

SPRINGFIELD

STCC awards scholarship to international student

A Springfield Technical Community College nursing student from Saudi Arabia was chosen as this year's John Richard DeMarco Jr. Scholarship recipient.

Joan DeMarco, of Suffield, presented the scholarship to Hanan A. Khan, 24, who said her goal is to one day earn a doctorate in nursing.

cult and highly competitive program.

"I am amazed at the level of commitment that the students in our program have," he said. "It's almost like they give their lives to it."

Khan is the 33rd student to receive the DeMarco scholarship, which is given in honor of Joan DeMarco's son.

associate degree from STCC in 2020. She also hopes to continue her education while working.

She now is working as a clerk in the student activities office while studying nursing.

STCC's diversity was a big draw when Khan decided to enroll as an international student in 2016. She noticed a wide range of age groups in her class and felt comfortable

talking to her classmates and professors.

"You learn more than you would being in a class where everyone is the same age and from the same background," she said.

Khan's brother, Fahad Khan, who teaches at the college, recommended STCC to his sister.

She found the college to be affordable, especially for

international students. She would have had to pay a higher tuition rate if she started at a four-year institution.

Khan said her decision to travel to the United States to pursue her education is paving the way to opportunities she wouldn't have experienced in Saudi Arabia. "I'm getting a new experience in another country," she said. "I came here, and I loved it."



STCC president John B. Cook stands with Joan DeMarco and Hanan A. Khan, right, who is the winner of the 2019 DeMarco Scholarship.

"Nursing is something I'm passionate about," said Khan, who lives in Springfield while attending STCC. "I love being in the hospital ... being there for the patient. When there's no family next to them, I like to be there emotionally and be supportive."

College president John B. Cook congratulated Khan for winning the scholarship, noting that nursing is a diffi-

The award goes each spring semester to one student who has submitted an essay about the importance of an associate degree, their goals or transfer plans and why the scholarship would help them in their academic endeavors.

DeMarco said she loved the essay by Khan, who wrote that she wants to work in a hospital as a registered nurse after she receives her