Ellenwood First WSU Student to Receive Udall Scholarship

by Rio Fernandes

Rachel Ellenwood was recently selected to receive the prestigious Udall scholarship, becoming the first student from WSU to ever do so.

Ellenwood, a member of the Nez Perce tribe and pre-nursing major, became one of fifty recipients for the highly competitive award. The Udall scholarship is awarded to students with a commitment to issues related to tribal policy, Native American health care, or the environment. Ellenwood was selected from the health sciences category.

She will be receiving a $5,000 scholarship towards tuition and attending a networking session for Udall scholars in August. The session will take place in Tucson and run for five days. Ellenwood will have a chance to meet the other Udall winners as well as various past Udall winners. The all-expenses paid trip will include workshops and Ellenwood is looking forward to it.

"I’m most looking forward to the networking. I want to give WSU a good name and it will give me a chance to collaborate with some other people," Ellenwood said.

The university is celebrating Ellenwood’s accomplishment and placing her on the wall of distinguished scholars inside the Compton Union Building. The “WSU Distinguished Scholars Gallery” features WSU students who have received some of the nation’s most prestigious scholarships, like the Rhodes and Fulbright, and now the Udall.

"It’s a huge honor to be given a plaque on the wall," said Ellenwood. "It’ll be my plaque until someone else from WSU joins me in winning the scholarship."