

Mom of the Year – Lisa Young

Nominated by her daughter - Jamie Young

THREE REASONS THAT BEST ILLUSTRATE WHY MY MOTHER/MOTHER-FIGURE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS MOM OF THE YEAR

My mom is the hardest working person I know. She has been raising me by herself since I was four years old. She has successfully started, owned, and operated her own small business for almost 10 years now, doing it all by herself. She is the most hardworking and dedicated person I have ever met. 2. My mother sacrificed everything to give me what I have. From day one, she has been my strongest advocate and supporter, doing whatever it takes to get me where I am. She's an Reporting provided by Web Services at Public Affairs | University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Page 3 extremely selfless and kindhearted woman. 3. Being so dedicated to me, my mom really doesn't do a lot of things for herself. One of the biggest reasons I'm nominating her is because after everything she has done for me, she deserves some recognition in return. Going to all my sporting events and dance recitals growing up didn't leave a lot of time for her to actually live her own life, so I want to nominate her to give her a chance at the praise, recognition, and moment in the spotlight she deserves. She stood in the wings for me my whole life, and it's time I do the same.

ACTIVITY, EVENT, OR SITUATION THAT BEST ILLUSTRATES MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY MOTHER/MOTHER-FIGURE

My mom and I like to have what call "mattress parties." Ever since I was little, we'd hop into her bed, put on a movie, and play Connect Four and Sorry. She would always say "Sorrriyy" in a really funny voice any time she knocked one of my pawns away, the sound forever stuck in my head. Even as I got older, we still made time to sit down and play the games together and spend time with one another during our crazy busy lives. If anything reminds me of my mom, it's 100% that.

THE BEST ADVICE MY MOTHER/MOTHER-FIGURE EVER GAVE ME

Since I was a kid, my mom has been telling me "It's not about how you fall, it's about how you get back up that determines who you really are." It's stuck with me my whole life, and I remind myself that everyday.

LOCAL AND/OR THE U OF I COMMUNITY THAT BENEFITED FROM MY MOTHER'S/ MOTHER-FIGURE'S INVOLVEMENT

My mom liked to pretend like she isn't a middle-aged woman and tries to interact heavily on social media. She has been following the U of I social media accounts since I got accepted, it's the whole reason she created an Instagram. Though she hasn't had the time or chance to participate on campus, she is always participating heavily on social media. She is often the one who shares posts with me to inform me of important dates, cool events, or any other updates. She loves being able to interact with my school, even from a hundred miles away.

WHAT MY MOTHER/MOTHER-FIGURE WOULD SAY ABOUT BEING NOMINATED FOR MOM OF THE YEAR

She would most definitely get super red in the face and cry. She's the type of person who cries during movies, cries when she's super excited, and would definitely ball her eyes out if she won.

HOW HAS YOUR MOTHER OR MOTHER FIGURE HELPED YOU NAVIGATE THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC?

As someone with an auto-immune disease, my mom really struggled with the pandemic at first. We both did, but she had to figure out how she was going to keep her business afloat. She helped me navigate the pandemic by leading by example. I copied her actions, used the same tricks and tips she did in order to maintain both of our safety. She has really been my rock throughout the Reporting provided by Web Services at Public Affairs | University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Page 4 pandemic, getting me through some very dark times. She brought the light in for me and continued to motivate me to help me towards my goals.