NCAA names CU medical student a finalist for Woman of the Year

Kelsey Ward was a standout college swimmer, scholar and leader

AURORA, Colo. (Sept. 21, 2011) – Kelsey Ward, a first-year student at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, is one of just nine national finalists for the NCAA Woman of the Year Award.

Ward was on the Drury University women’s swimming team, which won three national championships in a row. In her college swimming career, Ward was part of eight title-winning relay teams.

Along with student group activities, she also found time to volunteer for Special Olympics and various community and charitable efforts. Her team “adopted” a young boy with muscular dystrophy who loved to swim.

Even with that time commitment, she maintained a 3.97 grade point average, earning degrees in Biology and Chemistry.

She describes herself as “focused.”

“Medical school is challenging,” Ward says of her CU experience. “But the students here are kind of like a team. We help each other out.”

The NCAA sent a video crew to the Anschutz Medical Campus on Saturday for hours of taping in preparation for the award ceremony.

More than 140 students initially were nominated for the Woman of the Year honor. That group was pared to 30 and now nine. The winner will be announced Oct. 16 at an NCAA event in Indianapolis. Ward already knows she can’t make it to the ceremony – the focused student has to study for a big exam.

Faculty at the University of Colorado School of Medicine work to advance science and improve care. These faculty members include physicians, educators and scientists at University of Colorado Hospital, Children’s Hospital Colorado, Denver Health, National Jewish Health, and the Denver Veterans Affairs Medical Center. The school is located on the Anschutz Medical Campus, one of four campuses in the University of Colorado system. To learn more about the
medical school’s care, education, research and community engagement, please visit its web site. For additional news and information, please visit the University of Colorado Denver newsroom.