



UTICA

COLLEGE

Diversity Committee



April 29, 2020

Dear Ms. Boone:

The Utica College Diversity Committee's *Certificate of Recognition for Excellence in Fostering a Diverse Campus Community* is intended to recognize individuals at Utica College who work tirelessly to promote diversity by building a welcoming and inclusive campus community. You were nominated for this recognition and selected to receive this certificate, and it is a pleasure to present it to you.

In describing the ways in which you have helped to build a welcoming and inclusive campus, your nominators had much to say. They begin by describing you as one who leads by example and gets involved rather than waiting for change to happen. As a member of a number of students organizations, such as the Black Student Union, Angelic Voices of Unity Gospel Choir, Women In a New Direction, Prestige, Fuerza Latina and the Utica College Programming Board, you have formed relationships and encouraged connection across groups. In addition to active participation in those organizations, you have held executive board member positions over the years.

You have clearly found your voice while pursuing your degree in Communication Arts and minor in theater. On an individual basis, you share of your experiences, hopes, fears and frustration through your own poetry and with members of Open Moments, but also give voice to the experiences of others through your performances in the Vagina Monologues. More broadly, you've hosted a radio show at Utica College's radio station, WPNR, where you speak about and host guests who address current issues from a wide range of perspectives, and have become a sought after host for events.

Whether you are performing, hosting, or organizing an event, you value and look to connect with students who vary widely in background and life experiences, and they clearly respond. Most recently, you've chosen to represent others through serving as a member of the Presidential Task Force on Race and Equity, where you strive to be part of changing the campus climate at Utica College.

A familiar face and voice to many, you have inspired others to think differently about community involvement and what it means to be a diverse and inclusive community. It is with great pleasure that the Diversity Committee recognizes your contributions by naming you this year's student recipient of the "*Excellence in Fostering a Diverse Campus Community*" award.

Sincerely,

Alane Varga

Alane Varga, Chairperson
Utica College Diversity Committee