The Moms Association at Illinois announced the 2021 winners of its annual awards and scholarships.

Mom of the Year Award
Lisa Young of Sheridan, Illinois, received the 14th annual Amelia Alpiner Stern Mom of the Year award. The award gives students an opportunity to honor the support, encouragement and inspiration that their mom provides. Young was nominated by her daughter, Jamie, a sophomore at Illinois. To read Jamie’s nomination visit the “News and Updates” section at union.illinois.edu/PFPO.

Illini Spirit Award
The Response, Evaluation and Crisis Help (REACH) program through the University of Illinois Police Department received the Illini Spirit Award. REACH’s goal is to build a team of social workers who will co-respond with police officers during mental health emergencies to provide better in-the-moment clinical assessments of people experiencing a crisis. Dubbed the Response, Evaluation and Crisis Help (REACH) initiative, the unit will also be tasked to follow up with those community members and make sure that they are connected with long-term care.

Medallion of Honor
Cele Otnes received the Medallion of Honor Award. The Medallion of Honor award was created in 1966. Since 1977, this award has been given to a woman affiliated with the university. Cornelia Otnes “Cele” is an Illinois professor of business administration, advertising, investors in business education and a campus honors faculty. Otnes teaches courses in consumer behavior, retailing, and promotions. Her primary area of research interest is in the study of ritual-based consumer behavior (e.g., gift giving, weddings, Christmas planning), and how advertising and marketing both shape these rituals. She was ranked as “excellent” on the Illinois teacher list from 1994-2004, 2006-2009.

Scholarship Winners
A one-time scholarship of $1,000 was awarded to four full-time students who have successfully completed at least 24 college credit hours. The winners are:

- Mary Katherine Buccheit, senior, Speech and Hearing Science
- Alexa Flores, sophomore, English
- Hannah Spangler, junior, Agriculture Leadership, Education, and Communications
- Isha Tyle, senior, mechanical engineering