

# QUESTA

FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATION

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**209 Area Students Benefit from Questa's College Loan Forgiveness Program**

July 19, 2010, Fort Wayne, Indiana – Questa Foundation for Education has selected an additional 34 Allen County high school graduates for participation in its highly competitive Questa Scholars 1/2 Back Loan Program. This new class of Questa Scholars brings the total number of Allen County students benefiting from the college loan forgiveness program to 209.

The Questa Scholars 1/2 Back Loan Program, launched in 2007, now enters its fourth year of providing affordable and forgivable college loans to Allen County students. The Questa Scholars 1/2 Back Loan Program is the nation's only college debt forgiveness program focused on academic performance and regional graduate retention.

“Questa's goal with the Questa Scholars 1/2 Back Loan Program is to increase opportunities for Allen County students from middle income families to obtain a college degree, to help them graduate with less debt and greater financial freedom and to incentivize these bright young people to return or remain in northeast Indiana after graduation from college,” said Christina K. Smith, executive director of Questa Foundation. “In this sense, Questa seeks to encourage our region's economic development with the retention of its intellectual capital.”

Of the 209 Questa Scholars currently in the program, 89 percent attend Indiana colleges and universities. Thirty-three percent of Questa Scholars attend northeast Indiana schools with 22 attending IPFW, 14 enrolled at Huntington University, 11 at University of Saint Francis, 6 at Trine University and 3 at Indiana Tech.

Questa Scholars are eligible to borrow \$20,000 over four years for college (\$5,000 per academic year) and receive up to 50 percent forgiveness of the loan balance if they graduate college with a 2.75 cumulative GPA and elect to live and work in the 11 counties of northeast Indiana for at least five years after college. The 11 qualifying counties include Adams, Allen, DeKalb, Huntington, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, Wabash, Wells and Whitley.

Questa Scholars who attend Huntington University, Manchester College, University of Saint Francis, Indiana Tech or Trine University qualify to have an additional 25 percent of their Questa loan repaid by their alma mater.

***About Questa Foundation for Education:*** Questa Foundation for Education has provided college funding support to Allen County students for nearly 75 years. Questa Foundation's mission is to expand educational opportunity and encourage greater financial freedom for Allen County students with financial need by providing affordable college loans and generous scholarships that reward academic success and retain graduates in northeast Indiana. To learn more about Questa Foundation and its Questa Scholars 1/2 Back Loan program, visit [www.questafoundation.org](http://www.questafoundation.org).