



Office of Student Affairs

April 29, 2020

Veena Sureshkumar

Dear Veena:

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.

Veena, you have demonstrated devotion to academics and your determination and dedication to be involved in the campus's student life by seeking and jumping into every opportunity that presents you at Utica College. You have truly made the most of your experience here at Utica College.

You have mastered the art of balancing your academic responsibilities in a challenging major with engagement in activities outside of the classroom, resulting in your presence on the Dean's Honors List for much of your time at UC. As a biology pre-med major, you demonstrate a passion for seeking learning opportunities and gaining experience within your major and for your chosen field. Through your involvement in the Asa Gray Biological Society and the Pre-Health Professional Society you had the opportunity to gain volunteer experience and learn from guest speakers, becoming a well-rounded student in the process. Your perspective has clearly been valued by faculty in your department, resulting in your being chosen as a student representative for the Biology Department's Faculty Research committee.

Your commitment to the UC community has been clear, both through leadership and service. Veena, you have demonstrated your willingness to be actively engaged through the executive positions you have held in a variety of organizations. Whether as vice president and class representative for 2020 in the Student Government Association or making a contribution to Theta Phi Alpha through taking on positions such as president, vice president, and Standards Board Representative, your willingness to use the leadership skills you've learned has been clear. You've shared your creative side with your fellow students through performing with the Prestige Step Team, and gone further to enhance our community through your role on campus as a Resident Assistant, where you taught by example the importance of an inclusive community. Most recently, you extended that passion to make a difference into the broader community through your work with building a school in Costa Rica over the summer with the biodiversity program.

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