

McHenry County College Education to Empowerment Scholarship Winners Announced

[July 25, 2013.Crystal Lake] A new scholarship program at McHenry County College that promotes educational empowerment for female students was launched recently with the awarding of two Education to Empowerment scholarships to area students.

Amberley Kowalski of Hebron and Brianna Carli of Woodstock received full-year scholarships at MCC as well as financial assistance when they transfer to four-year schools during a recent awards ceremony highlighting their accomplishments as well as the unique nature of the scholarship program.

Education to Empowerment is a new women's scholarship program presented by the Friends of MCC Foundation. The goal of the program is to bring together 100 influential women in the community who will commit to raising a total of \$100,000 annually. The effort will make scholarships available to eligible female students at MCC and will include a mentoring component as the students complete their final year at MCC and advance to four-year schools and professional careers.

"The heart of the program is a desire to empower women to reach their fullest potential and achieve economic independence through education, mentoring and financial support," said Erin Smith, chair of the Education to Empowerment Committee.

"But this is more than just a needs-based scholarship," Smith said. "It closes the gap between getting access to education and getting support along the way. It also connects students to successful women in a variety of fields, so we're helping to develop the successful leaders of tomorrow."



involved with the Andrea Lynn Cancer Fund and will be helping with a bone marrow registry drive later this summer.

Kowalski graduated from Alden-Hebron High School and received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Northern Illinois University. She is a returning student at MCC and pursuing a degree in nursing. She will earn her CNA certification at MCC before enrolling in an accelerated 2nd degree bachelor's in nursing, specializing in oncology. Kowalski is very active in advocating for cancer awareness in the community, especially in the area of young adult cancers. She has been a survival speaker at DeKalb Relay for Life, keynote speaker for Women's Survivor luncheon and given speeches to health students at Waubonsie Valley High School. She has also been very



has been an equestrian athlete for 12 years and enjoys competing in local events.

Carli graduated from Woodstock High School and will receive her Associate in Science degree in spring 2014. She plans to transfer to a university pursuing a double major in psychology and education and then work as a high school teacher, psychologist, social worker or counselor while coaching a high school dance team. She would like to continue her education by receiving a master's degree and eventually a Ph.D. Carli has been very involved with the Nicole Daune Jackson Foundation as a student advisor and helps to plan events and activities. She also volunteers at their summer camp. She has been involved with several dance teams and has created choreography for her high school's drill/flag team and Creekside Middle School's dance team. Carli

The Friends of McHenry County College Foundation was founded in 1967 as the 501(c)(3) nonprofit arm of McHenry County College. MCC provides educational opportunities for more than 300,000 residents and 28,000 businesses in the area. The Foundation's programs and scholarships are made possible through the generosity of its donors and supporters.

For more information about Education to Empowerment or other giving opportunities, contact the Friends of McHenry County College Foundation at (815) 455-8721 or visit the Foundation website at www.mchenry.edu/supportmcc.