



### H.E.R.O. Recipient 2018

Lakin Smith will be graduating from Lake Tahoe Community College this summer, earning a degree in Math. She will be continuing her studies in the fall at UC-Davis, where she will major in Computer Science and Engineering. Once she's completed her education, Lakin wants to begin a career with a company that develops artificial intelligence. She also intends to become fluent in three languages: Japanese, Mandarin, and Korean. Lakin has faced some daunting challenges as she has pursued her education at LTCC. Lakin's parents both have major medical issues and so are unable to help her financially. Their ongoing health issues have also proven to be a challenge for Lakin, as she continues to offer them support while pursuing her education as a full-time student. In addition, Lakin has been attending LTCC as a Nevada resident, which has required her to use her financial aid grant funds to pay for her classes, rather than have those funds available for books and other educational expenses. She recently moved to California in order to help establish in-state residency at Davis, but this will not take effect for her first year, so Lakin will still be required to pay out-of-state tuition next school year. Lakin has been a work-study student in the LTCC Instruction Office, and she has also been very involved in student life on campus. She is President of Student Senate at LTCC this year, and in this capacity has begun a project for Senate members to volunteer at Barton Memorial Hospital. In addition to her work on Student Senate, Lakin has been a member of the LTCC Math Club, Science Club, Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society, and Circle K. Lakin's determination to succeed and pursue her educational and career goals, despite financial and personal obstacles, make her a perfect H.E.R.O. award recipient.