

SPEAKER

PLATFORM MECHANICS

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HEALTHY CHOICES

Quick, Easy and Simple

WHAT MAKES YOU UNIQUE?

NSA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

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Motivating People to Change Their Lives

MEET THE

2010 NSA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

BY LAUREN AIKEN

Every year the NSA Foundation awards four \$5,000 scholarships to outstanding students who are enrolled in four-year accredited colleges or universities, and are majoring in speech or a directly related field. This year's scholarship committee, chaired by Jane Jenkins Herlong, CSP, and composed of Linda Swindling, CSP, JD, Patrick Henry and Anne Walker, CCE, MED, proudly presents the 2010 recipients.

The following individuals were selected from 65 applicants based on a variety of criteria, including their academic excellence, financial need and burning desire to make professional speaking part of their careers. Their stories are unique, but they share the common ambition to serve their communities and devote their lives to the betterment of others.





SHANNA DECKER

CAVETT ROBERT SCHOLARSHIP

School: Winona State University, Minnesota.

Double Major: Business Administration & Management of Information Systems

What surprises people most about your story?

When I was seven years old, I was diagnosed with Osteogenic Sarcoma, a type of bone cancer.

People are shocked when I take off my prosthetic and explain my Rotationplasty, a unique procedure where part of the leg, usually including the knee, is amputated and the healthy part is rotated so that the foot is facing backwards but all nerves and arteries remain intact. Basically, my ankle now acts as my knee.

What thoughts were going through your head before the surgery?

I wasn't thrilled, of course, but at the same time I knew the surgery had to be done and I accepted it. I wondered how I would be able to do everything and felt alone at times, which is part of the reason I was inspired to provide support to other cancer patients.

How do you prepare for speaking engagements?

I speak to such a wide array of audiences, so sometimes I will sit on the plane, gather my thoughts and determine how to best present my story to that genre. Most of my material comes from living my life day to day and speaking genuinely, so I usually don't need much preparation.

What inspired you to start Hearts of Hope?

I founded Hearts of Hope, a project where I visit patients and deliver care packages, when I was in high school. It's more than just giving a child a gift—it's about letting them know that I'm real and I understand what they are going through.

What is your most memorable experience working with the Mayo Clinic?

The Mayo Clinic has been my family for the past 13 years. I have such a plethora of memories, but my most memorable would have to be the keynote speech I presented at their largest fundraiser campaign this past May. I was selected to share my story and express thanks for their service and care. They give life to people like me who return to support other patients.

If you could only give one piece of advice to cancer patients, what would it be?

Live one day at a time and remember that love is greater than anything we will ever endure.

How did you choose the name for your website, www.BecauseLoveWins.com?

In 1 Corinthians 13 it says, "Love is patient, love is kind..." and "love never fails." I've seen this message time and

time again throughout my life and I honestly believe that if you have love in your life, nothing else matters.

What are your plans after college?

I have big dreams to run my own foundation and create a center where families touched by children with cancer can go to be together and know that they are not alone.



Decker stands beside her prosthetic leg.