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### Outstanding student leader announced

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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Dec. 16, 2009

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**OUTSTANDING STUDENT LEADER ANNOUNCED**

**MISSOULA –**

Ashleen Williams has been named the fall 2009 Outstanding Student Leader at The University of Montana. The award is presented by UM's Center for Leadership Development.

Williams, a junior in political science from **Snohomish, Wash.**, was selected from 14 students who were nominated by students, staff and faculty for demonstrating excellence in service, ethical and creative leadership, diversity and impact. Each semester a panel of judges from across campus reviews the nominations and selects the award recipient.

Williams was nominated for her depth of involvement and dedication to the University, especially as a senator for the Associated Students of UM, where she serves on multiple committees. As a student of Arabic language and culture, she also continually reaches out to the Arab community on campus by volunteering as a weekly English conversation partner, Arab tutor and student educator on the Middle East.

Williams is involved with organizing events for Democratic campus groups such as Montana Equality Now and Students for Choice. As a freshman, she served as an intern with the U.S. Senate Finance Committee, chaired by U.S. Sen. Max Baucus.

Also nominated for their outstanding leadership at UM were Chad Abbott, Cassandra Abel, Michael Blanchard, Tina Brown, Breland Cederberg, Raymond Davis, Ian Finch, Dana Gullickson, Mark Mayer, Andrew Salonen, Emily Schembra, Alaina Strehlow and Randy Umets.

All nominees for the Outstanding Student Leader Award will be recognized at the Spring Student Recognition Ceremony on April 27, 2010.

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