

LMC announces SSS award winners

BENTON HARBOR — Lake Michigan College has announced the student, faculty and alumna recipients of its 2017 TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) awards.

TRIO SSS is a federally funded program that provides focused academic assistance to first generation, low-income students or those with a disability to help them graduate and continue their education.

Services include intensive academic advising, coaching in study skills development and financial literacy, tutoring in English and STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) coursework, and help with textbooks and technology. Participants are encouraged to volunteer in their communities and mentor other LMC students.

This year's awardees were:

■ Rolando Hernandez of Eau Claire was named

2017 Student of the Year, earning him a \$750 scholarship from the LMC Foundation. The award honors students who have demonstrated leadership, academic achievement, volunteerism and overall excellence in the SSS program.

In addition to academic achievement, including one semester on the president's list and two semesters on the dean's list, he was chosen twice as a student speaker for the LMC Martin Luther King Jr. breakfast, works as a resident assistant at Beckwith Hall, tutors on campus and assisted in a holiday drive for Emergency Shelter Services.

Rolando received an associate in science degree with honors and has been accepted to Grand Valley



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DAVIS



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State University, where he will study medicine.

■ Andrea Davis is this year's SSS alumni speaker. An alumna of Coloma High School and a 2001 LMC graduate, she participated in LMC's SSS program before transferring to Oakwood University, where she earned a B.A. in psychology.

She holds a Master of Education in educational psychology from Wayne State University and graduated in 2016 from the University of Memphis with a Doctor of Philosophy in educational psychology and research. Her research focused on adolescent behavior and development.

She is an independent educational/psychological consultant.

■ Financial aid coordinator of scholarships and grants, Kay Chalus, was awarded the Outstanding Contributor Award. This award recognizes LMC employees who impact student success by working with SSS participants directly or behind the scenes.

She is a LMC alumna who graduated with honors and went on to earn a Bachelor of Business Administration from Siena Heights University.

SSS Director Nancy Johnson said, "Ms. Chalus is viewed by both students and staff as a knowledgeable, approachable professional who is responsive to student needs. She assists students in improving their financial literacy regarding college financial resources and the responsibility of being an informed and proactive student consumer."