



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Entrepreneurial Scholarship awarded to River Ridge High School student

HANOVER, IL – Northwest Illinois Economic Development (NWILED) is pleased to announce Kaitlin Kilgore, a graduating senior from River Ridge High School, as the 2021 winner of the Build It Grow It Entrepreneurial Scholarship and a \$1000.00 cash prize. Kilgore is also invited to meet with NWILED staff to discuss her entrepreneurial aspirations and will be an acknowledged guest at the NWILED Annual Meeting this September at Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa.

Kilgore is developing a hand-crafted artisan doll line and intends to use her prize money to complete a prototype doll and purchase needed supplies. She will attend the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design this fall, and currently works as an assistant at Outside the Lines Art Gallery of Galena and Dubuque. At River Ridge High School Kilgore was involved with music, art, chorus, drama, and yearbook and was active in numerous community projects and initiatives. She made the National Honor Society in 2019 and 2020.

NWILED received a total of six scholarship applications from students at Galena, River Ridge, West Carroll, and Wahlert High Schools. A judging panel selected this year's winner. Of Kilgore's application NWILED Board of Directors President and scholarship judge William Jahnke stated, "Kaitlin had a solid idea, but she also thought ahead on how she could magnify that idea into different mediums. She acknowledged that to be successful in business she will have to learn more than how to make dolls and do marketing, and that she was going to have to rely on others for operational inputs. She provided the most well-rounded application and merits this award."

On May 20th River Ridge High School hosted their Senior Awards celebration where NWILED Executive Director Emily Legel acknowledged Kilgore and presented her cash award. NWILED would like to thank the guidance counselors throughout Jo Daviess and Carroll Counties, including Mrs. Brenda Potter from River Ridge High School, who assisted with this year's scholarship.

For more information about NWILED visit nwiled.org.