**2014 George and Ophelia Gallup Scholarship Winner**

**Name:** Carley Lanich

**High School:** Lawrence Central High School, Indianapolis, IN

**College:** Indiana University-Bloomington

I first experienced journalism in the fourth grade and *hated* it. My job as a class newspaper publisher was to collect stories written by classmates and retype them into a weekly newsletter. It took several years to discover what I disliked about this experience, but I finally discovered I didn’t want to type up other people’s stories. I wanted to write my own.

Entering high school, I gave journalism another try. After joining the *Cub Reporter* newspaper staff, I began writing my own stories, ranging from news to features to opinions. This role lead me to discover a new level of accountability, responsibility and leadership. As a young student, I wasn’t sure what career path to follow, but I learned very quickly that as a member of the media, you can do so much more than sit behind a desk.

Over the past four years of high school journalism, I have had the opportunity to interview former Indiana Sen. Richard Lugar, photograph the Indiana Pacers basketball team at a closed practice, and attend a professional news conference at the Indianapolis Children’s Museum featuring Ruby Bridges, who as a 6-year-old in 1960 was the first Black student to integrate her school in New Orleans.

Although all of these experiences were incredibly enlightening, what truly hooked me on journalism was my own self-discovery that what I write, even in a relatively small high school publication, could make a difference. In taking on tough stories ranging from suicide to arson to rape, I have observed how a community rallies together and that a story contains more than just the disheartening truth, but how a community responds.