Governor honors two young leaders from area

By PAUL BOE
Tribune Staff Writer

To area residents, their names may already be familiar: Lisa Koep, 26, and Jeffrey Wullich, 24, are two of 12 recipients of this year's Governor's Awards for Tomorrow's Leaders.

Jeff Wullich didn't have time to wait for the real world.

Today special assistant to the senior vice president of academic affairs and the chancellor of Indiana University Bloomington, Wullich started his own two businesses at the age of 15, when a sophomore at Penn High School.

Fidelity Professional DJ Services and MightyBrain.com still exist, eight years later, and are doing fine. Thank you, and Wullich.

MightyBrain, an Internet system used by teachers, students and parents to share information, is particularly well known locally.

It serves the entire Penn Harris-Madison School Corp.

At Indiana University, Bloomington, where he majored in sociology, Wullich co-founded Global Sales Leadership Club, to develop sales in an academic environment and train students in professional business skills.

He was also vice president of the student body for one year.

A few of Wullich's duties as special assistant to the chancellor are to review

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Policy, advocacy, student concern on campus and report to the board of trustees.

"I get things done for the chancellor," he said, highlighting the perseverance his job takes.

"Persevering is something Wullich is good at, something he learned during his business entrepreneurship at a relatively young age.

Future plans for the German native include enrollment in a master's in business program, where he'll invest the $1,000 awarded to him, and developing MightyBrain.com.

Koep is a supervisor attorney at Notre Dame Legal Aid Clinic, where she represents clients who wish to explore their immigrant futures.

Born in Canada, Koep grew up in Chicago, graduating from Bethany Christian High School in 1996 and from George Washington College, where she double majored in English and tourism, in 1999.

"I was a little directionless then," said Koep, referring to her transition from college to the real world.

"I had vague ideas of working for the pursuit of social justice," she said.

After graduating from college, Koep moved to Hurst, Texas, to work with immigrants who were detained by the Department of Homeland Security.

She helped provide them with the legal assistance to stay in the country.

"It's a very unique way to further the cause of justice," Koep said of the work she did for two years in Texas.

In Guam, she worked with asylum seekers for one month, in the same capacity.

"It was really fascinating to be doing that sort of work in the States but with a different population," Koep said of her experience in the Pacific island.

Three years of hard work later, Koep had graduated from Indiana University School of Law in Indianapolis.

That was in May 2004.

At Notre Dame Legal Aid Clinic, Koep said her goals are: to continue advocating for immigrants in legal capacities, and to develop community education and organization efforts.

Koep said shefresh motivated to help those who seek to be a part of our community, adding the community is better and diverse.

She plans to donate the $1,000 awarded to her to the Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic in Indiana, G.

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