



**For Immediate Release**

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## **The Lincoln Academy Scholars Recognized as Scholars of the Week**

BELOIT, Wis - Two TLA scholars have been recognized as Rotary Club of Beloit Scholars of the Week! Addie Hersey and Olivia Foss received their awards this week. Scholars are selected for excelling in our three pillars: Academic Rigor, Character Development, and Career Exploration.

[Here are the profiles of each Scholar of the Week:](#)



Laura Benisch, TLA Director of Career Planning and Development introduced Hersey. “Addie has maintained a 3.97 GPA while taking rigorous coursework and completing two Youth Apprenticeships. As a junior, Addie worked as a gymnastics coach at the YMCA and earned her Youth Apprenticeship-Education certificate. Addie is always willing to lend a hand and volunteers at TLA and throughout the community. She serves as treasurer of TLA’s National Honor Society and has participated athletically in gymnastics through the YMCA for many years.”

TLA staff also celebrate Hersey and her award. TLA high school science teacher Mrs. Rufer says, “Addie always holds herself to a high standard. She pushes herself to reach her goals, and she is an excellent role model for younger scholars, as she works with the youth as a gymnastics teacher. She is a kind and considerate scholar, and it has been my privilege to be her science teacher.”

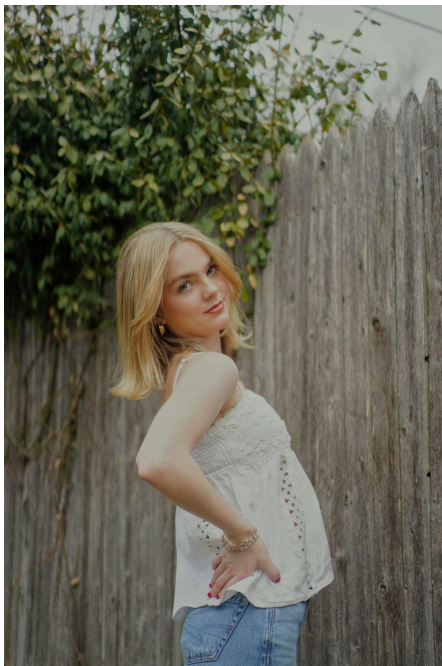
TLA Dean of Instruction for K4-5th Grade, Cally Baroni, states, “Addie has demonstrated responsibility and a strong work ethic during her work-based learning experience in a second-grade classroom at TLA. She was timely, organized, and paid great attention to detail. Through careful observations, she identified scholars who would benefit from additional support. She was also effective in preparing materials and content to ensure scholars received focused instruction during her small-group sessions.

She was a great addition to the classroom, and she has carried these strengths through many other experiences at TLA.”

In Hersey’s own words, “Thank you to the Rotary Club for this honor. Being recognized as a Rotary Scholar of the Week truly means a lot to me, and I am grateful for the time and effort Rotary puts into supporting scholars and the community.” Hersey also thanked her parents and the teachers and staff at TLA for their support and guidance.

She continues, “I am currently participating in a Youth Apprenticeship in healthcare, where I work as a Pharmacy Assistant at SSM Health. This experience has allowed me to explore a different career path while continuing to build responsibility, professionalism, and attention to detail. I am also honored to serve as Treasurer of National Honor Society, where I have been involved in volunteer efforts with local organizations such as Meals on Wheels, Brody’s Flowers, and the Beloit International Film Festival.”

Hersey plans to attend St. Norbert College to pursue a degree in business and sports management. She wants to stay involved in athletics, but in a behind the scenes role where she can support athletes, programs, and organizations. In the future, she also hopes to serve her community by supporting youth sports programs and helping create positive environments where young athletes can grow, learn, and succeed.



Benisch also introduced Foss. “Olivia has maintained a 3.88 GPA while taking rigorous coursework and working as a Youth Apprentice in healthcare. Olivia earned her Nursing Assistant certification as a junior and now works at Riverside Terrace as a Certified Nursing Assistant. As a sophomore, she attended RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) and had a great experience. She serves as historian of TLA’s National Honor Society and also participated in Porter Scholar last semester.”

TLA staff also celebrate Foss’s recognition. Mrs. Rufer states, “Olivia continues to work at a high level, turning in assignments and projects that are extremely well done and thought through. She excels academically, and I can always count on her to take on a challenge!”

TLA high school english teacher, Ms. Wellnitz adds, “Olivia is a hard worker who never gives up. She’s a perfect combination of someone who focuses on academics but who is also creative and imaginative. Her spreads for the yearbook were chosen by her classmates as the exemplar.”

Foss presented about her experiences, noting they have strengthened her leadership abilities and commitment to serving others. She says, “Toward the end of my junior year, I was able to get my CNA. Even though the classes took a lot of commitment and hard work, it eventually paid off. I took and passed the skills and knowledge test in June of 2025. Since then, I’ve worked as a Youth Apprentice at Riverside Terrace Assisted Living. I’ve been able to make so many meaningful connections with residents that have changed my outline on life.”

Foss thanked her parents, teacher, and mentors, as well as the Rotary for recognizing her. She plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. “While I still have a passion for helping others, I’ve recently redirected my goal of becoming a pediatric nurse into exploring elementary education. My intent as I transition into the workforce is to make a difference in someone’s life through kindness, empathy, and compassion.”



[Pictured: Olivia Foss (left); Addie Hersey (right)]

### **About The Lincoln Academy**

The Lincoln Academy is a K4-12 free public charter school focused on rigorous academics, character development and career exploration. More information about The Lincoln Academy can be found at [www.thelincolnacademybeloit.com](http://www.thelincolnacademybeloit.com), by contacting the school directly at 608-690-5100, or [info@tlabeloit.com](mailto:info@tlabeloit.com).

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