

## **UE Alum Chosen Among Indiana's Leaders of Tomorrow**

**The University of Evansville** is proud to announce that Stephanie Roberts, a member of UE's Class of 2008, has been selected as one of a dozen recipients of the Governor's Award for Tomorrow's Leaders.

Roberts, who is the only representative of Evansville to earn this prestigious statewide recognition, is the executive director of HOLA. She graduated from the University of Evansville in 2008 with majors in Spanish, History, and International Studies. She will receive the Governor's Award for Tomorrow's Leaders tomorrow – Tuesday, December 15 – at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, in the rotunda of the Indiana State House.

The Tomorrow's Leaders program is supported by Vectren Corporation.

"These 12 young men and women serve as shining examples of Indiana's deep reserve of talent, enterprise and compassion," said Carl Chapman, president and COO of Vectren Corporation, as well as an Indiana Humanities Council board member and chair of the 2009 Governor's Awards for Tomorrow's Leaders. "Dedicated professionals and students who somehow find time to give generously of their talents and energy, they represent our state's greatest natural resource and our greatest hope for the future."

Established in 2003, the Governor's Award for Tomorrow's Leaders honors Hoosiers ages 19 to 29 who strive for and attain excellence as entrepreneurial leaders, volunteers and scholars. Nominations for the award are sought each year from around the state.

The youngest recipient of this year's award, Roberts, 23, was raised in a Bolivian-American family. Upon arriving at the University of Evansville, she immediately became a leader in representing Latino voices – thus beginning a career in leading and developing organizations that work for the betterment of often-overlooked communities.

As the first employee and executive director of HOLA (Hospitality and Outreach for Latin Americans), Stephanie has not only established the day-to-day functionality of the organization, she has organized culture discussions and served as a source of information for the entire Evansville community. She has also spearheaded programs on prenatal care, childhood obesity and general life needs—all since she began in January 2009.

Realizing that a true leader leads through collaboration, Stephanie "looks for ways to develop or increase the skills and capacities of the people she seeks to serve, enabling them to become more autonomous and more likely to become servant leaders themselves," says a local Evansville leader.

Stephanie is truly making a lasting impression in the fabric of the Evansville community by enhancing appreciation of cultural diversity and promoting the successful inclusion of Latinos in the community.

"From Stephanie's freshman year, she has shown all of the qualities of a true leader," said UE President Stephen Jennings. "Her work on-campus, as well as her work with HOLA, illustrates her desire to engage the community as an informed, ethical, and productive citizen; we are extremely proud of the work she has done, and believe Vectren and Governor Daniels have made an excellent choice in recognizing this extraordinary young woman as one of Indiana's brightest and most promising young leaders."

Each honoree will receive \$1,000, courtesy of Vectren Corporation, to be used as an educational scholarship or donated to a charity of the honoree's choice.

"We congratulate this year's honorees, and wish each of them the best as they continue to lead, inspire and contribute in their communities," said Chapman.

A distinguished jury of leaders from around Indiana selected the recipients. Chaired by Chapman, the jury included Dr. Sally Jo Vasicko, co-director, Bowen Center for Public Affairs at Ball State University; Dr. Michael Twyman, director of grants programs, The Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust; and David Allison, experience manager at Conner Prairie and a 2008 recipient of the Governor's Award for Tomorrow's Leaders.

Civic engagement and thoughtful leadership have been at the core of the Indiana Humanities Council programming for 36 years, and The Governor's Awards for Tomorrow's Leaders is one of the organization's most important programs, because it was designed to highlight and reward the hard work of Indiana's young leaders.

The full list of recipients is below:

Mari Yamaguchi, Robert Gough, Jennifer L. Danic, and Alane B. Summers, all from Indianapolis; Samuel C. Bowles, Marengo; Kylie A. Peppler, Bloomington; Kyle E. Hultgren, Fishers; Jaime Faulkner, Muncie; Esmeralda Cruz, Frankfort; Tonja A.G. Couch, Seymour; Stephanie A. Roberts, Evansville; and Christopher Beltran, West Lafayette.

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