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Former Student Council Chair Honored with Community Service Award

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Former Student Council Chair Honored with Community Service Award

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U.S. Navy photo by Javier Chagoya

By MC2 Victoria Ochoa

NPS President retired Vice Adm. Ronald A. Route, left, presents Meteorology and Oceanography student, and past President's Student Council Chair, Lt. Cmdr. Colleen McDonald with the Summer Quarter's Superior Service Award, one of 18 awardees honored for their academic, research and service achievements during the Summer Quarter Awards ceremony, Sept. 15.

"Those who volunteer, myself included, do not do it for the recognition, and so most people have no idea about how you spend your free time," said McDonald. "It's so nice to be recognized for all the things you do on a normal basis."

McDonald places a high priority on serving others and has a strong sense of community, she says, helping others in any way she can.

"Through helping others, I have received so much in return. And I have found that others have been willing to help me along my journey," said McDonald. "This award is almost like a capstone to all of the volunteer work I have done over the past two years. It feels good, but now I feel a renewed sense of commitment and obligation to continue my community service."

In addition to her time as Chair of the President's Student Council, McDonald volunteered at the Pacific Grove Natural History Museum, mentored students through the Motivating Others Through Outreach program, and organized and attended NPS' student painting of Dorothy's Kitchen, a homeless shelter in Salinas, all while completing her graduate degree.

"It's been an honor to get involved in the community and on campus over these past two years," said McDonald. "I came away learning so much more than I could have hoped."