



NORMAL COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

3900 East Raab Road ♦ Normal, Illinois 61761

Phone: (309) 728-5000 ♦ Fax: (309) 728-5050

January 19, 2006

Dr. Jeanette Nuckolls

Principal

Dr. Alan Chapman, Superintendent
McLean County Unit 5 Schools
1809 West Hovey Avenue
Normal, IL 61761

Dear Dr. Chapman,

The faculty and staff of Normal Community High School would like to congratulate senior Lauren Murphy, the 2006 recipient of the Town of Normal Human Relations Commission's "I Have a Dream Student Award." She received her award at a January 14th luncheon held at the Interstate Center.

Mrs. Camille Taylor, Lauren's counselor nominated Lauren for this award. In her nomination letter Mrs. Taylor describes Lauren as one who "has never been afraid of being out on that proverbial limb. She has made friends across a broad spectrum of students and has followed her heart and mind to get involved where she has seen needs. When she believes in a cause, she'll work towards it whether it's popular or not."

In her freshman year, Lauren asked Mrs. Taylor what she would have to do to get into Harvard. Lauren immediately got involved and participated in a variety of activities. Since that time, she has applied to and been accepted at the University of Illinois, and has consistently set goals for herself. During her sophomore year, Lauren was selected to represent NCHS as the Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership (HOBY) Ambassador. The skills that Lauren developed in that leadership program have served her well as she has taken on a variety of leadership roles. As president of Students Embracing Diversity and Concert Master for the orchestra, Lauren has put herself in a position to take on an enormous amount of responsibility while at the same time excelling in her academic studies. Lauren is an exceptional student and ranks among the top fifteen percent of her class.

Mrs. Taylor believes that is one of the qualities that Lauren has in common with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is her guiding principle of service to others. Lauren has been involved in extensive community service opportunities while serving in the Students Embracing Diversity Club. One of the activities Lauren has been involved in is the "puppy chow" fundraiser which raised \$1,000 for Easter Seals. She also helped organize "Mix It Up at Lunch Day," which encourages students to eat and socialize with others outside of their regular lunch group. In November Lauren participated in a "homeless night" simulation in which several students spent the night "sleeping" in boxes in the parking lot of Cub Foods. Over \$700 was raised and donated to the Midwest Food Bank and the Salvation Army, two area organizations that serve the homeless population. Lauren has also demonstrated her leadership in the Peer Leadership Club and serves as a peer mediator. She has done all this while working a part-time job and being active in numerous school/church activities.

We are extremely proud of Lauren Murphy. Congratulations are extended to Lauren and her family for her commitment to excellence and support of her fellow citizens. She certainly deserves the "I Have a Dream Student Award".

Sincerely,

Dr. Jeanette Nuckolls
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