

## Running Start students' grades, work honored

A pair of high school students in the Running Start program at Clark College have been named to the 2006 All-Washington Academic Team, based on academic prowess and community work.

Their nominations earned them monetary rewards and a shot at national honors.

**Mariah Acton** of Vancouver, who hopes to become an attorney, and **Sarah Craciun** of Brush Prairie, pursuing a pharmacy career, will be recognized March 2 at the South

Puget Sound Community College campus in Olympia.

The All-Washington team program, with 68 members, is sponsored by the state's 34 technical and community colleges and Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society of two-year colleges.

Acton and Craciun will each receive a medal and \$750 in scholarships supported by KeyBank of Washington and the Northwest Education Loan Association. Both also will receive a \$500 scholarship from the Clark College Foundation.

As part of the Washington team, they will compete for nomination to the All-USA Academic Team sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa, the USA Today newspaper and the American Association of Community Colleges. The team honors 60 outstanding two-year college students nationwide each year.

Besides her stellar school work, Acton was appointed to the Clark County Youth Commission in May, and served as a delegate to the University of Pennsylvania Model United Nations Conference last year.

Craciun has excelled in school while serving weekly at the Veterans Administration Medical Center's in-state pharmacy, packaging medications for veterans. She tutors college chemistry students and has received an American Association of University Women award for mathematics achievement.