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Book Industry Charitable (Binc) Foundation Announces 2016 Higher Education Scholarship Recipients

Ann Arbor, MI – The Binc Foundation today announced its 2016 Higher Education Scholarship winners. The program awarded 27 scholarships, totaling \$109,000, to eligible current bookstore employees/owners and their dependents as well as former Borders Group employees and their dependents. There were two (2) \$10,000 scholarships, twenty-four (24) \$3,500 scholarships, and one (1) \$5,000 Karl Pohrt Memorial Scholarship - granted to an independent bookstore employee candidate who has overcome learning adversity or is a non-traditional student. The scholarships can be used for tuition, fees, books, supplies and room and board. Funds may also be used over consecutive years if the student is not able to use the entire award for the 2015-2016 academic year. Since 2001 the Foundation has supported the educational goals of more than 600 booksellers, granting over \$1.8 million in awards.

Binc Executive Director, Pam French said "Reading through the thank you notes from the Binc scholarship recipients always reminds me that supporting Binc allows anyone in the book industry to directly help front line booksellers, book shop owners, and ultimately their communities. Liz Wright, one of this year's award winners, wrote:

'The past few years I've spent in bookselling have literally changed my life - I'm pursuing an MFA in children's literature because of all the books I fell in love with working at Brazos Bookstore. I wouldn't know the person I want to be without bookselling, and I hope with my degree, and this scholarship's help, I can bring more fantastic books to our stores.'

Congratulations to all of the college scholarship winners!"

Scholarship America (Scholarship Management Services) conducted the third-party academic selection process to evaluate the scholarship applicants. The evaluation process utilized selection criteria including financial need, prior academic achievement and leadership capabilities (including participation in school and community activities) as well as work experience, a statement of career and educational goals and objectives, and unusual personal or family circumstances. A list of scholarship recipients can be found [here](http://www.bincfoundation.org/request-assistance/scholarship/). [http://www.bincfoundation.org/request-assistance/scholarship/]

Information about how bookstore employees can apply for the 2017 Higher Education Scholarship Program will be released early next year.

About The Book Industry Charitable (Binc) Foundation

The Book Industry Charitable Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that coordinates charitable programs to strengthen the bookselling community. Established in 1996, the core program provides assistance to bookstore employees who have a demonstrated financial need arising from severe hardship and/or emergency circumstances. Since its inception, the organization has provided over \$6 million in financial assistance and scholarships to more than 7,100 families. Support for the Foundation's programs and services come from all sectors of the book industry.

The Book Industry Charitable Foundation's mission is to strengthen the bookselling community through charitable programs that support employees and their families. The Foundation was imagined and built by booksellers and proudly continues to be their safety net. It is our vision to be a caring community of book people.

Additional information can be found at <http://www.bincfoundation.org>. ###