



SIA awards 2 women for environmental contributions

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Two women who came to Purdue University to better themselves through education received awards Tuesday for what they have given back to the community.

Lindsey Payne, 35, and Heather Gall, 27, were given the [Subaru of Indiana Automotive Inc.](#) Excellence in Environmental Stewardship Award for committing their time and energy to making Greater Lafayette more sustainable.

Diane Damico, former chairwoman of the [West Lafayette Go Greener Commission](#), nominated the two women.

"They're initiators," she said. "They not only have great ideas, but they also follow through."

Payne, who is studying ecological science and engineering, spearheaded the [Clear-Blue-Green business certification program](#).

"Basically, it is to award businesses certification if they're green," she said.

"They have to audit themselves in five different categories. For example, if they're good with water conservation ... (or) if they're good with energy conservation, they earn points. If you do so many green practices, you'll get your certification."

Both Payne and Gall said caring about the environment came naturally to them.

"I've always been just kind of a play in the dirt, environmental type," she said, smiling. For her, keeping the outdoors beautiful is important.

Gall, who studied civil engineering, was involved with the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's P3 — or people, prosperity and the planet — grant](#).

"That had a pretty significant impact on getting awareness out about combined sewer overflow events in the area," she said.

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Money from the grant helped in a campaign to encourage people to lower the negative impact of flooding by building rain gardens and installing rain barrels.

Payne and Gall were each awarded \$500 to donate to a local nonprofit organization of their choice. Payne donated hers to the Wabash River Enhancement Corp., while Gall chose Wolf Park.

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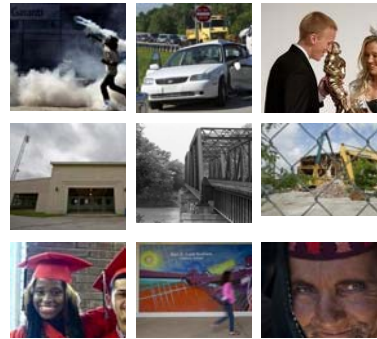
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