Two Bill Nelson Scholarships were awarded in 2005. The recipients are:

Lauren Berger  
Indiana University

During her high school years, Lauren was active in Junior Achievement and received a $250 scholarship. She was also active in SADD, the German Club, Destination Imagination, and a member of the National Honor Society.

She received her Academic Honors High School diploma in May, and plans to attend Indiana University in the fall. Lauren has not decided on a major, but she is considering journalism, marketing and business, as well as political science. Once she decides on a major, she plans to obtain a Masters degree in that field as well. Lauren's father is employed by Stens Corporation, Jasper, Indiana.

Lauren will receive a $2,000 Bill Nelson Scholarship.

Update on Lauren Berger from her email of September 26, 2005:

"Thank you for the congratulations on the scholarship. I was very excited and honored to be a recipient. I am in my fifth week here at Indiana University, and my classes have been very interesting. I am planning on declaring a major next semester, and I will probably declare a double major in criminal justice and political science, with the intent of law school. I am also still considering journalism. Right now I am getting some base requirements out of the way, and I plan to start on my major concentration next semester."

Best regards, Lauren Berger

Rebecca Williams  
University of South Carolina

During her academic life, she has served as an intern for the US Commission on Civil Rights and for former US Senator E. Fritz Hollings from South Carolina. Rebecca planned to become a lawyer, but two days prior to taking the law school entrance exam, she changed her mind, feeling the law may somehow jade her. She feels service to her community "would be better offered as a social worker."

Rebecca has finished her first year of Graduate School at the University of South Carolina, where she is working toward a Masters degree in Social Work. Rebecca obtained her undergraduate degree in political science from Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina. During her second year in graduate school, Rebecca plans to intern with the South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Ultimately, she would like to be a lobbyist, and be instrumental in passing laws guaranteeing the rights of women and children, as well as the elderly. Rebecca Williams' father is employed at Smith Engines, Charlotte, North Carolina.

Rebecca will receive a $2,000 Bill Nelson Scholarship.