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## NEWS PRESS RELEASE

### **UNT staff member honors co-worker with the naming of a new scholarship to recognize her efforts in diversity**

DENTON (UNT), Texas — Sue Young, University of North Texas administrative assistant, gave her friend and fellow employee, Mary Finley, a one-of-a-kind gift this year — it was a scholarship in Finley’s name to honor her years of commitment to diversity in the university community. Young added, “It is important to me to provide the opportunity for education to everyone, and especially to those who may face discrimination and harassment.”

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Ally Scholarship in Honor of Mary Finley, which is open to all qualified students regardless of sexual orientation, recognizes Finley’s efforts in establishing the Ally Program, which is a program that helps create an environment free of discrimination and harassment for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and ally community on campus. The program creates a welcoming place for persons to go for assistance. The group also promotes inclusiveness and diversity as well as addresses discrimination and harassment issues. Currently there are more than 430 allies and more than 140 honorary allies in the program. The scholarship will be awarded each year to a new, transfer or current undergraduate student.

Young, a founding member of UNT’s Ally Program, is an administrative assistant in the UNT Faculty Senate Office. She is also the UNT Staff Council secretary. In 2004, she was awarded the University Staff Contribution Award.

Finley originally voiced a need for and organized the Ally Program at UNT. Through the efforts of Finley and a group of UNT faculty and staff members, the Ally Program was established in 1999.

Finley, assistant director of the University Union and a UNT staff member for 20 years, says co-founding the Ally Program is her greatest accomplishment. She was the 2004-2005 chair of UNT’s Staff Council. In addition to her other responsibilities, Finley is a trainer for the National Coalition Building Institute.

Finley has served as GLBT coordinator for the Association of College Unions International and was the association’s first ally to serve as chair for GLBT Concerns. She is a past vice president of the Board of Directors for AIDS Services of North Texas and past recipient of that organization’s Outstanding Community Support Award. As a result of her wide-ranging activities, she was awarded the University Staff Contribution Award in 2003.

The first scholarship recipient is Andrew Jones, an undergraduate student pursuing a degree in Anthropology.

Tax-deductible donations to the scholarship can be made to the UNT Foundation by referencing the GLBTA Finley Scholarship. For additional information about donations call 1-800-868-1153 or visit [www.unt.edu/development](http://www.unt.edu/development).

Scholarship applications are available at [www.unt.edu/ally](http://www.unt.edu/ally) or may be picked up in UNT’s Division of Equity and Diversity, in room 175 of the Administration Building. For more information about the scholarship contact Dan Emenheiser, UNT Director of Diversity Education, at [emenheiser@unt.edu](mailto:emenheiser@unt.edu) or (940) 565-2456.

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