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LINDENWOOD

Humanics wins national community service award

American Humanics received a national community service award at the American Humanics Management Institute Jan. 2-5, in Kansas City, Mo.

American Humanics is a certification program that prepares students for jobs in non-profit organizations, with an emphasis in management. With the certification, a student can pursue a job with a service organization, such as Girl Scouts or the YMCA, while also earning a bachelor's degree.

Lindenwood recruits students from across the country for Humanics, which was established in 1991 and currently has 80 participants. Several years ago, the school started the "Million Dollar Scholarship Program" to help students interested in a service career.

"I think American Humanics gives students a chance to get involved in service activities that will give back to their communities," said Jack Beckerle, American Humanics program director. "This organization presents students with the ideal opportunity to help people in need."

Recipients of the "Outstanding Community Service Award" are determined by the number of community service hours per each American Humanics student for the previous academic year, the effectiveness and impact of that service, and an outline for future service projects.

Nearly 800 students from more than 80 universities in the United States attended the management institute. Faculty members Beckerle, Sheryl Guffey, the Executive director of American Humanics, and Kate Mansfield, the campus director, accompanied the 35 Lindenwood students.

Among the largest service projects of the Lindenwood chapter were the annual Blood Drive, which brought in 97 blood units for the American Red Cross, the Crisis Nursery drive that collected toys for kids at Christmas and the Boys and Girls Club Halloween party.

Humanics also participated in Scouting for Food, the River City cleanup, sending money to Backstoppers for the anniversary of Sept. 11 and several other projects.

"This community is so blessed to have the dedication and hard work from these individuals," said Sharon Vines of AHMI. "I am amazed at the hours that these students spend alone and as a group servicing those who need help."

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