

### **Sara Croft, Wins 2013-2014 Outstanding EXL Student Award**

The Outstanding EXL Student Award is given annually to a student who holds a distinguished record of service in the EXL Scholars Program. After previously taking an EXL course, Sara Croft knew that she would enjoy the hands-on learning environment provided in her University Studies major and Organizational Communication minor courses. Croft quickly learned that EXL courses were not only fun, but they also provided experiences that would prove to be useful outside of the classroom. Croft applied her newfound set of skills to her internship at the June Anderson Center for Women and Non-traditional Students. Reflecting on this, she stated, "On the first day of my internship I thought to myself, 'I'm really glad I took those courses,' because my boss asked me to give an hour-long presentation in a few weeks. That right there showed me that the things we do in EXL courses actually are a part of life." What Croft enjoys most about EXL courses, however, is the family environment that the program creates for its students and faculty, adding "Before I started taking EXL courses, I felt like just another face in the crowd. But now after taking these types of courses, I feel like professors and students notice and listen to my opinions. This was a great confidence booster for myself based on where I was a year ago." Those who know Sara agree that she has been an exemplary student on MTSU's campus. A fellow student who nominated Croft stated, "Creative and compassionate, she truly desires to learn, help others, and make a difference, both on campus and within the larger community. Sara is active on-campus, lending support to various groups, interning at the June Anderson Center, participating in the QEP focus group, and presenting at leadership seminars. Sara is an adept leader, and the selection committee would be hard-pressed to find another candidate with Sara's personal blend of logic, empathy, and foresight."