Skyview senior wins Marshall award

By JOHN BRANTON
Columbian staff writer

How does she find time to do it all and still do her homework?

Renata Fusso, a senior at Skyview High School, was named Thursday as the winner of the 2008 Gen. George C. Marshall Youth Leadership Award.

The award comes with a $1,000 scholarship and other benefits. It goes to the high-school-age student deemed best at showing leadership and initiative, motivating and standing up for the rights of others and being a role model.

Fusso was one of 18 students nominated around the county.

“Renata pursues a wide range of activities, leading her to contribute to the community in many ways,” Beth Houston, coordinator of the Clark County Youth Commission Program, said in a statement.

Houston nominated Fusso for the award, which is presented by SEH America.

It's one of the Celebrate Freedom programs organized by the Vancouver National Historic Reserve Trust.

Established in 2000, the award honors the legacy of Marshall, who was U.S. Army chief of staff during World War II, secretary of state under President Harry Truman and the 1953 Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

The general was headquartered at the Vancouver Barracks from 1936 to 1938 while he commanded the Fifth Brigade that served in Oregon and Washington.

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Fusso volunteers at a nursing home, library and free clinic, the statement said. She's part of Steps Leadership Team of Clark County and a member of the Clark County Youth Commission.

She's enrolled in Running Start at Clark College and has worked to raise awareness of teenage obesity and to promote healthier choices.

Next fall, she plans to study nursing at the University of Portland.