



Office of Student Affairs

April 29, 2020

Maria Montero Silva

Dear Maria:

Congratulations on being selected as a recipient for the Dean Robert Woods Student Life Award for 2020! We are pleased to recognize your hard work, diligence and commitment to campus life at Utica College.

Maria, you joined us as an international transfer student from Spain. In making the most of your time at Utica College, we believe you have found a second home here at UC. You have been incredibly involved both at Utica College and in the world around you, taking advantage of several scholarships to travel throughout Europe and the United States to gain a better understanding of the world – and have shared all you’ve learned with us. Your passion for seeking new learning opportunities has been clear through your work in *El Resso* and the *Utica College Tangerine*. It takes a student with exceptional discipline and motivation to maintain a 3.8 GPA and be as involved as you are in Utica College’s student life.

Your strong work ethic, leadership skills and compassionate nature have enriched the campus and the organizations in which you have been involved. Beyond your strong editorial and writing skills, your sharp intellect and empathy will be greatly missed as assets to the *Tangerine*. As the Editor-in-Chief, you took the *Tangerine* in a new direction and solidified its future as a campus institution. Your commitment to exploring issues that impact underrepresented and marginalized populations led to stories such as “What Does Thanksgiving Mean to Native Americans?”, “When Halloween Becomes Racist” and “Political Rhetoric or Hate Speech: What are the Boundaries?” You ventured into the broader community to report on the issues which homeless women in Utica confront, demonstrating your empathy and passion for being a voice for others. Despite how busy you are, you continue to always help the people around you, whether as a Spanish tutor or mentoring fellow staff in the *Tangerine*, leading you to be described as selfless peer who often puts others’ needs before your own. Your engagement does not end here, though. You hold leadership positions in the Model United Nations Club as the co-president and in the International Students Club as the public relations officer and webmaster, creating additional opportunities for members of the Utica College community to engage with those who experience the world in different ways. Your open and engaging personality, as well as the unique perspective you bring to all you do, has assured that your legacy will be an enduring one.

For all that you’ve done to encourage others to challenge their potential and step up to support others, and for contributing in so many ways across campus, we thank you. Congratulations on your award!

Sincerely,

Timothy Ecklund, Ph.D.
Assistant Vice President of
Student Affairs and Dean of
Students and Campus Life

Alane Varga, M.A.
Dean of Diversity and
Inclusion

Scott Nonemaker, M.S.
Executive Director for Student
Living & College Engagement