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For Immediate Release

GSU Lincoln Laureate Honored

University Park, Illinois, November 5, 2010 - Each year an outstanding senior from each of the four-year degree granting institutions of higher learning in Illinois is named a Student Laureate of The Lincoln Academy of Illinois.

This year's Lincoln Laureate from Governors State University is Tamara S. Lewis of Chicago. Lewis exemplifies the characteristics of Lincoln Laureates who are chosen for their commitment to the principles of democracy and humanity as embodied by Abraham Lincoln. She was also honored for her outstanding academic achievement and her profound and generous service to others.

On November 6, Lewis and the other student laureates will participate in a ceremony recognizing their achievement at the Old State Capitol in Springfield, Illinois. As a senior majoring in social work at GSU, Lewis has earned a 3.8 GPA. She is a member of the Phi Alpha Honor Society, for students studying social work, and Alpha Sigma Lamda, the National Adult Learners Honors Society.

Lewis' compassion for others turned to action in May, when Lewis was integral to success of the "All Nations for Haiti" Fashion Show at Governors State University. Lewis helped develop, promote, and produce a show, which involved students and staff representing cultures and ethnicities from around the world to raise money to help the victims of the earthquake in Haiti.

Lewis currently interns at the Gamaliel of Metro Chicago, which focuses on faith-based community organizing, and previously interned in Congresswomen Debbie Halverson's office.

When she learned she was named GSU's Lincoln Laureate, Lewis was both surprised and honored. "I was raised to do service and to help others. I had not thought I was doing great stuff. It is like getting an award for doing what you should do."

Lewis was nominated for the honor by Dr. Phyllis West, Assistant Professor of Social Work at GSU, who "absolutely admires Tamara."

She is that person who is willing to step out of her comfort zone in order to serve others," added West. "Tamara does not mind being uncomfortable if it means getting the job done and helping others."