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Two students from Lindenwood University's School of Communications were among just 50 in the U.S. selected for the 2015 Most Promising Multicultural Students program sponsored by the American Advertising Federation.

Seannell Chambers and Andrea Ruano, both corporate communications majors in the Advertising, Public Relations, and Corporate Communications program, were selected by a panel of judges from the communications industry; each had to submit a comprehensive application package to be considered. The federation has 200 college chapters nationwide, members of which were eligible to apply for the award.

The annual program is an initiative by the federation to promote diversity and inclusion in the industry. The winners will be flown to New York City Feb. 1 by the federation for four days of industry immersion, including workshops and agency visits and a recruiter's expo.

Krista Tucciarone, chair of Lindenwood's Advertising, Public Relations, and Corporate Communications program, said this is the first time a student from Lindenwood has been selected for the award.

"Lindenwood University has experienced a first in the Advertising, Public Relations: Corporate Communications program," Tucciarone said. "The AAF is the nation's oldest national advertising trade association, and the only association representing all facets of the advertising industry, so to be honored by this organization lends ethos to the program."



Chambers

Ruano

Chambers said she was not expecting success because of the intense competition for the award. When she received the congratulatory email from the federation, it was an exciting moment, to be sure.

"I became so hysterical that I didn't know what to do," Chambers said. "All I remember was thanking God and frantically calling my mother to tell her the great news. Let's just say, I cannot wait until February!"

Similarly, Ruano said she was pleasantly surprised by the notification.

I couldn't believe that I had been selected among hundreds of applications to be honored as a 'Most Promising Multicultural Student," she said. "It took me a while to process the great news."

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