



Whatcom Community  
Foundation

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## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **Whatcom Community Foundation Recognizes Outstanding Youth in Whatcom County**

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Whatcom Community Foundation (Foundation) recognized thirteen students through its three scholarship and award funds this year. The Cole Student of the Year Award was presented to five hardworking and motivated middle school students. Six middle school students from Lynden with a passion for science and creativity received scholarships from the Clayton D. Millage Scholarship Fund. The Millage Fund scholarships paid for tuition to a variety of summer camps focused on students' areas of interest. The Roy Georgeff Scholarship Fund granted awards to two graduating seniors.

Sue and Craig Cole of Brown & Cole Stores established the Cole Student of the Year Fund as an endowment at the Foundation in 2000. The Coles wanted to recognize Whatcom County middle school students whose determination and perseverance make them an inspiration to those around them. As dedicated and effective leaders in our community, the Coles know the importance of these qualities not only to a student's success but to everyone with whom they come in contact. "We wanted to recognize students who work hard and maintain a positive attitude," noted Sue Cole. "Those qualities are valuable to the student and they serve to inspire everyone around them. That is certainly true of this year's recipients."

This year's recipients of the Cole Student of the Year Award were:

- Glendy Gallardo, attending Meridian Middle School in Lynden
- Christian John Willis, attending Cornerstone Christian School in Lynden
- Daniel Canzater, attending Assumption Catholic School in Bellingham

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- Nathan Mitchell Turner, attending Baker View Christian School in Bellingham
- Claire Cancilla, attending Whatcom Day Academy in Bellingham

The Millage and Georgeff scholarship funds benefit students in the Lynden area. Clayton D. Millage was a horticulture and general science teacher at Lynden Middle School from 1994 until 2005. He lost his battle with cancer in 2006. “One of Clay’s greatest joys in life was inspiring young minds to explore new interests, think “outside the box” and challenge themselves mentally,” noted Clayton’s wife Andy Millage. She established the fund in his name to ensure that his passion for teaching and learning could be passed on to future generations. Students attending Lynden public schools are eligible. Sixth grader, Erika Gonzalez looks forward to carrying on Mr. Millage’s enthusiasm for science by learning how electricity works with the radio at Camp AMRE for Girls this summer thanks to funds from the Millage scholarship. “I like science” said Gonzalez, “because it is fun to learn about the reasons why and how things work the way they do”.

This year’s recipients of the Clayton D. Millage Scholarship Fund and the summer camps they are attending are:

- Erika Gonzalez, a sixth grader attending Camp AMRE for Girls
- Christopher Rossing, a sixth grader attending Geology Field Trip WWU
- Tyson Blankers, a sixth grader attending Super Science Mysteries WWU
- Julien Kryt, an eighth grader attending Fast Track Sci
- Sarah Walter, a sixth grader attending Fast Track Sci
- Erika Lopez, a sixth grader attending Camp AMRE for Girls

Roy Georgeff, a former resident of Lynden, passed away in 1970. Mr. Georgeff bequeathed a portion of his estate to create an education fund for students from Lynden High School and Lynden Christian High School. Georgeff Scholarship recipient Becki Lindquist graduated from Lynden High School and will be attending Whatcom Community College. The second recipient elected to remain anonymous.

The Foundation is a public charitable organization established in 1996. The Foundation strengthens the local community through a combination of competitive and other grants, community partnerships and a

variety of other donor and community services. The Foundation has received gifts from more than 3,100 donors and now holds 90 funds to benefit a wide variety of nonprofit activities in Whatcom County. For more information, please visit [www.whatcomcf.org](http://www.whatcomcf.org).

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