



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Zoo Awards Scholarships

Three graduating high school seniors pursuing animal-related careers were awarded \$2,000 **Lawrence A. Ackerman Scholarships** from the Fort Wayne Zoological Society. The 2013 recipients are:

- Alyssa Hunter of Bluffton High School, attending Purdue University
- Kelly Piepenbrink of Homestead High School, attending Huntington University
- Alyssa Richter of Northfield High School in Wabash, attending Ohio Wesleyan University

The Scholarship was established by the zoo in 1992 to honor the distinguished career of the late Dr. Larry Ackerman, who became known for his professionalism, compassion, and generosity during his 25 years of service as the zoo's veterinarian. To date, the zoo has awarded \$79,000 in scholarships to northeast Indiana high school seniors.

The annual application deadline for the Lawrence A. Ackerman Scholarship is February 1. Donations to the Scholarship fund are always welcome.

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**About the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo:** The Fort Wayne Children's Zoo is northeast Indiana's largest tourist attraction, hosting more than 500,000 guests annually. The zoo was voted Indiana's #1 "Gotta-Do Summer Attraction" in 2012 and is consistently named one of the nation's **Top Ten Zoos for Kids** by national media outlets.

The zoo is a conservation leader, contributing \$50,000 annually to local, regional, and international efforts to protect wild animals and habitats, and participating in cooperative management programs for 15 endangered species.

As a self-supporting facility, the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo receives no tax dollars for operations. The zoo's operations are funded entirely by earned revenue and donations.

The zoo is open April 20-October 13, 2013. Admission is \$13.50 for adults; \$10.50 for seniors age 60+; and \$8.50 for children ages 2-14. Babies age 1 and under and Zoo Society Members are admitted free.