Stockton Designates First Ever HERO of the Year

Chelsea Gallagher of Brick, NJ Nominated by Sorority Sister for Putting Safety Before Anything Else

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Contact: Tim Kelly
Susan Allen
Office of Public Relations
Galloway Township, NJ 08240
Tim.Kelly@stockton.edu
(609) 652-4950

Galloway Township, NJ- Chelsea Gallagher, a senior criminal justice major at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey and a resident of Brick, New Jersey, was named the first ever Stockton College Designated HERO of the Year by the College and the HERO Campaign for Designated Drivers.

Gallagher, a student in the dual BA/MA degree program in criminal justice, was nominated by Jamie Sofia, a Tri Sigma sorority sister and president of Stockton's Greek Council. Sofia wrote in her nomination essay, “I was asked, by the HERO Campaign, to write about someone who exemplifies a hero in my eyes. I have many [sorority] sisters who are there [for me]; however, Chelsea Gallagher stands out from them all.”

Chelsea Gallagher received a phone call one day from Stephen B. Davis, Stockton’s associate dean of students, who read through a number of Stockton HERO nomination essays. Gallagher said, “I was very surprised when I received the phone call telling me I had won. My sorority sister had told me earlier that she nominated me, but I was still really surprised and honored to have won this title.”

A photo of Gallagher, wearing her HERO Campaign t-shirt, will be displayed on a billboard to help promote safe and responsible drinking.

Jamie Sofia wrote in her essay, “Chelsea puts her sisters’ safety and well being before anything else. I believe that Chelsea is truly a hero.” Sofia also explained that aside from being a devoted sorority sister, a dedicated RA (resident assistant) at Stockton, and a well-rounded student, both academic and extracurricular, Gallagher is also a great sister at home to her two siblings who have been diagnosed with autism.

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Second and third place heroes were also announced.

- Second Place: Christina Tuozzolo of Freehold
- Third Place: Carlee Caucino of Toms River

In April of this year, Stockton’s Greek Council hosted a HERO Day on Stockton’s campus. Sororities and fraternities participated in competitions and helped to spread the HERO Campaign’s message. It was during HERO Day that students were asked to nominate a hero in their lives.

Like Chelsea Gallagher says, drunk driving is “completely preventable” because “all it takes is a phone call,” and just “one designated driver can save lives.”

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