



News Release

Doug Lippincott, Director of Communications
Office: (315) 279-5231 Home: (585) 346-2639
FAX: (315) 279-5281 E-mail: dlippinc@mail.keuka.edu

No. 1 Here, No. 1 in the State

Senior Matt Beckwith Top Student Employee



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—April 26, 2006

Matt Beckwith had to feel pretty good about his chances of winning the Student Employee of the Year Award.

After all, he was nominated by Head Athletic Trainer Jeff Bray, whose students have captured the award three of the past five years.

Make that four out of six.

Beckwith, a senior environmental science major and co-captain of the Storm lacrosse team, not only won the Keuka award, but the New York State Student Employee of the Year Award as well. He became the third Keuka student to earn top state honors, following Bray nominees Jason Banks (2001) and Brain Pelkey (2004).

“Matt has contributed in many ways, but has probably had the most impact simply by being a quality person,” said Bray.

According to Bray, Beckwith, who serves as student athletic trainer, “has consistently been one of the most reliable students I’ve had, and doesn’t hesitate to do the ‘grunt’ work, including scrubbing out trash cans, doing the training room laundry, and taking out the garbage, said Bray.

“I don’t believe that you can ‘teach’ someone to have initiative and to be motivated in the work place; you either have those qualities or you don’t,” said Bray. “The level of trust and integrity that Matt brings to the table is unmatched.”

Added Bray: “His contributions to Keuka College will be felt long after he graduates. With what Matt brings to the table, he is going to be very successful in the ‘real’ workplace.”

- more -

As the state's best student employee, Beckwith defeated students from such colleges as Cornell University, SUNY Binghamton, and Syracuse University. He received a plaque from Northeast Association of Student Employment Administrators (NEASEA), a congratulatory letter, and a \$50 gift certificate to Barnes & Noble Booksellers. He also received a plaque from the Center for Experiential Learning and his name was added to another plaque that is housed in the Center.

In addition to Beckwith, eight other students were nominated for the Keuka award and include Matt Dean (Terrace Café); Sara Ouderkirk (marketing); Sarah Wehnau (*TeamWorks! The Birkett Mills/Keuka College Challenge Experience*); Jessica Dupuy (Center for Experiential Learning); Scott Johnson (aquatics); Lisa Sanford (Sodexo Food Services); Kathryn Rzeszutek (education); and Allison Mitchell (Weed Physical Arts Center).

The nominees were recognized at the annual Student Employee of the Year luncheon, where they received a certificate of appreciation and a small gift.