

**PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE  
AWARD**

**Melissa R. Whited**



**B.S. Clinical Science /  
Physical Therapy**  
*Nutrition Minor*

I am a senior physical therapy major, originally from rural Russell, Pennsylvania. I was drawn to Ithaca College because of its excellent physical therapy program and its immense difference from my hometown. Over the past four years, I have been anything but disappointed in what Ithaca College has offered me by means of educational opportunities and personal growth. Here at IC, I have been able to explore my interests in nutrition and sign language, participate in a group independent study of ACL injuries and study under the outstanding physical therapy faculty. In addition, IC has allowed me to travel and expand my horizons by attending a clinical affiliation in Seattle, Washington, participating in work trips through Habitat for Humanity and Protestant Community in rural Kentucky and Pennsylvania, and studying eastern medicine with the upcoming study abroad trip to China.

The highlight of my time at Ithaca College was having the opportunity to participate in Hands of Praise signing choir, a Christian group that performs American Sign Language (ASL) to music. I knew nothing about ASL when I started freshman year, but after one semester I grew to love the language, took sign language classes, and spent the last 2 years as director of the group. It has been an enriching to learn the culture of the deaf community and share ASL with the Tompkins County churches and community members.

***Academic Achievements and Personal Highlights***

- Phi Kappa Phi Academic Honor Society
- Dean's List
- Duncan Hines Nutrition Scholarship Recipient
- National Merit Scholarship Recipient
- President's Scholarship Recipient
- Nutrition Science Minor
- IC Hands of Praise Director
- Protestant Community Council  
Fellowship Co-Chair  
Public Relations Chair

*The Professional Excellence Award is given in recognition of undergraduate student(s) who exhibit excellence in one or more of the following areas: leadership, clinical practice, service, professionalism, academics, or scholarship.*

