



PRESS RELEASE

Contra Costa Community College District
500 Court Street
Martinez, CA 94553
www.4cd.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, May 10, 2017

Contact:

Erin Brooks, Marketing & Communications Coordinator
(925) 229-6973
ebrooks@4cd.edu

Contra Costa Community College District Students Win Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Transfer Scholarship Award

Two Contra Costa Community College District students have been awarded the reputable Jack Kent Cooke (JKC) Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, worth up to \$40,000 a year, to complete a bachelor's degree at a four-year college or university. This year's winners are Sasha Graham from Contra Costa College (CCC) and Christopher Fabbri from Los Medanos College (LMC).

"Our Undergraduate Transfer Scholars have a proven record of accomplishment at elite colleges and universities and have gone on to successful careers in many professions," Cooke Foundation Executive Director Harold O. Levy said. "This is among the most prestigious scholarships in the country and we are extremely proud of the talented students who have been selected."

As a single mother, Sasha Graham knows the importance of hard work and community. Graham sits on the CCC Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) Advisory Board and is a staunch advocate for her fellow students. Graham has already been accepted to University of California Davis and Santa Cruz, but also has interest in attending Stanford University and University of California, Berkeley.

George Mills, CCC's EOPS manager, worked closely with Graham and praised her focus and discipline during the application process. "I think her application to the scholarship reflects what I see in her, a person dedicated to the whole, willing to inform every aspect of how she engages her education so that it impacts everyone," shared Mills.

Christopher Fabbri is an active member of the LMC community, with involvement in several campus organizations including his work as a student ambassador and tutor for the

Mathematics, Engineering, Science, Achievement (MESA) program. He served in the United States Navy from November 2006 until November 2009 and is a contributing member of the LMC Veterans Club. Christopher plans to graduate in spring 2017 with associate degrees in Liberal Arts (Math & Science), Fire Technology, and Biological Science. Fabbri is considering attending University of California, Santa Cruz or San Diego in pursuit of a bachelor degree in biology.

As LMC's scholarship coordinator, Tammy Oranje has seen many applicants become discouraged during the rigorous JKC application process. She was happy to learn Christopher had persevered. "Christopher had the desire and commitment to put in the time and labor to complete the application," said Oranje. "His ability to achieve his educational and career goals is indisputable."

The Cooke Foundation selected 55 outstanding community college students from around the nation from a competitive pool of nearly 3,000 applicants to receive Undergraduate Transfer Scholarships this year. All of the Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholars have financial need and strong records of academic achievement as shown by grades, leadership skills, awards, extraordinary service to others and perseverance in the face of adversity.

Cooke Scholarships fund the costs of attending college not covered by other financial aid, plus academic advising, stipends for internships, study abroad, and opportunities to network with other Cooke Scholars and alumni. In addition, after earning a bachelor's degree, each Cooke Scholar may be eligible for a scholarship for graduate school worth up to \$50,000 a year for up to four years.

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The Cooke Foundation is dedicated to advancing the education of exceptionally promising students who have financial need. Since 2000, the foundation has provided over \$152 million in scholarships to nearly 2,200 students from 8th grade through graduate school, along with comprehensive counseling and other support services. The foundation has also awarded over \$90 million in grants to organizations that serve such students. www.jkcf.org

The Contra Costa Community College District (CCCCD) is one of the largest multi-college community college districts in California. The CCCCCD serves a population of 1,019,640 people, and its boundaries encompass all but 48 of the 734-square-mile land area of Contra Costa County. The District is home to Contra Costa College in San Pablo, Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill, Los Medanos College in Pittsburg, as well as educational centers in Brentwood and San Ramon. The District headquarters is located in downtown Martinez.

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