

STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



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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