



NEWS FROM CITY COLLEGE

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CITY COLLEGE GRADUATES MORE THAN 800 STUDENTS

2008 Graduate Receives \$30,000 Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarship

San Diego (May 20, 2008) — San Diego City College will hold its 94th commencement exercises at the outdoor Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park on Friday, May 23 at 6:30 p.m.. City College is awarding 994 associate degrees and certificates to more than 800 students, with 140 students earning two or more degrees and certificates. Forty-six graduates have earned a perfect 4.0 grade point average and 284 students will graduate with honors.

City College is especially honored this year to announce that graduate Rachel Brewer has been awarded the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarship. As the largest scholarship offered in the US to community college transfer students, the awards can total up to \$30,000 annually for up to three years. Graduating with honors, Rachel, a mother of two small children, is the first in her family to complete post-secondary education. Her life passion is to work in the humanitarian field. First Rachel plans to obtain her masters in nursing with a focus on women's health care, possibly at John Hopkins University, or to pursue studies in human biology. She is the President and founder of Amnesty International at City College.

Of the more than 300 graduates participating in the evening commencement, students range in age from 17-61. Seventeen-year-old Deanna Marie Voss is the youngest graduate of the class. She is the first in her family to graduate from college, owns a small business with her father, and plans to transfer to SDSU for a degree in Political Science.

Additional family members graduating together at City College, include Vivian Tran and her sister Tamy Nguyen; and Louis Velez and his daughter, Rosamaria Velez.

City College graduates are from 13 different states, including Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia, Texas and Pennsylvania; and 17 different countries; Afghanistan, Brazil, Canada, Ethiopia – East Africa, Ireland, Laos, Mexico, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Romania, Somalia, Spain, Sudan-Africa, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam.

Graduates have been accepted to a variety of four-year universities, including UC Berkeley, UCSD and Rutgers University. The most popular degrees are Behavioral Sciences, Transfer Studies, Child Development, and Liberal Arts.

Selected by students to receive the Golden Apple Award for Teacher of the Year, Julie Tunnell, Professor of Accounting is the faculty speaker. In her 13th year of teaching at City College, this is the second time students have awarded Julie this honor. Julie sees her students as ‘family’ and works hard to create a welcoming classroom environment. Setting high standards for her students, Julie fully supports their efforts in any way she can, helping write letters of recommendation and assisting with scholarship opportunities.

Terry Burgess, San Diego City College President said, "The high retention rates in Professor Tunnell’s class speak volumes for her outstanding classroom skills. Julie typifies the high-caliber of faculty instruction City College students expect. She goes out of her way to ensure her students learn and excel."

Ryan Robinson, the Chancellor’s Scholarship Recipient is the student speaker. Ryan plans to study Peace and Conflict Studies at UC Berkeley, with a research focus on Central and South America. His future plans include a masters from the UN supported University of Peace in Costa Rica, and a PhD in the field of anthropology. His goal is to become a university professor at a research university. While At City College, Ryan was a founding member of Amnesty International, a Phi Theta Kappa member, helped organize the first Conference for International Relief this month at City College and received an additional scholarship from the Friends of Downtown.

Located downtown in the East Village, San Diego City College offers more than 1,500 day, evening, weekend and online courses to 17,000 students each semester. www.sdcity.edu

San Diego Community College District

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www.jackkentcookefoundation.org

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