



Office of Student Affairs

April 29, 2020

Peter Gaughan

Dear Peter:

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.

Peter, you have truly made the most of your experience here at Utica College, and are the epitome of a well-rounded student. Having joined us through the honors program, you've created an academic program that provides a solid foundation for a career encompassing social and environmental justice through pursuing a dual major in Geoscience and Government and Politics, with a minor in philosophy of law. Even with all the ways in which you have been involved, you have maintained an exceptional GPA throughout your time at UC. Your passion for seeking learning opportunities and gaining hands on experience has led you to serve on the e-board of the Honors Association, as a team captain for Mock Trial, as co-president for the Model UN club, and your internship with the Utica DA's office.

Organizationally, you have taken on leadership roles in a wide range of student organizations. Most visible are those such as serving as an administrative intern in the Womyn's Resource Center, Relay for Life Co-Chair with Colleges Against Cancer, the National Communications Coordinator for the Residence Hall Association, and a number of positions within the Gender and Sexuality Alliance and Alpha Phi Omega. Your belief in the role that students can and should play in the governance of the college has been evident in your participation in the Student Government Association in positions ranging from First Year Residential Senator to Treasurer and Chief Justice. Your commitment to racial and social justice, and making this campus welcoming and inclusive for members of all communities, is reflected in your work with the Safe Zone Initiative, your involvement with the Diversity Committee to plan Pio Talks, the Walk a Mile for Unity and commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King and his legacy, and educating around issues of sexual and intimate partner violence, sexual health, mental health, and free speech. On a more individual basis, you have served the UC community through your involvement as a Resident Assistant, Orientation Mentor, and as an Admissions Ambassador. You've used the connections you've made effectively as you step up during challenging times to both support your fellow students and be a voice for their concerns.

For all that you've done to encourage others to fulfill 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