

Communication major tapped for Women's Leadership Award

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Jessica Cabrera, of the Bronx, NY, a senior communication studies major in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Alfred University, is the 2008 Women's Excellence in Leadership Award (WELA) recipient. This \$750 award recognizes the achievement of one graduating female student who has demonstrated exceptional leadership while attending Alfred University and who has made a meaningful impact on the campus or in the Alfred community. Cabrera is a daughter of Vivian Martinez of Bronx, NY, and a graduate of Murry Bergtraum High School in the Bronx. Cabrera is recognized for her leadership in many venues. She has been an HEOP (Higher Education Opportunity Program) Mentoring Program and Reunion Coordinator for Alfred University. She is also a Drawn to Diversity director and a member of the Diversity Education Committee and University Judicial Board. Amy Jacobson, director of the Women's Leadership Center, said, "Jessica Cabrera has made an amazing impact on this campus. She demonstrates leading by setting her priorities, making practical inroads toward larger goals, and by encouraging others. She always sets a positive tone, whatever she's involved with -- I greatly respect that." One of Jessica's greatest accomplishments on the Alfred University campus is creating the organization The Taste Buds during her first year on campus and helping this club grow into the success it has become, now four years later. The Taste Buds is an on-campus organization that brings students of all backgrounds together to cook food from different cultures and areas around the world. The Taste Buds also teaches students how to cook. "I have had the pleasure to witness my little idea flourish into something beautiful. Through the Taste Buds I have evolved in so many different ways," says Jessica. "I have gained a lot more confidence in public speaking, running meetings, delegating tasks, working in a team, time management and realizing what my passion is." After she graduates in May, Cabrera will be returning to Columbia University's Medical School (where she has worked in the past) this summer for an internship through the NASPA (National Association of Student Personnel Administrators) Fellows Program. In the fall she plans to be in graduate school earning her master's degree in higher education administration. There were also two runners-up for the WELA award, Callie Kimmel and Kellee-Sue Henry. Both of these women were awarded \$100 in recognition of their accomplishments. Kimmel is a junior art & design major. She is a graduate of Hampton High School and a daughter of Frederick and Janet Rimmel of Allison Park, PA. Some of her leadership roles include becoming the co-creative director for the Creative Arts Therapy Club and co-chairman for Relay for Life, an organization that raises money for cancer survivors, patients, and their families. Henry is a junior psychology and communication studies major. She is a graduate of Lincoln High School and a daughter of Egbert and Dorrell Henry of Yonkers, NY. She has proved her leadership in many ways around campus including becoming a resident assistant her freshman year, a manager of the Knight Club, and a member of the Women's Leadership Academy. This year's WELA committee included members of the Women's Leadership Center Advisory Board, "incredibly accomplished women," said Jacobson. She also noted the women of the board were "moved and impressed by all of the applications, which speaks of the caliber of women we have on campus." Selected committee members included Jacobson; Christine Kulp, AU class of '71, Beth Judson, AU class of '82, and Teri Knopf, AU class of '88, all members of the Alfred University Board of Trustees; Dr. Sylvia Bryant, executive director of capital campaigns; Suzanne Harwood, AU class of '69; Jessica Gottlieb, AU class of '98; and Amy Karle, AU class of '02.