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Laurier Brantford student receives 3M National Student Fellowship Award

BRANTFORD – **Dammee Sero**, a fourth-year Human Rights and Human Diversity student at Wilfrid Laurier University's Brantford campus, is the recipient of a **2016 3M National Student Fellowship Award**, presented by 3M Canada and the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (STLHE).

The award honours undergraduate students in Canada who have demonstrated qualities of outstanding leadership and embrace a vision where the quality of their educational experience can be enhanced in academia and beyond. Sero is one of 10 winners from across the country to receive a \$5,000 award, registration at the STLHE conference and participation in a day-long retreat held in London, Ontario.

"I am extremely pleased that Ms. Sero's work has been honoured by 3M and given this level of national recognition," said **Heidi Northwood**, dean, Faculty of Liberal Arts. "It speaks to the quality of our students and the many strengths of the Human Rights and Human Diversity program – excellent and innovative teaching, varied opportunities for international engagement and a very active student association and undergraduate research conference."

Sero came to Laurier from a refugee camp in Kenya through the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) in 2012. After adjusting to life at Laurier, Sero became involved with Laurier's WUSC student group, helping new students from refugee camps transition to university life in Canada. Sero is also an advocate for helping young women in Kenyan refugee camps gain access to a safe education. Over the summer, she will participate in a Human Rights and Human Diversity organized internship in a Ghana working at a non-governmental organization.

"I feel honoured, excited and humbled to receive this prestigious fellowship award," said Sero. "This recognition is step toward more opportunities, learning and growth."

Stacey Wilson-Forsberg and **Andrew Robinson**, associate professors in Laurier's Human Rights and Human Diversity program, both nominated Sero for the award.

"As the nominator, I can attest to how proud the Human Rights and Human Diversity faculty members and students are of Dammee's accomplishments," said Wilson-Forsberg. "She is a delightful, humble human being who without a doubt will make her mark on this world."

"I'd like to think that Dammee's achievement is both her personal achievement and a collective achievement of so many of the students and faculty in the Human Rights and Human Diversity program who have embraced her since she arrived in 2012," said Robinson. "This achievement confirms my belief in Laurier Brantford as a community where people look out for each other."

Sero is the first Laurier student to receive this award.