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Coca-Cola Honors Lone Star College-University Park Scholar Gold Award Lauds Scholarship & Service

HOUSTON (March 29, 2019) – The Coca-Cola Academic Team has named Lone Star College-University Park student Christina Ware as a 2019 Coca-Cola Academic Team Gold Scholar. Ware is one of only 50 students nationwide to be named a Gold Scholar.

The Coca-Cola Academic Team program is sponsored by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation and is administered by Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society. Coca-Cola Academic Scholars will be honored during Phi Theta Kappa's annual convention, PTK Catalyst, April 4-6 in Orlando, Florida.

In addition to recognizing 50 Gold Scholars each year, the Coca-Cola Academic Team also annually recognizes 50 Silver and 50 Bronze Scholars with nearly \$200,000 in scholarships. Students are nominated by their college administrators and are selected based on outstanding academic rigor, leadership achievements and engagement in college and community service.

"We are very proud of Christina and thrilled she was recognized as a Coca-Cola Academic Team Gold Scholar," said Dr. Shah Ardalan, LSC-University Park president. "Her hard work at LSC-University Park and with Phi Theta Kappa will take her far. Scholarships like these are integral to the success of students reaching their graduation and career goals, which ultimately builds a stronger community."

Ware will earn her Associate of Arts degree with highest honors from LSC-University Park in May. She is a member of the Beta Upsilon Nu Chapter of PTK at LSC-University Park and also actively volunteers with the Honors College. She plans to matriculate to a four-year university to earn a bachelor's degree with an emphasis on social policy and mathematics.

"I'm very thankful to God that I have won this award," said Ware. "I believe that my diligence in college has been rewarded. My passion for learning and research as well as my volunteering service through the Honors College and other outreach organizations has made my application stand out."

Ware also wrote an essay about the importance of education and volunteering in her life that garnered attention from the academic award team.

In addition to the Coca-Cola honor, she won the AP Capstone Award this year and last year, she participated in the National Model United Nations (NMUN) in New York. AP Capstone is an innovative diploma program that equips students with independent research, collaborative teamwork and communication skills increasingly valued by colleges. NMUN annually draws participants from more than 130 UN Member States to address global issues and through the world's largest university-level Model UN helps students hone skills in diplomacy, negotiation, critical thinking, compromise, public speaking, writing and research.

"The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation has a long history of providing financial assistance to outstanding students at community colleges," said Jane Hale Hopkins, President of the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation. "We are proud to partner with Phi Theta Kappa and make it possible for deserving students to achieve their educational goals."

Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladner, President and CEO of Phi Theta Kappa, added: "We thank the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation for recognizing these student leaders and for investing in their futures. Scholarships like these are integral to the success of these students in reaching their educational and career goals."

Ware's success and that of thousands of other students bear testament to the value and return on investment of modern community colleges. LSC-University Park offers students an affordable option for postsecondary studies in state-of-the-art facilities that demonstrate the college's culture of innovation. Learn more at LoneStar.edu/UP.

Established in 2012, LSC-University Park has been recognized as one of the fastest growing and most innovative institutions of higher education in the country. Bolstered by industry partnerships and state-of-the-art facilities like its Energy and Manufacturing Institute; Center for Science & Innovation; Innovation Lab including a Geology Rock Wall as well as its new, one-of-the-kind live manufacturing line, the college offers certification training in many of the leading, high-demand industries like energy and manufacturing. For more information about LSC-University Park, please visit LoneStar.edu/UP or call 281.290.2600.

Lone Star College offers high-quality, low-cost academic transfer and career training education to 99,000 students each semester. LSC is training tomorrow's workforce today and redefining the community college experience to support student success. Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., serves as chancellor of LSC, the largest institution of higher education in the Houston area with an annual economic impact of \$3 billion. LSC consists of six colleges, 10 centers, two university centers, Lone Star Corporate College and LSC-Online. To learn more, visit LoneStar.edu.

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