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## Third-time Clarkson College Student Receives National Award

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**RACHEL KUNKLE IS PURSUING HER THIRD DEGREE AT CLARKSON COLLEGE AND IS PRESIDENT OF THE SIGMA ALPHA PI CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF LEADERSHIP AND SUCCESS ON CAMPUS.**

Six college students across the U.S. recently became recipients of the National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS) Dream Support Grant. The NSLS allocates an aggregate of \$10,000 for this award and divides it amongst the recipients. The \$2,800 portion awarded to Clarkson College BSN student Rachel Kunkle will cover the cost of the expenses needed for the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners Certified Train the Trainer Program she plans to attend in Minneapolis, Minn. on Aug. 19.

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highly recommend that you [faculty and students] join, as you will learn leadership styles from some of the top influential figures in our world and get a chance to gain insight and encouragement from your fellow students.”

“The Clarkson College chapter of Sigma Alpha Pi has given me a new perspective on what leadership looks like in the current century and what people are looking for in a leader,” Kunkle said. “It has given me the opportunity to impact the lives of fellow students by sharing my stories of failure and how to succeed.”

Though not indicative of being selected as a recipient of the Dream Support Grant, Kunkle’s unique relationship with Clarkson College and her distinct background in health care make her an exceptional role model for other students and professionals. “I hold two previous degrees from Clarkson College,” Kunkle noted, “and I have been working in health care since I was 15 years old.”

Kunkle earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Health Care Business with a major in Management in 2007 and a Master’s degree in Health Care Administration in 2009. “My primary focus has been long-term care. With my Nursing degree, I am hoping to gain skills and knowledge of a behavioral health nurse but want to use those skills to re-enter the long-term care field. I love caring for the geriatric population and particularly enjoy working with residents who have dementia.”

When asked what keeps her coming back to Clarkson College, Kunkle’s response was “A few things. I know the professors here and the process. I am also proud of the legacy that Clarkson College represents and the reputation it has. The instructors are experts in their field and are passionate about their careers.”

Kunkle plans to graduate with her BSN degree in spring 2015 and is already looking into various Ph.D. programs throughout the Midwest that will allow her to work with the elderly and specialize in dementia care and education. “I want my Ph.D. to allow me to continue in long-term care yet also participate in the growth of knowledge about dementia in the U.S. We are really behind the times compared to other countries like Canada and Australia in our care of people with dementia. I want to change the care process and make a difference!”

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