immigrant families with the many barriers they face. The EL Director states that Elisa is a quick learner who is ready to pursue a college degree and is excited to see what she can do with more education behind her.

As busy as she is, there is still time to volunteer in her community with the United Way as a board member, a sponsor for the Diversity Club at Logansport High School, (encouraging students to volunteer in the community). She visits at McKinney Place to play bingo with their residents. She also volunteers for the religious education classes where her children attend.

Elisa will be studying Human Services at Logansport Ivy Tech

Kathryn Groonboom

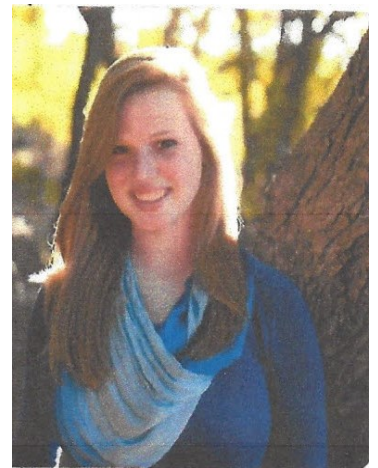
Oskaloosa, Iowa

Kathryn will be attending Iowa State University pursuing a Bachelors Degree in Animal Science. She plans to return to the farm and work with her Dad's swine operation. She has always lived on a farm and comes from a large family, including five children born to her parents and six adopted siblings who all have special needs to varying degrees.

Kathryn graduated from Pella Christian High School where she took college composition, chemistry, pre calculus, advanced chemistry, physics, biology 2 and senior English. She also was section leader for the trumpet in band and participated in both the boys and girls team.

Her community activities include Teen Council, 4-H, Angel Tree Camp, Church projects and volunteering at Nelson Pioneer Farm where she demonstrated making butter, bread and drying apples. Her sophomore year she went on a mission trip to Joplin, Missouri to help clean up after tornado damage.

Last year Kathryn was employed as a high school veterinary assistant in a mixed animal veterinary practice. Her employer states, " She has a strong sense of self both spiritually and in her character."



Jamie Mayo

Sulphur, Oklahoma



Jamie maintains a G.P.A. of 3.63 at East Central University in Ada, OK, majoring in Family and Consumer Sciences. She will graduate in 2017.

She has worked during college as a self-employed house cleaner around the Ada community, after school program, Camp WOW staffer, and in the law office of Fob Jones, doing clerical work.

Jamie is a member of both OK's and National Honor Society and has received numerous scholarships to help fund her education. During the summer of 2015, she participated in an internship at Pearl House in Ghana, Africa where she built a relationship with the people there who provide education and housing for young at risk girls in the area. She continues to correspond with them and has organized a drive for supplies for a new facility they are building. Items will be collected from ECU Staff and students as well as OKFCS members at their state conference.

As the FCS Student Association President, Jamie gives of her time and talents to improve the ECUFCS Department.

Emma M. Wood

Seymour, Indiana

Emma's immediate goal is to attend Marian University and study Elementary Education with a focus on special education, English language learners (ELL) and participate on the woman's tennis team.

She has been very active in school activities at Seymour High School, including Band, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, soccer, tennis, 4-H, and National Honor Society. "Emma is genuinely self-motivated to be the best she can be and desires to help others be successful" is the way one character reference person described her.

Organizations in her community benefit from her volunteer hours, such as the Library, Headstart, Jackson Co. Fair, Salvation Army and many many more.

Emma is the owner/instructor for Tots to Teen Tennis where she plans, organizes, schedules and teaches tennis lessons to students ages 5 to 15. One reference person described her as a phenomenal role model for these young athletes on and off the court.

Her family has encountered 3 family emergencies this year including the passing of her Grandfather in Scotland, the loss of an Uncle and her own broken collarbone from a sledding accident.

