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Lincoln Academy to honor 49 top college students

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THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER

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A half-dozen central Illinoisans is among 49 top college students to be honored Nov. 6 by the the Lincoln Academy of Illinois.

Included is Trisha Faulkner of Springfield, a senior at Northwestern University in Evanston.

The Lincoln Academy gives Student Laureate Awards annually to seniors from each of the four-year, degree-granting colleges and universities in the state, plus one community college student.

The award ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 6, at the Old State Capitol State Historic Site.

The Lincoln Academy's Student Laureate Awards are presented for excellence in classroom and extracurricular activities.

Faulkner, a Springfield High School graduate, said she was excited by being chosen "because I've worked a lot with the professor who nominated me and I have a lot of respect for him."

History professor Jeff Rice, who also is an adviser in Northwestern's college of arts and sciences, nominated Faulkner for the honor.

"All my peers at Northwestern are incredible scholars," she said. "So many people here could have received this honor."

Each honoree Nov. 6 will receive a medallion, an honorarium check and certificate of achievement. This is the 36th year that students will be honored by the academy.

Faulkner said the \$250 check will be welcome too.

"I need a little extra help to get through paying for college," she said.

She said she hopes to have a job in Washington, D.C. next year. She worked for the Center for American Progress, a Washington-based think tank, this summer.

"These students have exhibited a personal commitment to excel as seen by their remarkable academic accomplishments," said Thomas Johnson, chancellor of the Lincoln Academy, in a news release. "They serve as role models to other Illinois students. With hard-working and dedicated young leaders such as these, Illinois and the rest of the nation can look forward to a bright future."

The Lincoln Academy, unique among the 50 states, was established 46 years ago to honor Illinois' most distinguished citizens with the state's highest award, the Order of Lincoln. The ceremony honoring those laureates is in April in Urbana.

Chris Dettro can be reached at 788-1510.

Student laureates for 2010 from area colleges or from the Springfield area

School, Student, Hometown

Blackburn College, Evan Jackson, Carlinville

Illinois College, Megan Kruse, Petersburg

Lincoln College, Alexandra Williams, Lincoln

MacMurray College, Kelli Ruppel, Chandlerville

Millikin University, Kelsey Lee, Virginia

Northwestern University, Trisha Faulkner, Springfield

University of Illinois Springfield, Kimberly Bartosiak, Bethalto

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