

What Scholarship Recipients Are Saying

Veronica (Roni) Hyde

Veronica Hyde carries a near-perfect grade point average at Eastern. In addition to being one of the school's finest students, the sociology major from Collinsville is also one of its most engaged and sincere volunteers in the Willimantic area.

The combination led to scholarship awards for her junior and senior years and, in the spring of 2010, her selection to give the student address at Eastern's scholarship awards ceremony. Her remarks there demonstrate that she appreciates not just how the grants ease the financial burden of college for her and others, but what they mean in enriching the college experience for the most dedicated students.

"In a world where time is money, as students we often get caught up fretting over balancing school, a social life, and a job," she said. "These scholarships buy us, so to speak, the time to pursue our interests and dreams through activities that round out our education and also make a difference both on campus and in our communities." She added that, "The academics are an important aspect of the college experience, but the privilege of having the time to help others and make a difference, however small, in the lives of the people around us may be even more significant."

Her ambitions are in keeping with the caring major she chose and her campus and community involvement. That involvement includes serving as treasurer in the 2010-11 academic year of the on-campus chapter for Windham's Habitat for Humanity group, tutoring and mentoring other Eastern students and membership in the ODK leadership program, all while participating in Eastern's intensive Honors program as a student. She hopes to join the Peace Corps immediately after graduation and would like to serve in Africa or India. Graduate school may be in her future after the Peace Corps, with further study in sociology or in public health her likely areas of interest.

The honor of being selected for scholarships at Eastern and contemplating what those grants mean to her and others sparked a desire to give back someday herself. "I would definitely want to be part of giving that benefit to someone else," she said.

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