



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

USI student and Army ROTC cadet to be honored

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USI student and Army ROTC cadet Alicia M. O'Conner will receive a national award for superior overall performance in scholarship, physical fitness, and leadership at noon on Friday, January 17 in the University Conference Center. The award is being made by the United Services Automobile Association. The award consists of a \$1,000 and a commemorative clock. Lieutenant Colonel Hollaway of Rose Hulman Institute of Technology will present the award.

O'Conner is one of nine recipients from the 2nd Region, an area of the United States from Minnesota to Louisiana, that includes several hundred schools. Twenty-nine cadets are being honored nationwide.

Major Mark Weaver, assistant professor of military science, said USI is fortunate to attract such a high-caliber student. He said, "Alicia helps us set a tone for other quality candidates who are attracted to the program. I'm glad she is being recognized for her efforts."

Cadets must demonstrate superior overall performance in scholastics, civics, physical strength and endurance, leadership, and adhere to the Army values.

O'Conner is a 1998 graduate of Lapel High School and the daughter of Kenny and Tina O'Connor of Anderson, Indiana. A USI senior, O'Connor is a social work major. She also is in the Honors Program at USI. After graduation she hopes to continue toward a master's degree in social work at USI.

Christy Baker, associate professor of social work and director of admission for the program, said, "Alicia is a student scholar of great excellence who demonstrates the ethics, value, and empathy of a social work professional. She is a leader who will make great contributions to the field of social work, this community, and this country."

O'Connor was recommended for the award by the battalion commander, the brigade commander, and the region commander.

Sent to: Courier photo desk, Pat Swanson, Shield, WSWI, Mt. Vernon Democrat, WIKY, WEHT, WTVW, WFIE, Web