



JCHS senior Jonah Christopher Woods selected as the 2014 Lilly Community Scholar

Jonah Woods will receive full tuition at Wabash College, where he plans to pursue a degree in math and physics. He will also receive a \$900 stipend for books and equipment over the next four years. The scholarship is administered by Independent Colleges of Indiana, which works with community foundations in all 92 Indiana counties. Here in Jennings, a committee of four volunteers picked by the local foundation scored each of this year's 44 applications blind; that is, no one knew who the applicant was. The top 10 scorers receive an invitation for a personal interview in front of the committee and other foundation representatives.

Candidates earn points based on such criteria as grades, extracurricular activities, employment, etc. Jonah's application was unique this year, said one of the committee members, as "He had it all. It was so rare. We don't usually see a student like that. His talents were spread out in every category." For example, Woods is the valedictorian for the Class of 2015, which is impressive in itself. In addition, he has compiled an impressive record of athletic achievement, including being a semi-state qualifier for three years in cross country; a regional qualifier in track for three years; and a four-year member of the basketball team. He has participated in the Maverick Challenge the last two years and was the regional runner-up this year. He has been a member of the Academic Team for three years and on the JCHS Student Council all four years. Community-wise, his activities include participation in the Muscatatuck Park clean-up, the local foundation galas, and has been active in his church, participating in the Living Way of the Cross and helping with mass every Sunday. He has represented JCHS at the Richard Lugar Symposium for Tomorrow's Leaders and Boys State, to name just a few of his honors. This teen also has held down summer jobs. It is easy to see how Woods wowed the committee with his record of achievements. He is the son of Eric Woods of North Vernon and of Jennifer Ellis of Butlerville.