USC Connect Student Leader Recognized

The Steven N. Swanger Leadership Award, the university’s second-highest undergraduate honor, was presented to Caroline Hendricks (third from left), a founding member of USC Connect’s Student Representative Board, at the University Awards Ceremony on April 17, 2014. The award is named for a former president of Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK), which sponsors the university’s Awards Day. It is given to a graduating senior for exemplary leadership and for making significant contributions to the Carolina community. Caroline has been actively involved in the USC Connect Student Representative Board for three years and will Graduate with Leadership Distinction May 2014.

Caroline Hendricks’ Statement for the Swanger Award

I know there are many students at USC deserving of awards, and I am honored to be among those considered. During the last four years I have been involved in many different organizations on campus and have had the opportunity to learn valuable skills through leadership positions in several of these groups. Through membership in groups that cover multiple aspects of campus life, I have interacted with a broad range of students I would not have otherwise known.

If I had to pick one involvement I am most proud of, I would choose my position on the student advisory board for USC Connect. As a member since the inception of the student board, I recognized the potential of this initiative and was excited to become involved. With USC Connect, I have loved participating in outreach events, such as the Get Connected Fair, which expose students to beyond-the-classroom opportunities.

Through USC Connect’s student board, I was involved in discussions of creating a graduation honor for those who excel in beyond-the-classroom experiences. These discussions have led to the creation of Graduation with Leadership Distinction, a program which has been well received by both students and faculty. I believe USC Connect and Graduation with Leadership Distinction can have a huge impact on encouraging students to engage in their collegiate experience and better prepare them for future careers and goals. I have personally benefited from my involvement in USC Connect through learning to reflect on and articulate my own collegiate experiences, and this personal knowledge has led me to be a passionate ambassador for the program’s emphasis on student reflection. I am excited to see where USC Connect will go in the years to come, knowing that I had a hand in shaping its future.