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Subject: Local Student Receives Honors
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Included below is a press release regarding Heather Graham of Manistee, a Pharmacy student at Ferris State University. Further information is available by contacting Leah Nixon, assistant director of News Services.

For Immediate Release
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Leah Nixon
Ferris State University
Assistant Director of News Services
leahnixon@ferris.edu, (231) 591-5604

Educating patients about medication earns local student RESPy Award

BIG RAPIDS – Heather Graham of Manistee, a third-year pharmacy student in Ferris State University’s College of Pharmacy, was a recent recipient of the Pharmacy Times/Wal-Mart RESPy Award.

Graham received the award for her commitment to providing care for patients through her work with professional public health-related activities. With only eight recipients a year, this national award comes with a scholarship and an internship offer with Wal-Mart’s corporate office.

RESPy, which stands for Respect, Excellence and Service in Pharmacy, is presented to the student who has made a difference in his or her community by demonstrating excellence in pharmaceutical care. Graham’s public work with diabetes screenings and heartburn earned her a nomination from assistant professor of Pharmacy at Ferris, Nabila Ahmed-Sarwar.

According to Dr. Ahmed, Graham was nominated for her commitment to pharmacy beyond the classroom. “Heather has demonstrated a continued commitment not only to developing as a pharmacy professional, but also to promoting public health issues.”

“It meant a lot to be nominated by Dr. Ahmed and to have the support from the College of Pharmacy faculty,” said Graham. “I didn’t need the award after I was told I was nominated by the college; I was grinning ear to ear.”

Now a student on the Kalamazoo campus, Graham stays involved with the Big Rapid’s campus through the Academy of Student Pharmacists, the student chapter of the American Pharmacists Association. Their initiative, Operation Diabetes, inspired Graham to offer diabetes screenings to the community.

“I organized two glucose test screenings by myself and helped to organize a third,” said Graham. “We screened a total of 100 patients.”

Graham is a member of the American Society of Health Systems Pharmacists, the American Pharmacists Association/Academy of Student Pharmacists, Phi Lambda Sigma, Rho Chi and Omicron Delta Kappa National Honor Society.

Graham was featured in January's issue of Pharmacy Times and will officially be presented the RESPy Award on May 9 at the Honors Convocation for the College of Pharmacy.

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Megan Dusnik
Marketing and Communications Assistant
FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY
NEWS SERVICES AND MEDIA RELATIONS
UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT AND MARKETING
420 Oak Street, Prakken Building 108
Big Rapids, Michigan 49307
Phone: (231) 591-2373
Fax: (231) 591-2985

Assistant Director of News Services
Leah Nixon
Phone: (231) 591-5604
E-mail: LeahNixon@ferris.edu