



News Release
Somerset Community College
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SCC student Jeff Buis of Liberty named winner of prestigious McMillan Scholarship Award

Jeff Buis, a student currently enrolled in second-year studies in the Somerset Community College Physical Therapist Assistant Program, has been named the recipient of the 2009 Mary McMillan Scholarship Award by the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). Buis of Liberty will be presented the award at a ceremony at the APTA National Convention and Exposition in Baltimore, Maryland, in June.

Buis, who returned to college through the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Program, recently spoke as an SCC student representative at a press conference outlining the KCTCS Career Transitions Initiative.

The Mary McMillan Scholarship Award honors McMillan, who was a dedicated pioneer of physical therapy in the United States and abroad, the founding President of the American Physical Therapy Association, and an esteemed teacher. The intent of the award is to recognize students who exhibit superior scholastic ability and potential for future professional contribution. Awards are made on a competitive basis and recipients are selected based upon superior scholastic performance, past productivity, evidence of potential contribution to physical therapy and service to the American Physical Therapy Association.

Buis is well known, having served two terms in the Kentucky House of Representatives, with a number of prestigious committee assignments. Among these were the Judiciary, Labor and Industry and Agriculture and Natural Resources Committees. He is active in his community, serving as a PRIDE Spring Clean-Up Team Leader and Co-Founder of the South East Casey County and Evona Volunteer Fire Departments. He has devoted his time and energy to many worthwhile causes including the Mill Springs Civil War Battlefield Preservation Society, the United Way, the Central Kentucky Blood Center, the American Heart Association and the American Cancer Society.

Buis currently serves as President of his PTA class and served as secretary for the SCC Physical Therapy Student Organization. In 2008, he served as the coordinator for the program's efforts in the Marquette Challenge, a fundraiser for the Foundation for Physical Therapy. SCC was the winning PTA Program nationally in this event and he

accepted the award on the program's behalf at the APTA National Conference in San Antonio in June, 2008.

In October, 2008, he was elected to a national office as a APTA Student Assembly Board of Directors Delegate. He has travelled to national conferences in San Jose, California and Las Vegas, Nevada, on behalf of physical therapist assistant students. In the spring of 2009, he coordinated an effort to provide texts related to the history of the physical therapy profession to local public libraries at no cost. Buis serves on the PTA Program's Advisory Board and was named the Outstanding Student Mentor by current first-year students. He has also received the program's student awards for leadership and professionalism and was named the Outstanding SCC Physical Therapy Student Organization Member for 2008-2009.

Buis has participated in a number of events through the PTA Program including teaching students during the Governor's Minority Scholarship Preparation Program, Shoeless Sunday, Bethany House Events, and events for the elderly during Christmas. He is active in the Kentucky Physical Therapy Association and drafted the charter for a statewide Student Special Interest Group, presenting the proposal to board members in the summer of 2008. He was also responsible for securing recognition for the SCC PTA Program from the Kentucky House of Representatives and a Governor's Proclamation for Physical Therapy Month in Kentucky. He was recently published in the APTA newsletter the *Pulse* in an article discussing fundraising and in the Kentucky Physical Therapy Association's Newsletter discussing the importance of political activism.

In his nomination letter, Dr. Steve Hammons, PT, noted: "While I envision Jeff becoming an outstanding physical therapist assistant, I also anticipate that he may act as an advocate and policy shaper for the profession in the APTA and legislative arenas."

Hammons went on to say that this award is "highly prestigious and a true honor for both the student and the SCC PTA Program." Buis is the college's first nominee and winner of the national award. He will be recognized at the PTA Program's annual Open House and Student Recognition Event on April 2 and at SCC Honors Night on April 24.

Buis is scheduled to graduate with an Associate of Applied Science Degree from the PTA Program in May, 2009. He resides in Liberty with his wife, Mary Lee.

Somerset Community College is a comprehensive two-year institution of higher education. SCC has campuses in Somerset and London, centers in Clinton, McCreary, Casey and Russell Counties. The website is www.somerset.kctcs.edu. Call for admission and registration information toll free at 1-877-629-9722.

KCTCS serves the Commonwealth through 16 community and technical college districts that form a seamless system of 62 campuses open or under construction. KCTCS colleges change lives by providing accessible and affordable education and training through academic and technical associate degrees; diploma and certificate programs in occupational fields; pre-baccalaureate education; adult, continuing and developmental

education; customized training for business and industry; and distance learning. For more information, visit www.kctcs.edu.

Photo Outline:

Jeff Buis of Liberty will receive the American Physical Therapy Association's Mary McMillan Scholarship award at a ceremony in Baltimore, Maryland in June. He plans to graduate from the Somerset Community College Physical Therapy Assistant Program in May.