



News Release

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Area Madonna University Students Receive Educational Opportunity Scholarships

LIVONIA, Mich. – Madonna University students Wanda Dent of Detroit and Crystal Luther of Fort Gratiot were recently awarded scholarships from the Michigan Chapter of the Mid-America Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel (MI-MAEOPP).

The students were nominated through the University's federally-funded TRiO program that serves low-income, first-generation and disabled students. According to program director Connie Tingson-Gatuz, TRiO has provided academic, personal, and financial support to thousands of students for more than 30 years. "Offering TRiO through Madonna's Center for Personalized Instruction reflects the University's commitment to student success," said Tingson-Gatuz. "These two students have taken full advantage of the program's opportunities."

With their scholarship application, each student submitted an essay about how they overcame obstacles to earn a college degree. The MI-MAEOPP Education Endowment Committee will present \$500 scholarships to Luther and Dent, along with 12 other TRiO students from universities across Michigan, at its Student Leadership Summit banquet on Saturday, Feb. 21, in Grand Rapids.

Dent, a Madonna senior majoring in gerontology, received an academic achievement scholarship. "I am so blessed and overjoyed for this opportunity," said Dent. She plans to use her scholarship to help pay for gas to drive to and from her elder-home field placement locations.

Luther, a senior majoring in general science and elementary education, was awarded an academic progress scholarship. "I couldn't believe that my essay had won," said Luther, who wrote about the challenges of being Hard of Hearing. "I've faced many obstacles in my life and I have found that they make you stronger." Luther plans to apply her scholarship toward tuition and books at Madonna.

Madonna University's TRiO program celebrated its 30th anniversary last fall and to date has completed approximately 37,000 hours of tutoring, with more than 400 students involved with supplemental instruction on a regular basis. Other program services include academic and technological resources, cultural and leadership experiences, peer mentorship and peer assisted study.

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