



News Release

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[Nancy Livingston](#)
Public Relations
651-779-3222
Fax 651-779-3470

[Century College](#)
3300 Century Avenue North
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

College Student and President Receive National Awards in Philadelphia

Century College student Caleb Anderson of Maplewood and Century President Larry Litecky both received national awards this month in Philadelphia before a crowd of nearly 6,000 college students and officials from across the country.

Anderson received the New Century Scholar award from Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society of two-year colleges. The Exemplary Student of his graduating class at Century, Anderson represented Minnesota in the New Century Scholar competition.

Litecky received the Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction for his support of Phi Theta Kappa.

Century's Alpha Alpha Gamma Chapter also was honored as one of the Top 100 Chapters of Phi Theta Kappa in the country.

This year's awards event was exceptionally large because Phi Theta Kappa and the American Association of Community Colleges for the first time held a joint session at the cavernous Pennsylvania Convention Center. Amy Tan, author of *The Joy Luck Club*, was the keynote speaker.

Anderson's award came with a \$2,000 stipend from the Coca-Cola Foundation. Treasurer of Century's Phi Theta Kappa chapter, Anderson was appointed by Gov. Tim Pawlenty in 2006 to serve as a member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees.

A 2005 graduate of Faith Baptist School on St. Paul's East Side, Anderson attended Century as a Post-Secondary Enrollment Options student for part of his senior year in 2005. Anderson, 21, has worked as a peer tutor at Century, as a lifeguard and swimming instructor at the Maplewood Community Center and as an assistant pre-school teacher at the Maple Tree Child Care Center. Anderson also has been active in Century's Student Senate, debate team and theater. After graduating from Century on May 16, he plans to transfer to a four-year institution and pursue studies in business or law.

Convention keynote speaker Amy Tan, who graduated from a two-year college in California and received the Outstanding Alumni Award from Phi Theta Kappa, told audience members that tuition was \$10 a semester when she was in school. She still remembers the faculty member who told her, after reading her papers, "I think you have something to say." It was a turning point in her life. "That I am a writer astonishes me," said Tan. "Nothing in my background would have led me to believe that I would become a writer. But all things are possible when your hopes are huge."



Photo: Caleb Anderson and President Larry Litecky.