MAP Honors More Than 350 Minority Students at 35th Annual Ceremony

University of West Georgia’s Multicultural Achievement Program recently hosted its 35th academic awards ceremony, honoring minority and international students for scholastic excellence and achievement. The event, held Tuesday, March 26 in the Campus Center Ballroom, honored more than 350 UWG students with GPAs of 3.3 and higher.

“It’s an immense honor to celebrate our minority students for their scholastic achievements,” said Ashley Lewis, director of MAP and student diversity. “This year, more than 1,000 students met the requirement for the academic achievement award. Our students work very hard throughout the year, so it’s important that we take the time to encourage and support them in their academic endeavors.”

Awards were presented to UWG students in four categories: The Academic Excellence Award for minority juniors and seniors with a 3.75 GPA or higher; the Academic Achievement Award for all minority students with a 3.3 GPA or higher; the Helena Harbridge International Student-Athlete Award for a student with the best combination of athletic performance, classroom achievement, team work, team spirit and community involvement; and the College of Arts and Humanities graduate fellowship for three underrepresented minority students.

MAP, sponsored by UWG’s Center for Diversity and Inclusion, is just one of many programs to provide various resources that contribute to the improvement of retention, graduation and progression of underrepresented populations.

“UWG's peaceful environment and the Center for Diversity and Inclusion have taught and supported me to branch out of my comfort zone,” said UWG junior and award recipient Ekemini Udom. “The campus community helped me grow and develop as a student leader by encouraging me to be confident in what I do and how I do it. I am humbled by the experience of being a student leader because it has taught me how to effectively work with students, and now I have a passion to help them as well.”

This year’s achievement was extra special for Udom as she accepted her award with 19 other members of UWG’s chapter of National Council of Negro Women, ending on a high note for National Women’s History Month after the chapter hosted five campus events supported by a grant from the Lumina Foundation.

In addition to UWG students, eight Carrollton-area high school juniors and seniors received high school achievement awards for their outstanding academic performance.

“The Center for Diversity and Inclusion is committed to student success and connecting students to the community,” said Lewis. “This event is an example of how our students are excelling and serving as role models for future students.”